

PRESS RELEASE

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De Pere recognized with 2025 Recycling Excellence Award

DE PERE, Wis. —The City of De Pere was recently recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with the 2025 Recycling Excellence Award for Overall Program, an honor that highlights the city’s ongoing commitment to improving recycling quality, expanding public education, and strengthening community partnerships around environmental sustainability.

The award acknowledges communities that demonstrate a strong, continually improving recycling program.

Over the past five years, De Pere Public Works has focused on elevating the quality of residential recycling through a combination of education, operational improvements, and hands-on outreach. These efforts have included touring the regional materials recovery facility to better understand contamination challenges, increasing curbside recycling inspections, adding QR-code stickers to recycling carts for quick access to accurate recycling information, launching a plastic bag and film recycling program that has already diverted more than 5,500 pounds from landfills, and expanding youth education through school visits, activity books, and the city’s annual Big Rig Gig event, where families and children can tour City and community vehicles.

Street Superintendent Tony Fietzer emphasized the department’s focus on education and quality. “We measure success by educating, understanding, and gaining voluntary compliance from residents relating to the importance of clean recycling... We take pride in knowing we are doing our best to ensure the material being brought to the material recovery facility is as clean as possible for those working in the next phase of the recycling process,” Fietzer said.

Mayor James Boyd praised both the Public Works team and the community for their shared commitment to sustainability. “This recognition reflects the dedication of our Public Works staff and the strong support of our residents,” Boyd said. “De Pere continues to lead by example, showing that when a community invests in education, innovation, and environmental responsibility, meaningful results follow. We are proud of this achievement and grateful to everyone who contributes to keeping our City clean and sustainable.”

The City of De Pere extends its appreciation to residents for their continued support of clean recycling practices and their role in building a healthier, more sustainable future. More information about the award is available at: dnr.wisconsin.gov.

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