

Staying in the Loop

Providing community-wide recognition and organizational-based technical assistance and education to businesses, schools, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations that demonstrate leadership in waste reduction and recycling.



Spring 2008

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Contact the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program at: (734) 222-6874
Or visit us online at: <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org>

Green Features Implemented by St. Joe's:

- State-of-the-art recycling facility
- Robotic cart system for waste transportation
- Space specific heating and air conditioning systems
- Wild native river frontage and walking paths
- Renewable materials used in construction of the new East Tower
- Chemical-free water treatment system
- Boiler heat recovery system plus combustion controls

Waste Knot Partner Spotlight: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital



Hospitals all over are renovating their facilities and competing to provide the most state-of-the-art health care. This provides a great opportunity to make *green* improvements. One of the leaders in implementing eco-friendly initiatives is St Joseph Mercy Hospital of Ann Arbor. They are part of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS), which also includes sister hospitals in Saline, Livingston, and Livonia and is a part of the national Catholic health organization, Trinity Health.

St. Joe's began progressive initiatives to reduce its ecological footprint in the early 1990's. In 1996, they removed the old incinerator they were



operating onsite and replaced it with a material recovery and recycling program. This was done at a tenth of the cost of installing a new incinerator. Each year, the St. Joe campus recycles over 540 tons of material, an impressive 32% of their total waste. In 2005, the waste management program opened up a state-of-the-art recycling facility, which features 42 yard



compactors for the sorting of cardboard and confidential mixed office paper, construction debris, light bulbs, batteries, and solvents, as well as storage space for hazardous and medical waste. The hospital is able to save considerable amounts of money and materials by utilizing re-usable containers for the disposal of sharps.

One of the more impressive features of the new waste management plan is the utilization of a robotic cart system. Waste carts are automatically picked up and delivered throughout the exten-

sive campus, increasing waste handling efficiency, eliminating truck and vehicle traffic, and greatly reducing worker injuries associated with the manual transport of carts.

An energy comprehensive program was founded in 2004 along with adding an energy management specialist to their team. Since he was employed, SJMHS has saved more than \$700,000 in water, gas and electricity costs alone.

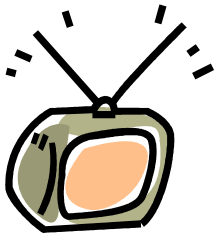


Energy is being used more efficiently than ever now that St. Joe's has opened up a new, state of the art hospital building referred to as the East Tower. They have implemented many innovative energy reduction strategies, such as heating and air conditioning systems that respond to the needs of each space.

(continued on page 2)

Partner Spotlight continued...

Unsure if your TV set is analog or digital? Here's how you can find out!



Analog Sets:

Front or back labeled: "NTSC" or "Analog" or purchased before 1998.

Digital Sets:

Front or back labeled: "digital tuner built-in", "digital receiver", "DTV", "integrated digital tuner", "ATSC", or "HDTV".

There are also lighting systems designed for the occupation and time of day of various spaces, LED lighting, and a new boiler heat recovery system plus combustion controls. All of these strategies help to save the hospital hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. The effectiveness of their energy saving programs can also be seen in the fact that while St. Joe's campus size has increased by 30% in the last few years, their gas and water use overall has actually decreased. The new tower also utilizes other green features. Renewable materials were used in its construction, including the flooring, and many of these materials came from local vendors. The facility uses a chemical free water treatment system for their air con-

ditioning saving thousands of gallons of water and keeping dangerous chemicals out of the environment. There are gardens and waterfalls dispersed throughout the hospital floors for patient and staff respite. The entire campus is



situated along the Huron River, providing beautiful paths for walking and scenic views from patient windows. The river frontage is kept native and wild to minimize maintenance and create

a buffer between the hospital and the water.

In order to involve the greater staff of St. Joe's in furthering eco-friendly practices, they continuously make strides to transform the campus culture. Besides word of mouth, new staff is introduced to the workings of the waste management program during new employee orientation, and everyone undergoes an annual refresher training. There are also relevant articles circulated through the employee newsletter and via e-mail to increase employee awareness regarding new procedures and continued practices.

Congratulations to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for its outstanding environmental achievements!

