



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **ADEM Approaches \$5 Million in Recycling Grants**

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently announced that it has identified the local groups that will reap the benefits of over \$2 million in recycling grants for 2011. This year's awards have resulted in ADEM providing almost \$5 million in funding to enhance recycling in local municipalities across Alabama. The grant funds can be utilized to initiate new recycling programs or enhance existing recycling programs at the local level.

These grant funds are made possible through the Solid Wastes & Recyclable Materials Management Act which was passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008. The legislation imposed a \$1 per ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in Alabama landfills. A portion of the proceeds generated by this fee supported the creation of the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides the foundation for ADEM to award the recycling grants on an annual basis.

ADEM has steadily worked to enhance the opportunities for Alabama citizens to have access to recycling facilities. The Department has issued almost \$5 million in grant funds over the past three years to support the purchase of infrastructure and equipment that makes it easier and more convenient for Alabamians to recycle.

This year's grant funds will support the purchase of balers, compactors, recycling trailers, recycling bins, collection trucks, roll-off containers, and other equipment that will make recycling more convenient for Alabama citizens. Grant funds will also support education/outreach efforts to encourage citizens to participate in their local recycling programs.

"The ability to enhance recycling in Alabama is a significant accomplishment," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "Recycling provides environmental benefits and economic benefits which are both important to our citizens. I am pleased that ADEM can provide these grant funds and work with local officials to enhance their recycling efforts."

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The ability to recycle and reuse waste materials provides environmental benefits by decreasing the amount of solid waste material that is sent to landfills, which conserves landfill space and reduces the need to construct new landfills. Recycling also provides economic benefits as Alabama has over 25 manufacturers that rely heavily on using recycled materials in their production processes and employ over 10,000 men and women.

The recycling grants awarded by ADEM will provide environmental and economic benefits across Alabama and enhance recycling opportunities for Alabama citizens. The following entities have been selected as recipients of grant funds for 2011:

• Jefferson County Department of Health	\$220,348
• Calhoun County Commission	\$249,111
• City of Tuscaloosa	\$212,000
• East Alabama Recycling Partnership	\$232,826
• City of Dothan	\$142,000
• City of Sylacauga	\$126,768
• Elmore County Commission	\$116,723
• City of Florence	\$113,998
• City of Eufaula	\$42,818
• Birmingham--Jefferson Convention Complex	\$50,588
• City of Huntsville (Operation Green Team)	\$30,810
• Baldwin County Commission	\$62,850
• Autauga County Commission	\$34,500
• City of Selma	\$86,991
• Shoals Solid Waste Authority	\$96,900
• Athens/Limestone Recycling Center	\$96,269
• Clay County Commission	\$14,471
• City of Guntersville	\$65,224
• Daphne East Elementary	\$2,475
• City of Ozark	\$2,329

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