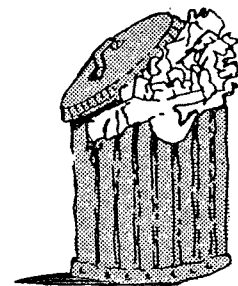


EPA REUSABLE NEWS



Welcome to *Reusable News*

By Sylvia K. Lowrance, Director, Office of Solid Waste

Welcome to this first issue of **Reusable News**, the newsletter of the Municipal Solid Waste Program.

It's no news that many areas of the country are today facing a solid waste crisis. We here at EPA are keenly aware of the problems that communities, businesses, and individuals are confronting in managing their solid waste. We are committed to leading the nation in resolving both our current challenges as well as those that may lie ahead.

In February of 1988, EPA formed a Municipal Solid Waste Task Force to assess the size and scope of the solid waste problem, examine alternatives for solving it, and develop a national strategy to deal with the problem. A year later, EPA published the final report of the Task Force in *The Solid Waste Dilemma: An Agenda for Action*. This national strategy presents the goals and recommendations for action by EPA, state and local governments, industry, and citizens to address the municipal solid waste problems facing our country. The *Agenda for Action* is available from our RCRA hotline.

Over the past year, we have grown from a task force to a full-fledged program. EPA's Municipal Solid Waste Program currently consists of 20 staff in EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as an additional 20 people in the ten EPA Regional Offices. Key contacts at both Headquarters and in the Regions are provided in an insert to this newsletter.

To further our efforts in raising awareness and fostering improvements in the management of our

nation's solid waste, we have initiated this newsletter. It is our hope that **Reusable News** will help provide useful information to decision-makers, state and local officials, industry, and anyone else who would like to know more about the key issues and concerns in solid waste management.

Reusable News will feature a diverse array of articles. We plan to share with you the activities we're undertaking to address the solid waste dilemma, as outlined in the *Agenda for Action*. We'll feature news of upcoming conferences, updates on environmentally friendly products, news from Capitol Hill, publications of interest, success stories from around the nation, and more.

The newsletter will offer food for thought, ideas that work, and places to go for further information. Together, we can turn our agenda into action.

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Putting Our Agenda Into Action

Information Exchange and Planning

This past February, EPA released its *Solid Waste Dilemma: An Agenda for Action*, a national strategy for managing the nation's municipal solid waste. With the *Agenda*, EPA set several national goals to reduce and better manage our garbage. These goals are to increase available waste planning and management information, encourage better waste management planning, increase source reduction and recycling, and improve the safety of incinerators and landfills.

EPA has completed many activities in direct response to the *Agenda for Action*, and others are well underway. Some key projects involving information exchange and planning are described below. Future issues of *Reusable News* will describe achievements in source reduction and recycling and in increasing the safety of landfills and incinerators.

All sectors of society--government, industry, and private citizens--need up-to-date, practical information on solid waste management. The Agency has published several documents for citizens to help raise awareness of our solid waste problems and to communicate the importance of public involvement. A list of available EPA publications is provided in an insert to this newsletter.

The news media can effectively raise awareness and communicate information to a wide spectrum of people,

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EPA Headquarters Establishes In-House Recycling Program

EPA began recycling in the mid 1970s, and in recent years has stepped up its efforts. Last year, EPA recycled over 400 tons of high-grade white paper from its Waterside Mall, Crystal City, and Fairchild offices. This constitutes one half of EPA's total paper waste stream.

Paper and paper products make up over 80 percent of the office solid waste stream, so EPA has paid particular attention to these recyclables. And like any government agency, EPA has found plenty of raw material in its offices. To encourage paper recycling, EPA distributes fact sheets informing employees of how to participate in the recycling program. The Agency also has established paper reduction measures, such as requiring double-sided copying, using the backs of printed pages for drafts, and using E-mail whenever possible.

EPA has also increased the amount of recycled paper the Agency buys.



"Virtually all EPA publications are now printed on recycled paper."

"Virtually all EPA publications are now printed on recycled paper," states Randy Bacon of EPA's print shop. The Agency also procures hand towels and toilet paper made from recycled paper.

Efforts to procure recycled computer and copier paper are underway.

For the collection of glass recyclables, EPA Administrator William Reilly dedicated glass "igloos" this year at two locations in the Agency parking lot. In-house programs for aluminum, newspaper, and mixed papers are also being developed. Currently, employees bring many of these items to collection centers in the area. All of these efforts are carried out by volunteer employees, who have formed a Recycling Work Group.

