

# STAYING IN THE LOOP



A Newsletter for Partners in Washtenaw County's Waste Reduction Program - Fall 2001

## 2001 WASTE KNOT PARTNERS

Join the ranks of the 90 businesses in Washtenaw County that participate in the Waste Knot Program including:

**BUSINESS OFFICES:** Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors • ArborComm, Inc. • Barr Engineering Co. • Black & Veatch • Bowen & Barber, L.L.C. • Cimulus Software Development • Cybernet Systems Corp. • David W. Osler Associates • Dobson-McOmber Agency, Inc. • Domino's Farms Corporation • John D. Erdevig, Attorney at Law • Hobbs & Black Associates Inc. • Second to None, Inc. • Span Corporation • Stretch Media • The Traverse Group Inc.

**CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION:** Cardea Construction Co. • J.C. Beal Construction Inc.

**GOVERNMENT/SCHOOLS:** Ardis Renaissance Academy • Federal Correctional Institution • Great Lakes Science Center • Leslie Science Center • Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor • Saline District Library • St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School & Parish • Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

**MANUFACTURING:** American Fabricating • Chelsea Milling Co. • Elastzell Corporation of America • McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. • NSK Corporation • Nustep Inc. • UBE Machinery, Inc. • Visteon Automotive Systems - Saline Plant • Visteon Automotive Systems - Spring St. Plant

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:** Food Gatherers • Great Lakes Natural Resource Center • National Kidney Foundation of Michigan • Nonprofit Enterprise at Work • NSF International • The Scrap Box

**RESTAURANTS:** Arbor Brewing Company • Dominick's • Jerusalem Garden • Leopold Brothers of Ann Arbor • Mark's Midtown Coney Island • Northside Grill • Seva Restaurant • Zingerman's Delicatessen

**RETAIL/WHOLESALE:** American Sign Shops • Borders Group, Inc. • Dixboro General Store • G.E. Wacker, Inc. • King's Keyboard House • Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes, Inc. • Materials Unlimited • Mikan Corporation • Native Ways Gallery • People's Food Cooperative & Cafe Verde • Timbuktu Station • Vault of Midnight • Whole Foods

**SERVICE:** Arbor Psychological Consultants • Arbor Springs Water Company, Inc. • Coach's Carpet Care & Catastrophe Cleaning • Electronics Service Center • Jai's Landscaping Design & Nursery • Kinko's - State St., Ann Arbor • Master Tech Appliance Service Inc. • Parcel Plus

**OTHER:** Ann Arbor Transportation Authority • Colonial Square Cooperative • Detroit Edison • Pfizer • St. Joseph Mercy Hospital • Marsha Traxler, RN, WHNP, RPP • The Village Cooperative Homes, Inc.

## AMERICA RECYCLES DAY - NOVEMBER 15, 2001

The fifth annual America Recycles Day (ARD) is just around the corner on November 15th! The goal of America Recycles Day is to raise national awareness and to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling and buying recycled-content products.



As Waste Knot Award Winners or Certificates of Merit, this celebration is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and promote your recycling programs and practices. By coordinating an activity to educate your customers, community, and/or co-workers, you can participate in America Recycles Day!

This event receives a lot of attention and is an important part of increasing recycling awareness. As a Waste Knot

Program participant, we hope that you will choose to plan an activity within your workplace, community, or both!

If you are interested in learning more about America Recycles Day and what you can do to participate, check out the official web site at [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org). A planning guide is available to download which provides you with all the information you need to plan a great ARD!

### 11 Ways to Celebrate America Recycles Day!

- Hold a promotional sale of "Buy Recycled" products.
  - Hold an America Recycles Day pledge drive and/or raffle for employees and donate proceeds to your favorite recycling organization.
  - Set up displays for your employees and customers that show recycled products, highlight recycled products on store shelves, and track sales of recycled products.
- (continued on back page)*

## Waste Knot Award Partner Spotlight: FCI Milan

For our fall 2001 Waste Knot Partner Spotlight, we have chosen The Federal Correctional Institution, Milan, Michigan. FCI is a Waste Knot Charter member and has been with the program since its start in 1998. One of 94 institutions that make up the Federal Bureau of Prisons, FCI Milan confines more than 1,100 low level offenders and serves as a recycling role model for the community and other correctional institutions throughout the nation.

In 2000, FCI Milan recycled over 870,000 pounds of materials. This means everything from paper and cardboard to metals and toner cartridges are recovered instead of thrown into a landfill. It "closes the loop" by purchasing recycled content products such as napkins, boxes, paper, and garbage bags. FCI encourages employees and inmates to participate in the recycling program.

