



T E N N E S S E E

Recycling

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Send information and photos to
Amanda Thomas
TRC
P.O. Box 23796
Nashville TN 37202
Phone: 615-668-9174
Email: amandatrc@comcast.net



PRESIDENT
Cat Wilt

VICE PRESIDENT
John Homa

SECRETARY
Kristen Deitrick

TREASURER
Carol Fulmer

From the President

*by Cat Wilt
TRC President*

First, best wishes to you and your families for a terrific 2004! The anticipation of a new year always brings opportunities for reflection on the year behind us, as well as the upcoming year. For TRC, 2003 was a pretty good year. We had a successful conference that was well-attended and, according to attendee surveys, was successful in providing you with valuable information and tools to use in your communities (thanks again to everyone who worked hard to make the conference a success!). We received an overwhelming majority of votes to keep TRC affiliated with the National Recycling Coalition. And we offered workshops in mid-year to help our members stay in touch and grow professionally.

However, as we look towards 2004, the TRC can do more. One of the reasons I agreed to serve as TRC President is that I believe that TRC has always been on the edge of being a truly great organization, but is never quite able to deliver. I, and your new TRC Board of Directors, want to try to change that in 2004. We want to help provide more timely information to you on what is happening in the recycling community. We want to take full advantage of our affiliation with NRC to bring new opportunities to Tennessee. And we want TRC to be a leader in the Southeast, by helping to bring other Southeastern recycling organizations together with us to share information and leverage the limited resources that we all have.

Your TRC Board will have our annual planning retreat on January 15 and 16 to prioritize opportunities for 2004 and discuss how we can best provide services to you. I look forward to reporting our results to you. In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions about TRC, please feel free to contact me at catwilt@utk.edu. I welcome your feedback.

Again, best wishes for a Happy New Year, and I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to make TRC an organization that benefits us all. ■

TRC Workshops

Do you have an idea for a great workshop that you would like TRC to present? The board is currently reviewing ideas for future workshops, please let us know what you would like to see. You can email ideas to Amanda Thomas at amanda-trc@comcast.net or contact her by phone at (615) 668-9174.

Annual Voting

On this year's ballot, TRC members were asked to vote on two issues in addition to electing new board members. One issue was whether or not to approve the new set of TRC Bylaws drafted by the Board of Directors. The other issue was whether or not to remain affiliated with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC). After the votes were tallied, the membership voted overwhelmingly to approve the new Bylaws and to remain affiliated with the NRC. If you would like a copy of the new TRC Bylaws, please contact Amanda Thomas at amantatrc@comcast.net.

Board Opening

Because of the By Laws change that was passed by the membership at the Annual Meeting, the number of TRC Board Members has increased from 17 to 18. There is one position open on the Board at this time. The term is for one year to end October, 2004. The Board has the option to fill this position by appointment and would like to do so prior to its next meeting on February 23, 2004. We would like the new member to start attending meetings and participate on a committee as soon as possible.

If you are interested in this position please contact John Homa, Nomination Committee Chair (865) 215-2872, by February 6, 2004 to be eligible for consideration.

Students Demonstrate That Recycling Just Makes Cents!

Submitted by: Christina Treglia

On November 3, 2003 thirty-eight 8th graders from Allardt Elementary school participated in a recycled costume contest held at Pickett CCC Memorial State Park. The event served as the statewide kick-off for America Recycles Day and as the official grand opening of the park's expanded recycling program. Both the recycling program and the costume contest presented the same message, recycling saves valuable resources and reduces the cost of trash disposal.

The costume contest demonstrated this year's America Recycles Day theme- "Recycle- It just makes CENTS!" The eighth graders created the costumes using only materials found in their homes and preferably using materials that would have been destined for disposal. The students used a large variety of materials including cardboard, bubble wrap, milk jugs, laundry baskets, and potato sacks. The costumes were imaginative and very well done showing that recycling saves money and is good for the environment.

The winners received prizes donated by Fentress County Solid Waste headed up by Faye Dalton. The costumes were judged by Mike Carlton, Director Park Operations, Steve Pardue, Middle TN Regional Park Manager, Lori Munkeboe, State Facilities Waste Reduction Coordinator, and Debi Stevenson, Executive Director Morristown Hamblen Keep America Beautiful System.

The newly expanded park recycling program has greatly expanded the options for visitors to recycle. Convenient bins are located at the park office, recreation lodge, camp ground, and at each of the cabin areas, allow for the collection of aluminum, steel, plastic, glass, and paper throughout the park. Small bins are provided in each of the cabins for added convenience. A partnership with Fentress County Solid Waste and the dedication of the park staff have made this program possible.

