



*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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AROW Supports Sen. Robert Cowles & Effort to Provide Additional Recycling Funding (SB340)

Stevens Point, WI (October 29, 2015) – Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) stands in strong support of Senator Robert Cowles's (R-Green Bay) efforts to restore a portion of the recycling funding, cut in the recent state budget.

The proposal, Senate Bill 340, would restore \$2.3 million to recycling grant funding for local units of government, funding that was slashed by \$4 million in the 2016 budget. This cut comes on top of a \$13 million cut in 2011, when in the previous year grant funding was at \$32 million. While the Recycling Fee monies collected continue to be in excess of \$33 million, the amount available for grants has been slashed by a staggering \$17 million.

Wisconsin's recycling law is implemented at the local level by Responsible Units of Recycling (RUs). These RUs are towns, villages, cities, tribal units and counties. RUs are mandated to provide an Effective Recycling Program for their residents, including providing a means of collecting recyclables, conducting recycling education/outreach and enforcing the law. To help RUs off-set the costs of the local program a \$7 per ton Recycling Fee is assessed at Wisconsin landfills. This fee generates \$33-\$36 million annually and is deposited in the Environmental Management Fund.

A recent evaluation, conducted by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and done at the request of Sen. Robert Cowles, indicates that the Environmental Management Fund will have an estimated positive balance of \$2.318 million at the end of fiscal year 2016. This balance is after all statutory payments and obligations have been met. Senate Bill 340, authored by Sen. Cowles, would use that balance to aid local units of government and their recycling programs.

AROW wishes to extend its appreciation and thanks to Senator Cowles and all of the co-sponsors, from both sides of the aisle and from both houses of the legislature. SB340, if passed into law, will help local units of government better meet the recycling needs of their residents, reduce the burden to local tax levies, continue and enhance recycling education efforts and ensure the viability of Wisconsin's recycling program.

About the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)

Founded in 1990, AROW is a 501(c)(3) association representing Wisconsin's recycling, waste reduction and sustainability professionals with members from local government, businesses and non-profit groups. 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.