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Contact: Eileen Norby

University of Wisconsin System

608/262-8252, enorby@uwsa.edu



Sixteen Wisconsin colleges and universities compete in RecycleMania 2009

National college contest spurs recycling efforts

Each spring, college students across the country become “RecycleManiacs” competing for national supremacy to determine which school can reduce, reuse and recycle the most campus waste. The 10-week challenge ignites classic college rivalries and rallies students, faculty and staff to increase on-campus recycling rates beyond their collegiate competitors.

Nationwide 510 college campuses participated in RecycleMania 2009, up from 400 campuses the previous year. Wisconsin’s participation increased from 10 state colleges and universities to 16. The main goal of this event is to increase student awareness of campus recycling and waste minimization.

RecycleMania wrapped up this year’s contest in late March, with participating Wisconsin campuses recovering over two million pounds of recyclables and organics.

Colleges and universities chose to participate in one of two divisions, Competition or Benchmark. The Competition Division houses the traditional competitive rankings based on standard tracking and reporting criteria. The Benchmark Division allows schools to unofficially compare themselves with other schools and to promote RecycleMania on campus without the formal reporting requirements of the competitive ranking. Within each division, schools participate in any of eight categories. Below are highlights of the final results for the Wisconsin competitors.

The **Grand Champion** top five Wisconsin finalists, determined by the percentage of overall waste that was recycled over 10 weeks, are:

- UW-Stevens Point (37.64%)
- UW-River Falls (32.16%)
- UW-Whitewater (28.70%)
- UW-La Crosse (23.53%)
- UW-Stout (23.45%)

The **Per Capita Classic** top five Wisconsin finalists, determined by total pounds of recyclables collected per person over 10 weeks, are:

- UW-Stevens Point (16.59%)
- UW-Eau Claire (13.59%)
- UW-Oshkosh (9.74%)

UW-Whitewater (9.69%)
Northland College (9.66%)

The **Waste Minimization** top three Wisconsin finalists, determined by the lowest overall amount of waste (recyclables and trash) per person over 10 weeks, are:

UW-Whitewater (33.76 pounds)
UW-Stout (34.39 pounds)
UW-Stevens Point (44.08 pounds)

The **Gorilla Prize** top five Wisconsin finalists, determined by the highest cumulative weight of recyclables over 10 weeks, are:

UW-Stevens Point (76.91 tons)
UW-Eau Claire (73.23 tons)
UW-Oshkosh (53.58 tons)
UW-Whitewater (51 tons)
UW-Stout (34.46 tons)

In addition to these main categories, schools also compete in targeted material categories to see who can recycle the most paper, cardboard, cans and bottles and food waste on a per capita basis.

The following Wisconsin campuses participated in the Competition Division:

- College of Menominee Nation
- Northland College
- UW-Eau Claire
- UW-La Crosse
- UW-Oshkosh
- UW-River Falls
- UW-Stevens Point
- UW-Stout
- UW-Whitewater

The following Wisconsin campuses participated in the Benchmark Division:

- Lakeshore Technical College
- Saint Norbert College
- Silver Lake College
- UW-Fox Valley
- UW-Madison
- UW-Manitowoc
- UW-Milwaukee

RecycleMania is administered by the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), as a project of NRC's College and University Recycling Council (CURC). RecycleMania is championed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program and The Coca-Cola Company.

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About RecycleMania

RecycleMania was launched in 2001 as a friendly challenge between Ohio University and Miami University to increase recycling on their campuses. The contest has expanded rapidly in eight years from two schools in 2001 to 510 colleges and universities in 2009 spanning all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Over a 10-week period, campuses compete to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. For complete contest background and details, visit the RecycleMania website at www.recyclemaniacs.org.