



TENNESSEE Recycling REPORT

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Marcia Heath

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John Homa

SECRETARY
Sarah Surak

TREASURER
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From the President

by **Marcia Heath**
TRC President

The TRC Board accomplished quite a bit at the yearly retreat in January. If possible, please try to attend next year—we can always use your input and ideas. TRC's continued membership in the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) was discussed. A recent meeting between NRC and representatives from each member state (RO) provided more information as to the different steps NRC is taking to continually improve the relationship between the two parties. Christina Treglia was able to attend and represent TRC's interests at this meeting.

Also at the retreat, committees were formed to work on a variety of projects throughout the year. The committees are listed in this newsletter, along with their members. If anyone is interested in joining any of the committees, please contact Amanda Thomas, TRC Administrative Coordinator, at (615) 668-9174. She will put you in touch with the Chairman of the committee. We really need everyone's assistance with the committees- please put some thought into serving on at least one. TRC will also be holding statewide workshops in 2003. These workshops were designed to further assist local programs by providing useful ideas to enhance current projects or to develop new ones.

Don't forget to visit our website: www.trc_online.org.

Calendar of Events

- April 6-9** Southeast Recycling Conference and Trade Show, Pensacola Beach, FL
www.southeastrecycling.com
- April 8-12** ISRI Annual Convention, Orlando, FL
(202) 662-8531
- April 22** EARTH DAY
- April 30-May 2** 32nd Annual Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Solid/Hazardous Waste Conference and Exhibition, Gatlinburg, TN
www.state.tn.us/environment/swm/conference.shtml
- May 7-10** Building Deconstruction and Materials Reuse Conference - 11th Rinker International Conference, Gainesville, FL
www.cce.ufl.edu
- May 12-13** The Eighth Annual Conference on Recycling of Fibrous Textile and Carpet Waste, Dalton, GA
www.tfe.gatech.edu/recycle_conf
- June 3-5** Waste Expo, New Orleans, LA
www.wasteexposhow.com

Board of Directors

It is the goal of the Tennessee Recycling Coalition to be governed by a Board of Directors that reflects the diversity of the Coalition. TRC Board members come from business, government, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations. We strive to represent the geographic diversity of the state, rural and urban. The 2002-2003 Board is listed below:

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TRC Committees 2002–2003

The following committees and their members were established at the annual retreat in Monteagle. These committees assist the TRC Board of Directors in achieving their annual goals. If you are interested in serving on any of the committees listed, please contact Amanda Thomas at (615) 668-9174.

America Recycles Day Committee

Committee coordinates and plans America Recycles Day celebration and events.

Chairman - Christina Treglia

Members - Carol Fulmer, John Homa, Jeff Holmes

By-Laws and Policy Committee

Committee reviews and makes recommendations for changes of the bylaws to the TRC board and members.

Chairman - Joy Williams

Members - Mike Daul, Steve Levetan, Cat Wilt

Conference Committee

Committee plans and organizes TRC's Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Chairman - Amanda Thomas

Members - Eddie Bales, Athena Bradley, Megan Brown, Mike Daul, Becky Ford, John Homa, Sarah Surak, Cat Wilt

Finance Committee

Committee maintains financial records for TRC.

Chairman - Carol Fulmer

Membership and Awards Committee

Committee develops methods for attracting and keeping membership. They also organize the distribution of the Annual Recycling Awards.

Chairman - John Chamberlin

Members - Eddie Bales, Rob Dunn, Charlie Freeman, Carol Fulmer, Carolyn Gallagher, Tonya Healea, Marcia Heath, Von Moody

Nominating Committee

Committee solicits nominations for board member seats.

Chairman - John Homa

Members - Megan Brown

Public Relations, Information and Education Committee

Committee organizes workshops, assists with newsletters, provides booths for various events, and maintains the TRC website.

