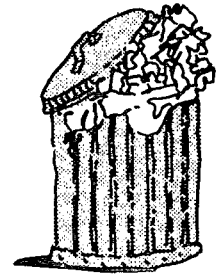




REUSABLE NEWS



EPA and Postal Service Take Recycling to the People

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and the United States Postal Service (USPS) have joined forces to develop an exciting new recycling outreach campaign. Recognizing that together they can deliver a message of environmental action to millions of Americans, the two agencies are planning to develop a poster urging individuals to recycle and a brochure providing information on recycling and other aspects of integrated waste management. EPA also helped the Postal Service add an educational recycling insert to its "Wee Deliver" newsletter, which is distributed to teachers in over 8,000 schools across the nation.

The Postal Service developed its "Wee Deliver" program in 1991 to help increase literacy and demonstrate to students in kindergarten through sixth grade the elements of mail handling. The program is a hands-on learning experience in which students set up and operate a model post office for their classroom or school. Students design their own post office; take "jobs" as postmasters, clerks, and postal carriers; and write, address, and deliver letters to other students. To support and encourage the participating schools, the Postal Service issues a newsletter 10 times each year containing program notes, teaching suggestions, and a four-page insert of new activities to foster literacy.

For the 1992 Earth Day issue of the newsletter, EPA prepared an insert presenting recycling ideas around a Postal Service theme and requiring use of literacy skills. Students meet recycling's nemesis, the Garbage Gremlin, and learn how they can use recycling to




reduce the amount of garbage requiring disposal. They solve puzzles, design buttons, and even learn to make recycled paper from old letters. The insert also contains a message to the students from EPA Administrator William K. Reilly. Administrator Reilly urges students to write letters persuading the Garbage Gremlin to join them in working to prevent pollution. As a reward for writing and addressing the letter correctly, the children receive OSW's Garbage Gremlin comic book and poster.

The brochure being developed by the EPA-Postal Service team will provide USPS customers with information about recycling, including facts about municipal solid waste (MSW) generation, how recycling can improve MSW management, and tips on how people can incorporate recycling into their daily lives. The poster will encourage both children and adults to use recycling to "Make a Ton of Difference." EPA and the Postal Service intend to use the poster's recycling message to reflect

(Continued on page 2)

Newsletter Highlights

Many different organizations and institutions are working to raise awareness of municipal solid waste (MSW) issues. Our school systems are especially valuable channels for teaching about MSW. This issue of *Reusable News* highlights examples of successful efforts in a variety of educational institutions. Many of these institutions have formed partnerships with government agencies and private organizations to increase the impact of their programs. All are committed to instituting an environmental ethic in the next generation of Americans.

This issue also introduces a new feature, "Taking Action," which profiles individual citizens' efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The premiere of this feature focuses on an attorney who set up a waste prevention and recycling program in his office and two individuals who joined forces to take responsibility for their community's recyclables. 



In This Issue

- **EPA and Postal Service Take Recycling to the People** (p. 1)
- **Green Congregation Fosters Environmental Stewardship** (p. 2)
- **Taking Action**
 - Virginia Attorney Defends Waste Reduction Cause (p. 3)
 - Maryland Citizens Initiate Successful Recycling Campaign (p. 3)
- **Focus on Municipal Solid Waste Education**
 - Wisconsin University Teaches the Three "R's" (p. 4)
 - Former Teacher at Head of Class in Region 8 (p. 4)
 - EPA Teaching Tools Bring MSW Awareness into the Classroom (p. 5)
 - EPA Releases Education Conference Proceedings (p. 5)
- **Tribal Conference Addresses Solid Waste Issues** (p. 6)
- **The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste** (p. 6)
- **Over 600 Individuals Attend MISWD Conference** (p. 7)
- **EPA Releases Mercury Report** (p. 7)
- **Plastic Company Closes the Loop** (p. 8)
- **Compost Conference Proceedings Available** (p. 8)

Address comments or suggestions to:
John Leigh, Editor (OS-305)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

Reusable News is the quarterly newsletter of the EPA Office of Solid Waste's Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division. *Reusable News* reports on the efforts of EPA and others to safely and effectively manage the nation's garbage and provides useful information about key issues and concerns in MSW management.

