



# Celebrating Outstanding Contributions in Conservation

## 2012 County Conservation Achievement Award

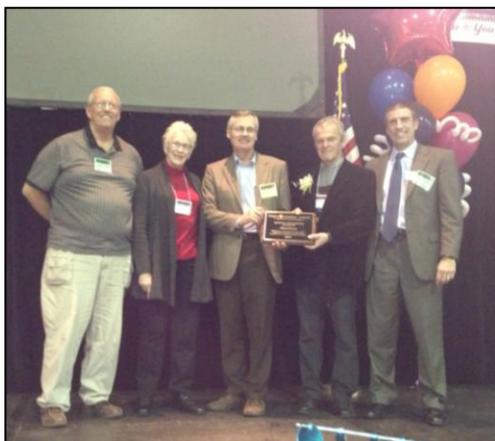
December 2012

The 2012 Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Annual Conference Awards Committee has selected the **Olmsted County Landfill Reclamation Initiative** to receive the County Conservation Award.

Olmsted County's Waste to Energy (WTE) facility does not conduct business-as-usual where their landfill is concerned. The County developed an innovative process of turning solid waste into fuel. In early 2012, Olmsted County purchased new equipment to dig up waste previously buried in the landfill. Once the waste is removed from the landfill, the County screens, separates, and reclaims ferrous metals for recycling, and shreds and stockpiles bulky items to be used for fuel at the WTE facility. The dirt removed is piled for reuse at a later point. Ash trucks, which previously sat empty, are used to backhaul the waste to the WTE facility.



The recycled waste produces steam, chilled water and electricity to 37 buildings and reduces the volume of waste going to the landfill by 90%. Equally impressive is the fact that no general fund tax moneys are used to pay for the integrated solid waste management system. The entire system is operated and maintained as an Enterprise Fund and obtains revenues from waste disposal fees, hauler collected service fees, and sales of products including compost, steam and electricity.



*(L to R) Denny Siems, Olmsted County Landfill Mgr; Stephanie Podulke, County Commissioner; John Helmers, Olmsted County Environmental Resources Director; Paul Wilson, County Commissioner; John Jaschke, BWSR ED*

The Association of Minnesota Counties, in partnership with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, began this award category in 2008 to recognize leadership, innovation, and excellence by counties in protecting or improving their natural resources.

The AMC/BWSR Conservation Award was presented at the AMC Awards Banquet on Monday, December 3, 2012 in St. Cloud MN. Congratulations to 2012 County Conservation Achievement Award winners, Olmsted County, for their Landfill Reclamation Initiative project!