Reilly has appointed Gail Miller Wray to be EPA's "Czarina for Recycling." She has taken the lead in setting up a model recycling program at EPA. Wray also participates actively in the Agency Recycling Work Group, visits with EPA regions, labs, and field offices to assist them in developing their in-house recycling efforts, and coordinates recycling in other agencies.

The in-house recycling program helps EPA do its share to reduce the garbage glut, and the Agency hopes that it will serve as a model for other organizations as well.

Solutions for the 90s EPA Sponsors International Solid Waste Management Conference

As the nation's papers, cans, tires, bottles, and other discards rapidly pile up, finding ways to dispose of all this refuse is no easy task. While trash disposal is handled locally, the disposal problem is national in scope. Private citizens, industries, and public officials at all levels of government agree that there is an imminent need for vastly improved solid waste planning and management across the country.

To respond to this need, EPA is sponsoring an international forum called the First United States Conference on Municipal Solid Waste Management. The conference, which is called "Solutions for the 90s," will be held in Washington, D.C. on June 14-16, 1990. The conference will address solid waste management issues of national and international importance and work to increase awareness of these

issues at the local, state, regional, and international levels.

Conference Manager Susan Mann of EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) says that the aim of "Solutions for the 90s" is to initiate partnerships among peers in governments, involved groups, and individuals to encourage cooperation and innovation in our efforts to solve solid waste problems.

We hope that as a result of the conference, ongoing projects will be developed between participants that will increase their abilities to resolve their solid waste problems.

Specific areas to be addressed at the conference include: 1) integrated solid waste management planning; 2) source reduction and reuse; 3) recycling and composting; 4) combustion; 5) land disposal; 6) public education and involvement; and 7) disposal of special wastes such as used oil,

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A detailed black and white illustration of a classic rotary telephone. The handset is on the left, and the base has a circular dial with 12 numbers. The drawing uses cross-hatching and fine lines for shading and texture.

**For more information,
contact the
RCRA/Superfund
Hotline
at 1-800-424-9346**

If you know someone who is interested in receiving this newsletter, they should contact:

Office of Program Management
and Support (OPMS)
OS-305
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Philadelphia Story

Queen Village's Recycling Program

In response to the garbage crisis, a number of cities have set up mandatory or voluntary recycling programs. In fact, over 1,000 communities now have curbside recycling in place. The EPA booklet *Recycling Works!* highlights some of these state and local success stories. The following profile

program began as a way to save the city money by recycling," says Bob Pierson, chairperson of the Queen Village Recycling Committee. "Also, we wanted to experiment with different ways of collecting recyclables other than traditional curbside pickup."

Here's how it works. Residents



describes one of the programs featured in the booklet.

A densely populated Philadelphia neighborhood operates a highly successful voluntary "block corner pickup." This recycling program, organized by the Queen Village Neighborhood Association, serves 1,200 households on 46 blocks. "The block

drop off their newspapers, glass, and aluminum cans on 25 designated street corners on Saturday mornings. Each participating block has a block coordinator, who arranges corner pickups and encourages participation. Two trucks and a crew of four provided by the city of Philadelphia collect the recyclables in less than 3 hours and

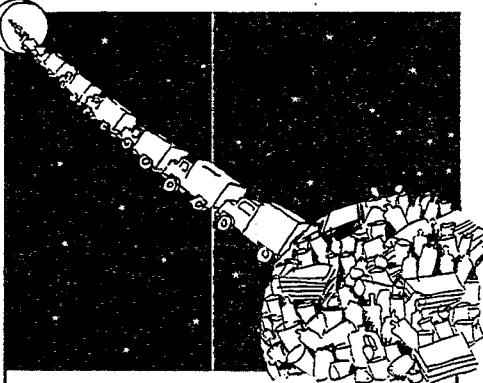
unload the goods in another 2 hours. Proceeds from the recycling program are used for block improvement projects.

The Queen Village program has been a great success. A study comparing the block program with a curbside program in another Philadelphia neighborhood found that the block program utilized its collection crews and trucks four times more efficiently. The block program requires fewer stops than traditional curbside programs, so it takes less crew and less time to pick up the recyclables.

