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Governor Proclaimed November 15, 2009 as Missouri Recycles Day
Ceremony will honor nine Missouri colleges and universities who participated the 2009 RecycleMania competition

CAPITOL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO (November 17, 2009) –

The Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) joins hundreds of communities across the nation in recognizing November 15 as the day to remind Americans to recycle and to purchase recycled content products. “Missouri Recycles Day brings to the forefront, not only the environmental benefits of recycling, but the significant role recycling plays in Missouri’s economy. Waste and scrap exports from Missouri regularly exceed \$100 million in revenue each quarter” says Dave Beal, President of MORA and also Vice-President of EPC, a national electronics recycler headquartered in St. Charles, MO.

Governor Jay Nixon will present the official “Missouri Recycles Day” proclamation at a ceremony in the Governor’s Office on November 18 at 10:00 a.m. Nine Missouri colleges and universities will be recognized for participation in the 2009 RecycleMania competition. RecycleMania is an annual contest to determine national supremacy among college campuses that reduce, reuse and recycle the most waste. “The value of RecycleMania is that it spurs environmental awareness on campuses. Students learn to rethink their waste by recognizing that bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard are valuable commodities.” says Missouri State Recycling Coordinator, Rob Didriksen.

Missouri colleges ranked in the national top 25 of various RecycleMania competitions, including first place winner, Stephens College, who won the Paper Recycling division by recycling over 40 pounds of paper per person each week during the ten-week competition. In total Missouri schools recycled over 1,457,044 pounds of material, which is the equivalent of reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions of 1,287 passenger vehicles.

Also placing in the Paper Recycling Division was Truman State University, 7th place, and Washington University, 24th place. Other top ranking Missouri schools included: Cardboard Recycling Division – Truman State University 8th place and Stephens College 9th place; Bottles & Cans Recycling Division – Stephens College 15th place and Truman State University 17th place; Per Capita Classic Division – Stephens College 4th place and Truman State University 8th place; and the Gorilla Prize Division – University of Missouri – Columbia 13th place. Other Missouri schools that participated in the competition are Missouri University of Science & Technology, Park University, Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Missouri – Kansas City.

Missouri Recycles Day is celebrated in conjunction with America Recycles Day (ARD), the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Celebrating its 12th year, ARD has grown to include millions of Americans pledging to increase their recycling habits at home and work and to buy products made with recycled materials. Through America Recycles Day, Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (KAB) and the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) support local communities and raises awareness by educating citizens about the benefits of recycling. Volunteer America Recycles Day coordinators are positioned throughout the country and work to organize recycling awareness events in their schools and communities, and in conjunction with their local municipalities.

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About MORA

MORA was formed in 1993 to support waste reduction and recycling efforts in Missouri by providing information, educational opportunities, and technical support in partnership with state, national and regional organizations. More information is available at www.mora.org.

About RecycleMania

RecycleMania began in 2001 and has expanded from two schools to 510 colleges and universities in 2009 spanning all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Over a 10-week period, campuses compete to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. For complete contest background and details, visit the RecycleMania website at www.recyclemaniacs.org.