White House Task Force on Recycling

Inside

News at the White House Task Force on Recycling

2

Biodiesel Demonstrations on the Way

2

USDA Announces New Bioenergy Program

3

Use of Re-Refined Oil at 87% Compliance!

4

Re-Refined Oil Now Available Through Local Service Stations

4

Recycling Outside the Box

5

It's Time to Recycle Your Ceiling

5

JWOD Supporting Greening Efforts

6

Saving Drums Saves Money

7

20th Annual National Recycling Congress and Exposition

8



United States
White House Task Force on Recycling

Winter 2001 Issue 21

Closing the Circle News

13101 Reasons to Reduce Solid Waste

ederal agencies can now join over 1,000 businesses, state and local governments, and other organizations that have realized the environmental and cost-saving potential of reducing their municipal solid waste by becoming a member of WasteWise voluntary partnership program. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WasteWise helps organizations of all sizes prevent waste, recycle, and buy recycled content products. During a special campaign, the EPA is promoting Federal facility participation as WasteWise "partners", helping them realize the benefits of sound waste management practices. This effort will also help agencies comply with Executive Order 13101, directing Federal agencies to reduce waste.

WasteWise provides support in three core program areas: waste prevention, recycling, and

buying and manufacturing products with recycled materials. Over the last six years WasteWise has helped its partners to save more than \$1.2 billion in avoided disposal costs, prevented more than 3 million tons of waste, and recycled 32 million tons of material.

For Federal agencies, teaming with WasteWise "only makes sense; there is a natural link between WasteWise and Executive Order 13101," notes Linda Mesaros, Chief of Staff, White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling. "WasteWise partnership benefits Federal agencies by helping them increase their operational efficiencies and reduce waste." Participation in WasteWise helps Federal agencies meet their Executive Order obligations in several ways, as demonstrated in the table below.

continued on next page

WasteWise and E.O. 13101

Executive Order 13101

DIRECTS Federal Facilities to:

- Implement cost-effective waste prevention, recycling, and buy-recycled programs.
- Set goals, track and measure results, and report on their progress.
- Design, implement, and document programs and results.
- Provide internal recognition for successful efforts.

EPAs WasteWise Program

- Provides focused information, resources, and experiences on waste prevention, recycling, and buy-recycled programs.
- Maintains resources and staff who personally help partners set goals, track results, and report annual progress.
- Offers a well-developed approach to program design, implementation, and documentation of results.
- Assembles local and national recognition opportunities to promote partners' successful efforts.

News at the White House Task Force on Recycling

ran McPoland, the Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) since 1994, has left the Federal government for an exciting new opportunity in the private sector. She has accepted a senior level position in Washington, DC with an e-marketing company developing a new web site to make buying recycled content, environmentally preferable, and other green products easier for Federal employees and private companies. She leaves us with a record of success in increasing Federal government leadership in waste prevention, recycling, and buying green products. Our best wishes to Ms. McPoland and the greatest success in her new endeavors!

Until a new FEE is appointed, the White House Task Force on Recycling will continue to work aggressively on issues in waste prevention, recycling, and Federal acquisition under the leadership of Linda Mesaros. Ms. Mesaros has been Chief of Staff since 1998. If you should have any comments or questions, she can be contacted at (202) 564-1297 or by E-mail at: Linda.Mesaros@ofee.gov.

Biodiesel Demonstrations on the Way

Biodiesel is an environmentally preferable alternative fuel produced from renewable resources such as vegetable oils or animal fats, and it has positive environmental, resource conservation, pollution prevention, and agricultural sustainability impacts. The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Maryland has recently begun several pilot efforts using soybean oil-based biodiesel both as an alternative petroleum diesel fuel and as an alternative home heating fuel. BARC has also initiated a number of outreach activities to encourage other Federal agencies to use biodiesel.

