Tracking Our Progress

Hazardous waste generation has significantly declined over the last 25 years. Our Waste Minimization Trends Report describes this decline in generation, and subsequent management of hazardous waste priority chemicals. The Report uses data collected through the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) from 1991–2000. TRI data identifies the chemical volumes most likely associated with hazardous waste generation.

TRI data showed a 42 percent reduction in disposal of 20 of the 30 priority chemicals —from an estimated 152 million pounds in 1991 to an estimated 89 million pounds in 2000—a decline of about 63 million pounds. Some industries showing more dramatic reductions were inorganic chemical manufacturing, battery manufacturing, and chlor-alkali manufacturing. We are enlisting industries that produce the highest volumes of the 30 priority chemicals, which include metal smelters and refiners, steel mills and blast furnaces, glass and glassware manufacturers, and petroleum refiners, among others.

We believe the National Waste Minimization Partnership Program will not only achieve great reductions in the amount of hazardous waste we generate, but also place more emphasis on conserving our natural resources.

For More Information

More information on the National Waste Minimization Partnership Program and the Waste Minimization Trends Report is available at **www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserve.** We also would like your suggestions on how we can meet the national reduction goal. Email us at **rcc-challenge@epa.gov** or write to:

U.S. EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (5305W)
Washington, DC 20460
Attn: RCC

You can also obtain information by calling the RCRA Call Center at 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323 (hearing impaired) if you live within the Washington Metropolitan area. Call 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672 if you are a long-distance caller.

EPA
Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5305W)
EPA530-F-03-041
August 2003
www.epa.gov/osw

The Resource Conservation Challenge

The National Waste Minimization Partnership Program and Priority Chemicals

WHAT CAN YOU SAVE TODAY?
S M T W T F S
RESOURCE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

The National Waste Minimization Partnership Program is a new, voluntary program. It fosters partnerships between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and waste generators that focus on reducing 30 priority chemicals in waste.

Challenge to Industry

We are challenging waste generators, particularly industry, to reduce the generation of 30 priority chemicals commonly found in waste by 50 percent by 2005. Reducing the release of priority chemicals in all life-cycle stages is a prime goal of the Agency's Resource Conservation Challenge. These are persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals that contaminate our land, air, water, plants, and animals. By achieving this goal, we will not only eliminate almost 76 million pounds of priority chemicals, but we also will better protect human health and our ecosystems.

To accomplish our goal of reducing priority chemicals, we are forming partnerships with companies, federal agencies, industry associations, states, and tribes. To eliminate priority chemicals in waste, we will encourage waste minimization techniques, such as substituting chemicals, changing manufacturing processes, reusing products, and recycling activities. Besides enhancing our environment, these techniques will reduce risks, improve efficiency, and cut costs in manufacturing operations and waste management.

Current partners have pledged to reduce specific amounts of the 30 priority chemicals and other chemicals found in waste. Some have already made dramatic reductions in priority chemicals, especially lead. We plan to recruit at least 100 partners over the next three years, from both Fortune 500 companies and small businesses. National Waste Minimization Partners receive public recognition from EPA for their hazardous waste reductions and environmental achievements.

EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency

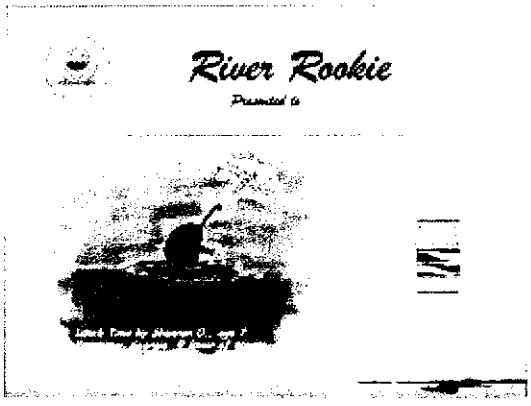
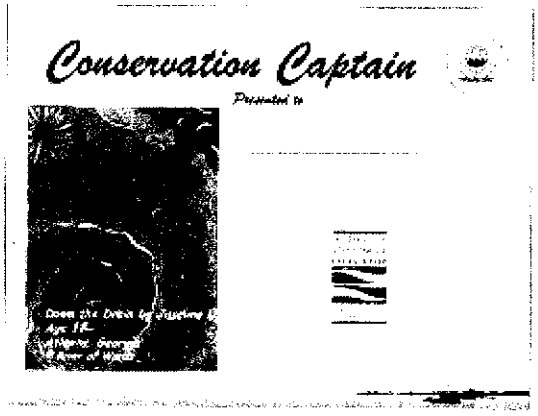
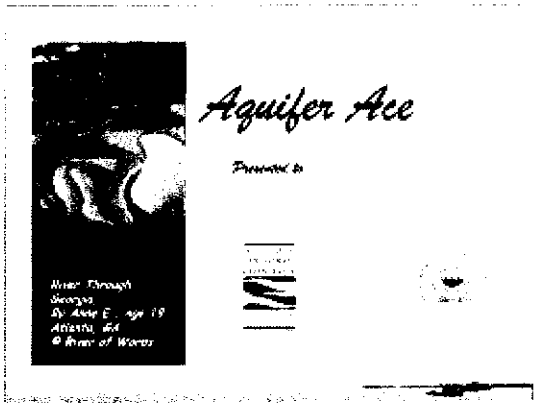
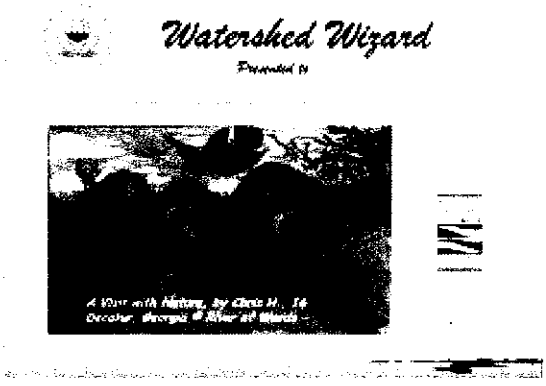
Recycled/Recyclable—Printing with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on 100% (Minimum 50% postconsumer) Recycled Paper.

Watershed Patch Project Errata Sheet

EPA840-B-02-001ES

To encourage participation in the W*atershed Patch Project*, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a series of certificates and a watershed patch that can be presented to students who complete the activities in this booklet.

The certificates can be downloaded from EPA's Web site. Simply go to http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/certificates/ and fill out the form. Although you can use plain white paper, the certificates look best when printed on parchment paper. The designs are from winning student artwork from the *River of Words* International Art and Poetry contest (*http://www.riverofwords.org).*

The watershed patch is intended for students who complete all of the activity levels (i.e., River Rookie, Conservation Captain, Aquifer Ace, and Watershed Wizard). The Patch can be ordered by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198. Ask for publication number EPA840-E-03-001.

Please keep in mind that any activities on or near the water can be hazardous and need to be carefully supervised by adults.