

Introducing Recycling

Since the establishment of the mandatory institutional recycling program in 1989 (Local Law 19), many New York City schools have been recycling. The second issue in this series of *NYC WasteLe\$\$* newsletters addresses recycling and provides schools with technical information and resources to enhance and expand their current recycling programs.

The Fresh Kills Landfill, which has provided a low-cost waste disposal option for New York City for years, is now scheduled to close by December 31, 2001. After that date, all non-recycled residential and institutional solid waste generated in New York City will be exported. Commercial waste already is shipped out of state and the additional institutional and residential waste is likely to increase waste disposal and transportation costs for everyone in the City.

Recycling can benefit New York City schools by generating revenue, streamlining operations, and instilling an environmental ethic in students. This newsletter shares the recycling successes of *NYC WasteLe\$\$* partners and other schools in New York City and across the country.

For more information about recycling, visit the *NYC WasteLe\$\$* Web site at: www.nycwasteless.com

P.S. 48 in the Bronx

A Recycling Success Story

Students at Public School 48 are quick to point out materials that do not belong in the recycling bins. P.S. 48, located in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, has a Grade K through 12 student population of more than 1,100 students. The students, plus staff and faculty, generate more than 400 bags of trash per week. In the spring of 1998, P.S. 48 became a partner in the *NYC WasteLe\$\$* program and, as its first initiative, P.S. 48 elected to jump start its recycling program. The school began a recycling program a number of years ago, but because of confusion about the collection schedule, and a lack of storage space for recyclables, everything soon was discarded as trash.

P.S. 48 faculty and administration knew that this situation had to change. A recycling program encourages students to take pride in their school, and in their neighborhood. P.S. 48 began by reaching out for assistance. Representatives from the local Department of Sanitation (DOS) District Office; the DOS Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling; the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board, and the NYC Board of Education's Division of School Facilities participated in a series of meetings to discuss recycling at P.S. 48. Information was shared, and ultimately the group collaborated on a plan to reinstate recycling at the school.



P.S. 48's new and improved recycling program includes color-coded trash and recycling containers with proper labeling to facilitate proper materials separation.

Although schools typically are expected to buy new dumpsters out of their own custodial budget, the Division of School Facilities knew of a school that had surplus dumpsters. One of these dumpsters was transferred to P.S. 48, giving the school sufficient exterior storage capacity so they could restart the recycling program. Under the new system, one dumpster is allocated for paper and cardboard, another is dedicated to mixed recyclable, and the two remaining dumpsters are dedicated to trash disposal. Custodial staff painted and labeled all of the dumpsters to help the Department of Sanitation identify them.

Before the program began, the Chairperson of the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board made a presentation to the faculty of P.S. 48 to discuss how recycling would work in each room in the school. This included bins for mixed paper in every classroom and in offices, as well as a bin for mixed containers in the cafeteria and in the faculty lounge. Teachers were then given recycling "how-to" flyers they could take back to their classroom to share with their students.



Recycling flyers in English and Spanish help students at P.S. 48 remember what materials are recyclable.

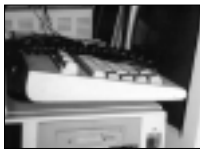
What To Do With Difficult-to-Recycle Materials

Besides the standard recyclable materials that are required in recycling programs across New York City, such as mixed paper, beverage containers, and corrugated cardboard, many schools generate large quantities of other, not-so-easy-to-recycle materials. Some common, difficult-to-recycle materials include toner cartridges, computers/electronics, and fluorescent lamps to name a few.

Some schools may generate enough of these materials to make it worthwhile for a recycler or broker to collect them. Others would need to

create cooperatives with other, similar institutions to generate sufficient quantities of certain recyclable materials before a broker would be interested in accepting it. The requirements vary greatly, so call several vendors before deciding on one or giving up altogether.

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Numerous companies now recycle or reuse the fast-increasing quantity of electronics scrap generated in New York City.



DISCLAIMER:
NYC WasteLe\$\$ is funded by the New York City Department of Sanitation, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This document may not reflect the views of these Agencies and no official endorsements should be inferred. Vendors or organizations mentioned do not constitute a complete list of products or services available.

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Spotlight On: Recycling

Next Issue Spotlight On: Waste Prevention

FEEDBACK ... Tell Us What's On Your Mind. We would like to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to let us know: (1) if you find the information provided in *NYC WasteLe\$\$* useful (2) what waste prevention, recycling, and energy efficiency topics you would like to learn more about and (3) any other thoughts and comments, including your own waste prevention, recycling, and energy conservation success stories. Simply write to us at *NYC WasteLe\$\$*, NYC Department of Sanitation, 44 Beaver Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10004, or you may fax information and comments to us at (212) 837-8255 (attention: *NYC WasteLe\$\$*). Thank you for your input.