Tennessee's participation in America Recycles Day is coordinated by TDEC and the Tennessee Recycling Coalition (TRC). ■

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. Elections were held at this year's Annual Conference and Exhibition in October and new board members were selected by TRC Member vote. The Executive Committee was voted on by board members at the board meeting on October 23. Please join me in welcoming our new board members. Our 2004 Board is listed below along with their contact information:

Cat Wilt, President
Center for Clean Products and Tech.
311 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996
Email: catwilt@utk.edu
(865) 974-4251 • (865) 974-1838 Fax

John Homa, Vice President
City of Knoxville
P.O. Box 1631
Knoxville, TN 37901
Email: jhoma@ci.knoxville.tn.us
(865) 215-2921 • (865) 215-4688 Fax

Kristen Deitrick, Secretary
Metro Public Works Inst.
939 Dr. Richard Adams Drive
Nashville, TN 37202
Email: kristendeitrick@nashville.gov
(615) 862-8705

Carol Fulmer, Treasurer
Interlocal Solid Waste Authority
487 Joyce Lane
Winchester, TN 37398
Email: cfulmer@edge.net
(931) 962-9048 • (931) 962-1468 Fax

Eddie Bales
Rock-Tenn
1323 Proctor St.
Knoxville, TN 37921
Email: Ebales@rocktenn.com
(865) 522-6129 • (865) 522-8996 Fax

Teresa Benson
Mayfield Dairy Farms
806 East Madison Avenue
Athens, TN 37303
Email: tbfromtn@comcast.net
(423) 745-2151 ext. 2280

Megan Brown
Knox County Solid Waste
205 Baxter Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921
Email: megan.brown@knoxcounty.org
(865)215-5865 • (865) 215-5820 Fax

Mike Daul
Knoxville Recycling Coalition
1914 Ailor Ave., Ste. 206
Knoxville, TN 37921
Email: recycle@esper.com
(865) 525-9694

Becky Ford
SP Recycling Corp.
2810 Hoitt Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917
Email: becky.ford@spnewsprint.com
(865) 523-6397 • (865) 673-0093 Fax

Tonya Healea
Southern Debindery Services
P.O. Box 1237
Lebanon, TN 37087
Email: thealea@bellsouth.com
(615) 444-5670

Jeff Holmes
SP Recycling Corp.
139 Industrial Blvd.
LaVergne, TN 37086
Email: jeff.holmes@spnewsprint.com
(615) 793-4580 • (615) 793-4584 Fax

Steve Levetan
Southern Chapter of Scrap Recycling
Institute
6595 Roswell Rd., Ste. G #656
Atlanta, GA 30328
Email: sll@scrapservice.com
(404) 845-0706 • (404) 250-1001

Morgan Thomas
Marshall County
3301 Courthouse Annex
Lewisburg, TN 37091
Email: recycleman@vcourthouse.net
(931) 359-0547

Gil Stauffer
TVA WT8C-K
400 Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902
Email: gestauffer@tva.gov
(865) 621-6644

Sarah Surak
University of Tennessee
2233 Volunteer Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37996
Email: ssurak@udk.edu
(865) 974-5107 • (865) 974-3374 Fax

Christina Treglia
TN Dept. of Env't. and Conservation
401 Church St., 8th Floor, L&C Tower
Nashville, TN 37243
Email: christina.treglia@state.tn.us
(615) 532-9271 • (615) 532-0199 Fax

Joy Williams
City of Memphis
125 N. Main; Room 628
Memphis, TN 38103
Email: joyce.williams@cityofmemphis.org
(901) 576-6877 • (901) 576-6877 Fax

2003 Conference Update

The TRC Board of Directors would like to thank all of those who were able to attend our 14th Annual Conference and Exhibition held this past October in Knoxville. Having the conference in the same city two years in a row always presents somewhat of a challenge for the conference committee in finding interesting new places to tour and other forms of entertainment for our attendees. This year's conference committee did a great job of doing just that. Three new tour locations included plastics processing, electronics demanufacturing, and a good example of a small volume MRF. The conference committee also decided on two evenings of entertainment at the hotel with good food, two different bands, and great networking opportunities. This year's live and silent auctions were also a huge success, raising \$3,387, a record amount. The two keynote speakers provided attendees with an overview of the state of the environment and how recycling fits in and Friday's Institutional Recycling Workshop attracted a large crowd. We received a good response in the surveys provided during the educational sessions and look forward to applying the input we received to plan even better sessions for this year's conference. We hope all attendees learned a lot and had a good time and we look forward to seeing you in Nashville this October. ■



RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

*Congratulations
to all of the
winners of this
year's Recycler of
the Year Awards.*

*Awards were
presented at the
Annual Conference
and Exhibition
held from October
24-26, 2003 in
Knoxville.*

*These winners
demonstrate that
efforts made on
even a small scale
can make a big
difference and
influence others to
reduce, reuse and
recycle.*

GOVERNMENT RECYCLER OF THE YEAR Tennessee State Parks

Through a combined effort of State Park staff, local recycling coordinators and solid waste directors, KTB affiliates and the State Employee Recycling Program (SERP), many hurdles were overcome to increase the number of Tennessee State Parks participating in recycling programs from just 2 in 2000 to 25 in 2003. The teamwork of all these groups addressed problems such as, parks not having the knowledge of how to initiate and operate a recycling program, the fact that many parks straddle county lines (and therefore recycling programs), and many parks lacked the financial resources to purchase containers. After programs were initiated, the State Parks have done a great job maintaining them and educating staff and visitors about how they can participate.

