



REUSABLE NEWS



WasteWi\$e Savings Are on the Rise

The second-year results are in! The more than 500 companies in EPA's WasteWi\$e program conserved almost 344,000 tons of materials through waste prevention activities in 1995—a 40-percent increase over 1994 figures. They also collected more than 4 million tons of materials for recycling. These activities represent a potential savings of \$143 million in avoided disposal fees.

These and other successes are documented in the WasteWi\$e Second-Year Progress Report—

WASTE Wi\$E



and were celebrated at the program's forum, held in Washington, DC, on September 9, 1996. The forum recognized partners' outstanding waste reduction

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The Case for Recycling

Michael Shapiro, Director of EPA's Office of Solid Waste, highlighted the benefits of recycling at the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) Conference, held on September 16-19, 1996. Shapiro stated that a few recent newspaper articles about recycling did not present the whole story. In fact, recycling has wide-ranging benefits, including:



- **Economic Benefits.** Recycling can be a cost-effective technique for managing municipal solid waste. Successful recycling programs not only divert waste from landfills, but they also have the potential to generate revenues from the sale of secondary materials. As recycling programs mature and become fully integrated with the total solid waste management system, costs should go down.

- **Social/Environmental Benefits.** Using recycled materials instead of virgin materials in manufacturing helps conserve nonrenewable resources such as petroleum and coal while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The Environmental Defense Fund found that manufacturing a ton of recovered materials conserves at least \$187 worth of electricity, petroleum, natural gas, and coal, when compared to manufacturing virgin materials.

Because of these and other benefits and additional opportunities for recycling, EPA has proposed for public comment a new nationwide recycling goal of 35 percent by the year 2005. Shapiro said, "There's tremendous potential for growth in recycling and increased efficiencies as [integrated solid waste management] programs innovate and mature." EPA programs promoting source reduction, recycling, and the purchase of recycled products include WasteWi\$e, Jobs Through Recycling, and Pay-as-You-Throw. Shapiro's NRC speech was followed by a roundtable discussion in which he received comments on EPA's proposed 35 percent recycling goal. ♻️

CPG II Proposed

On November 7, 1996, EPA proposed 13 items for designation in the first annual update of the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). Once CPG II is finalized, federal, state, and local government agencies that purchase designated items will be required to buy these products with recycled content. Contractors that use federally appropriated funds to purchase these items also would be affected. Preference for these materials harnesses the

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This issue of *Reusable News* is also available on the Internet. To access this and other EPA publications through the World Wide Web, type:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/reuse.htm>

Through Gopher: dial 919 558-0335

Address: gopher.epa.gov

Port: 70

Selector: 1/Offices/Waste/OSWRCRA/non-hw/recycle/reuse



FCA Takes Center Stage

More than 4,400 people tuned in to EPA's full cost accounting (FCA) satellite forum, "Planning, Pricing, and Performance: The Business of Municipal Solid Waste Management." Held on September 11, 1996, the forum was broadcast to 279 downlink sites in 45 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. (FCA is an accounting tool that helps local governments identify the actual costs of municipal solid waste [MSW] services.)

The forum featured five panelists, including four local solid waste officials who have implemented FCA in their communities and a solid waste policy specialist. The panelists discussed the benefits and challenges of using FCA in MSW management, as well as how FCA can support recycling and how it can be used in an integrated solid waste management program. Viewers were invited to call or fax in their questions, which focused on how FCA can help their communities, problems that can be expected, and privatization issues.

Produced by EPA, the forum was cosponsored by the American Public Works Association, International City/County Management Association, Maryland Department of Environment, National Association of Counties, National Recycling Coalition, National Solid Wastes Management Association, Solid Waste Association of North America, and U.S. Conference of Mayors. For more information, contact Angie Leith of EPA at 703 308-7253. FCA resource materials are available from the RCRA Hotline at 800 424-9346. A document providing answers to many questions asked at the forum will be available soon. 📄



CPG II

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government's buying power and encourages recycling markets for a wide variety of materials that can be diverted from disposal as MSW.