(Continued from page 1)

EPA and Postal Service Take Recycling to the People

the global nature of MSW management issues, urging readers, in six different languages, to recycle. The Postal Service plans to distribute the poster and the brochure to all 40,000 post offices in the United States.

These outreach materials are an extension of a series of waste reduction and recycling initiatives begun by the Postal Service last year. The Postal Service recycles a variety of materials, including paper, cardboard, and aluminum from its offices; polystyrene plates and trays from its cafeterias; and waste oil, lead-acid batteries, used solvents, and antifreeze from its vehicle maintenance operations. In addition, the Post-

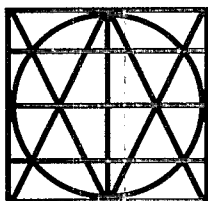
al Service has implemented a number of waste-saving measures, such as using recycled paper for its publications and reducing undeliverable third class mail pieces with the help of commercial mailing businesses. EPA and USPS now are exploring the possibility of preparing additional educational materials to show postal workers how they can help reduce waste generation in post offices.

For more information about these projects, contact Mike Fanning, Environmental Management Division, Room 4130, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260-6423. ☐

Green Congregation Fosters Environmental Stewardship

Leaders of the global religious and scientific communities have united to form the Joint Appeal by Religion and Science for the Environment (JARSE). JARSE is a nondenominational effort designed to give moral grounding to the concept of environmental stewardship

and to inform citizens and government officials throughout the world of their obligation to protect the environment.



THE JOINT APPEAL
BY RELIGION & SCIENCE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

JARSE has set up the Green Congregation Network Hotline (1-800-435-9466). The Hotline is an information clearinghouse that individuals can call to obtain and share information about the experiences of their own and other religious communities in environmental education, advocacy, and action.

Enid Gorman of JARSE says the stories reported by hotline callers are very diverse and reflective of growing environmental concern and involvement among religious congregations. For instance, the Arlington United Methodist Church in California holds a monthly "recycling Sunday" to which churchgoers bring aluminum cans, newspapers, and plastic bottles. In addition, church leaders have organized

a vegetable swap that encourages people to grow and trade homegrown foods. At the Christ Lutheran Church in Pipersville, Pennsylvania, social ministry chairperson Diane Allison reports that, to cut down on waste, members now bring their own place settings to church suppers.

Since its inception in late 1991, the Hotline has received over 200 calls from churches and synagogues across the United States. The information gathered through the Hotline and other research will be collated and published in a *Directory of Environmental Resources and Activities in the American Religious Community*. JARSE hopes the guide will ultimately inspire more religious communities to initiate their own environmental programs.

The executive committee of JARSE comprises many prominent religious and scientific figures, including leaders of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Orthodox, and Native American faiths as well as administrators and executives of important U.S. research and activist groups. In addition to the Hotline, JARSE has held several national meetings on environmental topics.

For more information, contact the Green Congregation Network at 1-800-435-9466. The directory is available for \$7 by writing Joint Appeal, c/o Kutztown Publishing Co., P.O. Box 346, Kutztown, PA 19530. ☐



Welcome to "Taking Action," a new *Reusable News* feature that will spotlight the everyday efforts of individuals to reduce, reuse, and recycle in the home, office, and community. If you know of anyone who has made an innovative contribution to meeting the MSW challenge, but not as part of an environmental profession, please write John Leigh, *Reusable News*, Office of Solid Waste, U.S. EPA (OS-305), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Attorney Defends Waste Reduction Cause

When attorney William Schmidt of Fairfax County, Virginia, discovered in 1989 that his new office building did not provide any recycling services or facilities, he decided to take action. Schmidt committed himself and his staff to implementing their own office waste prevention and recycling program. His goal was simple: help protect the environment and perhaps even save money.

Schmidt's nine-person staff now recycles office paper and newspaper, makes double-sided copies, returns empty beverage containers, uses reusable glasses and mugs, and donates old magazines to local hospitals. Every weekend, Schmidt personally gathers the separated recyclables from his office and takes them to the local recycling center.

Schmidt emphasizes that "it is the firm as a whole and not just me individually....Everyone is involved in the recycling process and adds their input and suggestions."

Although Schmidt does not keep statistical records of his firm's waste stream, he says the reduction in the amount of discards is significant. For example, through double-sided

copying alone, his office saves \$50 to \$100 per month. Schmidt also has now convinced his property manager to set up paper recycling for all of the offices in the building.

