



For Immediate Release

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Didion puts the S in Sustainability ***Sponsoring WI Association for Environmental Education Conference***

Cambria, Wis. (April 21, 2011) – As Earth Week 2011 continues, [Didion Milling, Inc.](#) (Didion) is putting the S in Sustainable by sponsoring Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education's (WAEE) Fall Conference, held November 3-5, 2011 in Rosholt, WI at Wisconsin Lion's Camp. This is the 36th year of the conference and will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) based out of UW-Stevens Point.

The Conference's theme this year will be *Celebrating Wisconsin's Environmental Education Partnerships*. Didion is proud to be one of the sponsors of this year's conference. According to the website, WAEE is a statewide non-profit professional organization of environmental educators which supports environmental education through advocacy, networking, and recognition. Further information on the WAEE and the Fall Conference may be found at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/.

Following a recent comprehensive third-party environmental audit, Didion received incredibly high marks within the final report. The audit covered the permits and regulations under Air, Waste Management and Storm Water. Didion also intends to implement an Environmental Management System in route to qualifying for WDNR's Green Tier program.

Didion is also proud to announce its intentions to attain a [Green Masters Program](#) certification through the [Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council](#) by the end of year. Didion's Green Team meets bi-weekly and has taken on this endeavor for 2011. Originally, John Didion, CEO formed Didion's Green Team in 2007 as a way to improve recycling throughout its locations. In 2010, Didion held the Didion Green Energy Expo to promote a green lifestyle for the approximately 800 attendees. As part of becoming a more green company each day, the group periodically evaluates its progress. Most recently, Didion's Green Team did a dumpster dive to evaluate what was ending up in the plant's waste stream and how they could Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rethink items they found. John A. Didion says, "I knew our Green Team was dedicated to sustainability when they did a dumpster dive in the middle of November!"

Didion also has an Energy Team that meets bi-weekly in an effort to reduce their energy consumption. Past projects have saved enough energy to power and heat 828 average homes. One major initiative involved installing a closed-loop water recycling system at its ethanol plant which now saves Didion Ethanol 129,000 gallons of fresh water each day. This is equivalent to the average water usage of 430 homes each day. This process change has also eliminated over 25.3 million gallons annually from being discharged into the local water system. Didion is the only ethanol plant in the State of Wisconsin operating without a WPDES Wastewater Discharge Permit which would allow them to discharge water.



Currently, Didion Ethanol is under construction to improve its process efficiency and reduce its energy consumption by 25%. This project was initially announced in December 2009 by Wisconsin's Focus on Energy as part of a bundled grant received through the Department of Energy. These were 50% matching grants and Didion was very grateful to receive \$5.5 Million for the \$11+ Million project.

Didion is excited to take their sustainability efforts to the next level with a certification from the Green Masters Program in 2011.



About Didion:

Didion is a family owned operation with more than 150 employees and four locations in Wisconsin. For nearly 40 years, the Didion family of companies has been an employer and innovator in Wisconsin's Agricultural community producing products.

For additional information on our family of companies, please visit www.didionmilling.com.

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