Biodiesel as an Alternative to Petroleum Diesel Fuel

Typically, biodiesel is soybean oil (20 percent) blended with petroleum diesel (80 percent) when used as an alternate petroleum diesel fuel. The resultant mixture, B20, does not require any vehicle modifications and can be utilized in any diesel engine. Biodiesel is the only Energy Policy Act (EPACT) approved alternative fuel that agencies can use without having to buy an alternative fuel vehicle, which makes it the most economical way to comply with EPAct!

A year-long biodiesel demonstration was initiated last year where all 150 diesel-powered vehicles at BARC were fueled with B20. It included trucks, tractors, mowers, front end loaders, backhoes, bull dozers, a tour bus and various other pieces of equipment including farm machinery.

Little change in the maintenance and operation of vehicles was observed. George Meyers, a Tractor Operator Leader from Farm Operations Branch stated that the only "problem" with B20 is that there is no difference. When asked questions about the effects of the biodiesel blend being used, he said that the switch was "transparent".

On average, biodiesel costs about 25 cents more per gallon than regular diesel. This price differential changes with the price of diesel and the quantity of the contract customers have

continued on next page

13101 from previous page

Over the past 6 years, WasteWise has developed a comprehensive network for serving partners' waste reduction needs. WasteWise partners have access to a wealth of free technical assistance services to help them design and implement waste reduction programs.

These include:

- A toll-free Helpline to answer questions about the program and specific waste reduction issues;
- A team of WasteWise representatives to research technical issues and assist partners in implementing their waste reduction programs;

- Customized onsite visits to help organizations identify waste assessment options and new ideas for program development;
- A Web site and list server to provide timely electronic communication among partners and offer quick access to helpful resources; and
- A library of technical assistance resources to keep partners on the cutting edge of waste reduction strategies.

WasteWise encourages Federal agencies to join now. For more information on the WasteWise program, call the toll-free Help line at 800 EPA-WISE (372-9473), e-mail at www@cais.net, or visit the Web site at www.epa.gov/wastewise.

BIODIESEL from previous page

for biodiesel. A management decision was made to indefinitely continue using B20 after the one year demonstration period ended. To date, over 20,000 gallons of soybean oil (B100) have been blended and used in the Beltsville Biodiesel Demonstration.

Biodiesel as an Alternate Home Heating Oil

For this winter home heating season, a biodiesel demonstration has also been initiated in one of the four major heating plants on the BARC campus. A B5 blend (5 percent soybean-based oil plus 95 percent #2 home heating oil) is currently being used. Results of this effort will be available in the spring time.

Biodiesel Outreach Activities

A variety of outreach activities have been successful in getting other Agencies to weigh the merits of using biodiesel in their diesel fleets. One example includes a "Biodiesel Kick-Off Demonstration Delivery and Splashing" event held at BARC. Since no local source of the blended fuel was available, biodiesel soybean oil and petroleum diesel were purchased separately and splash-blended in underground storage tanks. At the "Kick-Off" event, representatives from the National Biodiesel Board, American Soybean Association, USDA-ARS, and the Defense Energy Supply Center of the Defense Logistics Agency (the primary supplier of fuels to Federal agencies) were on hand to observe the initial blending of the fuels and partake in an inaugural ride on the biodiesel-powered tour bus.

Why Biodiesel?

- Using biodiesel reduces nearly all forms of air pollution, most importantly, carbon monoxide, particulates, air toxics, and cancer-causing compounds.
- A 10 to 20 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions can be realized over the life cycle (planting, growing, harvesting, and processing) of soybeans and other plants.
- Biodiesel is a renewable resource, while petroleum diesel is a non-renewable resource and contributes to United States' dependency on foreign imports.
- Each acre of soybeans can yield 60 gallons of soybean oil which can be processed into biodiesel. This equates to 4.3 billion gallons per year at current planting rates in the USA. A sustained market of 100 million gallons of soybean oil-derived biodiesel would increase soybean prices by nine cents a bushel.

For more information contact Dr. Ron Korcak at BARC at 301-504-5193 or KorcakR@ba.ars.usda.gov.

USDA Announces New Bioenergy Program

ast October, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced details of a new \$300 million program to encourage expanded production of environmentally-friendly fuels made from corn, soybeans, and other crops. The program will help expand markets for agricultural commodities and promote use of bio-fuels like ethanol and soy-based biodiesel.

