



REUSABLE NEWS *Bulletin*



Agencies Awarded for Closing the Loop



The White House honored 22 government agencies for their achievements in recycling, waste reduction, and buying recycled at the second annual Closing the Circle Awards ceremony, held on April 22, 1996. The awards recognize agency accomplishments

under Executive Order 12873, *Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention*, which encourages agencies to buy recycled and promote recycling and source reduction activities. Approximately 150 people attended the event, held in Washington, DC.

This year's award-winners include the U.S. Postal Service headquarters for its purchase of recycled-content paper products, which now represent 48 percent of its total paper purchases. EPA and the General Services Administration (GSA) in Region 4 helped educate more than 700 officials about the importance of buying recycled. The Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Distribution Depot in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, received an award for reducing its wood and cardboard materials by repairing wooden pallets, grinding wood waste into mulch, and process-



Cham Merrideth (EPA) and Sandy Jones (GSA) receive an award for their agencies' buy-recycled partnership. GSA's John Stanberry, Federal Environmental Executive Fran McPoland, and EPA's Jim Matthews look on.

ing scrap cardboard into recycled-content fiberboard cartons. These efforts enabled the depot to save an estimated \$1 million in avoided disposal costs.

For more information about the Closing the Circle Awards, contact Marialane Schultz in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive at 202 260-1297.

Source Reduction Roundtable II

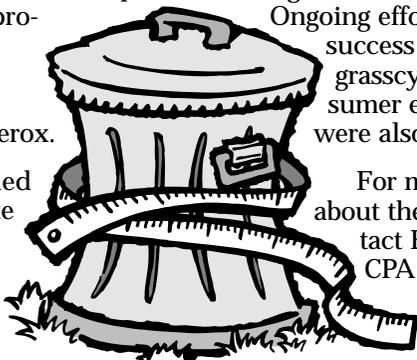
More than 70 solid waste managers, policy makers, and industry experts attended the Source Reduction Measurement Roundtable II on April 18-19, 1996, in Washington, DC. Organized by the Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and sponsored by EPA, the roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss current attempts to measure source reduction and learn about tools local government officials can use to quantify source reduction in their communities. Additional support for the event was provided by the American Plastics Council, Dow Chemical, and the Document Company, Xerox.

Presentations included efforts to measure waste prevention in a Rhode Island community and paper reduction in the New York State

General Assembly. Industry leaders also discussed their plans to work with the Coalition of Northeastern Governors to develop a national source reduction index for packaging. Three state legislators from New York, Minnesota, and Georgia led a panel discussion setting goals for source reduction and measuring progress. In addition, participants learned about an EPA manual currently being developed that will help local governments plan for implementing source reduction programs.

Ongoing efforts to gauge the success of composting, grasscycling, and consumer education programs were also discussed.

For more information about the roundtable, contact Elizabeth Kelly at CPA at 202 956-5126 or Eugene Lee of EPA at 703 308-7270.



This issue of the *Reusable News Bulletin* is also available on the Internet. To access EPA publications through the World Wide Web, type:
<http://earth1.epa.gov/OSWRCRA/nonhw/recycle/reuse>

Through Gopher, the address is: <gopher.epa.gov:70/11/Offices/Waste/OSWRCRA/nonhw/recycle/reuse>

ReDO Helps to Boost Reuse

To promote reuse as an environmentally preferable alternative to disposal, representatives from several organizations that specialize in reusing materials have established the Reuse Development Organization (ReDO). ReDO will foster information sharing among reuse businesses (e.g., Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity) in an attempt to expand the reuse industry and raise awareness of its activities.

ReDO was created to fill a void identified at the February 1995 Conference on Reuse, sponsored in part by the New York State Office of Recycling Market Development. Conference participants recognized a lack of networking opportunities for reuse organizations to discuss common concerns and potential advocacy efforts. Through workshops, publications, and video case studies planned for the future, ReDO hopes to satisfy this need for resource sharing and provide a forum for creative collaboration on issues surrounding reuse.

For more information about ReDO, contact Hope Cucina at 301 678-5503 or Mary Lou Van Devender at 510 232-7724.

RESOURCES



NRC Forum Focuses on Reducing and Reusing

Through a grant with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), EPA is promoting source reduction and reuse practices and programs through a Source Reduction Forum. The forum assists public and private sectors in implementing source reduction and reuse practices and in integrating source reduction and reuse with recycling.

The forum's current projects are: 1) encouraging the use of source reduced and reusable transport packaging by small and medium-sized businesses; 2) promoting successful source reduction programs by local governments; and 3) analyzing incentives and disincentives to source reduction practices in the public sector and industry.

For more information, call Chris Benjamin at NRC at 703 683-9025.

Finding Source Reduction Answers

Will pay-as-you-throw work in my community? What materials can I use to educate local residents about source reduction? These are just a few of the questions addressed at a source reduction workshop held in April by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by EPA.

The workshop brought together 40 local government officials, experts, and members of private companies and nonprofit organizations from the Mid-Atlantic states for a one-day meeting in Catonsville, Maryland. Workshop attendees learned about model grasscycling, composting, ecoshopping, and waste exchange programs run by local governments, as well as successful source reduction initiatives in four Northeastern states.

For more information about this workshop or another source reduction workshop in San Francisco on June 4, 1996, contact Barbara Yuhas at ICMA at 202 962-3539.



Buying Recycled Made Easy

To make it easier for government agencies to buy recycled, EPA is developing a series of fact sheets on products designated under the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG identifies seven categories of recycled-content items that federal, state, or local agencies or government contractors using appropriated federal funds should purchase. Agencies began purchasing these products on May 1, 1996.

The first three fact sheets in this series focus on transportation products such as traffic cones and barricades, park and recreation products including playground surfaces and running tracks, and non-paper office products like desktop trays and other accessories. The fact sheets explain the CPG and its accompanying Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN), which recommends recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing products in these categories. They stress the importance of buying recycled and help purchasers understand how to comply with CPG requirements. A comprehensive list of resources includes relevant publications and contacts for more information.

All three fact sheets are available from the RCRA Hotline by calling 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672. In the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, call 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323. Ask for document number EPA530-F-96-011 for the fact sheet on transportation products, EPA530-F-96-012 for park and recreation products, and EPA530-F-96-013 for non-paper office products.

Recycling Resources on the Information Superhighway

More and more solid waste planners, recycling coordinators, and waste management professionals are turning to the Internet for new information and ideas. To help these users find what they need, *Resource Recycling* magazine has developed *A Directory of On-Line Resources in Recycling and Composting*. The directory contains listings of more than 500 World Wide Web sites and bulletin board systems that offer information about recycling, composting, and other waste management techniques. The listings are arranged both alphabetically and by organization type. To complement the directory, *Resource Recycling* will publish a *Guide to On-Line Resources in Recycling and Composting*, which will describe major Internet sites and evaluate their usefulness.

The directory is available for \$12.95. For more information, contact *Resource Recycling* at P.O. Box 10540, Portland, OR 97210-0540, by phone at 503 227-1319, or via e-mail at resrecycle@aol.com.



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