



# 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.*

Fall 2005

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

Congratulations to winners of the 2005 Environmental Excellence Awards:

Overall Winner: Recellular, Inc.

Excellence in Water Quality Protection: Daimler Chrysler Proving Grounds

Excellence in Waste Reduction and Recycling: Cardea Construction

Excellence in Pollution Prevention: Elastizell, Inc.

Washtenaw County appreciates your participation in improving the quality of county workplaces!

## Waste Knot Partner Spotlight: Thomson-Shore

This fall, the Washtenaw County Waste Knot Program would like to spotlight Thomson-Shore—a Waste Knot Partner since 2004—for excellence in waste reduction and recycling practices. Thomson-Shore received an Honorable Mention this year for Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention, and after a recent visit to their facility, it is clear to us that they are making every effort to become as “green” as possible.

Thomson-Shore is a short-to medium-run book manufacturer located in Dexter, MI. They are almost 100% employee-owned, and through involvement in decisions that affect the financial success of the company, employees are very conscious of just how much money Thomson-Shore saves each year on waste reduction practices. Fewer trips to the landfill equate to fewer dollars spent on trash, and huge cardboard boxes dot the warehouse for the purpose of keeping that waste down. Because the system is so ingrained, more often than not, no box labels are needed to let 256 employees know where recycling occurs.

And boy, do they recycle. In 2005 Thomson-Shore recycled 1,321,000 lbs of paper, 78,470 lbs of cardboard, 533,000 lbs

of plastic and 107,000 lbs of aluminum plates. They recycle so much that their recycling hauler picks up three truckloads each week!



Thomson-Shore has also made improvements to their building to make recycling easier and increase energy efficiency. Pipes line the ceiling of the warehouse, transporting waste paper to a central location. An in-house



solvent recycler allows Thomson-Shore to reuse waste sludge created during the printing process. This procedure reduces both the amount of toxic chemicals sent into the waste stream and the amount of new solvent that needs to be purchased. Fluorescent lamps have been replaced

with eco-safe lamps and 25% of Thomson-Shore's outgoing product is now made with post-consumer recycled material. Thomson-Shore was also the first book manufacturer to join the Green Press Initiative, a non-profit program made up of social and environmental entrepreneurs dedicated to increasing the use of environmentally preferable paper within the book industry.

We asked Maintenance Manager, Steve Strobel, and HR Manager, Lori Minnick, if they had any advice for other organizations interested in implementing or improving their own waste reduction and recycling programs. Steve suggests to “start any way you can and start small.” Setting goals is the key. Recycling doesn't have to be fancy—Thomson-Shore is testament to the fact that un-marked boxes can do the trick if employees know to use those boxes for recycling. Lori suggests placing recycling bins next to every trash can so there is always that option to recycle.

Congratulations to Thomson-Shore from the Waste Knot Program in succeeding in their “green” goals.

## Spring 2005 Regional Clean-up Day Report

Washtenaw County's Department of Planning and Environment spring clean up days have been a success!

The clean up days accepted a broad range of materials from electronic waste to construction and demolition debris. Over 135 tons of material was recycled and approximately 122 tons of materials were disposed in proper fashion. The items for disposal were items not normally accepted in a curbside residential trash hauling service.

These collections provided a unique opportunity to the host communities. The effort brought together volunteers and communities which provided recycling op-

portunities for items not readily available in the local communities. Local municipalities usually



Line-up at the Chelsea Fairgrounds

hold one day collections but the regional collection program reduces redundancy, enhances service, and increases opportunities for all citizens. Regional collections may also prevent road-

side littering and illegal dumping by accepting solid waste disposal for items not accepted curbside.

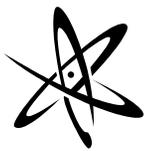
Approximately 1,000 households took advantage of this low to no cost opportunity. Most participants lived within 10 miles of the collection however some participants drove over 20 miles to participate. Making these collections virtually free did add to the loads being received but also broadened participation. Donations collected offset the cost for the refreshments, food served to volunteers (approximately 20 per collection), advertising and some minor repairs to surfaces where collections were held.