"People should sit down with themselves, and think of their relationship to society and nature," Schmidt says. "They will realize that waste reduction is something that is good...and surprisingly simple." Schmidt confides that several years ago, sorting discards seemed like it would be troublesome, but once he started, he understood how easily trash separation and other waste reduction techniques could be incorporated into one's daily lifestyle.

Visitors to Schmidt's law firm often hear a brief discourse from the attorney about the benefits of waste prevention and recycling. The Virginia lawyer also hopes to encourage other Fairfax County law firms to start recycling programs to recover paper and other recyclables.

For more information, contact attorney William Schmidt at (703) 866-2343. ☐

Maryland Citizens Initiate Successful Recycling Campaign

Three years ago, Carolyn Sienkiewicz wrote a letter in the *Maryland Independent* asking why Charles County didn't have a recycling program. The letter got Larry Schindel thinking. When he was a child, Schindel had been involved with the community recycling campaign that his father Louis started in Maplewood, New Jersey. Now a Charles County resident, Schindel knew his community needed a recycling program. Schindel contacted Sienkiewicz, who was a new resident and had recently moved from Seattle, Washington. A few months later, Schindel and Sienkiewicz joined forces and started a community recycling program.

Schindel and Sienkiewicz formed a local environmental group, "Recycling Action for Charles County (RACC)," to educate the citizens and county officials about recycling. Although the county did not have a recycling program in place at the time, there was a Maryland state mandate requiring a reduction in county municipal solid waste. The two citizens worked with state and county officials to initiate a volunteer recycling program in their community. With financial support from the county, they started a monthly pickup of recyclables in a commuter parking lot.

In the beginning, a local hauler supplied boxes to help volunteers sort recyclables. The volume grew, and, in 1990,

RACC contracted with a larger company to pick up the materials for recycling. The volunteer program ended last February, when the county took over the program. Schindel and Sienkiewicz have stepped aside, but the success of their efforts is evident: what began as a single collection site has expanded to seven. In addition, RACC collected 1.4 million pounds of recyclables over the life of the program.

Although the county did not have a recycling program in place at the time, there was a Maryland state mandate requiring a reduction in county municipal solid waste.

Now Schindel is spending his extra time promoting recycling at the printing company where he works, Automated Graphic Systems. In 1991 alone, the company recycled over 40 percent of its total waste. Schindel continues to work to increase this percentage. Sienkiewicz has been speaking to local groups about recycling and is in charge of paper recycling in the middle school where she teaches.

For more information, call Larry Schindel of Automated Graphic Systems at (301) 843-1800 or Carolyn Sienkiewicz at (301) 654-4453. ☐

Wisconsin University Teaches the Three "R's"

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) is an institution tackling waste management problems with remarkable success. Within a few years, this 4-year university nestled in the center of Wisconsin has developed a comprehensive waste management program that applies the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" to achieve exceptional results.

UWSP launched its recycling program in October 1989. In 1990, the program's first full year, students and staff combined efforts to recycle 45 percent of the university's waste stream, including such components as paper, aluminum and other metals, and yard trimmings.

The University administration expanded the program in 1991 to encompass polystyrene packing material. In the first quarter of 1992, the University recovered 58 percent of its municipal solid waste. UWSP also is purchasing office supplies and items such as parking bumpers and benches produced from recycled material.

In May 1990, a local union launched the SEARCH Program (Students, Employees, and Administration Recycling for Community Health) in an effort to recover for reuse items normally discarded at the end of each semester by students moving out of residence halls. The articles collected under SEARCH—ranging from clothing and



appliances to food and furniture—are given to charitable organizations for distribution among the needy of the area. In a related effort, UWSP gathers scrap cloth, such as drapes and clothes, and gives it to a local recycling center.

While pursuing its recycling and reuse initiatives, the UWSP administration has not neglected the third "R" of good waste management, "reduction." Last fall UWSP formed a campus source reduction committee to investigate the possibilities of cutting back on waste in campus operations. By the fall of 1992, the committee will make recommendations and begin implementation. The committee will also work to educate students and faculty about how they can curtail waste generation in their everyday lives.

UWSP has not rested contentedly within its own borders. In January 1992, the university held a seminar on waste management issues to teach other institutions and enterprises about the benefits of the three "R's." In addition, UWSP has produced two videos about waste management: a student "how to" video with a message set to rap music and a documentary video about the UWSP program.

