

Recycling anniversary demonstrates local interest

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HOUGHTON — The first anniversary of cardboard recycling in Houghton County was a great success, according to Joan Chadde, director of the Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education (WUPC).



Photo provided by Joan Chadde Evan McDonald, Copper Country Recycling Initiative co-chairman, gives a presentation on CCRI activities to an interested audience at the recent cardboard recycling celebration at the Portage Lake District Library.

More than 100 residents from across the county attended the event, which was sponsored by the Copper Country Recycling Initiative (CCRI) and coordinated by the WUPC and the Portage Lake District Library.

Two Michigan Technological University student groups, the Alternative Energy Enterprise and the Green Campus Enterprise, presented posters showing their efforts on the MTU campus. More than a dozen high school and MTU students volunteers conducted hands-on activities for kids.

Rick Probst of Keweenaw County gave a report on the Keweenaw County Cardboard Recycling Center, while Eric Forsberg reported on Houghton County. Chadde reported on the grant's educational programs. The grant was awarded to Houghton County through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Pollution Prevention Program, to create a cardboard recycling program in the county, and to fund an outreach education program, which is being led by the WUPC.

Hancock Mayor Lisa McKenzie gave a report on the curbside recycling program for Hancock and said she was pleased with the city's 50 percent participation rate. Anne Vollrath, who gave Houghton's report, said that city is pleased with its 30 percent participation rate.

As part of the recycling education program, a "*Garbology*" study will be conducted at both the Hancock Middle School on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and at the Calumet High School on Feb. 22, with the high school's ROTC program.

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