

INFORMATION

Volume 1, Issue iii

Fall 2000



Light Cycle Pick-up

Nov: 6, 7 & 27, 28

Dec: 11, 12 & 26, 27

Inside this issue:

Lazlo's/Jabrisco Launch Recycling Pilot Project	2
Omaha to Generate Electricity from Landfill	2
Markets Corner	2
INFORM Initiates New Master Agreements	3
Where Have All the Tires Gone?	3
PC Excess Compromises the Environment	4
Albertson's Bans Sale of Mercury Thermometers	4
Fall Phone Book Recycling Begins In Lincoln	4

NE Prepares for America Recycles Day November 15, 2000

Nebraskans will observe America Recycles Day November 15, 2000. This year's festivities include a tailgate party for the Husker Homecoming football game in addition to festivities in and around the stadium on November 4, and on November 11, a tour of the brand new Lincoln Children's Museum. November 4th, Midland Recycling will host a Tailgate "pARDy" at their recycling facility at 531 West P Street, immediately before the Kansas/UNL Homecoming football game. K&Z Distributing Company, a 2000 ARD sponsor, will also be participating with the introduction of their new Miller Beer in the wide mouthed plastic recycled bottle as well as NuWave bottled water. Midland Recycling will provide the game-day atmosphere under a big tent, along with food and a big

screen TV for those who don't have tickets to watch the game. The "pARDy" begins at 11:30 and shuttle service will provide transportation to and from the game for those who have tickets. In addition to providing the facility, Mike Foster, of Midland Recycling, is donating two tickets to the game to be raffled off prior to this event. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Nebraska State Recycling Association's ARD activities to ensure this annual event continues in Nebraska.

Husker Stadium will be the site of recycling activities throughout the Homecoming game! Dale Ekart and student volunteers will be distributing recycle/buy-recycled information, give-aways, and setting up recycled collection sites, as well as presenting the new America Recycles Day message commemorating the

first official UNL Recycles Day on Husker Vision. Pay attention to Husker Vision while inside the stadium as ARD and TeamMates of Nebraska will be making their "screen" debut! Saturday, November 11th from 1 - 3pm, Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Lincoln and KFOR radio, will be coordinating recycling activities at the Lincoln Children's Museum including a pledge card campaign. Children are invited to make recycled paper, and participate in fun recycling contests guessing what various recycled content products are made from. WasteCap encourages all INFORM members to join the fun and celebrate ARD at your company! INFORM members are also welcome to attend the tailgate party at Midland Recycling.

Buy Recycled Handbook Available

In early October, WasteCap of Lincoln produced a successful "Train the Trainer" workshop, featuring Vanessa Morganti from Future Solutions of Broomfield, CO. The material's focus was on Buy Recycled and Environ-

mentally Preferable Purchasing and was directed to purchasing managers.

The manual from this seminar is now available for INFORM members and other interested parties. Contact the Waste-

Cap of Lincoln office for a hard copy at 472-0888 or look for it in downloadable .PDF format on our website at www.wastecaplnk.org. Please, feel free to share this information with your company's purchasing department.

Lazlo's/Jabrisco Launch Recycling Pilot Project

With funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), WasteCap of Lincoln is working with Lazlo's Brewery & Grill and Jabrisco International to develop a restaurant recycling pilot project. The owners of these two companies are very interested in diverting wastes from the restaurants. Following a waste assessment, a meeting was held with owners and managers to discuss the implementation of the program. Materials targeted for collection include cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, tin, and brown glass. Discussions have included what types of containers should be used for collection, materials handling and movement of containers and looking at available options for collection service

providers. Management is currently in the process of obtaining inside containers and are educating employees on the program. The pilot should begin in early November.

The most difficult portion of this study will be tracking the materials and diversion rates and cost savings based on the program. This stems from the restaurants using a shared compactor with six other businesses that are currently unwilling to participate in the program. A lot of the work will need to be passed on to the service provider, Recycling Enterprises of Lincoln, to do good materials tracking. With information provided from the restaurants

and Recycling Enterprises, WasteCap of Lincoln will be able to estimate cost savings and diversion rates as a result of the program.