*The rumors are false! Your computer will NOT last longer if it is never turned off.*

*It costs Washtenaw County approximately \$110,000 each year to power 1,450 computers. If all county employees were to put their computers in standby mode and turn them off at night we would save \$70,000 per year!*

*Visit <http://eetd/LBL.gov/BEA/SF/> to learn more about reducing energy use in office equipment.*



## Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home and Work

Natural gas prices have already reached record highs, and steady increases are expected throughout the coming winter. Home and office heating bills could be a little less painful by following a few proactive steps to cut down on use, and costs for many years to come. All of these energy saving tips can be used interchangeably at home and work:

1. Turn down the heat when your home or office is unoccupied and when you sleep. Set the thermostat at 60°F or install a programmable thermostat (~\$40 at most hardware stores such as Jack's, True Value and Ace Hardware) to turn down the heat automatically during these times.
2. Keep your home's water heater at 115°F.
3. Clean air filters on your furnace, air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators on a monthly basis. Also make sure they are not blocked.
4. Seal air leaks by caulking and sealing around windows, doors, plumbing penetrations, electrical outlets, floors and ceilings. Also install door sweeps under all external doors.
5. Tightly shut flue damper in your fireplace (only when the fireplace is not in use!)
6. Use kitchen/bathroom ventilation fans wisely—they can put out a household of warm air in a matter of an hour.
7. Insulate the attic with R-49 insulation.
8. Insulate your hot water tank and pipes
9. Install storm windows over single-paned windows or replace them with double-pane windows. A cheaper (and short-term) solution is to attach a heavy duty, clear plastic sheet across each window. The plastic must be sealed tightly to the window to reduce heat loss.
10. Computers—Ensure that standby mode is enabled (10 minutes is recommended) and computers are being turned off at night. Replace older, large monitors with newer, flat screen monitors.
11. Lighting—Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs—they use 75% less energy. And turn the lights off when you leave the room!
12. Space Heaters—Make sure employees are not using space heaters because they cause an imbalance in the heating system, are dangerous, and use a lot more electricity than you'd think (typically 2500 watts!).

## What's Best When You're Cleaning the Nest

As temperatures begin to drop outside, many of us are cleaning out our homes and garages in preparation to settle in for the winter. Here is just a quick reminder of proper storage and disposal methods for some common household hazardous materials.

### Latex Paint.

If the label on that old paint can says "vinyl," "acrylic" or "latex," the paint is water-based. Write the date on the label when you first purchase the paint so you won't forget how old it is. Storing the can upside down will create an airtight seal that will extend the life of the paint. Be sure to protect the can from freezing. If your paint is still usable, share! Contact a community organization such as a school or a theater to see if they would accept your donation.

Don't use old paint that looks lumpy, won't mix properly, or smells sour. If you have unusable latex paint, you must allow it to dry before disposing of the can. Leave the lid off for a few days; you may also add sawdust or kitty litter to speed the drying process. Once the paint is too thick to run out of the can when lying on its side, you may dispose of the can – sludge and all – directly in the trash. Be sure to leave the lid off so the sanitation workers can see that the paint is dried. Never pour latex paint down the drain: doing so can harm your septic system and contaminate our wastewater treatment plants. If the paint was purchased

before 1992, it may contain mercury. Look for *phenyl mercury*, *mercury acetate*, *mercury succinate* or *mildew resistant* on the label. If your paint contains mercury, do not reuse it; see below for disposal options. Similarly, lead was banned as a paint pigment in 1973. If you suspect your paint contains lead, see below for disposal options.

### Oil-based Paint.

Again, share leftover paint with community organizations whenever possible. If unusable, do not try to dry out oil-based paint at home; instead, follow the disposal options below.



