



Pollution Prevention News

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Editor's Corner

Environmental issues are increasingly global in scope. Pollutants neither recognize nor respect international boundaries; and it is clear that if the problems are international in scope, the solutions must be as well. This month we sample some of the many activities going on internationally, including the work being done by the United Nations Environment Programme's Industry and Environment Office, and some highlights of prevention activities in Canada, Japan, and the Netherlands.

An especially encouraging feature of international developments is the increased level of information exchange across countries — allowing all of us to benefit from the flow of technology, innovation, and ideas. Technology and information transfer also are central to the efforts of EPA's Office of International Affairs; inside, a brief report on their activities.

A current theme in international environmental circles is the concept of "sustainable growth" or "sustainable development." Sustainability embodies the idea that economic progress and environmental quality must go hand in hand; over the long term, neither can be achieved at the expense of the other. The more we are aware of the finite resources and patience of this planet, the more we need to devise new ways to live that sustain economic development and growth for future generations.

The need for policies of sustainability applies to all nations, although the specific applications will vary. Sustainability holds significant promise for the developing nations of the Third World — a familiar example is the recent study, led by scientists from the New York Botanical Gardens, that

found that long-term harvesting of tropical rain forest products (such as fruits and rubber) generated double or triple the revenue otherwise obtainable from cutting the forests for timber or clearing them for pastureland.

The developed world, too, must move towards more sustainable means of production, means which conserve resources and minimize emissions. Over the next few months *Pollution Prevention News* will be examining some of the applications of sustainability in the agriculture, energy, transportation, and industrial sectors of our economy. The common thread in policies of sustainable growth, in whatever sector or country they appear, is the integration of economic and environmental decisions.

Another common thread linking sustainable growth policies is pollution prevention. The concept of sustainable growth inevitably leads to a policy of pollution prevention — both to preserve the resources we still have and to reduce the burden on the environment that we and future generations will have to confront.

Some of you have already noticed that white recycled paper has replaced our previous recycled grey stock. Unfortunately, we are severely limited in the range of colored recycled papers that the Joint Committee on Printing will allow. We hope that over time the JCP's paper specifications will be widened to include the many beautiful and cost-effective recycled papers available from a variety of mills.

United Nations Environment Programme

At a March 1988 meeting, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) set forth a firm direction for UNEP and its Industry and Environment Office (IEO) to serve as the brokers of a global information network on clean production technologies (also called low and non-waste technologies).

To promote cleaner production worldwide, UNEP/IEO will be hosting a seminar on cleaner production to be held on September 18-20, 1990 in Canterbury, England. Some 150 invited speakers and participants will be on hand from both developed and developing countries, to share experiences, policy issues, and technology transfer opportunities. In preparation for the seminar, a number of projects have been started.

First, IEO is compiling a directory of organizations and experts, with country profiles (including summaries of government and corporate policies, citations to key documents, and other information sources) for each participating country.

Several working groups have been formed to take a closer look at successful clean tech-

nologies in the tanning, electroplating, and textile industries, and the reduced use of halogenated solvents. Future groups may be formed to examine the pulp and paper industry and pesticides.

Another IEO pilot project involves EPA's Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC). Directory data for Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and India will be entered into PPIC. Training of users is expected to begin this month. EPA has donated a sister electronic board to UNEP in order to link up EPA's Electronic Information Exchange System with UNEP's International Cleaner Production Information Clearinghouse (ICPIC).

Finally, a four-page quarterly newsletter called "Cleaner Production" is being planned, with wide dissemination through journals in different countries. News items will include updates of UNEP and IEO activities, publicity for upcoming events and recent publications, corporate activities, and news from governments.

These projects are part of a longer-term effort by the Paris-based IEO to formulate



At a demonstration of UNEP's ICPIC system, from left to right, Myles Morse, EPA; Anh Tuan Vu, UNEP; Chris Messner, SAIC; Peter Winkel, Consultant to UNEP; and Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, UNEP.

and promote policies and strategies for sustainable industrial development. Established in 1975, IEO's 10-person international professional staff, led by director Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, works closely with governments, industry, and international organizations to carry out four major functions: (1) publishing technical guidelines, such as recent publications *Environmental Manage-*

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Report from EPA's Office of International Affairs

by Heather Schoen
Communications Specialist, OIA

EPA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) has achieved a new visibility since its elevation last July to the Assistant Administrator level within EPA and the appointment of Timothy B. Atkeson to head the 56-person office. OIA is involved in numerous activities relating to pollution prevention; upcoming events include the 12th annual Joint Committee Meeting between the U.S. and the Soviet Union this January to review progress on environmental goals; preparations for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change meeting in Washington in early February; and coordination of the development of environmental issues and initiatives that may be taken up at the "G-7" Economic Summit meeting of leaders of the Western industrialized nations, to be held this summer in Houston, Texas.