The owners of these two companies are very interested in diverting wastes from the restaurants.

For more information on how your business can benefit from this type of in-

quiry, call Carrie Hakenkamp at the WasteCap of Lincoln office at 472-0888.

Omaha Will Generate Electricity from Landfill

A Douglas County landfill northwest of Omaha will become the site of a new power plant that will generate electricity from methane gas.

The board of directors of the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) voted in September to begin negotiations with WasteManagement Inc., owners of the landfill, to construct the plant. WMI operates similar plants at 38 landfills it owns nationwide.

The plant would generate about 6.4 megawatts per year and could be operational January, 2002.

A finished contract proposal is expected to be presented to the OPPD board next month.

Refuse News, #10, October 15, 2000

INFORM members are paid \$20 under the listed price for OCC, and are paid the listed price for Office Paper. No current payment for News or Magazines. Numbers taken from the Chicago Yellow Sheet and Fibre Market News.

Markets Corner

	Aug	Sept	Oct
OCC	85	50	45
CPO	120	110	90
Mag	5	10	10
News	25	25	25
SOP	40	30	30

INFORM Initiates New Master Agreements

WasteCap of Lincoln has worked on behalf of INFORM to develop two new master agreements for services. The first agreement is an additional buy recycled agreement with Latsch's in Lincoln to provide discounted purchasing of recycled content products. This agreement also requests that Latsch's track the volume of materials purchased by each individual company participating in the program. Current Latsch's customers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity as Latsch's already has a good understanding of your purchasing policies. For more information, talk with your Latsch's sales representative or call the WasteCap of Lincoln office at 472-0888.

The second master agreement is for the pickup and intermediate processing of plastic film from Lincoln businesses. Recycling Enterprises assisted INFORM members with a pilot study of two member businesses. From this study, service fees and pickup structures were developed and subsequently an agreement for the tracking and handling of these materials. Both businesses have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of service calls to their garbage hauler. This creates direct cost savings as a result of the program. As part of implementing this agreement, Waste-

...INFORM develops two new master agreements for services.

Cap of Lincoln hosted a workshop to discuss plastic film recycling. Linda Headly, consultant for the American Plastics Council came to Lincoln to discuss the many variables involved in recycling plastic film. About 15 business representatives attended the workshop. For more information on recycling plastic film in your business, contact the WasteCap of Lincoln office at 472-0888 or call Chris Zegar with Recycling Enterprises at 421-6655.

Where Have All the Tires Gone?

On August 9, Firestone Tire Company issued a recall on certain sizes of its Radial ATX and Radial ATX II tires produced in North America, and of its Wilderness AT tires produced in Decatur, Illinois.

The tires, inspected for tread separation problems, may be linked to fatal accidents involving the popular Ford Explorer. In one of the largest recalls on record, an estimated 6.5 million tires will be returned to Firestone's nine distribution centers.

What will happen to all the tread?

"The main focus of interest is to ensure they do not get back out into the stream of commerce," said John Serumgard, executive vice president of the Scrap Tire Management Council. To this end, dealers who take in the recalled tires are instructed to destroy enough of each tire to prevent it from being used again, even as retread.

After that, the priority is recycling.

"The general plan is to somehow get them recycled," said a spokesperson in Firestone's public relations department who asked not to be named. "We have been working with the recycling industry for 10 years to keep used tires out of landfills."

The 6.5 million recalled tires are a drop in the bucket compared to more than 270 million tires flowing into recycling centers across the country is fairly steady, and the recalled Firestone units should only cause a temporary backlog at certain locations. "I do not see any lasting downside to this," said Serumgard.

Firestone's woes may also have a silver lining.

"The recall is giving the scrap tire recycling industry the exposure and credibility it has deserved for some time," said Mary Sikora, publisher

of the Scrap Tire News, an independent print and on-line publication that provides information to industry players about recycling and reuse of scrap tires. "It is raising awareness about an industry that has been growing for the last 10 years — an infrastructure of companies that collect and process these tires into reusable parts."