The UWSP received a 1990 EPA Administrator's Award for its activities and success in waste prevention and recycling. For more information, contact Sharon Simonis of UWSP at (715) 346-2552.

Former Teacher at Head of Class in Region 8

When George Donnelly moved to Colorado several years ago, he was expecting to spend his retirement enjoying the tranquility of the mountains, far away from the classrooms and offices of the Ohio school system where he had worked as an educator for 34 years.

Donnelly's retirement was short-lived, however. Not long after resettling in Colorado, Donnelly joined EPA Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota) under the Senior Environmental Employee program as an education specialist. Since his arrival, Region 8 has intensified its municipal solid waste (MSW) public outreach and education activity significantly.

Donnelly and Region 8, for example, have worked closely with Aurora Public Schools and four other Denver-area school districts to develop *Municipal Solid Waste Management*, a curriculum for grades K-12 containing lessons on source reduction, recycling, landfilling, and combustion. Further, Region 8 support has allowed these school districts to arrange a week-long workshop for educators on how to integrate the curriculum into their science programs. The workshop uses MSW educa-

tional materials developed by EPA and is offered for college credit.

Under Donnelly's guidance, Region 8 also has collaborated with state and local organizations to produce videos and brochures on MSW issues. One video, "The Wonderful World of Recycle," introduces children in grades K-2 to recycling. "How the Waste Was Won" examines more complex MSW questions for high-school students and adults.

Region 8's growing publication list is complemented by extensive outreach activity. With Region 8 financial and technical support, the Colorado League of Women Voters is striving to spread the word about alternative solid waste management methods both inside and outside its organization. Similarly, the Science Discovery Program under the University of Colorado has organized a series of symposia—with Region 8 funding additional educational materials—to introduce teachers and pupils from rural areas of Colorado to MSW concerns.

For more information, contact George Donnelly of EPA Region 8 office at (303) 293-1818.

Solid Waste Education

EPA Teaching Tools Bring MSW Awareness into the Classroom

EPA's Office of Solid Waste has developed an educational package called *Recycle Today!* to help teachers introduce their students to issues related to municipal solid waste (MSW). Several thousand copies of this package have been requested by school districts, town conservation committees, businesses, and state environmental offices across the country and are increasingly being used in our nation's school systems. To bring the activities in the package to life, EPA also has sent the Garbage Gremlin to schools in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area. The Garbage Gremlin is a character used in the educational materials to represent the wasteful habits many of us unknowingly perpetuate.

EPA's *Recycle Today!* package features four educational publications:

■ **Let's Reduce and Recycle: A Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness.** This curriculum is composed of a series of lessons concerning the generation and management of MSW. Intended for grades K-12, the lessons include flexible, hands-on activities intended to spark the interest of students. The

curriculum encourages students to consider creative solutions to the challenges posed by MSW and allows educators to enhance the activities by incorporating solid waste data from their own communities.

■ **School Recycling Programs: A Handbook for Educators.** This handbook is designed to guide teachers and others interested in

examples of successful projects from schools around the country and lists sources of additional information.