### Home Maintenance Products.

Adding a fuel stabilizer will prolong the life of two-cycle engine fuel (boat motors, lawn trimmers). After using an additive, place the fuel storage container in a well-ventilated area away from any open flame. Old gasoline will lacquer and can ruin a carburetor or engine. To reuse old gasoline, dilute by a ratio of at least 4 parts fresh gasoline per 1 part old gasoline. If you choose not to reuse old gasoline, please follow the disposal options below. Al-

though flammable materials can usually be stored in a building susceptible to freezing without harming their effectiveness, now is a good time to ensure that home repair products such as paint, aerosol cans and pesticides are stored far away from freezing danger. Lawn-care products such as pesticides and fertilizers should also be kept dry. Make it a habit to read all the labels on these materials to ensure maximum shelf life and proper care.

If you must dispose of mercury- or lead-containing latex paint, oil-based paint, varnish, stain, thinners, strippers, old gasoline, pesticides or fertilizers, you may do so free of charge at the Washtenaw County Home Toxics Collection, located at the Western Washtenaw County Service Center. All County residents are invited to drop off any toxic household items between 9 am and noon every Saturday from the first week of April until the first week of December (holiday weekends excluded).

Call the Home Toxics hotline 24 hours a day at 222-3950 for a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials – or visit our website, <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org>. This website contains links to the Turning Trash into Treasures Guide, which lists local agencies that will accept not only latex paint but any household item you have for reuse.

*Visit the Washtenaw County Turning Trash into Treasures Guide at:*

*<http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org> for creative tips on how to reduce your waste as well as a list of local agencies that will reuse or recycle many of your household items. You'll see how one person's trash may be a valuable resource to someone else.*



*Waste Knot Partners Sandi, Jason, and Linda from Trillium Real Estate are all smiles!*

## America Recycles Day Celebration a Success!

Over 50 Waste Knot Partners, Washtenaw County staff, volunteers and recyclers attended the 3rd annual Washtenaw County Recycles Day Celebration, held on Thursday, November 10th at Leopold Bros. Brewery in Ann Arbor.

The event was a great success, drawing people from all over the County to eat, drink, network and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Leopold Bros. The excitement hit its peak when four lucky raffle contestants won fleece jackets made from recycled water bottles. Big thanks to those who came out to support Washtenaw County and America Recycles!

# 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.

Stay tuned for your invitation to the Spring 2006 Waste Knot awards ceremony!

### Auto Maintenance/Repair Partners

C&T Collision, Inc.  
City Body, Inc.  
Roberts Paint & Body, Inc.  
Thorton's All Star Auto Salvage

### Business Office Partners

Ann Arbor Architects Collaborative  
Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors  
Barr Engineering Co.  
Black & Veatch  
Bowen & Barber, L.L.C.  
Carol L Hoffer, CLU  
Chelsea Animal Hospital  
Cimulus, Inc.  
Cybernet Systems Corp.  
David W. Osler Associates, Inc.  
Dominant Systems Corp.  
Domino's Farm Corporation  
Edward Jones Investments  
Forefront Corporation  
Harris & Baseview  
Hobbs & Black Associates, Inc.  
John D. Erdevig, Attorney at Law  
Law Offices of Helen Conklin Vick  
Manchester & Associates  
Materialise  
Mitchell and Mouat Architects, Inc.  
Moore Power Marketing  
Palmer Insurance  
Quinn Evans | Architects  
SGI Publications  
Silver Birch Engineering, LLC  
Smith Group JJR  
Swisher Commercial  
The Chelsea Collection  
The Traverse Group, Inc.  
Trillium Real Estate  
West Pole, Inc.

