

STAYING IN THE LOOP

**A Newsletter for Partners in Washtenaw County's Waste Reduction Program
Fall 2003**



2003 Waste Knot Partners

Join the ranks of the more than 120 businesses in Washtenaw County that participate in the Waste Knot Program including:

AUTO MAINTENANCE/REPAIR: C&T Collision, Inc.
BUSINESS OFFICES: Ann Arbor Architects Collaborative • Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors • Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce • Barr Engineering Co. • Black & Veatch • Bowen & Barber, L.L.C. • Cimulus, Inc. • Cybernet Systems Corp. • David W. Osler Associates, Inc. • Digital Dynamics and Imaging, LLC • Dobson-McOmber Agency, Inc. • Dominant Systems Corp. • Domino's Farm Corporation • Forefront Corporation • Hobbs & Black Associates, Inc. • John D. Erdevig, Attorney at Law • Manchester & Associates, Attorneys at Law • Mitchell and Mout Architects, Inc. • Moore Power Marketing • Quinn Evans | Architects • SGI Publications • Silver Birch Engineering, LLC • Smith Group JJR • Swisher Commercial • The Chelsea Collection/G.B. Kuehule Co. • The Traverse Group Inc. • Trillium Real Estate • West Pole, Inc.
CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION: Cardea Construction Co. • Homeowner Services of America, Inc.
GOVERNMENT/SCHOOLS: Ardis Renaissance Academy • Federal Correctional Institution • Great Lakes Science Center • Rudolf Steiner School • Saline District Library • South Arbor Charter Academy • St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish & School • Village of Chelsea • Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority
MANUFACTURING: AEC Manchester Stamping • Chelsea Milling Company • Data Optics, Inc. • Eaton Corporation • Elastizell Corporation of America • Goetzcraft Printers, Inc. • Horiba Instruments • JAC Products, Inc. • Kaiser Optical Systems, Inc. • Malloy Inc. • McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. • Nustep Inc. • NSK Corporation • SoloHill Engineering • Visteon Automotive Systems – Rawsonville Plant • Visteon Automotive Systems – Saline Plant • Visteon Automotive Systems – Spring St. Plant
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: City of Ann Arbor Farmers' Market • Ecology Center • High/Scope Education Research Foundation • National Kidney Foundation of Michigan • NSF International • NEW Center • NWF – Great Lakes Natural Resource Center • Recycle Ann Arbor • The Scrap Box • The Women's Center of America
RESTAURANTS: Arbor Brewing Company • Del Rio Bar • Dominick's • Leopold Brothers of Ann Arbor • Mark's Midtown Coney Island • Northside Grill • Seva Restaurant • Sweetwater's Café • Zingerman's Delicatessen
RETAIL/WHOLESALE: American Sign Shop • David Meyer Photography • Dixboro General Store • Dragons Lair Futons • Forma Fine Crafts • G.E. Wacker, Inc. • King's Keyboard House • Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes, Inc. • Mail Boxes Etc. #2640 • Materials Unlimited • Palmer Studio • People's Food Coop & Café Verde • Saline Picture Frame Co. • Timbuktu Station • Whole Foods Market
SERVICE: Arbor Psychological Consultants, P.C. • Arbor Springs Water Company, Inc. • Babel Latina, Inc. Editorial Group • Coach's Catastrophe Cleaning Services • Design My Wedding • Electronics Service Center, Inc. • Larime Photographic Inc. • Law Office of Helen Conklin Vick • Master Tech Appliance Service Inc. • Mikan Corporation • Miles of Golf • Organizational Designs, Inc. • Parcel Plus • ReCellular Inc. • Weber's Inn
OTHER: Ann Arbor News • Ann Arbor Transportation Authority • Assay Designs • Colonial Square Cooperative • DTE Energy • First Unitarian Universalist Church • Georgetown Country Club • Klave's Marina Inc. • Madstone Theater • Marsha Traxler, RN, RPP • Pfizer Global Research and Development • St. Joseph Mercy Hospital • Tel Systems/Thalner Electronics Labs, Inc. • University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers • The Village Cooperative Homes, Inc.