Chairman - Kristen Deitrick

Members - Karen Birkenstock, Becky Ford, Sarah Surak, Christina Treglia, Joy Williams

Why Amend Tennessee's State Superfund Law to Help Recycling?

by Steve Levitan

Recycling benefits our environment and economy, but a misreading of superfund can do great harm to recycling. Courts have wrongly imposed superfund liability on persons selling secondary materials diverted from the waste stream for recycling. This is a misinterpretation of the legal liability for those who "arrange for disposal" of waste. Recycling is *distinct* from disposal—in fact, it is the opposite! Recyclers process material to manufacture a new product. Disposal activities *terminate* the life cycle of a material.

The Problem

Unintended superfund liability creates a market distortion that prefers virgin feedstocks to recycled feedstocks. Facing this unquantifiable risk puts the private sector recycling industry in jeopardy. It threatens many small, family owned businesses and serves as a significant impediment to financing both new entrants to the recycling industry and to the success of existing recycling firms seeking to adapt to a changing economy.

The Solution

Tennessee must clarify that the sale of material for recycling does not subject the seller to superfund liability. SB 201 and HB 1073 will do just that, by applying the federal Superfund Recycling Equity Act (SREA) in Tennessee. The U.S. Congress, with the support of environmentalists, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the recycling industry, passed this bipartisan legislation in 1999, correcting the error concerning recycling under federal Superfund.

SREA protects recyclers of metals, paper, glass, plastic, textiles, and rubber, but prevents "sham recyclers" from qualifying for protection. In addition, a recycler must exercise "reasonable care" to qualify for protection. SREA **does not exempt** from Superfund liability a recycler who may cause **contamination on his own property**. **Nor does it exempt** from Superfund liability contamination caused in whole or in part by **wastes generated and disposed of by a recycler**.

Keep Tennessee Recyclers Competitive Nationally

Recyclers compete across state lines and around the world. Recyclers in Arkansas, Georgia, and Kentucky are already protected from undue state superfund liability, giving them financial advantage over recyclers in Tennessee and other states. It's time for Tennessee to level the playing field and take a stand that will promote recycling and help an important business sector, while continuing to protect the environment from hazardous waste dumps.

Scrap recyclers employ hundreds of people throughout Tennessee. Many recyclers are small, family-owned businesses, including a number in continuous operation for more than 100 years. Nationally, the industry's products are worth at least \$20 billion a year, benefiting their communities, states, and the nation as a whole

Recycling conserves impressive amounts of energy and natural resources. For example, the US EPA estimates that using scrap iron and steel, rather than virgin materials, provides: 86% reduction in air pollution, 74% savings in energy, 40% reduction in water use, 76% reduction in water pollution, 90% savings in virgin materials use, 97% reduction in mining wastes, and 105% reduction in consumer wastes generated.

Scrap recyclers' success translates into success for communities, the state and the nation.

TRC Conference Update

This year's Tennessee Recycling Coalition Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held October 21-24 at the Marriot in downtown Knoxville. The conference is sure to provide a great opportunity for all to learn about new methods that will improve current programs. There will also be plenty of networking, golf, auctioning and fun!

Assistance is needed for several areas of the conference as follows:

- **Session speakers** are needed for the various events at the conference. For more information contact Athena Bradley at 423-586-6514 or Athena@lcs.net by April 30, 2003.

- **Auction items** are needed for both the silent and live auctions. Please contact Lori Munkeboe at (615) 532-0705 for more information and remember to bring all items with you to the conference.

TRC Board Nominations

The Tennessee Recycling Coalition is calling for nominations for its 2004-2005 Board of Directors. We are seeking candidates committed to providing time and resources toward governing our Coalition. If you would like more information or to be considered for the 2004-2005 Board of Directors, please contact John Homa at 865-215-2921 or jhoma@is.knoxville.tn.us to request a nomination packet. All nomination packets must be received by TRC no later than 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time on August 1, 2003.



