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New Law Bans Used Oil Filters & Absorbents from Landfills

Waukesha, WI – January 6, 2011 - Beginning January 1, 2011 used automotive engine oil filters and oil absorbent materials are banned from Wisconsin landfills. The new law, 2009 Wisconsin Act 86, was passed to promote oil recycling and protect the environment. The ban applies to everyone in the state including individuals, farmers, businesses, commercial or industrial facilities, government and other organizations.

Oil filters and oil absorbents contain oil that can be extracted and reused. Motor oil does not wear out -- it just gets dirty -- so recycling reduces the need for new oil. Oil filters have steel components that can also be recycled.

Recycling used oil filters and absorbents reduces pollution associated with oil. Spilled oil is one of the largest sources of oil pollution in lakes, streams and rivers. Oil also enters our surface waters when rain or snowmelt wash oil off streets into the storm drains which connect directly to the nearest lake, river or wetland. Oil contains toxic chemicals and heavy metals that can pollute surface water or groundwater and endanger human health and the environment.

There are 19 municipal drop-off sites in Waukesha County where residents can take used motor oil and oil filters for recycling. For a listing, please visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling, click on Product Disposal/Automotive. Based on the amount of used motor oil recycled in the county annually, recycling used oil filters will save an additional 2,300 gallons of oil (contained in 65,000 used oil filters) from going into landfills in Waukesha County alone.

For more information about the law and interesting facts about recycling oil, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/newpages/oilabsorb.htm>

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