Get Charged Up About Rechargeable Battery Recycling!

Rechargeable batteries are becoming more and more common, both in the office and at home. They can be found in cell phones, PDAs, computers, cordless power tools and



any electronic equipment that requires standardized batteries (AA, A, D, etc). The most common types, nickel metal hydride, nickel cadmium, lithium ion and sealed lead acid, are

often preferred to one-time-use varieties, as they can be reused more than 100 times before disposal is necessary. Plus, over the long run, rechargeable batteries may cost less than other types.

Recycling of these batteries is extremely important because many contain easily

recoverable toxic metals, like cadmium and lithium, which could pollute groundwater if placed in a landfill. If recycled, this pollution risk is highly diminished and the recovered metals can be reused in new batteries and other products.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) offers the *Charge Up to Recycle*® program to businesses and other organizations interested in recycling rechargeable batteries. The RBRC is a non-profit, public service organization created by the rechargeable power industry and dedicated to the recycling of rechargeable batteries. Organizations who wish to participate

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Waste Knot Award Partner Spotlight: Eaton Corp.

For this issue's partner spotlight, we are proud to highlight Eaton Corporation's Ann Arbor Facility. Eaton Corp. has been a Waste Knot partner since 2002, is ISO 14000 certified and has worked hard to bring waste reduction into the manufacturing industry. In addition to their production of valves for the auto industry that ensure the health and safety of the automobile's occupants, Eaton Corp. works to sustain and protect the environment as well.

In order to reduce waste produced at the facility, Eaton worked with their suppliers to replace cardboard with reusable plastic containers. The company's initiative has even inspired some of their customers to adopt a similar system to reduce waste. A Master Control System at the facility helps reduce waste by eliminating the need for hard copies of many documents. If a document copy is printed out, it must be recycled immediately once no longer needed.

Eaton Corporation has also taken a new approach to reuse. Not only do company employees reuse items like office and kitchen supplies, but test gasoline is also reused in fleet vehicles instead of being hauled away for disposal!



Aside from collecting over 45,000 lbs of paper for recycling since 1999, employees at Eaton Corporation have also recycled over 500 tons of cardboard, almost 250 lbs of mixed containers and found an outlet that would pay them for their cardboard, thus increasing their recycling profitability.

The Eaton Corporation for their dedication to waste reduction and recycling, pollution prevention and water quality protection has been honored with the overall 2004 Washtenaw County Environmental Excellence Award. Thank you Eaton Corporation!

Environmental and Financial Resources from the DEQ



Now that you've realized the financial and environmental benefits of waste reduction, where can your business go next? The State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Assistance Division (EAD) offers a number of non-regulatory programs that not only can help your organization continue to be environmentally friendly, but can help reduce costs as well. Reducing the amount of trash going into your dumpster can save on trash fees and decreasing the volume of hazardous chemicals at your facility can save on disposal fees and reduce the potential for accidents in the workplace. A number of Waste Knot winners have already realized the benefits of these programs and are current participants. These programs include:

Clean Corporate Citizen Program allows regulated sources demonstrating environmental stewardship and a strong environmental ethic to be recognized as Clean Corporate Citizens. Businesses who voluntarily participate in this program will receive public recognition and are eligible for benefits that provide greater flexibility in their permitting regulations, shortening the waiting period to receive permits.

Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership is a voluntary program open to all Michigan businesses, regardless of size, interested in initiating or expanding pollution prevention (P2) practices and receiving recognition for these efforts. Participants are asked to provide an annual summary of their progress and share success stories on their pollution prevention activities.

Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) allows Michigan businesses and institutions to potentially experience sizable cost savings by applying pollution prevention and energy efficiency technologies. Retired engineers, scientists, and other professionals are available through RETAP to provide on-site pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments. Most of these professionals have more than 30 years of experience with Michigan industries. RETAP assessments are free, nonregulatory and confidential. Each operation is thoroughly reviewed and upon completion, a written, confidential report identifies specific pollution prevention opportunities. There is no obligation to adopt the recommendations of the RETAP analysts; however, significant cost savings can be achieved by implementing the pollution prevention techniques. The EAD also offers the **RETAP Technology Demonstration Program** which provides matching grants to small businesses to implement and demonstrate innovative P2 technologies and the **RETAP Internship Program** which provides interns to businesses to implement pollution prevention initiatives.

