Just In Time for Summer Fun!

While boating and fishing call to mind images of relaxation and summer vacation fun, there are environmental consequences associated with these activities, as there are for just about every recreational activity. Thankfully, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has developed and implemented two programs that will help minimize the environmental impact from boating and fishing. The first initiative is a shrink-wrap recycling program for boaters, while the second initiative is a monofilament fishing line collection and recycling program.

Every year, thousands of boats are covered in shrink-wrap to protect them from the elements during winter storage. Upon removal of the shrink-wrap at the outset of the boating season, the material is usually disposed as garbage and sent to a landfill. Shrink-wrap is a recyclable material and can be used to make new plastic products. As such, using funding provided by the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s Office of Maritime Resources, the NJDEP issued grants to nine counties for costs associated with a shrink-wrap collection and recycling program. This program will not only keep a recyclable material out of landfills, but will also save marina operators money in disposal costs. Details on the program can be found online at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njcleanmarina/update200701.htm.

While discarded monofilament fishing lines are not a major concern in terms of their waste management impact, they can wreak havoc on the marine environment by entangling, injuring and killing marine birds and aquatic wildlife. It can also cost boaters thousands of dollars when it gets caught in boat propellers and other gear. To combat this problem, the NJDEP’s Clean Marina Program has initiated a monofilament fishing line recycling program that will make it easy for people to recycle this material at fifteen marinas in New Jersey. This innovative program is being run in conjunction with the BoatU.S. Foundation and the BoatU.S. Angler Program. For more information, visit http://www.nj.gov/dep/njcleanmarina/fishing_line_recycling.html.

Did You Know...

- The new Palazzo Las Vegas hotel and casino is now the largest building certified under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) program. Among other environmental strategies employed, significant quantities of recycled steel and recycled concrete were used in the construction of the building, while almost 42,000 tons of material was diverted from landfills during work on the project.
- Transparencies can be recycled through a program initiated by the 3M company. This polyester-based material is recycled into fiber fill for chairs, insulating products and automotive products. Used transparencies can be mailed to the following address:
  3M Recycle Program
  c/o Genmark
  99 Stevens Lane
  Exeter, PA 18643
- Flat Tire Footwear and Teva Footwear both sell a variety of shoes made from recycled scrap tire rubber and other recycled materials. Check out their collections at www.flattirefootwear.com and www.teva.com.
- PepsiCo has begun a new recycling awareness program - the “Have We Met Before?” campaign - wherein information about aluminum recycling is printed on millions of the company’s Pepsi and Diet Pepsi soda cans.
Single Stream Facility Opens in Newark

A recycling facility capable of handling source separated, yet mixed recyclable containers and paper grades, has opened on St. Charles Street in Newark. The facility is owned and operated by Waste Management Recycle America and is one of the company’s many facilities capable of handling such “single stream” recycling mixes. The company invested $4 million in the facility, which is expected to process up to 11,000 tons of material per month. Conveyor belts, magnets, screens, and optical scanners are all used to automatically identify and separate the incoming single stream mix of recyclables. The facility will service both residential and commercial recycling customers throughout the region. Visit www.recycleamerica.com for further information.

Recertification Credits Now Available for WasteWise Attendees!

Those attending New Jersey WasteWise Business Network meetings know that these meetings feature interesting topics and informative speakers, provide helpful and practical guidance on program development and are great opportunities to network with and learn from other attendees. In addition to these benefits, those individuals who are NJ Certified Recycling Professionals will also earn 2.5 recertification credits for attending Network meetings as per an agreement between the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (Rutgers University), Office of Continuing Professional Education. This new policy will take effect starting with the November, 2008 general membership meeting.

Recycling Awards Reminder

Have a great recycling program? It is not too late to apply for a 2008 NJ DEP Recycling Award! The application is available online at www.state.nj.us/recyclenj (look in the What’s New box). Deadline: July 11, 2008.

NJ DOT Promoting New Asphalt Rubber Roads

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJ DOT) is looking to develop additional asphalt rubber pavements in the Garden State thanks in part to its successful Route 95 asphalt rubber pavement project, which not only utilized approximately 80,000 scrap tires, but also greatly reduced road noise. In fact, three asphalt rubber paving projects are on the NJ DOT’s agenda for the upcoming year. Two of the projects involve segments of Route 280 in the East Orange and Newark areas, while the other will be a project on Route 78 in Clinton.

While asphalt rubber is still a non-standard paving specification at this time, NJ DOT officials have embraced the concept and see a bright future for this approach to paving. Those interested in the NJ DOT’s asphalt rubber specification should contact Robert Sauber at Robert.Sauber@dot.state.nj.us.

Major League Baseball Steps Up to the Plate

Major League Baseball has teamed up with the Natural Resources Defense Council in order to increase recycling and establish other green programs at major league ballparks. The installation of solar panels or wind turbines at some of the league’s 31 ballparks is also under consideration.

Frank Peluso to Retire!

After many years in the recycling industry and with the NJ DEP’s Bureau of Recycling and Planning, Frank Peluso will be retiring at the end of July. Frank’s sense of humor, good nature and numerous great recycling ideas will be sorely missed by all of his friends both inside and outside of the Department. Thanks for everything, Frank and best of luck in your retirement!