What is FCI Milan's secret to maximizing solid waste recycling? Tom Carmichael, Sr., Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Manager of the facility, would be happy to tell

you. Keeping a close eye on discounts like reduced price hoppers or used forklifts, reducing the size of units to make them searchable, and creating incentive plans are just some of the ways Milan gets great results. FCI Milan is committed to teaching other businesses ways to succeed at recycling, giving tours and presentations to area business leaders and environmental groups, and allowing local businesses to study the institution's program. FCI Milan also has programs to teach other correctional facilities how to maintain security, cut costs, procure equipment inexpensively and maximize efficiency.

Because of FCI Milan's devoted recycling efforts, in the year 2000 they generated over \$91,000 in the sale of recyclables while saving over \$8,745 in garbage fees. They have conserved 1,746 trees, 39,045 gallons of oil, 411,000 kilowatts of energy, and 719,250 gallons of water.

**Thank you FCI Milan!**

# ENERGY STAR

What does solid waste have to do with rising sea levels, higher temperatures, and greenhouse gas emissions?

Waste management affects greenhouse gases through one or more of the following: (1) Combustion of fossil fuels associated with making, transporting, using, and disposing the material that becomes waste; (2) Non-energy related manufacturing emissions, such as the carbon dioxide released when limestone is converted to lime; and (3) Methane emissions from landfills where the waste is disposed. These mechanisms add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and contribute to global warming. By reducing the amount of goods we consume, reusing what we have and recycling what we can no longer use, we help to avoid this harmful pollution. But, are there any other ways in which we can reduce these emissions? The answer is yes and is found in the Energy Star Program.



## What is the Energy Star Program?

Energy Star was introduced by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products in order to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions. EPA partnered with the US Department of Energy in 1996 to promote the Energy Star label, with each agency taking responsibility for particular product categories. Energy Star has expanded to cover new homes, most of the building sector, residential heating and cooling equipment, major appliances, office equipment, lighting, consumer electronics, and other product areas.

The Energy Star logo can be found on many different types of items including computers, monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines, scanners, air conditioners, furnaces.... the list goes on and on. When purchasing new equipment, make sure to look for the Energy Star logo to save energy and money!

If all consumers, businesses, and organizations in the United States made their product choices and building improvement decisions to use Energy Star over the next decade, the national annual energy bill would be reduced by about \$200 billion.

## How can my organization use the Energy Star Program?

The Energy Star Program provides many services designed to help organizations reduce and track their energy consumption. Portfolio Manager is EPA's on-line tool for developing, tracking, and evaluating your organization's approach to reducing energy costs over time. For certain building types, Portfolio Manager offers the ability to benchmark energy performance on a 1-to-100 scale. For all buildings, Portfolio Manager allows energy consumption, costs, and associated emissions to be tracked over time.

Organizations can also use the Energy Star Program by earning the label for their building. Qualified buildings that meet the Energy Star criteria demonstrate financial and environmental success for those who own, manage, or lease the property. Over 500 office buildings and K-12 schools nationwide have applied to receive and proudly display a bronze plaque bearing the Energy Star logo. All of these buildings have energy performance that places them in the top 25% of similar buildings nationwide.

The first step to earning the Energy Star label is to benchmark the performance of buildings you own, manage, or lease. Those that score a 75 or higher while also meeting indoor environmental criteria may qualify to display the Energy Star logo. Buildings with scores lower than 75 have an opportunity to improve energy performance, and thus lower operating costs through reductions in energy bills.

*Information taken from [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)*

## Green Power: An Emerging Option

Renewable energy or "green" energy provides an environmentally-friendly alternative to non-renewable, nuclear and fossil fuel based energy sources. The National Association of Attorneys General defines a "renewable" energy source as, "any energy source that is naturally replenishable and replenished on some reasonable time scale. Renewable energy sources include, but are not limited to, wind, sun, heat from the earth's interior, oceans and eligible biomass." The following is a brief description of green power options:

**Biofuels** are alcohols, ethers and other chemicals derived from trees, plants, organic materials (wood, crop residue, leaves), methane from landfills, animal wastes, etc. Biofuels are generally burned in place of traditional fossil fuels to create steam to power generators and generate electricity. Biofuels have the potential to duplicate and replace polluting petroleum-based products with environmentally benign fuels and chemicals. The biofuel industry currently constitutes the largest source of green energy in Michigan.

