



“SHWEC is the readily-available, local resource and partner that wholly supports our mission and mutual interest.” — Ann Riphenburg, Owner and Founder, Room3Seven LLC, North Lake, WI

“The [SHWEC] staff did a great job facilitating an e-waste meeting in April 2014. In my experience I have always been very impressed at the way UW-Extension has brought people together.” – Regional Account Manager, Universal Recycling Technologies, Janesville, WI

The UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Center

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) provides no-cost direct technical assistance and research-based education for preventing pollution and reducing waste through five waste management and recycling specialists located in Madison, Stevens Point and Green Bay. As experts in their respective fields, these specialists provide statewide service to businesses, local officials and state agencies in the areas of:

- Recycling
- Composting
- Solid waste management and waste reduction
- Hazardous material reduction including green chemistry
- Zero waste initiatives and greening the supply chain
- Green building

Each of Wisconsin’s 72 County Extension offices serves as a gateway to our staff. And, the Center’s connection with UW-campus faculty extends our expertise beyond that of SHWEC staff.

In 2014 alone, SHWEC specialists directly delivered technical assistance, training and education to over 3,500 people across the state, helping businesses, local governments, non-profits, state agencies, and citizens. Additionally, our web-based resources were accessed over 32,000 times during 2014. These efforts have:

- Enabled businesses to reduce costs through waste reduction and the sale of recovered materials.
- Connected waste generators with recyclers and manufacturers that utilize the materials as feedstocks for their products.
- Provided unbiased non-regulatory resources that businesses can turn to for compliance assistance.
- Achieved other benefits such as training leaders, partnering with many public and private organizations statewide to deliver information and assistance, supporting legislators with technical issues in legislation, and working with businesses to develop recycling and reuse markets to bolster their bottom lines.

Visit our Website at www.uwex.edu/SHWEC

“SHWEC helps me look better at my job, giving me credibility with my own agency and others that I work with. It helps enhance my leadership abilities.”

— St. Croix County Recycling Specialist

In a 2014 survey by our staff,

81% of businesses

that responded value the fact that SHWEC's expert assistance is no cost to them.

“We could really use some help from SHWEC in identifying better ways to handle and measure our waste so that we can be clear in our annual sustainability reports about our progress.” —MPower

Business Champion Team Member

Connecting Businesses with the University

In addition to direct technical assistance and education services of the specialists, SHWEC has placed interns at businesses such as 3M, Oshkosh Corporation, Brady Corporation, Marshfield Clinic and RB Wagner. This effort provides opportunities for University of Wisconsin student interns to apply their classroom learning to real-life business environments. The program has benefited the businesses as well. Since 2008, our interns, working to reduce pollution and waste, have saved these Wisconsin businesses over \$800,000. In the most recent year of the program, student interns, supervised by SHWEC specialists, saved their host businesses \$107,759.

In 2014, SHWEC decided to determine how best to respond to changing educational priorities. Below are highlights from what we learned regarding services various stakeholders need from SHWEC as well as current value delivered by the center:

- Environmental management, sustainability, pollution prevention, green building, green chemistry and other areas supported by SHWEC specialists represent growing fields of information needed by our stakeholders.
- SHWEC's no-cost technical assistance to its stakeholders is critical to their understanding and implementing changes that support better environmental performance and efficiency.
- SHWEC demonstrates a commitment to continually improve its services, modes of delivery, and content areas in order to deliver on-going value to its stakeholders.

For Further Information Contact

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