

Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for Recycling/ Reuse for Project Rain Barrel



(L-R) IDEM Office of Program Support Assistant Commissioner Bob Lugar and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Carl Wodrich, **Ball Corporation Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager Matt Saul**, **City of Monticello Wastewater Utility Superintendent Bob Lindley**, and Governor's Office Senior Operations Director John Roeder at the Indiana Pollution Prevention Conference and Tradeshow in Indianapolis recognize City of Monticello Partnership with Ball Corp with a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for Recycling/ Reuse on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

The City of Monticello Wastewater Utility developed a rain barrel project to address the cost and concerns of utility customers with the added cost of watering their lawns and gardens following a 2019 city council vote to remove the allowances for sprinkler rates. Partnering with Ball Corporation, which provided 55-gallon barrels from food-grade soap, the barrels were provided at no cost to customers to collect rainwater for lawns and gardens. In addition, the barrels give the community a way to cut costs and use stormwater runoff, preventing it from running into nearby rivers, lakes, and combined sewers. In the first year, they distributed over 200 barrels to their community and surrounding communities in the county.