



State of Michigan
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
--DRAFT 1 --(event date pending)

Contact: Robert McCann
(517) 241-7397

DEQ Recognizes Innovative Grand Rapids Recycling Business for Environmental Achievement

Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven E. Chester today announced that Recycling Concepts of West MI, Inc. (RCI) has been designated a Michigan Clean Corporate Citizen in a voluntary program recognizing environmental management and stewardship.

Recycling Concepts of West MI, Inc. (RCI) is the 125th overall member of the program. The facility has 50 employees and is located on the southeast side of Grand Rapids. For four years RCI has made their business solving solid waste and recycling problems for other businesses. RCI accepts for recycling paper, plastics, dunnage, foam, pallets, corrugated, stretch film, engineered resins, injection molding scrap, off-spec metal and plastic parts, dust, scrap metal, polycarbonate, films and foams, equipment, and even dust.

"RCI is a perfect example of a company creating a new and creative niche in the world of recycling", said Director Chester. "Vice-President John DeWitt is continuing a five-generation family business tradition of finding value in cast off materials and making it both easy and profitable to improve, expand, and drive recycling efforts across Michigan. I congratulate the entire team at RCI for recognizing the importance of environmental improvement and protection."

RCI works solid waste with a new twist by delivering a trailer to their customer's facility. The customer facility fills the trailer with all of its non-hazardous solid waste, without having to sort, count, or weight any of it prior to loading. When the trailer is full, RCI picks it up, takes it to the Grand Rapids facility and empties, separates, and sorts all of the solid waste. The client facility is charged per pound or ton only for any solid wastes that can't go into a recycling stream. In addition, RCI is continually searching for and developing additional product recycling markets to reduce the final amount going to disposal.

The facility has set and achieved environmental goals including 5 percent reduction in the use of diesel fuel, electricity, and office paper. In addition, RCI is targeting reductions in propane usage, has committed to continual improvement throughout their environmental management system, and has voluntarily joined the DEQ as a partner in the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership.

To qualify for a Clean Corporate Citizen designation, candidates must adopt a facility specific environmental management system, active pollution, prevention, initiatives, and have a consistent record of compliance with applicable environmental requirements. Designations are valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

Editor's note: DEQ news releases are available on the department's Internet home page at
www.michigan.gov/deq