

Better Environmental Solutions

Practical Solutions Today For a Better Tomorrow

2006 Progress Report



Better Environmental Solutions, LLC is happy to report a banner year in 2006.

In our first full year of operation, we exceeded our goals which were: promote cleaner energy to increase energy security, promote Growing Smarter strategies, increase the effectiveness of progressive institutions, and do well by doing good. The highlights are summarized below.

Our core values are:

- Saving lives, jobs and money,
- Solving the worst problems, first,
- Practical, cost effective solutions,
- Science-based decision-making,
- Achieving real, measurable progress.

Promoting Cleaner, Safer Energy to Increase Energy Security

1. This year we made major progress to update and implement the Wisconsin Climate Change Action Plan that will save consumers \$490 million, create 8,500 new jobs, reduce greenhouse air pollution by 70 billion pounds, and cost little. This plan will likely be the cornerstone of any state efforts to reduce greenhouse air pollution.
2. Worked to pass the Wisconsin Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act, ACT 141. Specifically, we created a \$8.2 million fund for local governments, schools, and farms to institute energy efficiency improvements. This fund paved the way for near unanimous passage of the bill through the legislature, and will result in real energy and tax savings to citizens and farmers.
3. Worked to pass AB 15, the Ethanol Choice Bill in the State Assembly and nearly pass it in the Senate to give Wisconsin drivers the choice of a 10% ethanol blend to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, help family farmers, and clean our air. We negotiated groundbreaking agreement with environmentalists and the ethanol producers to support more cellulosic ethanol production.
4. Wrote the definitive work on how ethanol reduces air pollution, "Clearing the Air with Ethanol." This report shows that ethanol is the country's most successful CO2 reduction strategy to date, has helped reduce ozone pollution in California, Wisconsin, New York and Connecticut, and replaces cancer-causing benzene in gasoline, while cutting soot particulate pollution. This report was highlighted in Ethanol Today and at the American Coalition for Ethanol annual meeting. Go to www.reapcoalition.org
5. Did economic analysis to support ERCO Worldwide's efforts to clean up the largest mercury source in Wisconsin with state-of-the-art technology. Our economic analysis submitted to the WI Public Service Commission showed this rate adjustment would allow for total cleanup next year at 1/3 to 1/14 the cost of cleaning up power plant mercury by 2015. This case is pending before the WPSC.
6. Worked with the Wisconsin Farmers Union to get national TV news coverage for farmers working to control greenhouse air pollution by selling carbon credits for conservation practices. Media articles and opinion pieces also appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Buffalo News, Wisconsin State Journal, Capitol Times and other state papers.

7. Worked to permit the first two ethanol plants in the state to use fractionation that splits the corn kernel to reduce energy and water needs to make ethanol by one-third. We helped ethanol producers put Environmental Management Systems into place and helped permit 140 million gallons of new ethanol production, almost doubling the state's production capacity. This will reduce our reliance on risky foreign oil, reduce greenhouse air pollution by 20% compared to gasoline, and reduce other deadly pollutants like benzene and soot particulate matter.
8. Participated in numerous clean energy events with Governor Doyle, former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, other elected leaders, labor and farmers to promote ethanol (E85) and energy security.
9. Worked with utilities to identify cost-effective energy conservation and biofuel options.
10. Presented numerous presentations on the Climate Change Action Plan and Clean Energy to the University of Wisconsin, WI Public Service Commission, Conserve School, United Nations Association and many other venues.



Brett Hulsey, President

Growing Smarter and Building Better Communities

1. We worked with key Louisiana leaders to frame and make the flood recovery faster based on our award-winning work after the 1993 Mississippi River and other floods.
2. We presented our FloodStopper analysis to the Association of State Floodplain Managers annual conference in New Mexico in June. This analysis tool gives policymakers a way to determine how protecting wetlands, parkland and forest help reduce downstream flooding, saving lives and tax money.
3. We used our Growing Smarter analysis to promote smart growth projects in Fitchburg, Middleton and other Dane County Communities.

Increasing Progressive Effectiveness

1. Worked with local community groups like Oregon Area Progressives to fight a local polluting plant.
2. Helped Arts Wisconsin increase grassroots and political effectiveness.
3. Helped Oklahomans for Modern Laws update that state's laws with organizing and fundraising assistance.

Giving Back

Part of our mission is to give back. This year, we made donations or raised money for the American Lung Association of Wisconsin, RENEW Wisconsin, Bike Federation of Wisconsin, Sierra Club, National and Wisconsin Wildlife Federations, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Citizens Utility Board, Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group, National Audubon Society, MS Society, Wisconsin Farmers Union, the Arthritis Foundation, Glenn Stephens School Parent Teacher Organization, and the First Unitarian Society.

**For more information on how we can help you,
email Info@BetterEnvironmentalSolutions.Com or call 608-238-6070.**