INDIVIDUAL RECYCLER OF THE YEAR Athena Bradley – Goodwill Materials Recovery Facility

Ms. Bradley has worked in the recycling industry for over 15 years and has worked in all sectors of the business. She has worked in the public sector as the recycling coordinator for Knox County, in the private sector as the manager of environmental affairs for The Oak Ridge National Recycle Center, a for profit company engaged in electronics recycling, and currently works in the non-profit sector as the manager of Goodwill Industries' Materials Recovery Facility. In addition to her professional work, Ms. Bradley has been a key volunteer to TRC. She has served on the Board of Directors and has been an instrumental part of planning TRC Conferences.

INNOVATIVE RECYCLER OF THE YEAR Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee

Second Harvest Food Bank is a non-profit corporation that is dedicated to feeding the hungry, while reducing food waste through an efficient system of collection and distribution. In June, 2003, Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee became the nation's first food bank with a large scale, in-house cook-chill operation, which allows them to provide boil-in-bag foods that are easily re-heated. This operation can produce 650 gallons of food per day which is currently distributed to 92 food banks in 34 states. This program along with existing programs, such as Project Preserve that canned 4.5 million pounds of perishable meats and produce in 2002, will



RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS CONTINUED

help them reach their goal of doubling their production and sales in the next three years. In addition to these innovations, Second Harvest also participates in traditional recycling activities in their offices, recycling paper and cardboard and they have designed their new facility to be as energy efficient as possible.

NON-PROFIT RECYCLER OF THE YEAR

Keep Knoxville Beautiful's Youth Advisory Board

Students in the KKB's YAB represented 11 of the 14 Knox County Schools, including private schools. In a joint project with Knox County Solid Waste, the YAB members made a decision to help promote the county's mixed paper recycling program in each of their schools. YAB students got each of their schools involved in the program, which helped it expand into an additional private school. The effect of YAB's effort was clear as Knox County officials noted that the mixed paper program received a significantly higher level of participation in schools with YAB involvement in comparison to schools with no YAB students.

BUSINESS RECYCLER OF THE YEAR

VIAM Manufacturing

VIAM (TN) L.P. is an automotive supplier of carpeted floor and trunk mats. The Manchester, TN facility was established in 1999 and is a 90,000 square foot facility. VIAM has made a point to integrate recycled material into the manufacturing process as much as possible. Their mats are made from nylon or polypropylene carpet that is backed with either polyvinylchloride (PVC) or thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). They use an Elutriation System to separate the components of the recycled material used in their carpet backing. This system has produced an annual savings of 35% less material going to local landfills. VIAM purchases the recycled materials used in their process. They use 100% (which includes post-industrial material) recycled PVC in mats with PVC backing. They have also begun purchasing recycled TPE that can be mixed with virgin material to produce mat backing. VIAM also takes steps to include recycling in other aspects of the plant. Recycled corrugated is used in the packaging process, carpet cores, white paper and aluminum cans are also recycled throughout the facility and VIAM does not discharge any manufacturing components or materials into the air, water, or sewer systems. All byproducts, such as gases, oil, and hydraulic fluids, are captured and removed by a reclamation service. ■

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BOOK AWAY...*

*DON'T THROW ANY
PAPER INTO THE
LANDFILL.*

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thealea@bellsouth.net

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615-444-5670

Calendar of Events

January 24-25

C & D World Exhibition and Co

January 25-28

US Composting Council Annual Conference and Membership Meeting Las Vegas, NV
www.compostingcouncil.org

February 10

Recycle Guys Award Program Columbia, SC (803) 896-4201

February 15-18

Southeast Recycling Conference and Trade Show Pensacola Beach, FL www.southeastrecycling.com

March 15-28

World of Asphalt Conference Nashville, TN www.worldofasphalt.com

March 22-25

Carolina Recycling Association 14th Annual Conference and Trade Show Charlotte, NC
www.cra-recycle.org

March 22-25

SWANA's Landfill Gas Symposium San Antonio, TX
www.swana.org

TRC Membership Levels

Join today to have voting rights in our upcoming elections and to receive a discounted rate to attend our Annual Conference in Knoxville!