Analog to Digital, Preparing for Change

Currently, television stations broadcast their programs in both digital and analog frequencies, catering to TV watchers of both worlds. However, beginning February 17th, 2009, broadcasting companies will be mandated to completely switch to digital broadcasting, leaving analog in the past, and allowing only those, who possess digital technology to watch TV. There are many benefits to the all-digital broadcasting switch, including freed up broadcasting space for public safety (police, fire departments, rescue squads, etc) and improved picture and sound quality for consumers.

The downfall of this switch, as many environmentalists anticipate, is a drastic increase in TV disposal to our country's landfills. According to the EPA, a used television screen can release 3-8lbs of lead, which is linked to brain cancer, particularly in children. Other toxic substances such as cadmium, mercury, chromium and hazardous flame-retardants are also found in TVs. When a TV is dumped in a landfill, these chemicals seep into our soil and groundwater. If every family not currently possessing digital technology rushes out to buy a new TV, while tossing their old one into the trash,

there could be devastating environmental and health consequences.

Luckily, there are ways around this problem. If you do not currently possess digital technology, this *does not mean* you must purchase a new TV. If your television is analog, you can purchase a digital-to-analog converter box which plugs into your TV and antenna. These are available from electronics stores, costing \$40 - \$70. Each household is eligible to receive up to two \$40 coupons from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to offset the cost of converters. Coupons are good for 90 days. For more information about obtaining these coupons visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY).

If you do decide to purchase a new digital TV, please recycle the old one! You can recycle old TVs and other electronic waste at the Washtenaw County Drop-Off Station at 2950 E. Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor, (734) 971-7400. Fees for drop-offs are \$10-\$30 per item.

Please do your part to make this analog to digital transition as harm-free as possible!

Breathe Easier, Get More Done

We all know plants can provide a nice bit of color for your business setting, but what else do they do? According to Green Plants for Green Buildings, a non-profit organization based in Ohio, they do quite a lot, and they cite the science to back up their claims. In a study conducted by Dr. Roger S. Ulrich of Texas A&M University, office plants were shown to provide a 12% improvement in productivity and stress reduction. Studies also show that indoor plants can help you save on your electricity bills, as much as 20%, by keeping temperature and humidity within comfortable levels. They also help to reduce office noise, and are proven to reduce levels of airborne toxins, molds, and bacteria. Plants also help to make a business setting more attractive, both to employees and customers. There's no shortage of varieties to fit any light, water, and maintenance conditions, so why not go out right now and find a new plant or two for your business.

Here are some easy to care for varieties that may fit well with your business:

Philodendron is a common houseplant genus with many species. You can find Philodendrons in either tree or vine form and with a variety of different leaf shapes. Keep them out of direct sun, which burns them, and let them dry out between watering.

Sansevieria, also known as Snake Plant and Mother-in-Law's Tongue, is a genus with around 70 different species. They are succulents that do well in low light and with infrequent watering, since they are able to store water in their leaves.

Umbrella Plant is a common name for several different species, but *Schefflera* is the genus commonly seen as a houseplant. These plants do enjoy light, so they are a good choice for windows, but they will also thrive under bright indoor lighting. They like water and enjoy a good misting on their leaves.

For more information:

<http://greenplantsforgreenbuildings.org/>

Congratulations New Waste Knot Members!

We'd like to offer our sincere congratulations to our latest Waste Knot members. With the addition of the following fine businesses, the Waste Knot program now has over 200 partners in Washtenaw County!

- Abbott's Landscape Nursery
- Advance Print & Graphics
- Ann Arbor Environmental Services, LLC
- Arbor Research Collaborative for Health
- Barrett Paving Materials
- Borders Group Inc. Corporate Office
- Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair

- H & R Block, Saline
- iSold It, Ann Arbor
- Infrared Energy Analysis, LLC
- Like Water Drumworks
- Living Space, Inc
- Mechanical Energy Systems
- Tree of Life Cultural Arts Studio
- V. A. Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Vintage Performance Auto Sales / Vespa, Ann Arbor
- Washtenaw Woodwrights, Inc
- The Woman in the Shoe
- Women Progressive Activists

Save the Date!