Under the new initiative, USDA will make cash payments to bioenergy companies that increase their purchases of corn, soybeans, and other commodities to expand production of ethanol, biodiesel, or other biofuels. The program will provide higher payments to small and new-to-market processors, including cooperatives, to encourage the expansion of domestic bioenergy production capacity. USDA will provide up to \$150 million for the program this fiscal year and another \$150 million in fiscal year 2002.

USDA is soliciting proposals for biomass projects that use harvested vegetation to produce energy. Biomass, plant materials containing cellulose and lignin, can be burned, converted into combustible gas, or used to produce liquid fuels. Pilot projects will be for a minimum period of 10 years



and the total acreage per project may not exceed 50,000 acres. The maximum acreage for all pilot projects will not exceed 250,000 acres. No more than one project will be approved in any state. Those interested in submitting proposals should contact their State Farm Service Agency. Further information is available on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/bioenergy/bioenergy.htm .

Use of Re-Refined Oil at 87% Compliance!

Since the inception of Defense Supply Center Richmond's re-refined oil program in 1995, customer demand has continued to grow. Total commercial oil purchased from DSCR last fiscal year was \$1,050,175.00. Of that, \$921,778.00 - about 87 percent - was commercial re-refined oil!

DSCR offers two re-refined motor oil programs to its customers. The Basic Re-refined Motor Oil Program offers re-refined motor oil to Federal civilian and military agencies worldwide. The Closed Loop Re-refined Motor Oil Program (Closed Loop) offers re-refined motor oil in the Continental US and includes free pick-up of the customers waste oil, up to 120 percent of what is purchased. Both programs have packaged products that are readily available to the customer and are competitively priced when compared to virgin oils. The Closed Loop Program even offers bulk deliveries if you meet the 200-gallon minimum order requirement.

At the direction of Mr. Dave Oliver, the Principal Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, DSCR implemented an Automatic Substitution Policy where re-refined oil is automatically substituted for DoD commercial virgin oil requisitions that have a re-refined oil counterpart. This has helped customers comply with Executive Orders 13101 and 13149 and increase their re-refined oil usage. Likewise, automatic substitution policies are in place for the

Departments of Justice, the Interior, and Transportation. Additionally, DSCR has diligently worked with the U.S. Postal Service Fleet Managers, and many of them are now participating in the DSCR Closed Loop Program.

One example of the increase in re-refined oil usage lies within the Department of Defense. As a percentage of DSCR total comparable virgin/re-refined oil usage, DoD has moved from 8.6 percent re-refined oil usage in FY97, to 18.8 percent in FY98, to 27.5 percent in FY99, and 38.4 percent in FY00. Factoring in the automatic substitution policies, DSCR's total re-refined oil usage was up approximately 50.4 percent in FY00 compared to FY99. While there is still much room for growth in this area both within the Department of Defense and civilian Federal agencies, we've made significant progress.

Federal military and civilian consumers of virgin oil products may purchase rerefined motor oil from DSCR. This will help in complying with Executive Orders 13101 and 13149 and, due to the rising costs of crude oil, may reduce overall costs associated with the purchasing of motor oil. To place an order you can call the DSCR Call Center @ 804-279-4865 and press 0. Or use your government credit card by accessing website www.emall.dla.mil. For questions concerning DSCR's Re-refined Oil Programs you may contact Mr. Jim Fazzio @ commercial 804-279-4908 or DSN 695-4908.

Re-Refined Oil Now Available Through Local Service Stations

Executive Order 13149, "Greening the Government Through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency," directed that, starting October 22, 2000, "no Federal agencies shall purchase, sell, or arrange for the purchase of virgin petroleum motor vehicle lubricating oils when re-refined motor vehicle lubricating oils are reasonably available and meet the vehicle manufacturer's recommended performance standards." Finding sources of re-refined oil has been a problem, however. Agencies with vehicle maintenance facilities can and are purchasing commercial and military spec re-refined oil from the Defense Supply Center Richmond (see accompanying article). Where do you go if you service your vehicle using a government credit card?