**Hydroelectric Power** uses the movement of water to generate electricity. Tidal waters, ocean waves and ocean currents can all be used to turn turbines, which then creates electricity.

**Solar Energy** captures the heat and/or light from the sun to generate electricity and, like wind energy, does not produce air emissions, generate solid waste or use water. Solar has three applications: (a) Solar Photovoltaics uses semiconductor technology to directly convert light to electricity; (b) Solar Thermal uses the collection and concentration of the sun's rays to produce heat to run electric generators; and (c) Solar Chemical uses the sun's energy to drive chemical processes that produce new fuels.

**Wind Energy** converts the power available in moving air into electricity. Wind power does not produce air emissions, generate solid waste or use water. Wind farms are utility plants where numerous wind machines are concentrated in one geographic area. Michigan is 14th in the nation for wind availability and several of the state's wind machines currently produce power that is sold into the utility grid.

For more information on green energy, visit: [www.greenmountain.com/gmec/index.jsp](http://www.greenmountain.com/gmec/index.jsp)

*Information taken from Green Power & Small Business by Mark H. Clevey, Director, Michigan Energy Star Small Business, 1-800-362-5461.*

## How can I learn more about the Energy Star Program?

To learn more about Energy Star in general, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or call 1-888-STAR-YES.

For a list of Energy Star products and a store locator, visit [www.energystar.gov/products/](http://www.energystar.gov/products/).

For information for businesses, including the Portfolio Manager, the benchmarking program and how to get a label for your business, visit: <http://yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/business.nsf/webmenus/Business>.

## Advertisements

An ad highlighting all of the 2001 Waste Knot Winners was placed in the Ann Arbor News, the Ann Arbor Observer, and the Heritage Newspapers (Chelsea Standard/Dexter Leader, Manchester Chronicle, Milan News Leader, and Saline Reporter).

The 2001 Waste Knot Banner displays the names of all the 2001 winners along with photographs of some of our partners. So far the banner has been displayed at the front lobby of the City of Ann Arbor City Hall and at the Saline District Library.

## Waste Knot Partner Retires

Jack Briegel, Co-owner and Vice President of Manufacturing at McNaughton & Gunn in Saline, recently retired. He and his co-owner started the book printing business 25 years ago and since that time have made McNaughton & Gunn a leader in environmentally sound business practices. His son, Jeff Briegel, will continue to move forward with the wonderful work that Jack Briegel started. Congratulations and Happy Retirement!

## County Solid Waste Plan Update

A draft of the pending County Solid Waste Plan has been updated and can be viewed at <http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eiswpc.htm>. Through a concerted effort, the County is helping businesses increase waste reduction and recycling efforts by forming a Commercial/Industrial Program Task Force (CITF). For more information about the CITF and participation call Kathy Cencer at (734) 994-2398.



## Recycle Your Laser Cartridges!

How would your organization like to reduce pollution while helping children learn? The Educational Technology and Conservation Exchange Program (ETCEP) allows organizations to recycle their laser cartridges while earning points for schools that can be used towards the purchase of computer equipment. You can log onto [www.fundingfactory.org](http://www.fundingfactory.org) and click the ETCEP link or call 1-888-883-8237 for more information on how you can participate. Participation is easy! Your organization chooses a K-12 school to sponsor, ETCEP sends you pre-labeled and pre-paid boxes to mail in your empty laser cartridges to ETCEP, your sponsored school earn points towards the purchase of new equipment and reaps the benefits of your recycling practices! Or, your organization can contact a school to see if they would like your cartridges directly. The school earns points based upon the number and type of cartridges that you donate. This is an excellent way to reduce waste and help children! Sign up now!

Direct all of your questions, comments, and suggestions to:



Kathy Cencer, (734) 994-2398  
Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program  
P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor MI 48107-8645

We welcome any ideas you may have for articles or features.

## Turning Trash Into Treasure

As a Waste Knot Partner or Certificate of Merit, your business is already aware of buying recycled content products, using environmentally friendly materials and reducing the amount of waste you create. It is possible, though, that your employees have difficulty finding ways to deal with less obvious recyclables. What do you do with carpet scraps, antifreeze, car batteries, or Styrofoam? There are times when we all find ourselves having to use hazardous or environmentally unfriendly materials and getting rid of these materials can be tough. The "Turning Trash Into Treasure," or "3T's Guide" is designed to help find outlets for these hard to recycle items, thereby keeping them out of the landfill.

