



*Working Together to Make a Difference*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DUNN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING DIVISION DIRECTOR MORGAN GERK DISCUSSES RECYCLING WITH CDC**

EAU CLAIRE, WI, Dec 6, 2017- The L.E. Phillips Career Development Center interviewed Morgan Gerk, the director of Dunn County Solid Waste Management and Recycling Division, to learn more about his job and recycling.

Gerk works every day at the transfer station moving, packaging, sorting and shipping items to different businesses and coordinating the hauling process to different vendors. He also writes grants for recycling, clean sweep and electronic programs. He purchases replacement equipment for the sites and creates a newsletter called "The Resource" which is sent to the public twice a year with information on recycling guidelines and opportunities in the community. There are recycling coupons in the newsletter to encourage people to recycle and save money while doing it. He promotes recycling on social media for more awareness, because outreach to the public is crucial for them to know recycling is mandatory to keep the world healthy and safe. His favorite part about his job is working with the people. He enjoys getting to know everyone and working hands-on alongside them.

Gerk generates awareness from outreach to different industrial businesses. He has found places in the community for items that used to go into landfill to use to minimize waste. This helps buyers to purchase recyclable materials, reduce landfill costs by keeping waste out of the landfill. Gerk started the "Recycling Blueprint" in Dunn County, which is multiple garbage bins used to sort the different recyclable materials and the bins are then scalable to the size of the company.

Gerk began his current job in July of 2016. He is originally from Sheboygan, WI, and went to college at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and graduated with a degree in Conservation Biology with a Fisheries emphasis. He did research with the Great Lakes Water Institute as a Deckhand and Science Assistant on the University of Wisconsin-Madison's research vessel, the Neeskay. Then he spent ten years working for Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources as a Fisheries Technician. Gerk lived in California for eight years being a Master Responder for the world's largest marine oil spill radiation company that responded to oil spills and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. He was a Safety and Environmental Compliance Manager for PDM Bridge and the Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist for one of the top three sand mining companies in the United States. His favorite job is his current position, because of his passion for recycling. He stated that, "A big portion of who I am is this

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environmental stewardship mentality.” He is dedicated to keeping harmful products out of the landfill and finding a sustainable solution to waste management. He feels plastics are a main problem in the world, because there are islands of solid plastic waste the size of Delaware floating in the ocean.

If you are interested to talk to Morgan about the Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling Division, call 715-231-6543!

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