Sponsorship = \$1,000 and up

- Plaque recognizing your support
- Feature story in the TRC Newsletter
- Press release announcement in your home area
- Receive TRC quarterly newsletter and NRC reports
- Reduced rates to TRC and NRC Conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and NRC

Patron = \$500 to \$999

- Certificate recognizing your support
- Feature story in the TRC Newsletter
- Receive TRC quarterly newsletter and NRC reports
- Reduced rates to TRC and NRC Conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and NRC

Sustaining = \$250 to \$499

- Certificate recognizing your support
- Receive TRC quarterly newsletter and NRC reports
- Reduced rates to TRC and NRC Conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and NRC

Organizational = \$350

- Each representative from your organization may attend the TRC conference at the reduced member rate
- Receive quarterly TRC Newsletter and NRC reports
- Reduced rates to TRC and NRC Conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and NRC

Individual = \$120

- Receive quarterly TRC newsletter and NRC reports
- Reduced rates to TRC and NRC Conferences
- 1 year membership to TRC and NRC

TDEC Participates in School Lab Cleanout Demonstration Project

Submitted by: Christina Treglia

In November, four Tennessee schools removed unwanted chemicals from their chemistry laboratories through a pilot project spearheaded by The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Other program partners included the Departments of Agriculture and Education, TVA, and Onyx Environmental. In all, over 2,100 pounds of unusable, unstable, and outdated chemicals were removed from Campbell County, Chester County, Clarksburg, and Van Buren County High Schools. Most of the chemicals were potentially hazardous to human health and the environment.

Some of the chemicals removed were acute toxins such as cyanide and arsenic compounds as well toxic heavy metals, including mercury, lead, barium, and cadmium. Of particular concern were four bottles of ether with organic peroxide crystal crusts. These were highly shock and friction sensitive and required special handling. Large quantities of known and suspected carcinogens including chloroform and formaldehyde were also removed.

The pilot project began when the schools submitted inventories to TDEC. After being reviewed they were then forwarded them to a hazardous waste specialist at the chosen disposal company. TDEC staff then followed up with site visits to ensure the accuracy of the lists as well as the integrity of the containers. The site visits revealed the lack of proper storage and security for the chemicals. The chemicals are often stored in make-shift areas where they are precariously positioned and improperly segregated. In one instance, corrosives were stored next to cyanide compounds. Failure to follow standardized storage procedures significantly increases the chances of small leaks becoming big problems. The storage area at one school was in a basement boiler room that was potentially accessible to the student population as well as untrained personnel. The hazards associated with improper storage and segregation was exacerbated by containers that had deteriorated, broken, and leaked.

TDEC in conjunction with the cooperating organizations is continuing to review the findings from this pilot demonstration project and to compile data concerning this issue. The information received from the other schools gave staff and other project partners a better idea of what the statewide need is for chemical removal from schools. The goal is to abate the potential for school laboratories to pose a threat to the safety of students, teachers, and the environment. The solution will need to be economical as well as environmentally sound. The Tennessee Academy of Science is a new partner to the project and may become an integral part of a comprehensive plan to remedy the current situation and to help ensure that Tennessee school laboratories operate in a safe and environmentally friendly manner in the future. ■

Meetings This Month

There were two important meetings held this month that will help establish the direction of the Tennessee Recycling Coalition over the next year. The TRC Annual Retreat was held the 15th and 16th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The streamlining of the organization as well as the prioritization of all major projects to be undertaken this year were discussed. Plans were made for the development of improved membership services and topics were discussed for this year's workshop. Notes from this meeting will be on the website soon for your review.

Also held this month was the National Recycling Coalition's Recycling Organization Council (ROC) mid year meeting. The meeting was held on the 24th in Washington D.C. State affiliates sent representatives to share ideas with one another and to discuss their relationship with NRC. Items on the agenda included: discussion of the RO pay structure, the maintenance of an RO list-serve, and recommendations for the upcoming conference. Information about this meeting will also be available online shortly. ■

Steel Industry Beginning Research into CO₂ Saving Technology

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) announced late last year an international plan aims to reduce or eliminate CO₂ emissions from steel production. Organized by the International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI), the effort will focus on the development of revolutionary processes that show promise in dramatically reducing emissions. Some areas already slated for study include the use of non-carbonaceous fuels (such as methane and hydrogen), advanced scrap processing technologies for residual removal and the use of biomass and closed-carbon-cycle process. The steel industry currently produces 6% of man-made CO₂ emissions and remains dependent on

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

oil, gas, and coal for energy. They are hoping to partner with the U.S. Department of Energy for this research and that it will help curve

their dependence on these fuels as well as decrease the percentage of CO₂ they contribute to the environment. ■

Tennessee Recycling Coalition
P.O. Box 23796
Nashville, TN 37202