Queen Village has also found the block corner program to be far more cost effective than curbside pickup. The program is estimated to cost an average of \$50 per ton of recyclables collected compared to over \$200 per ton for curbside programs in other Philadelphia neighborhoods. One reason for this dramatic difference is the program's collection efficiency; another is that the materials are source separated before they are picked up. By separating the materials themselves, participants save as much as \$25 per ton.

Program participation is growing, and the blocks have recently increased the frequency of collection from twice a month to weekly. Queen Village continues to explore ways to increase participation so that more people can reap the rewards of recycling. For more information about the Queen Village program, contact Robert Pierson at (215) 563-4220.

Did You Know...



The United States generates 160 million tons of solid waste each year—enough to fill a convoy of trucks that would stretch halfway to the moon.

EPA Sets Up Procurement Guidelines Hotline

To stimulate and strengthen the marketplace for recycled goods, EPA has issued procurement guidelines requiring the federal government to buy products made of recycled materials. The guidelines also apply to state and local agencies that use over a specified amount of federal money to purchase certain products.

To date, guidelines have been issued for five product types: building insulation products, cement and concrete containing fly ash, paper and paper products, lubricating oils containing re-refined oils, and retread tires.

EPA is currently studying the feasibility and impact of implementing two additional guidelines for building and construction materials and products containing materials recovered from scrap tires. EPA has established a telephone hotline to respond to questions about the procurement guidelines from agencies, vendors, and the general public. The number is (703) 941-4452.

**The following publications are available at no charge from the EPA RCRA Hotline.
Call 1-800-424-9346.**

Recycling Works!

A booklet describing 14 successful state and local recycling programs in the United States.
EPA/530-SW-89-014

Recycling

A concise citizen's brochure on recycling and its role in solid waste management.
EPA/530-SW-88-050

Bibliography of Municipal Solid Waste Management Alternatives

A listing of approximately 200 publications available from industry, government, and environmental groups.
EPA/530-SW-89-055

The Solid Waste Dilemma: An Agenda for Action

A report describing the municipal solid waste situation and presenting a national strategy to improve the management of wastes nationwide.
EPA/530-SW-89-019

The Garbage Problem: An Action Agenda

A brochure briefly describing the report *The Solid Waste Dilemma: An Agenda for Action*.
EPA/530-SW-89-018

How to Set Up Local Used Oil Recycling Program

An easy-to-follow manual for local decision-makers, environmental groups, and community organizations.
EPA/530-SW-89-039a

Used Oil Recycling Brochures

A series of three brochures on ways to recycle used oil:

Recycling Used Oil: What Can You Do?

How the general public can participate in used oil recycling.
EPA/530-SW-89-039b

Recycling Used Oil: 10 Steps to Change Your Oil

How citizens can change their car oil.
EPA/530-SW-89-039c

Recycling Used Oil: For Service Stations and Other Vehicle-Service Facilities

How service station owners can play a key role in facilitating used oil recycling.
EPA/530-SW-89-039d

Yard Waste Composting: A Study of Eight Programs

A report describing successful composting programs across the country.
EPA/530-SW-89-038