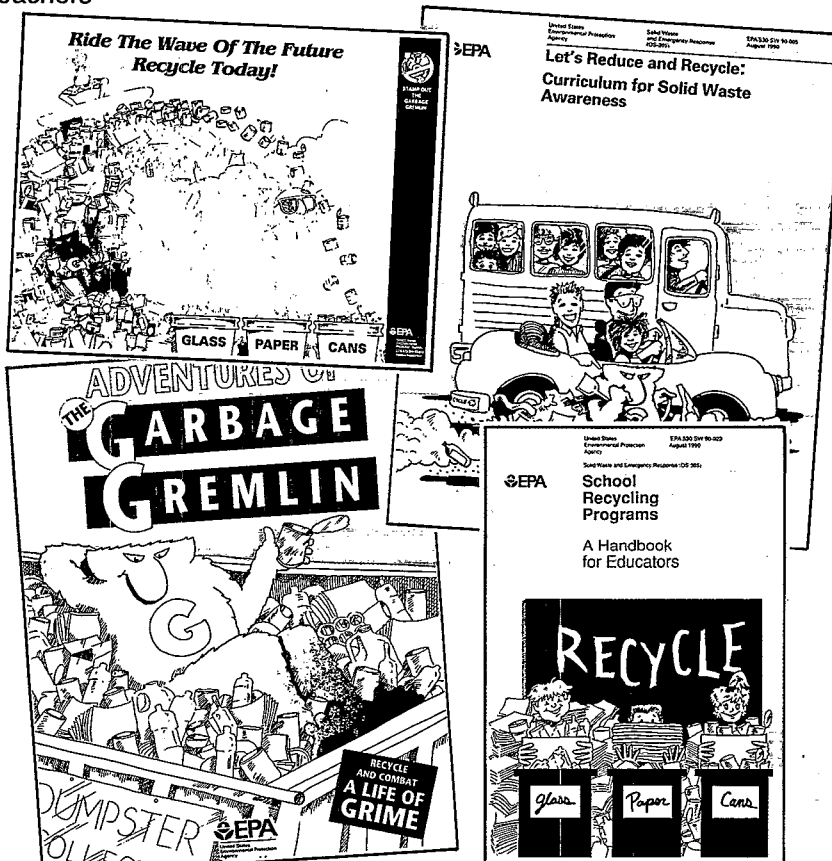
■ **Adventures of the Garbage Gremlin: Recycle and Combat a Life of Grime.** Educators can use this comic book, in which students foil a plan by the Garbage Gremlin to undermine their school's recycling efforts, to teach about the recycling process and to encourage students to assess their own attitudes and behavior toward waste.

■ **Ride the Wave of the Future: Recycle Today!** This colorful recycling poster was developed with the help of the National Science Teachers Association to add flair to the educational package.

EPA also has developed a "how to" supplement for the curriculum. The supplement provides teaching tips on using the curriculum in the classroom and enables teachers to determine at a glance which activities in the curriculum are appropriate for their grade and subject area.

To obtain copies of any of the *Recycle Today!* publications free of charge, call the RCRA

Hotline at (800) 424-9346. For more information, write to Charles Franklin, Office of Solid Waste, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (OS-305), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. ☐



developing a school recycling project. Educators will find descriptions of the different types of recycling programs and step-by-step instructions on how to start one. The handbook provides

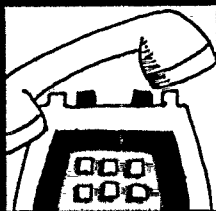
EPA Releases Education Conference Proceedings

Proceedings are now available from EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE) conference, "Building a Shared Vision for Environmental Education." The conference, held last November, is one of many EPA projects intended to foster and support the goals of the National Environmental Education Act that was signed into law in November 1990.

F. Henry Habicht, EPA Deputy Administrator, gave the keynote address for the conference. Other speakers included

Senator Gaylord Nelson (retired), who founded Earth Day, as well as representatives from federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the United Nations. The conference included an exhibit hall representing 40 organizations and several panel and working group discussions on issues such as how to encourage and finance environmental education in schools.

For more information, contact Kathleen MacKinnon of EPA at (202) 260-4951. ☐



Hot Off the Hotline

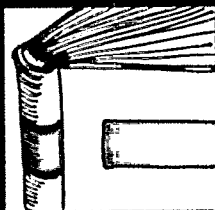
Question: It seems like every time I go to the supermarket, I see another product that claims to be "recyclable" or "environmentally friendly." I'd like to use products that are better for the environment, but what do these claims really mean?

Answer: Many consumers are interested in products that have less harmful effects on the environment, but are faced with a bewildering array of environmental claims at the store. Here are a few ways to help decipher environmental claims.

First, look for claims that are specific and that are substantiated by further information. For example, if a label says "recycled," check how much recycled content the product contains. If a package "creates less waste," make sure it says exactly what material was reduced, by how much, and compared to what. If a product claims to be "recyclable," think about whether the material is collected for recycling in your community.

Second, be wary of overly broad or vague environmental claims such as "environmentally friendly" or "eco-safe." These phrases have little meaning because they do not provide the specific information you need to compare products and packaging on their environmental merits. Similarly, phrases like "safe in a landfill" are generally irrelevant since disposal safety depends largely on how a solid waste facility is managed.

Looking for accurate and specific information on the environmental merits of products can help to improve the environment. If you make choices based on real environmental benefits, it will further encourage manufacturers to reduce the environmental impacts of their products.



