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Kent County Department of Public Works appoints new environmental compliance manager

Compliance manager helps ensure three closed landfill sites in Kent County are not contaminating land, air and water

Grand Rapids, MI – The **Kent County Department of Public Works (DPW)** has selected a new environmental compliance manager who will help monitor landfills and other sites to ensure environmental health.

The environmental compliance manager oversees ongoing remediation efforts at closed landfill sites and monitors environmental compliance across active sites to ensure the DPW is complying with state and federal law.

Adam Canute has worked with the DPW since 2016, when he was hired as an intern while completing his bachelor's degree in geology from Grand Valley State University. He was hired at DPW full-time following his internship and was recently promoted to environmental compliance manager while completing his master's degree in earth science with Western Michigan University.

"I'm excited to take on this new role at the DPW and help ensure the sites we operate are not contaminating the environment around us," Canute said. "Landfills are a lot more than just trash in the ground, and it's important to make sure we're not polluting and that we can meet environmental regulations."

Environmental compliance helps ensure retired and active landfills are not contaminating groundwater or producing landfill gas which could be hazardous to the environment. This is important as the DPW continues to pursue its goal of reducing landfilled waste by 90% by 2030.

"Environmental compliance is a critical part of what we do and helps ensure we're keeping our air, water and land free of hazardous contamination from past and current landfills," said **Dar Baas**, director of the Kent County DPW. "We're proud to have Adam in this important role that keeps our community and environment safe."

The Kent County Department of Public Works provides municipal solid waste disposal services to ensure the effective removal, storage and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste through various facilities and programs, including Waste-to-Energy, the Recycling and Education Center, North Kent Transfer Station and South Kent Landfill.

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