OIA also is coordinating the International Environmental Technology Transfer Advisory Board (IETTAB), established at the direction of President Bush in October 1989.

This 15-member advisory group is chaired by William D. Ruckelshaus, former EPA Administrator and presently chairman of Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., with other high-level members drawn from industry, environmental groups, academia, consulting firms, and international organizations.

The advisory board's focus is on finding ways to improve the transfer of U.S. environmental technologies to foreign — particularly low-income — countries to meet the challenge of ozone depletion and global warming as well as other pollution issues. IETTAB is expected to make recommendations to the Administrator on ways to remove the economic and legal barriers to technology transfer, as well as ways to facilitate information exchange, education, training, technical assistance, and export possibilities for U.S. industry. These recommendations are intended to be used by the President in the summit meeting. All of the G-7 nations are under a treaty obligation to cooperate in the transfer of technology needed to reduce ozone-depleting substances. A similar need for technology transfer is foreseen

in dealing with global warming. (For more information on IETTAB, contact Mark Kasman, OIA, (202) 382-4870.)

This June, the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances will meet to consider amendments to the 1987 agreement. An international working group has compiled the many proposals put forth for modifying the protocol, including a variety of options that would accelerate the time schedule for meeting the agreed-upon 50 percent reductions in chlorofluorocarbons and halons and mandate a full phase-out around the year 2000. Options also have been proposed to further regulate other ozone depleters. The special situation of developing countries also is being examined in more detail. EPA and other governments are conducting case studies to help determine the potential needs of developing countries for financial assistance in implementing the protocol.

For more information on OIA activities, contact Heather Schoen at (202) 382-4304.

International Highlights

Canada

For Consumers, Environmental Choice

Canada is implementing a new program called Environmental Choice that will help consumers identify which products diminish the burden on the environment compared with their alternatives. Environmentally preferable products can bear the "Eco-Logo" if they satisfy the requirements set forth in guidelines. Each guideline gives background information on the product category, definitions of terminology, verification and licensing information, and any requirements as to composition.

The first three guidelines to be drawn up cover re-refined lubricating oil, construction materials made from recycled wood-based

(appointed by the Canadian Minister of Environment). Board member Janice Harvey believes the environmental choice program is structured so as to maintain the public's credibility: "People can be confident that each label has been scrutinized by non-vested interests, that bearers of the label will be subject to monitoring, and that as

new information becomes available, the criteria will be upgraded."

Once a guideline is developed, subject to public review, and adopted, manufacturers may apply for the EcoLogo through the Canadian Standards Association. For more information, contact Jack Poon at the CSA, (416) 747-4000.

Japan

Government-Industry Cooperation

As in so many other spheres of Japanese economic activity, government and industry cooperate closely on recycling and waste reduction. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) plays an important role in providing subsidies, financial assistance, and advice; while local governments are integrally involved in operating specific projects.

One of the largest waste reduction/recycling efforts is the Clean Japan Center (CJC), a research and development corporation formed in 1975 through joint government/private funding. Since its inception, CJC has been building one new demonstration plant each year. Local governments typically participate in the building and running of a plant, and then buy it after the demonstration period. Recent projects for which the plants are still in operation are as follows:

- 1983 - recycling foamed polystyrene, e.g., from food packaging
- 1984 - recovering and recycling mercury, e.g., from household batteries
- 1985 - processing of sludge from paper manufacturing
- 1986 - recycling catalysts used in petroleum refining
- 1987 - producing compost from organic sludge
- 1988 - recovering silver from film processing and incinerator ash

CJC also has a large public relations program that works with local governments and citizens. Activities include publishing a bi-monthly journal, holding waste recycling seminars, an award system for recycling achievements, and short TV messages during Energy-Saving Month (February) to promote effective use of resources. CJC collects and disseminates information about

waste disposal and recycling, provides technical consultation services, and exchanges information with similar associations in other countries. For further information, contact Hidenobu Ogasawara, No. 2 Akiyama Bldg., 6-2, Toranomon 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan. Fax 81-03-432-6319.