Recycling Resources

Several local, state, and national organizations offer recycling information and assistance to schools. The following are just a few of the on-line resources, publications, and organization contacts available to help you get a recycling program up and running, identify markets for recyclables, and locate recycled-content products.

New York City Department of Sanitation

www.ci.nyc.ny.us/strongest
The NYC Department of Sanitation's Recycling Program page offers information and publications about commercial, institutional, and residential recycling, including instructions for preparing and separating recyclables, collection schedules, and drop-off sites. DOS publications about recycling are available on the DOS Web site or by calling the Sanitation Action Center at (212) 219-8090.

New York City Board of Education Recycling & Solid Waste Management Program

28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 391-6458
The Board of Education provides assistance to schools wishing to enhance their recycling programs or improve solid waste management in general.

Council on the Environment of New York City

51 Chambers Street, Room 228
New York NY 10007
Phone (212) 788-7900; Fax (212) 788-7913
www.cenyc.org
The Council on the Environment of New York City (CENYC), founded in 1970, is a privately funded citizens organization in the Mayor's Office. CENYC promotes environmental awareness and solutions to environmental problems. CENYC's programs include Open Space Greening, Greenmarket, Environmental Education, Waste Prevention and Recycling, and other special projects. The Waste Prevention and Recycling Service offers waste assessments, feasibility studies, program design, market research, employee education and program installation.

Empire State Development, Environmental Management Investment Group

One Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12245 (518) 486-6291
www.empire.state.ny.us/environment/
EMIG invests in projects that produce measurable waste prevention, reuse and recycling results. Projects should enable New York State businesses and institutions to capture the economic benefits associated with waste prevention, including increased productivity and competitiveness, job creation and retention, and increased recycling capacity. Program funds support capital investments, technical assistance, and research, development and demonstration.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
Waste Reduction and Recycling Program
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233 (518) 457-7337
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshim/redrecy/
The NYS DEC's Waste Reduction and Recycling Program offers technical assistance, as well as education and outreach materials, to enhance waste reduction and recycling efforts.

Recycling Requirements For Schools

Recycling isn't just a good idea; it's the law in New York City. Local Law 19 of 1989 requires schools and institutions to recycle the same materials as New York City residents. The New York City Department of Sanitation (DOS) collects trash and recyclables from all public schools. Private schools are entitled to DOS collection, as well, although some may choose to hire a private carter.

Schools must recycle:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Beverage cartons (e.g., milk and juice cartons)
- Aluminum foil products
- Small metal items (made of more than 50% metal)
- Mixed paper (including newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, white paper, colored paper, glossy paper, envelopes, folders, smooth cardboard (paperboard), paper bags, and junk mail)

If your school uses dumpsters for recycling collection, label the trash and recycling dumpsters appropriately, including a separate dumpster for mixed containers (i.e., bottles, cans, cartons, foil and metal items) and one for mixed paper and cardboard.

Place loose or bagged recyclables in the appropriate recycling dumpster.

If your school has curbside collection for recyclables, place mixed paper, in a labeled recycling container or a clear plastic bag. Bundle and tie corrugated cardboard separately.

Rinse and place beverage (milk and juice) cartons, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, aluminum foil products, and small metal items in a blue or labeled recycling container or a blue plastic bag. Place large metal items that are too big to fit in a container or bag—such as furniture and large appliances—at the curb next to recycling containers or bags.

NYC Department of Sanitation trucks collect all recyclables for schools in New York City. For more information, visit the NYC Department of Sanitation Web site at:

http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dos/html/bw_scho/index.html

Or, call the Sanitation Action Center at (212) 219-8090. For additional information, public schools can contact the Board of Education's Recycling and Solid Waste Management Program at (718) 391-6458. ■

National Recycling Coalition

1727 King Street
Alexandria VA, 22314
Phone (703) 683-9025; Fax (703) 683-9026
www.nrc-recycle.org
NRC is a national voice for the recycling organizations throughout the U. S. and around the world. The NRC was created to increase awareness of recycling and to provide information and assistance to businesses, public officials, and the general public.

Northeast Recycling Council

193 Main Street, Suite 401
Brattleboro, VT, 05301
Phone (802) 254-3636; Fax (802) 254-5870
www.nerc.org
NERC's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of recycling in the Northeast while maximizing its full environmental and economic benefits. The site offers a Green Procurement List Serve, business forums, and recycling cooperatives.