Re-refined oil is now available from Jiffy Lubes in the states of Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Washington, the cities of Austin, Las Vegas, and St. Louis, and from sources in Colorado, Wyoming, California, Hawaii, and Alaska. The oil is available in 5W30, 10W30, and 15W40 weights and is fully compliant with applicable American Petroleum Institute and vehicle manufacturer's requirements. For the sources nearest you, contact Dana Arnold of the White House Task Force on Recycling at dana.arnold@ofee.gov or call (202) 564-9319.

As of the end of November 2000, re-refined oil is also available in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. For the first time, Federal agencies will be able to use re-refined oil in their executive lease vehicles. Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler dealerships that service these vehicles have agreed to use re-refined oil during routine oil changes. Local service stations also will be stocking re-refined oil to service Federal fleet vehicles in the DC area.

Recycling Outside the Box

ere is a list of useful contacts for those "hard to recycle" items we frequently encounter in the workplace and at home!

Used video tapes: Mail to Eco-Media Recycling Centers, 5427 E. La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92807.

Discarded Tyvek (Priority and Express mail) envelopes: Call (800) 44-TYVEK to receive a Tyvek
Recycling Pouch. A pre-paid, pre-addressed label is
affixed to the pouch, so all you have to do is drop the
pouch in the mail once it is filled with the discarded
envelopes.

3.5" Diskettes: Unwanted diskettes can be donated to USA City Link Project, Attention: Floppies for Kids, 4060 Highway 59, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Transparencies: Call (800) 952-4059 and 3M will send you all the information you need to know to get your transparency film to their recycling center.

Used Stretch Film and Plastic Grocery Sacks: Trex Company of Winchester, VA wants it, and they will pay you \$60-\$120 per ton for used PE film on a regular basis and they pay freight costs. Trex Co. turns your stretch film (mixed with waste wood) into an exciting new decking product called Trex Easy Care Decking. Call 1-877-319-9795 for more information.

Ceiling Tiles: Call 1-888-234-5464 or visit for complete information on Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program. (Also see the related article below for more information.)

It's Time to Recycle Your Ceiling

A new, improved program for recycling ceilings tiles makes it easy for building owners to follow green building practices and become models for safeguarding the environment.

Armstrong World Industries, the world's leading producer of acoustical ceilings, has streamlined its Ceiling Recycling Program and is now the first ceiling manufacturer to offer recycling as an environmentally friendly alternative to disposing of old commercial ceiling tiles. The program enables building owners to quickly and easily ship old ceiling tiles from renovation projects to an Armstrong ceiling plant, diverting the material from landfill disposal. Armstrong even pays freight cost for shipping the old ceiling tiles, which it uses as raw materials in the manufacture of new, high-performance acoustical ceiling tiles.

The program involves three simple steps. First, building owners need to verify with an Armstrong representative that their old tiles can be recycled. Following verification, the building owner must stack the old ceiling tiles on pallets and wrap them for pick-up. Once there is a full trailer load of old ceiling tiles, the owner simply contacts Armstrong. Armstrong will then work with the building owner to arrange for a truck to pick up the material anywhere in the continental United States and transfer it to Armstrong's nearest manufacturing facility.

A recent Armstrong analysis of the process for recycling old ceiling tiles proved that recovering the tiles is nearly as fast as dumping them. Therefore, Armstrong's program will have little, if any, adverse impact on large demolition schedules. Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program can be less expensive than the cost of local handling, transport, dumpster, and landfill fees. On a large building project, nearly one pound of scrap ceiling tiles can be generated per square

foot remodeled. A 1997 renovation of Microsoft's Washington campus, for example, generated 86 tons of ceiling tiles. Recycling this material cost \$3,930, compared to an estimated \$8,000 disposal fee.

