



A non-profit association that provides statewide proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, collaboration, programs and services.

For Immediate Release

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Governor Signs Bill Banning Oil Filters and Absorbent Materials from Wisconsin's Landfills

Wisconsin's Economy and Environment will benefit from the Recovery of Millions of Gallons of Oil

Madison, WI (December 2, 2009) - Governor Jim Doyle has signed into law Assembly Bill 258, prohibiting the disposal of used automotive oil filters and materials that have been used to absorb spilled or used automotive engine oil. The ban will take effect in December, 2010.

"Passage of this bill is a victory for Wisconsin's residents, businesses and environment," says Toral Jha, Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin Executive Director. "The measure ensures that oil-containing materials will no longer pose a risk to Wisconsin's groundwater and will instead be safely recovered and returned as a resource into Wisconsin's economy."

Assembly Bill 258 stems from the findings of the of a 2005 Department of Commerce report and a 2006 Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal report which stated that the recycling rate for oil filters had reached a plateau and that stricter requirements were necessary to increase recovery efforts.

Furthermore, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center in 2008 found that while approximately 11.4 million oil filters were sold to Wisconsin motorists in 2007, only 19-21% of them were recycled – potentially resulting in 900,000 gallons of waste oil being sent to landfills. Similarly, an estimated 54.6 million pounds of oil absorbent material were sold in Wisconsin in 2007 and only 2.9% of these were recycled – potentially sending over 53,000,000 pounds of oil absorbent materials to Wisconsin's landfills.

"At long last, Wisconsin has guidelines necessary to more adequately recover oil filters and absorbent material," said Laura Krist, member of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin Board of Directors and the 2003 Department of Commerce Oil-Absorbent Materials Committee. "This bill ensures the safe recovery of these materials and creates increased opportunities for Wisconsin's growing oil filter and used absorbent collection and processing industry."

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About the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)

Founded in 1990, AROW is an association representing Wisconsin's recycling, waste reduction and sustainability professionals. The organization provides leadership through education, advocacy, and collaboration and promotes effective, efficient and sustainable material recovery initiatives. For details on AROW, its positions and programs visit www.arow-online.org.