

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network –Summer, 2003

Buy Recycled Network Reorganized as WasteWise Network

While the phrase “all good things must come to an end” may seem to apply to the recent Governing Board decision to end the New Jersey Buy Recycled Business Network, it really is not applicable in this case. The Network is simply being recharged and refashioned as a “WasteWise” network. WasteWise is a free, voluntary partnership program sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that helps organizations reduce waste, recycle and buy recycled products. The decision to regroup as the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network was made in the hope that a network with a broader mission may be more attractive to businesses and other organizations and in turn, expand the influence of the Network. The “new” Network will be open to all organizations, however, the business sector will continue to be the focal point of the Network.

Companies and organizations that choose to participate in the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network will not be required to register as a WasteWise “partner” although it is recommended. WasteWise “partners” are asked to establish goals and file an annual report regarding the status of the goals set forth. WasteWise partners have access to a wide variety of resources, as well as to one-on-one technical assistance to help develop and implement program strategies. Partners in this flexible program also have numerous opportunities to be recognized and rewarded for their achievements.

For more information, please contact Steven Rinaldi of the NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning at 609-984-3438 or at Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us.

Did You Know...

- Rutgers University's Enviro-Purchasing website contains information on ways to reduce waste through changes in purchasing practices and more. This informative website can be found at <http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~envpurchase>.
- The Staples Corporation will donate \$1 for every eligible ink jet and laser toner cartridge brought into Staples stores for recycling to the Hipp Foundation, which provides grants for teachers to encourage creativity in the classroom.
- The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is using decommissioned subway cars from the New York Transit Authority to construct artificial reefs on the ocean floor. The subway cars are stripped and cleaned prior to their use in the reef program.
- Precast Terrazzo Products of West Berlin, New Jersey uses recycled glass to make countertops, flooring, shower stalls and back splashes. For further information, call 856-753-3200.
- Armstrong World Industries has recycled more than 10 million square feet of ceiling tile since the start of its program in 1999. In addition to the recovered tiles, Armstrong uses old newspapers and mineral wool derived as a byproduct of steel production in its new ceiling products. Visit www.armstrong.com for further details.
- The New Jersey Sustainable State Institute maintains a website that includes a calendar of events that are broadly related to sustainability in New Jersey. For further information, visit www.njssi.net/calendar.php.
- Asphalt pavement mixes that contain recycled rubber reduce traffic noise on highways, especially when compared to concrete pavements.
- According to the NJDEP, 36% of the state's municipal solid waste and 54% of its total solid waste was recycled in 2001.

Recycling and Septic System Worlds Come Together

The scrap tire recycling world and the septic system world have collided in New Jersey in a most promising way and it could result in considerable benefits for all concerned. The link between these two worlds is the growing popularity of using scrap tire chips (in lieu of gravel) in septic system leachate fields. This innovative civil engineering application of scrap tire chips is approved in numerous states across the country and was approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on May 1, 2003.

The approval of this application is significant because it represents a new end market for scrap tire chips. As such, it will have a very positive impact upon the local scrap tire recycling market since each septic system can utilize a significant amount of scrap tire chips. Considering that over 10,000 new septic systems are installed annually in New Jersey, this end use shows much promise. It will also help those in the septic system construction industry as scrap tire chips are less expensive than gravel and are easier to handle during construction. In addition, scrap tire chips are durable, compressible and have excellent free-draining and thermal insulation qualities.

Contact the NJDEP, Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control at 609-633-7021 for technical information about the use of scrap tire chips in septic systems. For further information about scrap tire recycling, contact the NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning at 609-984-3438.

Toyota in the Fast Lane

In addition to making cars, the Toyota company has been making news across the country for its progressive environmental initiatives. In particular, the automaker has received accolades for its efforts to eliminate waste and for its construction of a "green" office building in California.

While Toyota seeks to eliminate the need to landfill any waste from its North American factories, the company's immediate target is a 70% reduction in landfill waste by 2005.

Two of the company's plants – located in Huntsville, Alabama and Buffalo, West Virginia - have even achieved the zero-landfill goal. As a result of this initiative, the automaker has found that there are recycling markets for almost all of the waste generated by its plants.

Toyota's use of "green" building products and furnishings at its new office in Torrance, California has also resulted in positive publicity for the company. The company proved in this project that "green" building does not have to cost more than standard construction. Among other things, recycled steel framing was used to construct the building while webbed chairs made of used seat belts were used to furnish the building. In addition, 96% of the construction waste from the project was recycled. The building achieved a "gold rating" from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

Reuse-A-Shoe Program Kicks into High Gear

A partnership between the National Recycling Coalition and the Nike company has resulted in a dramatic expansion of the "Reuse-A-Shoe" program, a unique endeavor for recycling used athletic shoes. Once collected, the used athletic shoes are ground up and processed into a product called "Nike Grind." This rubber product is used in the construction of tracks, playground surfaces, athletic courts and fields. Since the start of the program, Nike has recycled more than 13 million pairs of shoes. For more information, visit www.nikebiz.com/reuseashoe.

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