Pollution Prevention Assistance in Michigan is the voluntary, multi-media approach of finding ways to eliminate or reduce the generation of waste at its source or to recycle those wastes that cannot be eliminated. Pollution prevention information and technical support is provided to companies, institutions, and communities in the form of fact sheets, case studies, workshops and individual assistance. Technical assistance is provided to industries in other areas as well,

continued in next column

Business Recycling **FAST FACTS**

- Kellogg's first cereal box, produced in 1906, was packaged in recycled paperboard. Today, all individual and family-sized cereal packages are made from 100 percent recycled paperboard, as are packages for Rice Krispies Treats, Pop-Tarts and Nutri-grain Bars. Additionally, the company uses recycled paper for its annual report, company newsletters and the majority of its copy paper needs.
- S.C. Johnson packages its household cleaning items – Pledge, Glade, Shout, Raid and OFF – in 25 percent recycled steel containers. In addition, Windex (32 oz.) is packaged in 50 percent recycled PET bottles and Future (27 oz.) is packaged in 100 percent recycled PET bottles.
- Twenty percent of the paper purchased by Hallmark contains a minimum of 20 percent post-consumer waste.
- Hershey Foods now wraps its Hershey Miniatures in one wrapper. Previously each Miniature was wrapped in foil and wrapped again in an outer layer label. Similarly, select sizes of Kit Kat, Mr. Goodbar, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup and Cookies 'N Cream bars now are packaged in one wrapper.
- Between 1991 and 1995, Gillette realized a four-fold increase in the amount of recycled materials it used in its packaging. Today, 25 percent of its packaging materials are composed of recycled materials. Additionally, it uses more than 1 million pounds of post-consumer recycled plastics in a variety of packaging components, from razors to anti-perspirants.



From World Wastes, 41(8) p.8 (August 1998).

including: electroplating, green lights, mercury reduction, and primary metals.

Environmental Assistance Center offers a toll-free number that is staffed to provide businesses, institutions, and the general public with a single access point for questions about all DEQ programs. The EAC provides direct referral assistance on matters such as hazardous and solid waste disposal; pollution prevention; recycling; compliance assistance; financial assistance; air, water, and wetlands permits; and underground storage tank removal and remediation. The EAC also provides information on upcoming environmental workshops and seminars. Environmental protection publications can be requested through the EAC; case studies, fact sheets, and brochures are also available on topics such as pollution prevention, recycling, clean air assistance, and cleanup guidance. In addition, recycling market directories and pollution prevention manuals are available to assist with developing waste reduction programs. Comprehensive regulatory guidebooks for specific industry sectors are available for a nominal fee. Contact the Environmental Assistance Center at (800) 662-9278 or see www.michigan.gov/deq.

Waste Knot Advertising

Advertisements highlighting the 2003 Waste Knot Award winners have been placed in the *Ann Arbor News*, *Chelsea Standard/Dexter Leader*, *Saline Reporter*, *Milan News Leader*, and *Manchester Enterprise*. We have also placed an ad in the Ann Arbor Art Fair Guide, made available to the more than 85,000 people who attended the fair this year.

The 2003 Waste Knot Banner displays the names of all of the 2003 winners along with photographs of some of our partners. So far, the banner has been displayed at the 2003 Green Fair.

Names and descriptions of winners can also be found on our web site. To view the list, please visit <http://www.ewashtenaw.org> and type "Waste Knot 2003" into the search field.

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register with the program and receive collection boxes and bags for their rechargeable batteries. Boxes are relatively small (12.5" x 13" x 8.5") and store easily in a corner. Once a rechargeable battery can no longer be used, it is placed in one of the bags provided and placed in the collection box. When the box is full, it is simply shipped back to the recycling facility where a thermal recovery process reclaims the metals (nickel, iron, cadmium, lead, and cobalt) and prepares them for use in new products such as new batteries and stainless steel.