TRC Membership

TRC has added a new membership category to give our members and potential members more options. This new level includes all benefits of an individual member and also allows anyone from that same organization to attend the TRC conference for the reduced member rate. Descriptions of all member categories and the benefits they include are as follows: **(All member levels also include Individual Membership Level Benefits)**

Sponsorship – \$1,000 and up

- Plaque recognizing your support
- Feature story in the TRC Newsletter upon sponsorship
- Press release announcement in you home area regarding sponsorship

Patron – \$500 - \$999

- Certificate recognizing your support
- Feature Story in the TRC Newsletter

Sustaining – \$250 - \$499

- Certificate recognizing your support

Organizational – \$350

- Each representative from the organization may attend the TRC Conference at the reduced member rate

Individual – \$120

- Receive quarterly TRC Newsletter and National Recycling Coalition's (NRC) reports
- Reduced Rates to the TRC and NRC conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and 1 year membership to NRC

“Motivating the Masses: Using Social Marketing to Reinvigorate Recycling Programs”

This is the title of the educational workshop that the Tennessee Recycling Coalition is offering for recyclers across the state this year. This workshop will be hosted by Kristen Deitrick and Sharon Smith, recycling coordinators for Metro-Nashville Public Works, Division of Waste Management, and will be held in all three regions of the state to provide better opportunity for all who wish to attend. This one-day workshop will cover the theory of Social Change Marketing, while demonstrating how to go about building grass roots support. It will also assist in the developing of effective public education tools and materials, which will lead to public buy-in for recycling programs. Roundtable discussions and hands-on activities will also be utilized to apply the ideas discussed.

This workshop is a must for all who deal with the education of the public in regards to recycling and for all who want to learn about how to reach a larger majority of their local community to increase recycling percentages.

The workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch. TRC members may attend **free of charge** and non-members can attend for a \$50 fee (this fee can be applied toward a TRC membership).

The workshop will be held in Knoxville on June 10, Nashville on June 17, and in Jackson on June 24. So, mark your calendar for whichever date is convenient to you. More information will be mailed out soon with specific locations. For more information, please call Amanda Thomas at (615) 668-9174.

Vermont Court Case May Have Global Implications for Mercury-Containing Light Bulb Manufacturers

Fluorescent lamp manufacturers, including General Electric, Sylvania, and Phillips, lost a five-year court battle in Vermont recently. The companies were fighting a law passed in 1998 that required all mercury-containing light bulbs sold in the state to have a label placed on them to inform consumers that the product contains harmful toxins. As a result, these light bulbs may soon be labeled across the nation and the world due to the multinational status of many of these manufacturers. By November 30, 2003 all lamps containing mercury must be labeled and by the same time next year packaging of these products must also be labeled. The label on the packaged product must contain a toll free number and a website where consumers can obtain information on recycling and proper disposal of spent light bulbs. Makers of other mercury-containing products, such as thermostats, thermometers, and switches, chose to accept the labeling law. Local activists contend that the labeling of these products is a big step in getting toxic mercury out of purchased goods and thus out of people's bodies. Mercury is a highly toxic and widespread contaminant. Recent information obtained from the CDC states that mercury is present in levels that exceed federal agency guidelines in 8% of women of childbearing age. Most states and even the FDA have also issued warnings about the consumption of certain types of seafood, which can include this contaminant.

NRC Adopts Framework for Evaluating Product Stewardship Policies and Initiatives

NRC's Board, with input from members, spent over a year developing this framework document that can be used to evaluate product stewardship policies and initiatives. The framework outlines key points that are used to determine the strength of the policies and it also determines at what level all stakeholders involved are adhering to the stewardship policies. The NRC will use this document to evaluate various products or projects before deciding to support them.

NRC/Nike Reuse - A-Shoe Program

This is the first year that NRC has partnered with Nike in their Reuse-A-Shoe Program. It is a program in which athletic shoes are collected and recycled. A sports surface is one of the main products produced by the recycling process. Thirty organizations, representing 20 states, have been chosen to participate in this year's event. All organizations have agreed to collect 5,000 pairs of shoes by June 2003. NRC and Nike affiliates are providing technical assistance in setting up the local programs and with outreach materials. Each of the thirty organizations will then be eligible to receive one of the two \$25,000 grants for end product sport surfaces by Nike Grind. For more information on how to participate in next year's program, log onto NRC's website, www.nrc-recycle.org.