Turning Trash into Treasure is filled with information on places to dispose of materials as dangerous as asbestos or as mundane as videotapes and yard waste. It will even tell you how to dispose of materials that are

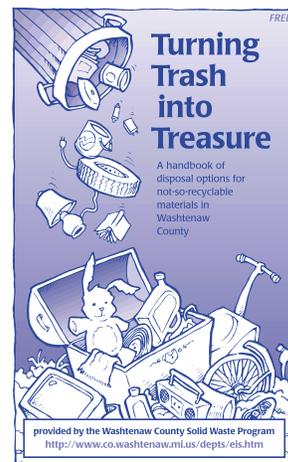
dangerous in one form but not in another. For example, if a person has a can of Latex paint, the guide provides ways to dispose of the paint in a responsible way: Latex paint is harmful in liquid form, so it must be allowed to dry out before being disposed of. To aid in the drying process, leave the lid off the canister of paint and add kitty litter or sawdust to help speed the air drying process. Once dry, the paint can be safely disposed of in your regular trash.

The county is constantly adding to the list of items that may need special disposal. Recently, a Public Works intern was asked what could be done with some old x-ray projections. After careful inquiry, the intern discovered the University of Michigan Medical Hospital accepts x-rays, and sends them to a company that removes the silver from the plastic. Public Works is always interested in hearing about new things that can be recycled, and places that will take what would be trash, and reuse it or recycle it. We then pass on the information to you via the 3T's Guide.

Some objects that accumulate in homes like extra clothes hangers are usually tossed out or piled away. The guide points out that many dry cleaners accept these metal hangers, and even the plastic bags that cover dry cleaning. That old unwanted radio in the garage can be given to the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor, that broken pot can go to the City of Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station, those foam peanuts can go to the Mail Shoppe, and those toys and games can be given to the Salvation Army or Woman in the Shoe. The list goes on and on.

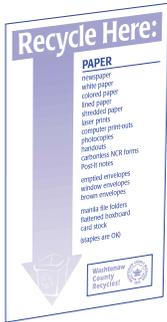
One of the most important parts of the guide is dedicated to dangerous household items. Many toxic materials can be taken to the Home Toxics Reduction Center at 4101 Washtenaw Ave., but many toxics like antifreeze, asbestos, car batteries, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and used motor oil are not accepted at that location. The guide provides information on where you can take these toxic chemicals.

If you would like to get some 3T's Guides for employees at your business, please call Washtenaw County Public Works at (734) 994-2398. For the most up to date information check out our website at <http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eistra1.htm>.



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- Organize a contest to reward divisions that purchased the highest percentage of recycled content products over the past year. Run the contest again next year to see increases in recycled content purchasing.
- Include a special America Recycles Day message in employee paychecks.



• Purchase desk-side recycling bins made of recycled content materials for all employees in your organization.

• When printing brochures and promotional pieces, use recycled content paper and include the phrase "Printed on paper with \_\_\_% post-consumer recycled content." This helps educate individuals on the quality and availability of recycled content paper. You can also do the same with your company letterhead.

• Create table tents for your restaurant or company cafeteria to inform employees and patrons about America Recycles Day and buying recycled.

• Display a shopping cart of various products made with recycled content or packaging at your business location.

• Hang up an ARD poster (call the County Public Works Division at 734-994-2398 for details).

• Show a video on how to buy recycled. Customers can watch the video as they stand in the checkout line, employees can watch it in the lunchroom or at staff meetings, and patrons can watch it in the reception area. The Environmental Defense Fund (212-505-2100) offers a good "buy recycled" video that can be used for this purpose.

## Calendar of Events

### September

#### Household Hazardous Waste collections:

**Chelsea** - September 15, 2001

**Saline Farm Counsel Grounds** - September 22, 2001

Visit [www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eishhw.htm](http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eishhw.htm) for more info.

### October

**Household Hazardous Waste collections** in Jackson and Adrian, October 6, 2001. Visit [www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eishhw.htm](http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eishhw.htm) for more info.

**Fire Safety Week** - October 7-13, 2001. Watch for collection sites for your old smoke detectors.

**2001 National Recycling Coalition Conference** - September 30 - October 3, 2001. Visit [www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org) for more information.

**9th Annual Waste Reduction & Energy Efficiency Workshop** sponsored by the DEQ - October 30, 2001. Visit [www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/eosect/workshop.html](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/eosect/workshop.html) for more information.

### November

**America Recycles Day** - November 15, 2001!!!

**Use Less Stuff Day** - November 15, 2001.

**Buy Nothing Day** - November 23, 2001.



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