So which rechargeable batteries will the RBRC accept for recycling?

Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH): These batteries are often found in computers, cellular phones, camcorders and other cordless products.

Lithium Ion (Li-ion): These batteries are often found in computers, cellular phones, camcorders and other cordless products.

Sealed Lead Acid (Pb): These batteries are commonly used for emergency lighting, backup power and camcorders.

Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd): These batteries are often found in power tools, laptop computers and other cordless products.

Registering for the program with the RBRC is quick and easy. For more information, visit www.rbrc.org and click on the tab that corresponds to your type of organization (Retail, Community/Public Agency or Business). For general business questions, email business@rbrc.org or call (320) 963-2232.

Please direct all of your questions, comments and suggestions to:



Marshall Labadie, (734) 994-2435
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.

Unusual Discards Can Find a New Home

Looking for an outlet for hard-to-recycle discards? The Scrap Box, in Ann Arbor, can assist your organization in reducing solid waste costs while providing low-cost arts and crafts materials for children and adults.

The Scrap Box provides a unique opportunity for reusing materials that might otherwise end up in landfills. They accept scraps, seconds and promotional items from factories and businesses all over Southeast Michigan. These scraps are then resold to the public for arts and crafts projects or used in special workshops at the store. Recycling education is also an integral part of these workshops. Workshops promote open-ended projects, as children get to stretch their imaginations by utilizing items not immediately recognized as useful arts and crafts materials.



Materials may be donated to The Scrap Box on a one-time or periodic basis. If located within their normal service area, they may be able to arrange a pickup service. For periodic donations, they can provide a free on-site evaluation to make sure donations are suitable. Glass and sharp items are not accepted and materials must be clean and non-toxic. Since The Scrap Box is a non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible.

If your organization is interested in decreasing solid waste costs in a new and unique way, please contact The Scrap Box at (734) 994-0012 or stop by the store (581 State Circle) whenever it's open. (For hours, call the telephone number above.)

What Will the Scrap Box Accept?

The Scrap Box will accept a variety of scrap material donations. Please contact them at (734) 994-0012 for more information on donation suitability.

- Die-cut plastic or foam pieces
- Surplus promotional items
- Upholstery, fabric, and tile samples
- Packaging containers
- Telephone wire
- Picture calendars
- Unprinted white or colored paper
- Outdated office stationery
- Discontinued/off-specification items

The Scrap Box **will not accept:**

- Glass
- Sharp items
- Soiled items
- Toxic materials
- Materials with a strong odor
- Overly large, hard-to-handle items
- Materials more suited to The Re-Use Center

Calendar of Events

September 2003

2003 National Recycling Coalition Conference – Sept. 14-17, Baltimore, MD. For more information, please visit www.nrc-recycle.org.

National Pollution Prevention Week – Sept. 15-21. For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/deq and type "P2 Week" into the search field.

November 2003

11th Annual Waste Reduction and Energy Efficiency Workshop – Nov. 5, Livonia MI. For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/deq and type "11th annual waste reduction workshop" into the search field.



America Recycles Day – Nov. 15. Look for events around Washtenaw County. For more information and participation ideas, please visit www.americarecyclesday.org.

January 2004

National Radon Action Month – Test your business for radon. For more information, please visit www.ewashtenaw.org and type "What is radon" into the search field.

October 2003

Energy Awareness Month – Work to reduce your organization's energy consumption. Assistance is available through the State of Michigan RETAP program (see page 2 for details).

Fire Prevention Week – Oct. 5-11. For more information, please visit www.nfpa.org/FPW/index.asp.

December 2003

Opportunities to take advantage of the numerous free programs offered by the MDEQ! Please see page 2 for details.

February 2004

National Wildbird Feeding Month – Set up bird feeders around your facility to help get in touch with nature while on the job. For more information, please visit www.birdfeeding.org.



Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program
705 N. Zeeb Road
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

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