The Netherlands

A National Environmental Policy Plan

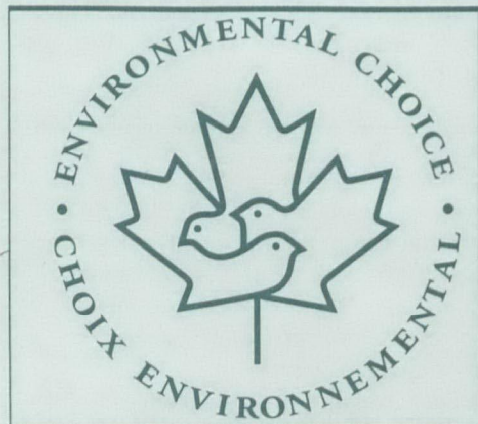
The National Environmental Policy Plan adopted by the Netherlands last year is a strategic approach to gaining control of Dutch environmental problems within the next 20 to 25 years. Ideally, in line with the principle of sustainable development, the intent would be to pass on, by the year 2010, a clean environment to the next generation.

Key tools identified by the plan include integrated management of production chains, energy conservation and improved efficiency, abatement at the source, implementation of the polluter-pays principle; requiring users to account for and justify their use of the environment; motivating people to good environmental behavior; and the identification of "target groups" that will be called on to achieve specific environmental accomplishments. Highlights of the goals set for target group are as follows:

Agriculture - by the year 2000, reduce ammonia emissions by 70% and discontinue use of non-biodegradable pesticides;

Transport - goals include use of 3-way catalytic converters in cars, "clean" public transport in cities within 5 years;

Industry - goals include ending the production of CFCs, creation of environmental protection systems by companies, and possible returnable deposit systems on appliances and electronic equipment;



Canada's EcoLogo

cellulose fiber, and products made from recycled plastic. These guidelines specify a minimum amount of recycled product. For example, for used oil, it is 50% by volume; for construction materials, it is 100% of the fiber content; and for plastics, recycled content must be 90% by weight for all uses except construction. There are also limitations on the presence of toxic materials. The first product to bear the EcoLogo will be re-refined oil.

Guidelines are also in the notice-and-comment or final drafting stages for zinc-air batteries, vegetable oils for industrial cooking, water-based paints, low-pollution organic-solvent-based paints, various products from recycled paper, home ventilators using heat recovery, and cloth diapers.

To start the process, anyone can submit a product or service idea for consideration to the 14-member Environmental Choice Board

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Upcoming Events

<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Date/Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1990 Conference on Solid Waste Management & Materials Policy	N.Y. State Legislative Comm. on Solid Waste Management	Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 1990 New York, NY	Tara Roberts (518) 455-3711
New Approaches to Building Markets for Recyclables	Institute for International Research	Feb. 1-2, 1990 Atlanta, GA	David Fable (212) 826-3340
Copper/Precious Metals Roundtable	Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries	Feb 8, 1990 New York, NY	Bob Garino (202) 466-4050
International Recycling Symposium	Government Refuse Collection and Disposal Assn.	Feb. 13-15, 1990 Seattle, WA	Brad Roberge (800) 456-4723
7th Annual Solid Waste Seminar	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Feb. 21-22, 1990 Bloomington, MN	Roberta Wirth (612) 296-7384
Recycling Business & Technology Conference	Executive Enterprises	Feb. 22-23, 1990 Washington, DC	Kim Kapler (212) 645-7880

Netherlands

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Energy - electric power plants are to reduce SO₂ and NO_x emissions by over 50% by 2000 (compared to 1985 levels); plans also are underway for ambitious energy conservation measures;

Construction - goals include doubling the recycling of construction and demolition waste and 25% energy conservation in space heating;

Environmental companies - waste processing firms, drinking water companies, and others will be called on for monitoring, public education, and preventive actions.

Consumers and Retailers - by 2000, goals include source separation of used batteries,

household chemical waste, cans, cloth, and waste paper; composting of 50% of organic household waste; and a 15% reduction in passenger kilometres from 1985 levels.

For more information, contact the Project

Group for the NEPP, PG-NMP, Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning, and Environment, P.O. Box 20951, 2500 EZ The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. (31) (70) 320 9367, FAX (31) (70) 317 5056.

UNEP

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ment of Petroleum Refineries and Environmental Aspects of Nickel Production; (2) facilitating international technical cooperation, for example, allowing Indian managers to receive training in Japan or arranging a study tour of Finland, Denmark, and France for Chinese experts in water management; (3) providing international training oppor-

tunities — an example is a workshop on clean technologies conducted in Egypt with assistance from France; and (4) disseminating information — through its quarterly publication "Industry and Environment," a query-response service, and a database of environmental legislation.

For addition information, contact UNEP/IEO; 39-43 Quai Andre Citroen; 75739 Paris Cedex 15; FRANCE. Tel. 33 (1) 48 58 88 50. Fax: 33 (1) 40 58 88 88.

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