

Missouri State Recycling Program Annual Awards

Each year the State Recycling Program accepts nominations for the Annual Recycling Award. Employees, departments, or agencies are eligible to be nominated for outstanding contributions made in the areas of recycling collection, waste reduction, and/or recycled content procurement. Members of the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee review the nominations and vote for an individual and agency award. The State Recycling Program encourages nominators to submit information demonstrating the *value* of the nominee's recycling efforts. *Value* could include costs avoided, revenue generated, ongoing leadership/commitment/passion/enthusiasm, or environmental benefits.

FY14 Annual Recycling Awards

TEAM AWARD: For the second year in a row, **Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU)** was selected by the MO Interagency Recycling Committee as this year's winner of the MO State Recycling Program's annual team award. For this award, NWMSU's **Hardscape and Recycling Team (HaRT)** was selected for their food service organics composting (food recycling) program which has allowed NWMSU to significantly increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill. In FY14, NWMSU diverted 46% of their overall waste from the landfill.

The food service composting program started in 2011 when collection of food scraps and other compostable materials such as paper towels were collected in the kitchen area. Operating on a limited budget, members of HaRT repurposed scrap metal and equipment from the university's farm to facilitate collection of material from the kitchen. HaRT also repurposed farm equipment that is vital to their windrow composting operation.



Front Row L to R: Chris Redden, Danny Smith, Shawn Sisney, Kaitlyn Madsen, Jada Tressler, Les Chestnut, Danton Green, Bruce Devers, Travis Stokes | Back Row L to R: Bob Wiederholt, Josh Wiederholt, Rick Swaney (behind cowboy hat), Mike Adwell, Doc Bliley, Kurt Davis, Bryan Freemyer, Dave Atkins, Grady Hilsabeck, Bob Ebrecht, TJ Allen, Robert Archer, Alex Edwards

Composting at NWMSU has now become a key component of the overall campus food services and has inspired the cafeteria to make use of reusable plates, cups, and flatware. NWMSU composted (recycled) 322,000 pounds of organics in FY14 saving the university \$7,440 in landfill costs. The composting process has also turned a waste into a value-added product that provides a nutrient-rich compost. Finished compost is used extensively as a soil supplement in the Missouri Arboretum, greenhouse, and campus grounds.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD: Brian Duncan works in the Housekeeping section of the Office of Administration's Division of Facilities Management, Design and Construction and was selected by the MO Interagency Recycling Committee as this year's recipient of the individual award. Brian plays a key role with insuring the manageability and sustainability of recycling programs in various state agency locations. The Housekeeping section has taken a leadership role with recycling by regularly including recycling collection specifications in custodial contracts for state buildings.

Brian performs an important role in communicating with various stakeholders at numerous state offices — from tenants to the custodial contractors. One of the most dynamic environments where he operates is the State Capitol where there is a very large influx of tour groups and numerous special events throughout the year. This setting creates many challenges not present in other state facilities and Brian proactively manages the behind-the-scenes details of recycling in a way that minimizes problems. In addition, Brian has provided valuable assistance with the Zero Waste Challenge - a component of the annual Earth Day celebration on the Capitol grounds - for many years now.



L to R: Tammy Hickman, Vernon Morris, Brian Duncan, Jason Penserum, Colleen Mantle, Debra Jones

For several years now Brian has willingly assisted with distribution of recycling containers and supplies saving the State Recycling Program thousands of dollars in travel expenses. Over the past three years, Brian has distributed nearly 8,000 plastic liners to custodial contractors for use with can/bottle recycling containers in state facilities. Brian's actions impact all state agencies that make use of recycling services contracts.