A number of environmentally sensitive corporations, such as Aetna and Herman Miller, and a South Carolina School District, are benefitting from Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program in an effort to cut back on landfill disposal of building materials. As a leading worldwide provider of health and financial services, Aetna is uniquely aware of the environment and its effect on the earth's inhabitants. That's one reason why Aetna decided to use Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program when it began to transform its 180,000 square-foot Windsor, Connecticut office facility into a call center.

Herman Miller went a step further. As part of a recent renovation project, the company not only used Armstrong to recycle over 30,000 square feet (approximately 15 tons) of old acoustical ceiling panel, but also replaced the old panels with Armstrong's new high light-reflectance panels that help reduce the amount of energy required to light the space.

The Fort Mill South Carolina School District decided to use Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program in the conversion of Fort Mill Primary School into a full elementary school. As part of the renovation and expansion of the primary school, the district replaced 35,000 square feet of ceiling panels. The Fort Mill School District is the first in the nation to recycle its old acoustical ceiling panels rather than sending them to a landfill.

To obtain additional information on Armstrong's Ceiling Recycling Program or to obtain a copy of Armstrong's "Ceiling Recycling Program" brochure, call 1-888-234-5464 or visit www.ceilings.com for complete product information.

JWOD Supporting Greening Efforts

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

Oral Tradition, Teton Sioux



t would be an exceedingly greedy and, dare I say, - not a very smart frog that would attempt to consume that pond upon which it depends for its very life! The timeless wisdom this message imparts is just as applicable to those of us of the human persuasion. Fortunately, Americans today are wise to the fact that we simply cannot continue to consume and dispose of the earth's natural resources without eventually suffering the consequences. Meanwhile, the dilemma is such that we live in the 21st century and, in reality, we simply must purchase and use certain tools, supplies, and services that help us accomplish our daily tasks on the job and to live a certain lifestyle. What's an environmentally conscious consumer and employee to do?

The good news for Federal employees is that you are not alone in your efforts to ensure that you make sound environmental decisions when you purchase products and services for your office, workshop, medical facility, or other work environment. In fact, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program has stepped up the pace in its efforts to furnish Federal customers with the "green" products and services that they now demand. JWOD is a mandatory source of products and services to the Federal government that creates employment and job training opportunities for individuals who are blind or who have other severe disabilities.

The JWOD Program is now taking a role in Federal environmental initiatives. They recognize that in creating a more sustainable business economy, which includes environmental factors in business models and equations, there is tremendous opportunity to create more sustainable employment opportunities for people with disabilities. As the demand for greener products and services increases, the JWOD Program sees the number of jobs for individuals who are blind or severely disabled increasing as well. Recycling services and custodial and grounds maintenance contracts that include environmental products and services are just a few areas were JWOD nonprofit agencies are finding new employment opportunities and new ways to accommodate Federal and state government specifications.

JWOD office paper products meet the Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for 30 percent postconsumer recycled content fiber. The JWOD Program has even stepped up to the "cutting edge" by offering writing tablets that are 100 percent postconsumer

fiber and process chlorine free, which goes beyond the EPA guidelines. And speaking of "cutting edge" technology, another JWOD Program associated nonprofit agency is working on the development of cutlery that is manufactured using a biobased resin, which does not leave behind harmful petroleum-based residues once it decomposes.

In order to make it easy for the Federal buyer to follow environmental purchasing requirements set forth in Executive Order 13101 and RCRA, a new "Environmental" JWOD Green Logo (featured in this article) has been developed and will be used in print and e-catalogs, in marketing materials and brochures, and on product packaging, to help customers identify the JWOD products and services that meet or exceed

continued on next page



Saving Drums Saves Money

arlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency desig-nated industrial drums as a recycled content product that agencies must purchase in accordance with RCRA 6002 buy recycled requirements. For steel, plastic, and fiber drums, EPA recommended specific recycled content levels. EPA also recommended that agencies reuse drums, use reconditioned drums, and/or procure the services of drum reconditioners.

