



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter, 2007
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

DEP Buy Recycled Website a Hit!

While the term “new and improved” is typically used to describe consumer products, there is no better way to describe the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s recently revised “Buy Recycled” website. The first thing that one notices about the revised website is that it is much more aesthetically pleasing than its predecessor. The eye-catching graphics and bold colors make for an attractive and inviting page. The key feature of the website continues to be its listing of weblinks to sources of various recycled products. The lists are categorized by product type and are accessed through the page’s graphic links. The website also contains a vast amount of useful information about recycled product procurement, as well as helpful links to other Buy Recycled resources. The revised website can be accessed directly at www.recyclenj.org or can be located through the Department’s “Recycling In New Jersey” website at www.state.nj.us/recyclenj.

Did You Know...

- Tree Smart, Inc. produces pencils made from rolled-up recycled newspapers. The pencils, which sharpen like wood and have newsprint images still visible on them, are also available in color sets. Visit www.treesmart.com for details.
- The North American Insulation Manufacturers Association reports that almost 1.35 million tons of recycled glass and blast furnace slag was used by the industry in 2005.
- Rutgers University recently established a Center for Green Building on its New Brunswick campus. Detailed information on the center is available at www.greenbuilding.rutgers.edu.

- Sylvania has teamed up with Veolia Environmental Services to provide lamp and ballast recycling services. Pre-labeled recycling boxes are provided to those using the program. Visit www.sylvania.com/recycle/recyclepak/ for additional information.
- The NJDEP’s 2007 Recycling poetry calendars are available! The calendars feature award winning recycling poems written by New Jersey schoolchildren. Contact the DEP at 609-984-3438 or at www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl for a free copy. The calendar is also available at www.state.nj.us/recyclenj.
- The Recycled Products Cooperative, an environmental non-profit organization, now operates an online store where recycled paper (including 100% post-consumer recycled paper) and other recycled content products may be purchased. Visit the RPC at www.recycledproducts.org.
- Rebox Corp. of Saint Laurent, Quebec provides companies with used or job lot (unused – resulting from an overrun) corrugated cardboard boxes at reduced prices. The company also buys used boxes at prices in excess of the scrap market. For additional information, visit www.reboxcorp.com.

Big Anniversary Nears

April 20, 2007 will mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act by former Governor Thomas Kean. Over 170 million tons of recyclable materials have been recycled over this 20-year period in New Jersey! Remember to incorporate this milestone into your Earth Day activities.

Correction: In the Autumn, 2006 edition of “The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin”, it was incorrectly reported that 60% of the total solid waste generated in New Jersey in 2004 was recycled. The actual total recycling rate for New Jersey in 2004 was 55%. Please note that 60% is the legislatively prescribed total recycling goal for New Jersey.

WasteWise and the Ubiquitous Computer

Computers have not only revolutionized the workplace, and the world for that matter, but have also created a whole new set of environmental questions that businesses and other organizations need to consider. In particular, the management of obsolete computers, as well as the purchase of new "green" computers, have become significant operational issues that must be addressed by today's employers. Fortunately, waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement strategies – the core of WasteWise – are not only readily available, but also economical and practical.

As is the case with the management of other materials, the first consideration for operations managers should be waste reduction. The most widespread form of waste reduction as it pertains to computers and electronics is reuse. By donating reusable electronic equipment to schools and other nonprofit organizations, businesses can reduce their waste streams and help provide needed equipment to such entities. Certain electronics, such as computers, can also be upgraded, thereby extending the life of the product and reducing disposal costs.

Where reuse is not feasible, the recycling of computers and electronics is the route to be followed. Computers can be "demanufactured", i.e., disassembled, whereby certain components – such as plastic, glass and metals – are recovered and marketed to companies that use the materials to make new products. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection maintains a list of facilities that are approved to demanufacture consumer electronics, as well as a list of facilities that are approved to operate as universal waste handlers at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/ucoplast.htm>.

When purchasing remanufactured computers is not an option, procurement officials can now find available many new, environmentally friendly, "green" computers in the marketplace. Helping to make the computer purchasing process easier is the Electronic Product Environmental

Assessment Tool, or EPEAT. This electronics rating system assesses the environmental attributes of a computer and ranks it accordingly. Compared to traditional computer equipment, EPEAT-registered computers have reduced levels of cadmium, lead and mercury, are more energy efficient, are easier to recycle and will often contain recycled content. The EPEAT system is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is available free online at www.epeat.net. As of December, 2006, over 300 computers were registered with EPEAT.

WasteWise partners are encouraged to join the WasteWise Electronics Challenge. Visit www.epa.gov/wastewise for details or contact the WasteWise Helpline at (800) EPA-WISE (372-9473) to participate in the Electronics Challenge.

Network Members Among WasteWise Award Winners

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network was well represented at this past fall's USEPA WasteWise Award ceremony. Verizon Communications, Inc., the City of Clifton and New Jersey Resources Corporation/New Jersey Natural Gas Company were each honored at the event for their efforts in 2006. The awards presented to these three Network members are as follows:

- Verizon** - Partner of the Year (Very Large Business category)
- City of Clifton** – Recycling Education Program – Endorser of the Year
- New Jersey Resources Corporation/New Jersey Natural Gas Company** – Honorable Mention (Midsize Business category)

Pass the Leftovers, Please!

Rock and Wrap It Up! (tm) Inc. is a non-profit organization that helps recover extra food from music and sporting events, among other places. The food is then donated to shelters. For more information, visit www.rockandwrapitup.org.

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