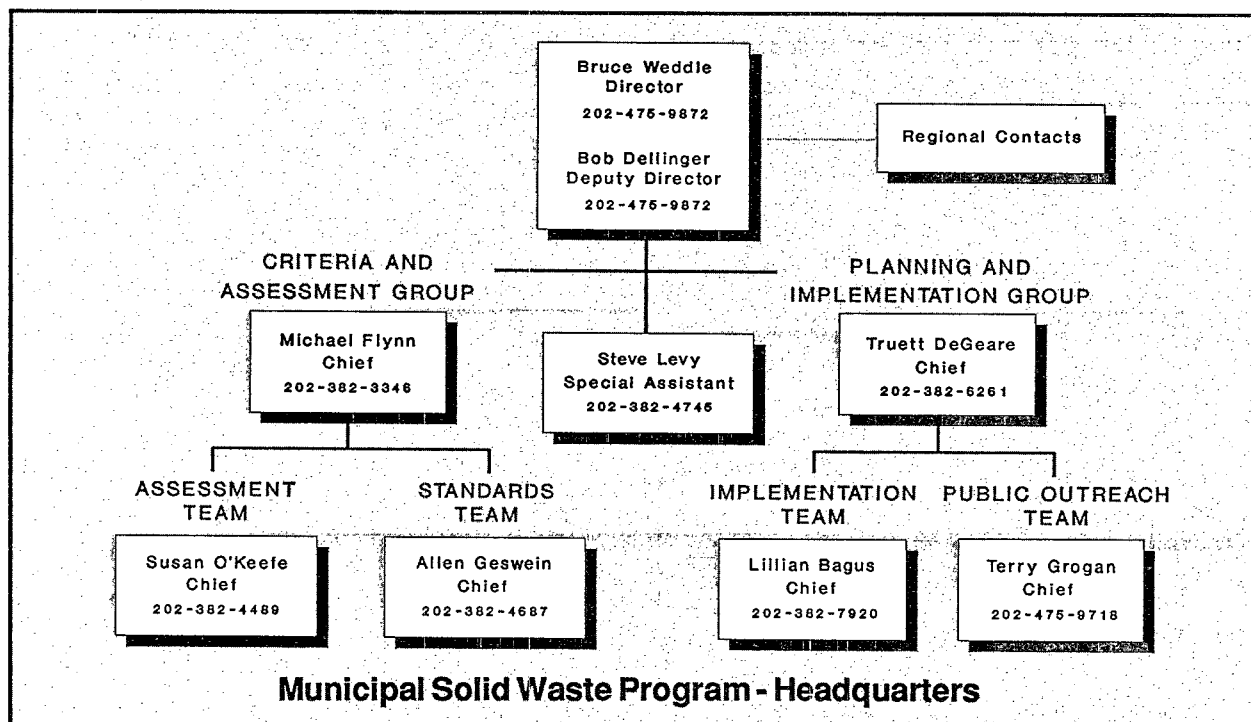
Characterization of Products Containing Lead and Cadmium in Municipal Solid Waste in the United States, 1970 to 2000.

A report characterizing all products that contribute at least 1 percent of the lead and cadmium found in municipal solid waste.
EPA/530-SW-89-015c

Promoting Source Reduction and Recyclability in the Marketplace

A report exploring the role of household consumer demand in the recycling process.
EPA/530-SW-89-066

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Solutions for the 90s

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household hazardous wastes, medical wastes, and white goods (e.g., old refrigerators, washing machines). Financial management, innovative approaches to marketing, and risk and health assessment are also among the wide range of topics that will be covered.

Mann anticipates that attendance will range from 800 to 1,000 participants. Attendees will include representatives from solid waste management agencies; citizen groups; recycling and secondary materials industries; foreign governments; manufacturers; research and development and academic communities; and public officials.

The conference will be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel located in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown and shopping district. It is convenient to public transportation.

Anyone interested in participating in "Solutions for the 90s" as an exhibitor, or attendee, or being added to the mailing list, should contact: First U.S. Conference on Municipal Solid Waste Management, c/o GRCDA, P.O. Box 7219, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attention: Elizabeth Oliver. Telephone numbers are: (800) 456-4723, (301) 585-2898, and FAX - (301) 589-7068.

Putting Our Agenda Into Action

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from schoolchildren to heads of industry. With groups such as The Environmental Defense Fund, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, EPA has developed television public service announcements, magazine and radio advertisements, video documentaries, and other media promotions. One result of these cooperative efforts is a 30-minute educational video for the Learning Channel, which has been distributed to local Public Broadcasting affiliates.

The Agency also plans to communicate waste management information through a national clearinghouse. The clearinghouse, which will be operational early in 1990, will be the focal point

All sectors of society need information on solid waste management.

for information dissemination on all topics related to solid waste management.

Planning is essential to meeting today's waste management challenges, and those that lie ahead. EPA is encouraging states and municipalities to look beyond the single solution to today's problems to a comprehensive waste management plan that can forecast and respond to future problems.

To assist public officials and other decision-makers in planning, EPA is updating its *Decision-Makers Guide to Solid Waste Management*, which provides practical guidance on integrated waste planning. Workshops and conferences are also planned on topics such as the siting process for waste facilities, source reduction, states' perspectives on integrated waste management, and household hazardous waste.

A Peer Match Program is being established that will match the expertise available in municipalities, trade groups, universities, and EPA Regional Offices with the needs of inquiring communities. EPA is providing technical and financial assistance to this cooperative venture between the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) and the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA). For more information on this program, contact Ms. Charlotte Frola at 301-585-2898 or call 1-800-456-GRCD.

The International City Management Association (ICMA) is also sponsoring a peer match program which EPA is supporting. Contact Ms. Milou Carolan at 202-626-4600 for more information. EPA Regional Offices in San Francisco and Seattle have established regional peer match programs. These groups are currently looking for communities and experts who want to be part of the program.

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