There are many benefits to using reconditioned industrial drums. The Reusable Industrial Pack-aging Association (RIPA) conducted a "life cycle analysis" for steel drums which documents the cost savings and the environmental and energy benefits associated with reconditioning (available at

ww.reusablepackaging.org/life.html). RIPA is the national trade group representing reconditioners and manufacturers of non-bulk and intermediate bulk containers (i.e., less than 3,500 gallons per U.S. DOT regulations).

RIPA's study found that the total energy costs for the manufacture and use of multi-use drums are significantly lower than for single-use drums. For steel drums, the total energy demand for multi-use drums is about 130 million Btu /1.000 drum-uses, while the total energy demand for single-use drums is 370 million Btu /1.000 drum-Plus, there are fewer disposal uses. costs for drums that are reconditioned and reused. Similar savings can be realized in the use of reconditioned plastic and fiber drums. Therefore. users of multi-use containers can capture significant cost advantages over those that rely on single-use models.

The environmental benefits to

reconditioned drums include lower atmospheric and waterborne emissions than is the case with the manufacture of single-use drums. In fact, overall atmospheric emissions are about half those associated with single-use models, and overall waterborne emissions are estimated to be 30 to 80 percent lower.

EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, www.epa.gov/cpg, identifies drum reconditioners and suppliers. Agencies can contact these companies when procuring industrial drums or drum reconditioning services. Other information on drum reconditioning and reusable packaging can be obtained at the RIPA web site: www.reusablepackaging.org.



JWOD from previous page

Federal or other private organization's environmental standards.

JWOD is also making environmental training available to the more than 700 JWOD-associated nonprofit agencies located across the nation and in Guam and Puerto Rico. "Green Guidance" and training is being developed by a nonprofit organization that specializes in life-cycle analysis, and essentially shows the nonprofit agencies steps they can take to make their products more environmentally preferable. Guidance that will provide a roadmap for "greening" custodial services is also forthcoming.

Customers can also identify JWOD environmental products in the "Environmental" storefront on the JWOD Program ecommerce site, www.jwod.com. When you visit the site you can just point and click to select CPG-compliant and other JWOD Program environmental offerings.

These initiatives are just the beginning! JWOD wants to hear from you - customers, friends, and partners on your needs, ideas, and suggestions about how to make the JWOD Program your choice for your agency's environmental purchases. Please contact them at info@www.jwod.gov.

Article submitted by Joan Smith, Program Analyst, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Handicapped

20th Annual National Recycling Congress and Exposition

ooking for the latest information on Federal waste prevention, recycling, and buying "green"? Plan now to join the White House Task Force on Recycling in Seattle, Washington, September 30 - October 3, 2001 for the 20th Annual National Recycling Congress and Exposition. We will once again team up with NRC to offer you educational sessions on reducing waste, recycling, and buying recycled content and environmentally preferable products, including bio-

You can obtain a copy of the registration form by going to NRC's web site, www.nrc-

based products.

recycle.org and clicking on "Annual Conference" and

"NRC's Conference Registration." Please note that the first early registration cut-off is March 31, 2001, which is earlier than in previous years.

NRC's Annual Congress & Exposition provides us a great opportunity to exchange new ideas about recycling, waste prevention, and green purchasing. The Congress offers

the most comprehensive, informative, educational program of any recycling conference across the country.

Come meet and exchange ideas with recycling colleagues from all levels of government, universities, non-

governmental organizations, and corporations.

White House Task Force on Recycling

VacantFederal Environmental Executive

Linda Mesaros Chief of Staff

Juan LopezDeputy Chief of Staff

Dana Arnold U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ernest Woodson U.S. General Services Administration

Rachel Eckert ORISE Research Participant: Editor, CTC News



Containing a minimum of 30 percent postconsumer fiber.

The White House Task Force on Recycling wishes to thank the U.S. General Services Administration for their help and support in producing this newsletter.

Receive *Closing the Circle News* by Mail or by going to our website:

www.ofee.gov

For mail delivery fill out and send the following information:

Name _____

Office _____

Agency/Organization _____

Mail to: Closing the Circle News

Mail Code 1600 S

1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20460

Fax: 202-564-1393

E-mail: task_force@ofee.gov