



June 13, 2008

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## **MAP to conduct Missouri solid waste study**

NEW PRAGUE, Minn., June 13, 2008 – Before landfill needs can be analyzed, before recycling programs can be evaluated or created, before rates can be verified, you need to know exactly what's in the garbage.

Nearly 10 years ago, Missouri Department of Natural Resources contracted with Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., to conduct its first waste-composition study, which took three years to complete, came in on time and within budget and became a national benchmark. The study provided invaluable information for the state, counties, municipalities and private waste and recycling companies. MAP once again is working with Missouri to study its waste composition.

During 2006-2007, MAP administered the Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Study. This year, MAP begins Phase II of the Waste Composition Study, which looks at the overall waste stream and compares it to the 1999 results.

Phase II will follow the same methodology developed by MAP for the 1999 study, which entails spending a week at 15 of Missouri's landfills and transfer stations and estimating the content of each load brought in. The study will be completed this year. Dennis Siders, MAP regional director, will be the project manager and Cynthia Mitchell, MAP resource development advisor, will supervise collection of the data. Both Siders and Mitchell have extensive backgrounds in waste management and recycling.

"These studies provide insights into waste-management needs and the effectiveness of recycling programs," Siders says. "The 1999 Missouri Waste Composition Study provided the state with a wealth of information that has had a lasting impact on the way waste is handled. The current study will tell us what has changed since 1999.

"This kind of data allows the state and others to determine what waste can still be recovered and perhaps put to alternate uses such as road materials. But you need good solid data before these kinds of decisions can be made."

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping rural communities in a nine-state area improve their environment, quality of life and achieve self sustainability. MAP helps revitalize small communities by working with them to find solutions for their infrastructure, enterprise development, aging, technology or training issues. It's a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, a national, rural community development network. MAP is an equal-opportunity lender, provider and employer.