### Chamber Partners

Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce  
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce

### Construction/Demolition Partners

Calvert's Rolloff Containers  
Cardea Construction Co.  
Heart and Soul Landscaping, Inc.  
Homeowner Services of America, Inc.  
Nature and Nurture, LLC  
TDF II Hauling and Plowing

### Government Partners

Ann Arbor District Library  
Ann Arbor Learning Community  
Chelsea District Library  
City of Ann Arbor, City Hall  
City of Ann Arbor, Farmers Market  
City of Saline  
Federal Correctional Institution  
Freedom Township  
Great Lakes Science Center  
Pittsfield Charter Township  
Saline District Library  
Village of Dexter  
Village of Chelsea  
Washtenaw County Conservation District

### Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

### Manufacturing Partners

Automotive Components Holdings, LLC—Rawsonville Plant  
Automotive Components Holdings, LLC—Saline Plant

### Automotive Components Holdings,

LLC—Ypsilanti Plant  
Chelsea Milling Company  
Data Optics, Inc.  
Elastizell Corporation of America  
Essen Instruments, Inc.  
Goetzcraft Printers, Inc.  
Horiba Instruments  
JAC Products, Inc.  
Kaiser Optical Systems, Inc.  
Malloy Inc.  
McNaughton&Gunn, Inc.  
Mikan Corporation  
NSK Corporation  
Nustep, Inc.  
SoloHill Engineering  
Thompson-Shore Printing

### Non-Profit Partners

American Cancer Society  
Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau  
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum  
Clean Water Action  
Colonial Square Cooperative  
Ecology Center  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Food Gatherers  
Frontline Church  
Growing Hope  
High/Scope Education Research Foundation  
Legal Services of SouthCentral Michigan  
Michigan Peaceworks  
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan  
NSF International  
NEW Center  
Performance Network  
Recycle Ann Arbor  
The Scrap Box  
The Women's Center of America

### Research and Development Partners

Subaru Research and Development, Inc.  
Pfizer Global Research and Development

### Restaurant Partners

Arbor Brewing Company  
Dominick's  
Georgetown Country Club  
Leopold Brothers of Ann Arbor  
Northside Grill  
Seva Restaurant  
Sweetwaters Café  
Zingerman's Delicatessen

### Retail/Wholesale Partners

Arrow Awards  
Batteries Plus  
Dixboro General Store  
Dragons Lair Futons  
G.E. Wacker, Inc.  
Generations  
Forma Fine Crafts  
King's Keyboard House  
Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes, Inc.  
Materials Unlimited  
Miles of Golf  
People's Food Coop & Café Verde  
Pro Comm/Wolverine Wireless

### ReCellular Inc.

Saline Picture Frame Company  
Shaman Drum Bookshop  
Signs by Tomorrow  
Toner Supply ISO9001 Certified  
Ypsilanti Food cooperative

### School Partners

Ann Arbor Learning Community  
Forsythe Middle School  
Lincoln Consolidated High School  
Rudolf Steiner School  
South Arbor Charter Academy  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish & School  
University of Michigan  
Washtenaw Community College

### Service Partners

1-800-Got-Junk?  
Ann Arbor News  
Arbor Psychological Consultants,  
Arbor Springs Water Company, Inc.  
Babel Latina, Inc. Editorial Group  
Barbara Boyk, Ph.D  
Coach's Catastrophe Cleaning Services  
David Meyer Photography  
Design My Wedding  
DTE Energy  
Eckland Imaging & Design  
Electronics Service Center, Inc.  
Harrington's Standard Printing  
InPrint, Inc.  
Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio  
Kleanthous Family Foot Clinic  
Liebherr Gear Technology  
Linda Feldt  
Lodi Farms, LTD  
Marsha Traxler, RN, RPP  
Master Tech Appliance Service, Inc.  
Organizational Designs, Inc.  
Palmer Studio  
Parcel Plus  
Print-Tech  
Secure ECO Shred  
SelectRide, Inc.  
Sustainable Systems, Inc.  
Tel Systems/Thalner Electronics  
Unibar Maintenance Services, Inc.  
UPS Store  
Weber's Inn

### Other Partners

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority  
Assay Designs, Inc.  
Klave's Marina, Inc.  
RJ Frank Home Inspections Labs  
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital  
University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers  
Village Cooperative Homes, Inc.  
**Certificates of Merit**  
A.F. Smith Electric, Inc.  
Chelsea Animal Hospital  
City of Milan  
Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce  
Ecumenical Center and International Residence  
St. Louis Center