An average of 70% of all scrap tires are recycled, according to industry statistics, principally for use in crumb-rubber production, landfill and roadbed civil engineering projects.

"The situation has raised awareness of the fact that scrap tires have to go somewhere," Serumgard said. "In fact, the vast majority are going to a proper end-use market. Efforts are being made for finding friendly markets for scrap tires."

Taken, in part, from *Refuse News*, #10, October 15, 2000.

PC Excess Compromises the Environment

The profusion of computers in American life has produced a toxic problem: a mounting stockpile of outdated equipment containing millions of pounds of lead and other dangerous substances for which there are few disposal sites and recycling plans. In the past two decades, an estimated 175 million computers sets in the US have been tucked into warehouses, basements and attics. Contained in those computers are roughly 650 million pounds of lead, 987,000 pounds of cadmium, 231,000 pounds of mercury and more than 2 billion pounds of plastics.

Except for those collected by a handful of recovery efforts nationwide mainly servicing large industries, the computers that do leave storage end up in public and private landfills. There, these components release toxic substances and mix with liquids that in some cases leach into soils and threaten groundwater.

Solid-waste planners estimate that 30-40% of lead in municipal landfills comes from computers and other electronic equipment. Lead is

widely known to cause central nervous system disorders and interfere with the neurologic development of children.

The accumulation of dead and out-of-use computers is dizzying. The number of personal computers in use has jumped nearly 150% since 1992, to 164 million units nationwide, according to Computer Industry Almanac. In that same period, however, the expected lifespan of a PC has been cut in half, from more than four years to about two. This rush to obsolescence rapidly multiplies the problem.

Most computer users are unaware of the toxic contents of their personal computers. A standard display monitor contains from 4-8 pounds of lead, which lines the glass cathode-ray tube as a user shield against radiation. A 1999 University of Florida study classifies most standard monitors as hazardous waste.

Massachusetts this year became the first state to ban cathode-ray tubes from landfills. Other states and cities, particularly in the East where landfills are filling rapidly, are con-

sidering similar actions.

The electronics recycling industry is new and small; it lacks the capacity and support to handle the growing computer stockpile. To reduce costs, computer manufacturers are using fewer precious metals and more plastics, making recycling more difficult and expensive. And the profusion of lead-heavy monitors poses the toughest recycling challenge.

“Our experience is that the commercial sector either does not know or is ignoring any regulations regarding electronics,” a Michigan recycler, Greg Heynen, said during a National Recycling Coalition roundtable discussion. “I spoke to someone...who landfilled a whole trailer of electronics and (monitors)...Many just don’t want to pay and would rather sneak it out.”

To find out what your computer disposal options are in Lincoln and with what regulations you must comply, contact the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8000 or call WasteCap at 472-0888.

Taken, in part, from Refuse News, #10,

Albertson's Bans Sale of Mercury Thermometers

Albertson's Inc., a major supermarket chain based in Boise, Idaho, announced on September 14, that it will remove mercury thermometers from market shelves in all its 2,500 stores located in 36 states.

Albertson's said its decision to quit selling mercury thermometers was prompted by pleas from a group called Health Care Without Harm, a coalition of 270 organizations working to eliminate pollution from health care practices.

Refuse News, #10, Oct. 15, 2000.

Fall Phone Book Recycling Begins In Lincoln

New phone books are scheduled for distribution in mid-November. The time is near to recycle your old phone books from last year, or older!

Plans are also in the works to develop a specific drop-off location for Lincoln businesses. The drop-off event is tentatively scheduled for November 28, 29 and 30. Volunteers are needed to “man” the drop-off. Please call the WasteCap office at 472-0888 to volunteer or for any additional information.

If you have any questions or concerns related to phone book recycling, please contact the WasteCap of Lincoln office at 472-0888, 472-2246 fax or wastecap@alltel.net.