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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**TO: Editor**

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### **Tons recycled, composted at Marshfield Fair**

The Marshfield Fair continued its commitment to environmental stewardship, logging its fourth successful year of recycling cardboard, bottles and cans. Several food vendors also diverted their peels, rinds and leftovers to on-site compost bins, now in its second year. Altogether, fairgoers, vendors, the Fair Grounds Crew and fifteen volunteers kept about 8 tons of good stuff out of the trash, saving the Fair over \$1000 in disposal costs. Ninety cubic yards of cardboard, 30,000 bottles and cans and 1,500 lbs of vegetable waste were put back to use instead of into the landfill during the 10-day fair. The effort was again coordinated by volunteer Ann McGovern, who works at MassDEP, with the support of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC), MassRecycle, Integrated Paper Recyclers, Town of Marshfield, and the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

According to Claire Sullivan, Executive Director of the SSRC, "Recycling seems to have become a tradition at the Marshfield Fair, with most vendors flattening their cardboard boxes for collection and good participation from the public. We spotted fewer bottles and cans in the trash this year." One of the 38 vendors who received a "Super Recycler" award proclaimed, "We get an award for recycling every year!"

Fairgoers who visited the recycling exhibits by the Town of Marshfield, Mass Recycles Paper! and MassDEP were treated to bags of rich black finished compost from last year's fair discards, and took their chances on winning a free backyard compost bin donated by the Town of Marshfield. They also learned that recycling not only saves money, but reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions significantly ([www.massrecyclespaper.org](http://www.massrecyclespaper.org)).

Volunteers set up and maintained the 200 recycling containers, located next to every trash can. Bags of beverage containers and flattened cardboard were picked up daily by Marshfield Fair Grounds staff with help from volunteers. Integrated Paper Recyclers, the Town of Marshfield's recycling contractor, donated the use and hauling of two 30-yard roll-off containers, which were filled up three times with recyclables.

"We are very pleased with our recycling effort at the Fair," said Carleton Chandler, the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Secretary-Treasurer. "We conserved natural resources, provided a great opportunity for public education about recycling, and led by example."