



BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Valley City Environmental

A West Michigan native, Bob Van Stright became interested in the relationship between the environment and business while working on his MBA at Northwestern University. While there Bob learned about the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. This Act, passed in 1976, helps protect the public from the harm caused by waste disposal and encourages reuse, reduction, and recycling. Realizing that companies needed help conforming to these new laws he went to work finding profitable solutions benefiting everyone.

In 1998 Bob returned home to Grand Rapids when he purchased Valley City Environmental Services. Located on Market Street SW, Valley City offers a variety of services from transportation of industrial waste to technical services for manufacturing sites to

electronics recycling. Bob has generously recycled two generations of the Land Conservancy's computers at his facility.

Bob is an avid biker and often rides to work from his home in the Rockford area. In 2005, he and a friend began a bike trip across America which began in San Diego and will finish at Acadia National Park. Riding in stages, he just completed a section through Indiana and Ohio this summer with his wife, Karen.

"I support the Land Conservancy because I see the protection of open spaces as a quality of life issue for everyone," says Bob. "I love the geography of West Michigan and there is so much that still needs to be saved. I appreciate the organization's proactive approach to preserving that character."

Bob Van Stright and his company Valley City Environmental Services have been business members of the Land Conservancy since 2001.