Recycler's World

Recycler's World Help Line: (519) 767-2913
www.recycle.net/recycle
Recycler's World was established as a world-wide trading site for information related to secondary or recyclable commodities, by-products, used & surplus items or materials. The New York Recycling Directory was established to promote trade in the recycling industry in the State of New York.

U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPGs)

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/index.htm
RCRA Hotline (800) 424-9346
EPA's CPG site introduces the government's buy-recycled program including the materials listed in the procurement guidelines, levels of recycled content required, and lists of product and material suppliers.

WasteWise

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460 (800) EPA-WISE
www.epa.gov/wastewise
WasteWise is a voluntary EPA program through which organizations can eliminate costly waste. The program provides technical assistance, resources, and public recognition in return for a commitment to making improvements and reporting results.

Curricula and Education Materials:

Let's Reduce and Recycle (EPA/SW-90-005)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
RCRA Information Center (OS-305)
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460 (800) 424-9346
Contains lesson plans for grades K-6 and 7-12, covering topics such as source reduction, recycling, waste combustion, and management. The plans allow teachers to integrate the subject matter with other subjects.

Living Responsibly with Solid Waste New York Science, Technology, and Society Education Project (NYSTEP)

89 Washington Ave., Room 674EBA
Albany, NY 12234 (518) 473-1965
This is an in-depth curriculum organized into six units and designed to be completed in a four to six week period in middle school. It explores topics related to defining the waste problem, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, energy and/or physical science, converting waste to earth, landfills, and local action.

Trash Goes To School

Cornell University
Media Services Resource Center
7-8 Business & Technology Park
Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 255-7660
Compiles more than 60 popular activities found in solid waste education around the nation. The activities are broken down into four groups from K-12 and are available on disk. ■

P.S. 48 Success Story

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Like most new recycling programs, there were kinks to work out once the program got underway. Some classes didn't properly segregate paper from the rest of the trash. To help overcome this problem, NYC WasteLeSS project staff visited each classroom and sorted through the recycling containers with the help of the students. Students were asked whether all of the items in the paper recycling container belonged in that container. Each class received a recycling certificate and signs to post next to the recycling bins in their classroom. P.S. 48 now recycles approximately 25 percent of its trash on a weekly basis.

Congratulations to the students, faculty, and staff at P.S. 48 on a job well done! ■

Contributed by Steve Hammer, Hammer Environmental Consulting



WasteWise partners receive technical assistance, as well as public recognition for their successes.

Recycling — A Good Way to Be WasteWise

Recycling is hot — and your school can benefit from recycling. Recycling includes the whole process of collecting recyclables, using this material in the manufacture of new products, and purchasing these recycled-content products. It can save you money while conserving resources. In 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) established the WasteWise program to champion institutions and businesses that implement and measure successful recycling and waste prevention programs.

WasteWise Partners: Demonstrated Leadership

In 1997, WasteWise's 700 partners collected more than 6.8 million tons of recyclables, purchased nearly \$3 billion in recycled-content products, and used nearly 2 million tons of recovered material in their manufacturing processes. In addition, institutions and businesses across the country saved an estimated \$218 million in avoided disposal fees by recycling.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WasteWise Program

Advances Continue in the Recycled Product Market



The New York State Aquarium installed EConights™ recycled rubber flooring (Photo courtesy of Dodge-Regupol, Inc.).

Comparing the original *Official Recycled Products Guide*, published only a decade ago by American Recycling Market, Inc., to the myriad publications and on-line resources available today, one can quickly see the advances achieved in the recycled-products industry. Innovative manufacturers and product engineers have improved recycled material processing technologies and developed new systems to create products from an expanding variety of recyclable materials. Traditionally, consumers tend to think of paper when they think of recycled-content products. But in the past decade, entire industries have sprung up around manufacturing recycled products.

Today, there are a wide variety of high-quality, cost competitive products made from recycled materials. Although public and private schools have differing purchasing policies, every school can take steps to maximize the use of recycled content-products within the confines of its purchasing procedures. If supplies are provided through the Board of Education, take time to ensure that the items you select for use at your school contain the maximum percentage of recycled-content material.