Last year, the Agency designated 24 items in the CPG. This year, EPA proposes to add the following products made from recycled materials: shower and restroom dividers, latex paint, parking stops, traffic control devices (channelizers, delineators, and flexible delineators), snow fencing, garden and soaker hoses, lawn and garden edging, printer ribbons, ink jet cartridges, plastic envelopes, and pallets. EPA is also clarifying a previous designation for floor tile. In an accompanying proposed Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN), EPA recommends ranges of recycled content to look for and practices to assist procuring agencies in purchasing these items. Some procuring agencies have successfully purchased these items with recovered content already.

The public will have until February 5, 1997, to comment on the information presented in the proposed CPG and RMAN. After addressing these comments, the final CPG and RMAN will be published. Copies of the proposed notices and background documents containing supporting research information are available from the RCRA Docket. Call 703 603-9230. For more information about the CPG or RMAN, call Terry Grist at EPA at 703 308-7257. 📄

Extending Product Responsibility

Sharing responsibility for products as they are manufactured, used, and disposed of can result in minimized environmental impacts, improved efficiency, and even cost savings. But what does sharing responsibility mean, and who should share it? These are just some of the questions raised at a workshop on extended product responsibility (EPR), held on October 21-22, 1996, in Washington, DC.

Cosponsored by EPA and the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the workshop brought together more than 80 representatives from major corporations, trade associations, environmental groups, states, universities, and the federal government. Eleven companies

presented case studies on how they have implemented EPR to reduce some of the environmental impacts of their products. For example, the nickel-cadmium battery industry collects and recycles consumers' spent nickel-cadmium batteries. Rochester-Midland Corporation, a manufacturer of commercial cleaning products, involves product users, building owners, and tenants in improving the indoor environment of office buildings.

Workshop attendees also discussed barriers to implementing EPR, how to educate the business community about EPR, and next steps for promoting EPR. For more information about the workshop, contact Clare Lindsay of EPA at 703 308-7266.

Update on Industrial D Stakeholder Meetings

EPA continues to move ahead in developing voluntary guidelines for managing industrial nonhazardous waste in land-based disposal units. A focus group of stakeholders from state solid waste management programs, EPA, industry, and environmental groups met for a second time on September 11-12, 1996, to discuss developing these guidelines.

At the meeting, stakeholders discussed six issues that will be covered in the guidelines including risk characterization, public involvement, liner systems, ground-water monitoring, location considerations (including buffer zones and environmental justice concerns), and waste minimization. The guidelines will help owners and operators select liner system designs and ground-water monitoring programs tailored to potential risk. EPA and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials will consider input from the focus group and the public as they draft the voluntary guidelines. A draft

is expected to be completed by Winter 1997.

The next Industrial Solid Waste focus group will be February 19 and 20, 1997, in Washington, D.C. For further information, contact Paul Cassidy of EPA at 703 308-7281. 

New Flexibility for Small MSW Landfills

In response to the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act signed into law on March 26, 1996, EPA revised its criteria for municipal solid waste landfills (MSWLFs). These revisions (61 FR 50410) re-establish an exemption from ground-water monitoring for owners and operators of certain small landfills. In order to qualify for the exemption, the landfill must accept less than 20 tons of MSW per day (based on an annual average), have no evidence of ground-water contamination, and be located in either a dry or remote location. The revised criteria will ease burdens on certain small landfill owners and operators without compromising ground-water quality.

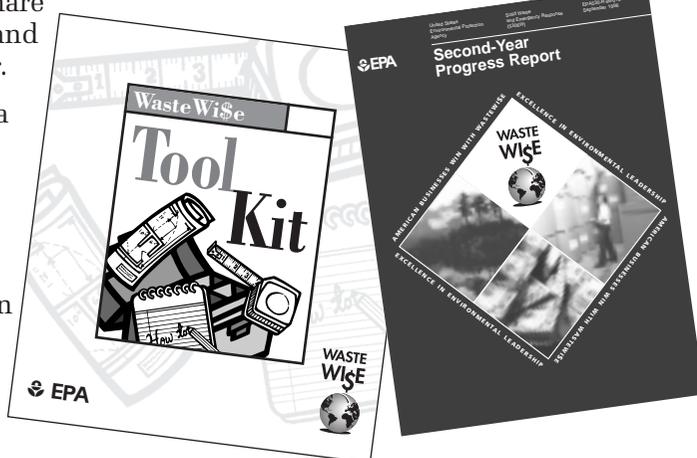
For more information, contact Dana Arnold of EPA at 703 308-7279. 

