



## Environmental Research & Education Foundation

*Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices*

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### **Environmental Research and Education Foundation Releases Targeted Request for Sustainable Solid Waste Research Proposals**

The Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF), one of the largest sources of funding for solid waste research in the U.S., has unveiled a targeted request for sustainable solid waste research proposals. In late 2010, EREF Board of Directors made a decision to ensure research funded in the future reflected EREF's long-term strategic research plan to address all areas of integrated solid waste management, with a strong focus towards research that increased sustainable solid waste management practices. Sustainability, as it relates to solid waste management, is a focus on utilizing waste as a resource. "While EREF has always supported research and educational initiatives in all areas of solid waste, this targeted RFP exemplifies EREF's commitment to funding cutting edge research on next-generation technologies to manage discarded materials," noted Jim Dowland, Waste Management's Vice President of Disposal Operations and chair of the EREF Board's Research Project Committee.

Historically, roughly 75 of EREF's funding dollars have been allocated to landfill related research. While landfills continue to play an important role in integrated waste management, and will receive the majority of MSW in the near future in the U.S. (and in the majority of other countries), it has been recognized that a sustainable future requires consideration of other end-of-life technologies. Since its inception in 1992, EREF has been one of the primary sources of research for solid waste management and has advanced the field significantly. "We see this targeted RFP as a natural extension of EREF's current research funding program and feel the information gained from this new funding direction will answer critical questions that will continue to propel the industry forward", said Dr. Bryan Staley, EREF's President and Chief Executive Officer.

The RFP requests research proposals on the following key focus areas: waste minimization, recycling, waste conversion to energy and biofuels, and strategies to promote diversion from landfills. In addition to hypothesis-driven research, it is highly desirable that submissions also address economic and operational feasibility, impacts on policy and regulation, and evaluate life cycle impacts. Please visit the [EREF Web site](http://www.erefdn.org) for more information.

*EREF is a 501(c)3 class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve. For more complete information on EREF funded research, its scholarship program and how to donate to this great cause, visit [www.erefdn.org](http://www.erefdn.org).*