If your school purchases materials directly from vendors, you can take advantage of a variety of available recycled-content products. For example, if you are replacing floor covering, consider installing the Dodge-Regupol EConights rubber flooring made from recycled rubber or post-production rubber scrap. According to Laura Dodge, Marketing Director, of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania based-company, "EConights comprising five new flooring lines with a total of 38 refreshing color patterns is made from a combination of recycled SBR tire rubber and reprocessed post-production EPDM colored rubber."

In addition, several companies are making furniture suitable for use in cafeterias and manufacturing playground equipment with recovered content. If you are supplementing the recycling and trash containers in your school, consider the new Rubbermaid plastic trash and recycling receptacles made with post-consumer recycled-content material.

Additional products that schools may want consider specifying with recycled content include:

Classroom and Office Supplies

- Copy paper • Envelopes • Note pads
- Pencils • File folders • Stationery

Facilities Maintenance Products

- Trash bags • Latex paint
- Toilet tissue and paper towels
- Desks, tables, and chairs
- Playground equipment • Rubber mats
- Carpeting and floor covering

Construction Products

- Insulation • Wallboard
- Concrete • Ceiling tiles

Landscaping Products

- Garden and soaker hoses
- Planters • Benches



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Buy Recycled Alliance of New York (518) 292-5340
- U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/index.htm RCRA Hotline (800) 424-9346
- U.S. General Services Administration www.pub.fss.gsa.gov/enviro/ (817) 334-5215
- Green Building Resource Guide — a database for purchase of more than 600 building materials and products with recycled-content material. www.greenguide.com Fax request for guide to (650) 364-5116.
- King County Department of Natural Resources, Solid Waste Division www.metrokc.gov/procure/green — King County's Environmental Purchasing Program www.metrokc.gov/greenworks/products.pdf — a recycled-content building materials resource (206) 296-6542
- U.S. Green Buildings Council — a non-profit coalition providing green building information. www.usgbc.org
- California Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmf.ca.gov/rcp/rcpdint.htm — California's Recycled-Content Product Database (916) 255-2708

For additional information on sources of recycled-content products, specification criteria, and product evaluations check the following:

Public schools can contact the NYC Board of Education's Office of Purchasing Management at (718) 361-3840 to obtain a list of recycled products offered by the Board of Education. ■

Recycling opportunities exist for a wide range of materials. Some of the most commonly recycled materials include corrugated boxes, mixed paper, and milk cartons. School recycling programs also can include less obvious materials, such as household batteries and fluorescent tubes.

Schools of all sizes can make a difference. According to U.S. EPA, WasteWise partners, Seattle University recycled 939,000 pounds of materials and Notre Dame University recycled 2.6 million pounds of material in 1996.

WasteWise and tailor their program to meet the basic requirements: expanding or improving internal recycling operations, implementing three significant waste reduction programs and making a commitment to increase the number of items containing recycled content purchased by the school.

U.S. EPA's WasteWise program can help you with your recycling collection program and other waste reduction efforts. The WasteWise program is a free, voluntary partnership program that encourages schools and other organizations to reduce waste through waste prevention, recycling and buying or manufacturing products with recycled content. WasteWise provides partners with technical assistance, publications, and public recognition opportunities. For more information, visit the WasteWise Web site at www.epa.gov/wastewise or call the WasteWise helpline at (800) 372-9473 for a free information packet. ■

Difficult-to-Recycle continued from page 1

Here are a few resources for recycling these difficult-to-recycle materials.

Computers/Electronics

Management of computer/electronic waste is becoming more critical as previous generations of computers become obsolete at an ever-increasing rate. A staggering number of computers, monitors, and other electronics are discarded daily as newer, cheaper models become available.

Many discarded computers can be used by others. Some have been scavenged for parts and are worthless except for the value of their materials, such as scrap metal, precious metals, and plastic. Below is a list of some vendors and organizations in the Northeast region that either accept computer components for recycling or accept reusable computers for donation and reuse.

Recycling:

Advanced Recovery Inc.
Belleville, NJ
(973) 450-9797

Alco Refiners
Wheatley Heights, NY
(516) 491-3041

Colt Recovery Group
Rahway, NJ
(732) 382-4000

Monmouth Wire & Computer Recycling Inc.
Tinton Falls, NJ
(732) 922-3320

RCR & R
Rochester, NY
(716) 546-6620

Reused Goods

Freeport, NY
(516) 223-2522

Reuse:

Computers for Africa Project
New York, NY
(212) 608-2150

Electronic Resource Recovery
Newburgh, NY
(914) 561-1900

Materials for the Arts
New York, NY
(212) 255-5924

Nonprofit Computing Inc.
New York, NY
(212) 759-2368

HELPLINE
New York Wa\$teMatch
can help identify recycling markets for your hard-to-recycle materials.

