

## 2023-2025 PFAS Budget Proposals & Request to Increase Recycling Funding from Environmental Management Account

May 25, 2023

Wisconsin’s waste resources, recovery and recycling professionals understand and respect the challenges posed by per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These organizations, and their members, annually receive millions of tons of Wisconsin’s residential, commercial, and industrial waste and recycling, some of which containing a wide variety of PFAS compounds. PFAS are interwoven into our lives and our consumer products. And unfortunately, the legacy of these compounds has left financial, environmental, and public health consequences for federal, state, and local governments.

Captured within the Governor’s 2023-2025 Biennial Budget are proposals to address these consequences. The above-mentioned organizations support these efforts. Further, we stand ready to provide technical and professional support to both the Office of the Governor and the Wisconsin Legislature as they work collectively to tackle this stubborn issue.

Funding to accomplish the goals of the various budgetary PFAS programs is proposed to come from both General Purpose Revenue (GPR) and the Environmental Management Account (EMA). This memo will not speak to the use of GPR dollars. However, since landfill tipping fees contribute most of the funding to the EMA, this memo will address this funding.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s Informational Paper 67 (January 2023), Wisconsin landfills collected, as tipping fees, an average of \$75 million over each of the last three fiscal years. Table 4 shows the breakdown of those fees, and highlights that the Recycling Fee contributes over half of all fees.

Fee	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Environmental Management Account (EMA)</b>			
Recycling	\$40,524,100	\$38,828,500	\$37,996,600
Environmental Repair	14,722,800	14,350,800	14,148,200
Groundwater	692,600	639,100	664,000
Well compensation	277,000	255,600	268,100
EMA Subtotal	\$56,216,500	\$54,074,000	\$53,076,900
Additional prior year collections *	6,212,300	7,507,500	2,064,800
Billed amounts outstanding on June 30 *	-7,507,500	-2,064,800	-4,905,700
EMA adjusted Subtotal	\$54,921,300	\$59,516,700	\$50,236,000
<b>Nonpoint Account (NP)</b>			
NP adjusted Subtotal	\$19,227,200	\$18,179,100	\$18,637,000
Additional prior year collections *	7,528,800	9,116,600	916,300
Billed amounts outstanding on June 30 *	-9,116,600	-916,300	-5,111,800
NP adjusted Subtotal	\$17,639,400	\$26,379,400	\$14,441,500
DNR Solid waste landfill administration	\$1,119,100	\$1,068,200	\$1,090,500
DOA Waste Facility Siting Board	48,500	45,400	38,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,728,300</b>	<b>\$87,009,700</b>	<b>\$65,806,000</b>

\*Represents the net change in the outstanding amounts billed in a fiscal year and received in a subsequent fiscal year.



Leaders in Resource Renewal  
recyclemorewi.org



**Wisconsin Badger Chapter**  
**SWANA**  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
swana-wi.org



wcswma.org

Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin is a professional association, with members from local government, businesses, and non-profit groups, which provides statewide proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, collaboration, programs, and services.

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Solid Waste Association of North America-Badger Chapter has more than 200 members in Wisconsin, providing information, training programs, and networking opportunities to solid waste professionals and sharing ideas and solutions to better manage municipal waste.

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Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association works with all counties to promote effective and environmentally sound waste management systems and resource recovery efforts.

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Informational Paper 67 also provides a report on the financial condition of the EMA. According to the Paper (page 13), after all expenditures have been made and all revenues accounted for, the “unencumbered balance”, as of end of fiscal year 2023, will be \$33.2 million.

One expenditure of the EMA is recycling grants to local units of government. These grants help offset the cost of implementing an “Effective Recycling Program”, as prescribed by Wisconsin Statute Chapter 287. In 2010 the amount allocated to grants was \$29.3 million. The 2011-2012 budget slashed that allocation to \$19 million, even though local units of government recycling expenditures increased. Recycling Fee monies sent to the EMA were diverted to non-recycling programs. To date, recycling grants remain frozen at 2011 levels, despite the relative health of the EMA.

**Table 2: Municipal and County Recycling Grants: Eligible Cost, Grant Award and Award as Percentage of Costs (\$ in Millions)**

Calendar Year	Net Eligible Recycling Costs	Award* Amount	Grant Award as % of Net Eligible Costs
1992	\$35.6	\$18.5	52.0%
1993	48.5	23.7	48.9
1994	56.5	29.8	52.7
1995	61.0	29.1	47.7
1996	66.3	29.2	44.0
1997	68.8	29.2	42.4
1998	71.4	23.9	33.5
1999	73.3	24.1	32.9
2000	76.6	24.3	31.7
2001	84.1	24.3	28.9
2002	82.6	24.3	29.4
2003	84.4	26.3	31.2
2004	85.7	26.4	30.8
2005	90.1	26.3	29.2
2006	94.0	26.3	28.0
2007	98.4	26.3	26.7
2008	99.1	32.7	33.0
2009	108.0	29.3	27.2
2010	104.0	29.3	28.2
2011	103.5	19.0	18.3
2012	105.9	20.0	18.9
2013	109.3	20.0	18.3
2014	112.2	20.0	17.8
2015	116.7	20.0	17.1
2016	116.5	19.0	16.3
2017	119.3	20.0	16.8
2018	122.0	20.0	16.4
2019	131.9	20.0	15.2
2020	137.9	20.0	14.5
2021	130.3	20.0	15.4
2022**	145.9	20.0	13.7

\*In the 2003 through 2011 grant years, includes basic grant plus efficiency incentive grant. As of 2012, includes basic grant plus consolidation grant.  
\*\*Estimated net eligible recycling costs.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau Informational Paper 69 (January 2023)

The leadership and members of AROW, SWANA and WCSWMA recognize the urgent need to address PFAS issues. However, we also recognize the need to adequately fund local recycling programs and appropriately use the Recycling Fee for this support.

**We request consideration of increasing recycling grant funding to 2010 levels either through the budget cycle or through a standalone bill.**



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