Resources

The following publications are available at no charge from the EPA RCRA/Superfund Hotline. Call (800) 424-9346, or TDD (800) 553-7672 for the hearing impaired, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST.

Characterization of Products Containing Mercury in Municipal Solid Waste in the United States From 1970-2000. This report estimates mercury discharges in MSW from 1970 to 1989 and gives projections on mercury disposal in the upcoming decade. The Executive Summary (EPA530-S-92-013) and a fact sheet (EPA530-F-92-017) are available from the Hotline; the entire report is available from NTIS (PB92-162 569) by calling (800) 553-6847, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (\$26.00 for a paper copy; \$12.50 for microfiche).

The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste (EPA530-K-92-003). This booklet describes how people can help alleviate America's mounting trash problem by making environmentally aware decisions about everyday things like shopping and caring for the lawn.

Native American Network (EPA/530-SW-91-003). A quarterly newsletter that focuses on municipal solid waste issues of concern to Native American tribes. Information on hazardous waste management and various environmental programs also is included in this publication.

Most Oil Filters Exempt from Regulation as Hazardous Waste (EPA530-F-92-010). This environmental fact sheet explains why most oil filters are not considered hazardous waste and describes EPA's recommendations for recycling filters.

Tribal Conference Addresses Solid Waste Issues

Over 300 representatives from 99 Native American tribes and several tribe consortia attended the National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management held May 18 to 22 in Cherokee, North Carolina.

In her welcoming address to the conference, Office of Solid Waste Director Sylvia Lowrance talked of empowering tribes to become partners in environmental management through leadership, commitment, and training. F. Henry Habicht, Deputy Administrator of EPA, delivered the keynote address in which he urged Americans to recognize their responsibility to be stewards of the nation's natural resources.

Highlights of conference sessions included discussions about:

- Developing economic opportunities for recycling on tribal lands.
- Providing financial and technical assistance for solid waste management activities.
- Exploring solid waste management options, planning tools, and tribal success stories.

Over 30 vendors displayed a variety of environmental products. The next issue of *Native American Network* will contain a full conference report. (See "Hot Off the Hotline" for details.) For more information on the conference, call Judi Kane of EPA's Office of Solid Waste at (202) 260-5096. ☐

The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste

The *Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste* is now available for distribution. This booklet describes how individuals can help alleviate America's mounting trash problem by making environmentally aware decisions about everyday things like shopping and caring for the lawn. The booklet outlines many practical things people can do to reduce the amount and toxicity of garbage. See "Hot Off the Hotline" for ordering information. ☐

Over 600 Individuals Attend MISWD Conference



Don Clay, Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, chats with the Garbage Gremlin.

Conference-goer explores computerized planning software.



Magician Mr. Recycle demonstrates how to make solid waste "disappear."

Participants listen to a discussion on RCRA reauthorization.



EPA Deputy Administrator F. Henry Habicht delivers a speech at the conference's plenary session.

From June 3 to 5, over 600 people representing government, environmental, and business institutions convened in Arlington, Virginia, for the Second United States Conference on Municipal Solid Waste Management. The conference, sponsored by EPA's Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division (MISWD), featured forums and sessions on a variety of solid waste issues, including integrated waste management, economics of solid waste management, market development for recycling, and source reduction. Over 40 vendors displayed their products and resources.

For more information, contact Susan Mann of EPA at (202) 260-6263. ☐

Photos: John Leigh

Did You Know?



According to the Plastic Bag Association, about half of the country's 31,000 supermarkets now offer onsite bins for recycling plastic bags. Three plastic bag manufacturers, Sonoco Products Company, Mobil Chemical, and Vanguard Plastics, have established bag recycling programs with grocery stores. Of these companies, Sonoco has estimated that between 8 to 12 percent of the plastic grocery bags used by 9,000 participating stores are returned. Their research shows that the return rate depends upon how much the stores promote bag recycling. In 1992, Sonoco expects to recycle as much as 5 million pounds of plastic bags. A number of smaller manufacturers and their customers also are sponsoring smaller collection programs around the country. ☐

EPA Releases Mercury Report

EPA has released a report on the presence of mercury in the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream. The report, *Characterization of Products Containing Mercury in Municipal Solid Waste in the United States From 1970-2000*, contains estimates of mercury discards in MSW from 1970 to 1989, as well as projections on mercury disposal in the upcoming decade. For example, 1989 statistics show that household dry cell batteries contribute the most mercury to the MSW stream (88 percent), followed by fluorescent lighting (5 percent), thermometers (2 percent), thermostats (2 percent), pigments (2 percent), and other products.