Waste Knot Ceremony 2008

It's that time of year again! Clear your calendars and get ready for 2008's Waste Knot Ceremony. This year's ceremony will once again be held at the elegant Weber's Inn. We will have representatives from both A3C Collaborative Architecture and Dreamfarm.org as our dual keynote speakers. As always, expect hardy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

If you've yet to send in your RSVP, you can email Jeremy at sobczakj@ewashtenaw.org.

Mayor's Green Fair

Your inclusion in the Waste Knot Program permits you special booth access to the Ann Arbor Green Fair. For more information, call (734) 994-2766.

Event Info:

- Date:** Friday June 13th, 2008
- Time:** 6pm - 9pm
- Location:** Downtown Ann Arbor's Main Street, between E. Huron and William St.

Black Thumb?

Do you have a bad track record with plants? The Peace Lily, genus *Spathiphyllum*, may be the one for you. It likes moist soil, so does well even for those of us who tend to over-water, but it also doesn't require much water to keep it happy. It yields attractive foliage in fairly low light conditions, and given sun it will produce white blooms on tall flower stalks.



Another good choice is the Cast Iron Plant, *Aspidistra elatior*. This slow-growing plant will tolerate heat, cold, low light, under-watering, and over-watering. This plant lives up to its name, and will do its part even when you don't do yours.



Congratulations to all Waste Knot Partners



Waste Knot

Program Updates:

Keep us updated on your waste reduction and recycling practices—we want to know what you are doing!

The more you reduce, reuse, and recycle, the more \$\$\$ you save.

Let co-workers know that they are a part of the Waste Knot Program—post this newsletter and flyer insert in places where everyone can read them.

Would you like to be featured in a future issue of Staying in the Loop? Let us know!

Please Call:

734-222-6874

Architecture Partners

Ann Arbor Architects Collaborative
David W. Osler Associates, Inc.
Hobbs & Black Associates, Inc.
**Living Space, Inc.

Mitchell and Mouat Architects, Inc.
Quinn Evans | Architects

**Vintage Performance Auto Sales
**Washtenaw Woodwrights, Inc.

Auto Repair and Maintenance Partners

C & T Collision, Inc.
City Body

**Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair
Jamie's Lakewood Auto
Robert's Paint and Body, Inc.
Thorton's All Star Auto Salvage

Business Service Partners

Benquin Business Systems
Dominant Systems Corporation
Domino's Farms Corporation
Dynamic Edge, Inc.
Forefront Corporation
Phire Branding Company
Power Marketing
Secure ECO Shred

Chambers of Commerce Partners

Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce
Cleaning and Janitorial Service Partners
Coach's Catastrophe Cleaning Services
Unibar Maintenance Services, Inc.

Construction and Demolition Partners

**Ann Arbor Environmental Services
**Barrett Paving Materials
Calvert's Roll-off Containers, Inc.
Cardea Construction
Carpenterguy
Homeowner Services of America, Inc.
**Infrared Energy Analysis, LLC
JC Beal Construction, Inc.
**Mechanical Energy Systems
TDF II Hauling & Plowing

Engineering Partners

Barr Engineering Company
Black & Veatch
Cybernet Systems Corporation
Finance Partners
Bowen & Barber, LLC
Carol L. Hoffer, CLU
Edward Jones Investments
**H & R Block / Saline
Oliver Financial Planning
Swisher Commercial

Government Partners

Ann Arbor City Hall
Ann Arbor District Library
Ann Arbor Farmers Market
Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation
Chelsea District Library
City of Chelsea
City of Saline
Federal Correctional Institution, Milan
Freedom Township
Great Lakes Science Center
Leslie Science Center
Pittsfield Charter Township
Saline District Library
Village of Dexter
Washtenaw County Conservation District
Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority
Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

Grocery Partners

People's Food Cooperative and Café Verde
Ypsilanti Food Cooperative and River Street Bakery

Health Service Partners

Arbor Psychological Consultants, P.C.
**Arbor Research Collaborative for Health
Barbara Boyk, PhD
Kleanthous Family Foot Clinic, P.C.
Linda Diane Feldt, RPP, NCTMB

Marsha Traxler, RN, RPP
Quest Martial Arts

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
Sun and Moon Yoga Studio

**Tree of Life Cultural Arts
Univ. of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers
**V.A. Ann Arbor Healthcare System

