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ADEM Provides Support to Enhance Recycling

In 2008, the Alabama Legislature passed, and Governor Riley signed into law, the Solid Wastes & Recyclable Materials Management Act. This legislation imposed a \$1 per ton fee on all solid wastes that are disposed of in Alabama landfills. A portion of the proceeds generated by this fee has allowed the creation of the Alabama Recycling Fund (ARF), which is projected to receive in excess of \$1 million for the 2009 fiscal year.

During this initial year of the Alabama Recycling Fund Grants Program, 37 applications have been received by the Department, with requested grant funding totaling nearly \$7 million. To date, ADEM has awarded more than \$700,000 in grant funding and Department officials recently traveled to Albertville, Tuscaloosa, and Auburn to present grant funds to the local officials. ADEM will continue to make additional awards as more funds become available in the Alabama Recycling Fund.

The grants awarded under this program are for the purpose of encouraging the creation or expansion of local government recycling programs in order to reach a sustainable and unified statewide recycling network. In turn, these local government recycling programs will support efforts to achieve a statewide solid waste reduction goal that has been established by ADEM.

“The implementation of these recycling efforts is a win-win situation for all parties involved,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “The ability to work with local officials who are currently struggling with budget issues and provide them with funding to support their goal of starting a new recycling program or enhancing an existing program is very rewarding. I am pleased that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management can utilize its financial and technical resources to support these recycling efforts and I appreciate all of the efforts of my staff and the local officials that we work with who make these projects possible.”

“EPA applauds the creation of the Alabama Recycling Funds Grant Program,” said EPA Region 4 Acting Administrator Stan Meiburg. “This new program will help local governments and nonprofits develop, implement, and enhance recycling and waste minimization projects. Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources.”

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