

For immediate release:

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Green Mini-Grants Support Sustainability Initiatives Throughout Montana

The Eat Right Montana (ERM) coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Montana families in healthful eating and active lifestyles, has awarded twelve mini-grants (\$500 each) to agencies and organizations. The 2009 Going Green Mini Grant Program was designed to encourage smart waste management practices – by reducing, reusing, and/or recycling.

The 2009 ERM grants will reach eleven communities with programs for Montanans of all ages – preschool children to senior citizens. Grant recipients include childcare providers, K-12 schools, universities, a 4-H council, a local food bank, and a senior citizen advisory council located across the Treasure state - from Glendive to Kalispell and Ronan to West Yellowstone.

The impressive list of community projects includes efforts to:

- Develop a composting system and educate school children on this important habit
- Expand community garden spaces
- Expand existing recycling efforts
- Purchase a freezer to store wild game at a local food bank
- Implement a training program for childcare providers on recycling as part of a science curriculum

According to ERM's Grant Committee Chairperson, Linda Hogg, RD (registered dietitian), "We were thrilled with the interest in these grants. We received more than 50 proposals from across the state. As these projects make a lasting difference in creating greener Montana communities, they will also serve as models for other groups and organizations."

Eat Right Montana urges all Montanans to reduce, reuse, and recycle as simple steps to conserve natural resources. To support such changes, ERM publishes a monthly free electronic newsletter, **Going Green: Simple Steps for Montana Families**. Current and past issues can be downloaded at www.eatrightmontana.org/eatrighthealthyfamilies.htm. Montanans can also be added to the monthly electronic mailing list by sending a request to maryann.harris@montana.edu.

For more details on the **Going Green** projects, contact Ms. Hogg at Linda.hogg@montana.edu or visit the ERM web site at www.eatrightmontana.org/eatrightevents.htm.