Contact information:
NY Wa\$teMatch
c/o Industrial Technology Assistance Corp.
Phil Vos, Operations Coordinator
253 Broadway, Room 302
New York, NY 10007
Ph. (212) 240-6966
Fax (212) 240-6879
Email: wastematch@itac.org
URL: www.wastematch.org

Look for more details about NY Wa\$teMatch and its successes in the upcoming Waste Prevention issue.

Toner Cartridges

Most major copier companies, including Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, and IBM, provide services that allow schools to return cartridges. Other companies take almost all types of cartridges. Most companies that recycle cartridges, disassemble, fully inspect, clean, and repair the cartridge before filling it with new toner and selling it as a remanufactured brand. Some actually recycle the cartridge by shredding the plastic and selling it for use in recycled-content products. Purchasing remanufactured toner cartridges will give

toner cartridge recycling efforts a boost and will save money, as most refurbished cartridges cost as much as 30 to 50 percent less than new cartridges.

Laser Charge
(202) 291-7820

Data Products
(805) 578-4000

Toner Retrieve Ltd.
(212) 831-6351

Laser Cartridge Renewal
(800) 634-6422

West Point
(800) 624-6991

General Ribbon Corp.
(800) 423-5400

Fluorescent Lamps

Under current New York State law, mercury-containing lamps, such as fluorescent lamps, may be hazardous waste when removed and discarded and, if so, must be managed as hazardous waste. Sending lamps to a recycling facility is likely to be less expensive than disposal at a licensed hazardous waste facility. Below are several companies that offer lamp recycling services. Some vendors will pick up lamps, while others require you to ship spent lamps. Contact the individual vendors for more information.

Advanced Environmental Recycling Corporation
Allentown, PA
(800) 554-AERC

Mercury Waste Solutions
Albany, NY
(800) 741-3343

American Lamp Recycling
Fishkill, NY
(800) 315-6262

Northeast Lamp Recycling
East Windsor, CT
(860) 292-1992

Global Recycling Technologies
Rahway, NJ
(732) 388-3005

Full Circle Ballast Recyclers
Bronx, NY
(718) 328-4667

Recycling: A Way of Life at the Brearley School

Recycling is a way of life at the Brearley School and the students are indoctrinated into the recycling program from the first day of kindergarten. Students, faculty, and the maintenance staff team up to make recycling work at The Brearley School, a K-12, private girl's school in Manhattan and a partner in the NYC WasteLe\$\$ program. The Brearley Environmental Action Committee (BEAC), the school's student environmental group made up of upper school students, took the lead in enhancing the recycling program throughout the school. Led by Laurie Seminara and Erin Kaufman, faculty advisors to BEAC, the students set up a program to collect white paper, mixed paper, mixed beverage containers, and household batteries. Students and faculty at the Brearley School determined that separating the white paper stream from the mixed paper stream is worth the extra effort since the white paper has a higher value. "We really wanted to close the recycling loop by having our white paper go back into the production of more white paper," says Seminara.

Initially, students monitored the classroom recycling bins and transferred the recyclables to larger containers at the end of each hallway. Eventually, maintenance staff assumed the role of managing the recycling program. According to Seminara, the BEAC members hosted a student assembly and prepared a presentation reinforcing the school's environmental programs. The message served to remind returning students, and introduce new students, to the recycling program.

The students did not stop here. Students and faculty teamed up to establish recycling for toner

The Brearley School's Environmental Mission Statement

"The Brearley School is committed to implementing ecologically responsible policies in all its operations. The school is dedicated to reducing the quantity and toxicity of its waste stream through its recycling program, purchasing policies, and maintenance operations. Believing that awareness of human impact is of critical importance, Brearley encourages the involvement of all members of the school community and in particular the student body in these efforts and seeks to keep them informed through the science program and the Brearley Environmental Action Committee (BEAC)."

cartridges from printers throughout the school and film canisters generated in the photo lab. To demonstrate its commitment to raising environmental awareness among students, administration, faculty, support staff, and parents, the Brearley School adopted an environmental mission statement that is now included in all school publications.

Developing an environmental mission statement is the first step to building a foundation for waste prevention and recycling programs. Any school can establish an environmental mission statement to promote awareness within the school — a positive way to begin the new school year, as well as, the new millennium. ■

NYC WasteLe\$\$ Program
 P.O. Box 1156
 Bowling Green Station
 New York, NY 10274-0156

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Brooklyn, NY
 Permit #21899