One of the most notable trends in mercury reduction efforts documented in the report concerns household dry cell batteries. Battery manufacturers are working to decrease mercury in dry cell batteries to 0.025 percent (by weight) by 1992 and then slowly phase mercury out of production by the turn of the century. (See "Hot Off the Hotline" for information on ordering the full report, summary, or fact sheet.)

Plastic Company Closes the Loop

Dart Container Corporation is one company that is actively involved in the use—and reuse—of its products. Dart, a major manufacturer of polystyrene cups, is building an infrastructure to recycle foam cups used by hospitals, corporate cafeterias, airlines, and colleges.

Through its CARE (Cups Are REcyclable) Program, Dart picks up used cups from companies and transports them to a recycling center. The company itself operates four such centers, which are located in Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. At the reprocessing centers, the post-consumer foam is cut into small pieces, called "luff," and made into pellets. The pellets are sold to manufacturers of recycled plastic products. Among its four reprocessing centers, the company has the ability to recycle 12 million pounds of polystyrene foam each year.

To help companies store their used foam cups between pick-ups, Dart has developed a "densifier." Dart's densifier compacts styro-foam cups to one-sixtieth of their original size—about the thickness of a sheet of paper. A single densifier can hold up to 8,000 cups. The densifier also makes transportation more cost-effective for Dart since it reduces the number of trucks needed to backhaul the foam to the reprocessing centers.

Dart has recently started a "Recycl-Pak™" program to assist smaller food service companies with recycling. Under this program, companies receive new polystyrene cups in a special cardboard container. The same container doubles as a recycling collection bin. To encourage stacking of used cups, Dart developed a reusable insert made from 50 percent recycled, post-consumer polystyrene foodservice products. Once the Recycl-Pak™ is filled, the foodservice operator simply removes the insert, tapes up the box, and calls an 800 number to have it shipped back to Dart.

Recycl-Pak™ currently is available in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and throughout Florida. Dart hopes to offer a version of this program to other regions of the United States before the end of 1992.

For more information, contact Sheila Vertino of Leibovitz Communications at (301) 913-9300. ☐

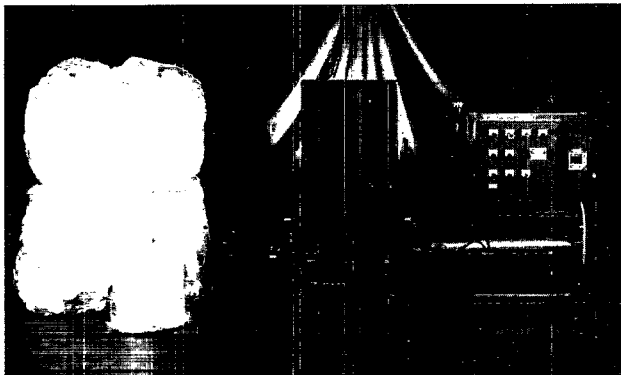
Compost Conference Proceedings Available

Proceedings are now available for an EPA-supported conference on composting. The conference, entitled "A Focus Meeting on Compost Quality and Facility Standards," was hosted by the State of Washington's Department of Ecology. Attended by officials from U.S. states and Canadian provinces that have developed compost facility regulations, the conference began with a discussion of current composting successes and challenges and then focused on the development of effective composting regulations.

Participants analyzed a range of regulatory approaches and their scientific underpinnings and identified future research needs. Participants also used the opportunity to establish contacts with other regulators, and created a list of activities they could pursue as a group to improve compost regulations and encourage compost market development.

For a copy of meeting proceedings and a summary matrix of current composting regulations and guidance, write to Kim Carr, Office of Solid Waste (OS-301), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. ☐

The mention of publications, products, or organizations in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement or approval for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Using mechanical pressure, Dart's densifier compacts 8,000 foam cups into a 15" x 15" cylinder. The compaction ratio is 60:1.

Communications Services Branch (OS-305)
Office of Solid Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business, Penalty for Private Use \$300