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For Immediate Release

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON PRELIMINARY
RECYCLING REPORT FOR MANISTEE COUNTY**

Manistee, Michigan – There’s one thing that virtually everyone in the United States has in common: we generate waste. About 4.5 pounds per person each day to be exact and that mounts up to a staggering 222 million tons per year.

With a population of about 25,000 people, Manistee County is likely generating 112,500 pounds of waste with each passing day. And it’s a bit depressing to realize that Michigan’s recycling percent of 20 percent is the lowest in the Great Lakes region and one of the lowest in the United States, even with the successful bottle deposit return system.

At the request of the Manistee County Recycling Committee, the Alliance for Economic Success has completed a project to gather input from all interests about the future of recycling in Manistee County.

Entitled “Community Issues, Concerns, Priorities: Recycling In Manistee County”, the report summarizes the input received through 9 meetings held throughout Manistee County during February 2008. Two community meetings are scheduled to gather added input or comments about the report:

April 2, 2008	Filer Township Hall	6:30 PM
April 3, 2008	Cleon Township Hall	6:30 PM

“We had terrific input, interest and participation in our county-wide meetings,” said Betsy Keson of the Alliance for Economic Success. “As a result, we decided to share our report of what we heard and invite added input before we issue the report to the County Recycling Committee.

Keson said that the report summarizes input received, including: community participation in developing recycling programs; needs and goals for education about recycling, general community support for recycling, and desired recycling program components.

A copy of the report (attached) can be obtained by going to www.allianceforeconomicsuccess.com or by calling or emailing 231-723-4325 or betsy@allianceforeconomicsuccess.com