Landscape Design and Planning Partners

**Abbott's Landscape Nursery
Heart & Soul Services
Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio
Lodi Farms LTD
Nature and Nurture, LLC
Smith Group JJR

Law Firm and Attorney Partners

John D. Erdevig, Attorney at Law
Law Office of Helen Conklin Vick
Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Manchester & Associates, Attorneys at Law

Manufacturing Partners

Automotive Components Holdings, LLC Saline Plant
Automotive Components Holdings, LLC Spring St. Plant
**Borders Books Cooperate HQ / A2
Chelsea Milling Company
Data Optics, Inc.

Elastizell Corporation of America
Essen Instruments, Inc.
Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant
Horiba Instruments
JAC Products, Inc.

Kaiser Optical Systems, Inc.
Liebherr Gear Technology

**Like Water Drumworks
Malloy, Inc.

McNaughton & Gunn, Inc.
Mikan Corporation

NSK Corporation
NuStep, Inc.

SoloHill Engineering, Inc.
Thomson-Shore

Toner Supply ISO90001 Certified

Non-Profit Partners

American Cancer Society Huron Valley Service Center
Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
Clean Water Action
Colonial Square Cooperative
The Conscientious Cruiser
Ecology Center
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Food Gatherers
Frontline Church
Growing Hope
Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley
High/Scope Educational Research Foundation
Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Michigan Peaceworks
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan
NEW Center – Nonprofit Enterprise at Work
NSF International
Performance Network
Recycle Ann Arbor
The Scrap Box
Washtenaw Land Trust
**Women Progressive Activists
The Women's Center of America

Printing Service Partners

Goetzcraft Printers, Inc.
Harrington's Standard Printing
Print-Tech
The Women's Center of America

Advance Print & Graphics

Goetzcraft Printers, Inc.
Harrington's Standard Printing
Print-Tech

Realty and Housing Community Partners

Ann Arbor Board of Realtors
Colonial Square Cooperative
Trillium Real Estate
Village Cooperative Homes, Inc.

Research and Development Partners

Assay Designs, Inc.
Subaru Research and Development

Restaurant Partners

Arbor Brewing Company
Dominick's
Leopold Brothers Brewery
Northside Grill
Seva
Sweetwaters Café

Zigerman's Delicatessen

Retail and Wholesale Partners

Acme Mercantile
Arrow Awards
Batteries Plus
Borders Group Inc./Corporate Office
Cartridge World Ann Arbor
The Chelsea Collection
Dixboro General Store
Dragons Lair Futon
Eckland Imaging & Design
Forma Fine Crafts
G.E. Wacker, Inc.
King's Keyboard House
Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes, Inc.
Materials Unlimited
Miles of Golf
ReCellular, Inc.
Saline Picture Frame Company
Shaman Drum Bookshop
Signs by Tomorrow

School Partners

Ann Arbor Learning Community
Forsythe Middle School
Heritage Elementary School
Lincoln Consolidated High School
Rudolf Steiner School
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish and School
The University of Michigan
Washtenaw County Community College
**Whitmore Lake High School

Service Partners

1-800-GOT-JUNK?
**Advance Print and Graphics
Ann Arbor News
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
Arbor Springs Water Company, Inc.
Babel Latina, Inc.
Bessenberg Bindery
Betty Brigade
Cartridges for Kids
Current Magazine/SGI Publications
David Meyer Photography
Design My Wedding
DTE Energy
Electronics Service Center, Inc.
Georgetown Country Club
**I Sold it Ann Arbor
Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, LLC
Master Tech Appliance Service, Inc.
Organizational Designs, Inc.
Palmer Insurance
RJ Frank, Home Inspections
Salon Vertigo
SelectRide, Inc.
Simply Organized Life
Sustainable Systems, Inc. & Sustainable Spaces
TeL Systems/Thalner Electronic Laboratories, Inc.
Weber's Inn
**Woman in the Shoe
Shipping Service Partners
Parcel Plus, UPS Store
Software, Web, and Graphic Design Partners
Cimulus, Inc.
Harris & Baseview
InPrint, Inc.
Materialise
West Pole, Inc.

**Our newest members