WasteWi\$e

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efforts and provided an opportunity for partners to share their success stories and learn from each other.

WasteWi\$e offers a variety of technical assistance materials, including a recently released Tool Kit, to help partners implement waste reduction programs. For more information about the voluntary program, call the



WasteWi\$e helpline at 800 EPA-WISE or visit the WasteWi\$e homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/wastewis.htm> 

Source Reduction Tips for the Holidays

- Reuse wrapping paper, ribbons, and bows from last year's gifts. Save this year's wrappings for next year. 
- Make your own wrapping paper from the comics pages or kraft paper grocery bags you decorate yourself. 
- Buy only the amount of food you plan to eat.
- Consider purchasing a tree you can plant in your yard after the holidays, and use compost in planting it. 
- Find out whether your community collects holiday trees for recycling.
- Use reusable glassware and dinnerware at holiday parties.
- Donate used toys to charity organizations—they still make great gifts. 



RESOURCES



Building with Recycled Products

Did you know that many building materials were once soda bottles, newspapers, and ash? Numerous construction products, including carpet, insulation, cement, and floor tiles, contain these and other recovered materials. Recycled-content construction products work as well as their virgin counterparts and divert countless tons of waste from the landfill.

To make buying these recycled-content products easier, EPA has published a Construction Products Fact Sheet. This fact sheet is the sixth in a series of fact sheets on EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG includes seven categories of recycled-content items, including construction products, that government agencies using appropriated federal funds should purchase. This fact sheet explains the CPG and accompanying Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN), which recommends ranges of recycled content to look for when purchasing items designated in the CPG.

For a copy of the fact sheet, call the RCRA Hotline at 800 424-9346 and ask for document number EPA530-F-96-020.

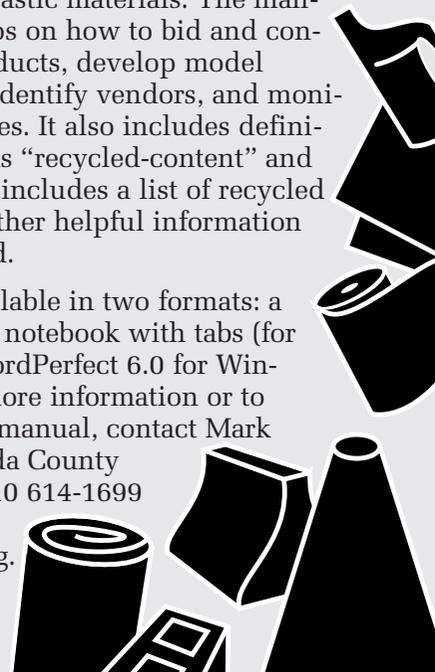


Purchasing Resourcefully

To assist public agencies in purchasing recycled-content products, the Recycling Board of Alameda County, California, has released a hands-on buyers' manual called *Resourceful Purchasing*.

This easy-to-use reference manual contains information about how to buy recycled products and up-to-date technical specifications for a variety of products. Featured products include paper, office supplies, construction materials, playground surfaces, insulation, oil, and plastic materials. The manual offers practical tips on how to bid and contract for recycled products, develop model purchasing policies, identify vendors, and monitor and track purchases. It also includes definitions for such terms as "recycled-content" and "postconsumer," and includes a list of recycled product guides and other helpful information about buying recycled.

The manual is available in two formats: a 284-page color-coded notebook with tabs (for \$30) and a disk in WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows (for free). For more information or to receive a copy of the manual, contact Mark Cullors of the Alameda County Recycling Board at 510 614-1699 or via e-mail at acwma@stopwaste.org.



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