NRC Updates and New Headlines

TRC's Affiliation

The Tennessee Recycling Coalition wants its members to be completely informed about its relationship with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC). You have been made aware in previous newsletters of the recent struggles of the NRC and the uncertainty of the relationship between the NRC and TRC. In recent months great strides have been taken to investigate the current status of this relationship and to determine the desires of the TRC membership in regards to the NRC. The TRC Board recognized that the membership had last voted to remain affiliated with the NRC. As a result of these findings, TRC has managed to solidify its relationship with the NRC. NRC is making great strides to keep and attract more state recycling organizations (RO's). The RO meeting in Arizona was just one step they have taken to include member states and their ideas in the development of new agreements between the two parties. NRC is attempting to provide RO's with the increased services they have requested and has agreed to work with them on a pay structure that will benefit all involved parties. As members of the TRC, you are also members of the NRC and have access to the members only page on their website and you should be receiving updates and newsletters from the NRC, either via hard copy in the mail, through email, or both. If anyone is not receiving these updates or has not provided TRC with an email address and would like to receive NRC information on their computer, please contact Amanda Thomas through email at AMT111178@comcast.net or by phone at 615-668-9174.

Dell Announces Enhancement to Current Recycling Program

NRC got to use its newly developed Framework for Evaluating Product Stewardship Initiatives recently when solicited for advice from Dell Computers. NRC representatives reviewed Dell's plans for enhancing their current recycling programs and used their framework to decide that the new program is consistent with the criteria established by NRC. NRC is now assisting Dell in promoting this new program. It was announced on March 19 that Dell would now allow customers to order home pickup for various unwanted computer equipment. Customers can arrange a pick-up of equipment online and it will be picked up from their home within 3-5 days. The cost is only \$15 for up to 50 pounds of material. Dell is utilizing their knowledge and network of the delivery of computer systems to their advantage to allow for such convenient pick-up. Customers are also able to assess their own equipment and suggest whether it should be reused or recycled. Dell has partnered with a variety of vendors, from the National Cristina Foundation to Unicor Federal Prison Ind., who will handle the products. For more information on this program, log onto www.dell4me.com/recycling or www.dell.com/conversations.

Solid Waste Task Force Update

by Carolyn Gallagher

The Task Force has been meeting over the last few months to research possible changes in the Solid Waste Management Act. The group has discussed a variety of subjects, everything from the need to for improvements in the way we collect data for the Annual Report to the State to the proper way to dispose of tires and how that disposal would be funded.

Since the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991, we have had years of data collected and yet we are still not sure exactly what it costs to dispose of a tire. There is no accurate count of the tons of solid waste produced in Tennessee each year and we do not really know how much of that is recycled.

Hopefully at the end of the process, if the Task Force has done its job, we can have an accurate assessment of where we have been so we can know where we are headed in the future. The findings of the Task Force will be given to the Solid Waste Advisory Board for their review and on to the legislature for their action.

New EPA Cafeteria Hopes to Lead By Example

The new EPA Headquarters cafeteria was unveiled on January 13. From the design of the structure, to the daily preparation of food, the engineers managed to include many environmentally friendly methods. A few examples in the design of the facility are the post-consumer recycled carpet tiles, the chairs made from plastic bottles and the cast iron table bases made from reclaimed engine block materials. In the area of food preparation, the cafeteria boasts non-disposable service ware, Energy Star dishwashers, biodegradable carryout containers, and a comprehensive recycling program. The food that is sold in the cafeteria also supports these ideas. A great deal of it is purchased from those who utilize sustainable agricultural practices, such as organically grown produce. The EPA is hoping that other federal government agencies will follow this model when designing their cafeterias.

YES! I want to help TRC promote recycling in Tennessee!



NAME

TITLE

COMPANY OR AFFILIATION

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY)

(NIGHT)

Mail with payment to TRC, P.O. Box 23796, Nashville, TN 37202

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