



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2008  
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## Law Firms Take On Green Challenge

In recognition of the environmental footprint associated with law offices, the American Bar Association, in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency has established a program that challenges law offices to employ various environmental strategies in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributed to their firms. The program, dubbed the Law Office Climate Challenge, promotes waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement, as well as green power and energy efficiency.

According to the American Bar Association, a typical law firm in Washington, D.C. purchases about 100,000 sheets of paper per attorney per year. In addition to the strain this puts on natural resources, such consumption generates about 11 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per lawyer per year. While the connection between climate change and waste is often overlooked or not understood, it is significant nonetheless. Simple waste reduction measures such as two-sided copying and printing for drafts and internal documents, as well as setting two-sided copying as the default mode on copy machines, can greatly reduce the amount of paper consumed by a law firm. This strategy not only saves natural resources and money, but also results in a reduction in greenhouse gas generation. The same can be said for increased recycling of paper and the purchase of recycled content paper.

In regard to the latter two activities, the Law Office Climate Challenge promotes the recycling of at least 90% of all office paper, folders and envelopes generated and suggests that 90% of the paper purchased by a law firm contain 30% post-consumer

recycled content. The USEPA's WasteWise website ([www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise)) provides detailed information on the connection between climate change and waste and includes a waste reduction model that enables office managers to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions from alternative waste management practices.

While nearly 100 law firms across the country have joined the challenge and committed their offices to these green goals, there are still thousands of law offices that are not yet on board with this program. Visit the American Bar Association at [www.abanet.org/envIRON/climatechallenge](http://www.abanet.org/envIRON/climatechallenge) for more information.

## Did You Know...

- Apple, Inc. will now accept and recycle iPods free of charge and with no purchase required. The company will also give customers a 10% discount on a new iPod when they recycle an old one.
- Whole Foods Market recently announced that it is halting its use of plastic grocery bags at all of its 270 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The company also distributed over 50,000 reusable shopping bags to customers to highlight this new policy.
- Staples, Inc. recently began using 50% post-consumer recycled content paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council for black and white copy and print jobs.
- As of February 2008, paper mills in the northeast were paying approximately \$230.00 per ton for baled sorted office paper (PSI 31).
- The Raytheon Company's program to promote reusable dining ware, trays and beverage containers at all of its New England dining facilities has resulted in over \$473,000 in avoided disposal and purchasing costs.

## Old Boxes Transformed Into Original Artwork

Four years ago, Mark Langan, an artist from Ohio, asked his neighbor who was moving to save for him the corrugated cardboard boxes that he was going to use for his move as he wanted to conduct an artistic experiment. The result of this experiment is a unique art form wherein old corrugated cardboard is transformed into beautiful three-dimensional sculptures. In addition to decorative art pieces, Mr. Langan has also been commissioned to fashion corporate logos out of corrugated cardboard.

To create his masterpieces, Mr. Langan slices, stacks and glues pieces of corrugated cardboard to each other within the confines of a hardwood frame. His corrugated artwork rests upon a luan panel that he salvages from home building sites after a floor is laid. The floor installer cannot use the panels again so Mr. Langan puts these items to good use. Undoubtedly, Mr. Langan's artwork is not only aesthetically pleasing, but environmentally pleasing, as well. To view Mr. Langan's corrugated artwork, visit [www.langanart.com](http://www.langanart.com).

## Lighting the Way

Fluorescent bulbs, all of which contain mercury, have been a mainstay in office buildings for many years, but need to be managed carefully by businesses and other organizations. While fluorescent bulbs may be managed as hazardous waste depending upon certain factors, a much simpler approach is to manage spent bulbs as universal waste and recycle them. Under the NJDEP's recycling rules, these bulbs or "lamps" as per their regulatory definition are classified as "Class D recyclable materials." Other mercury containing lamps such as high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high pressure sodium and metal halide also fall under this same regulatory scheme. The NJDDEP maintains an online list of recycling facilities for these lamps at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/uwlampst.htm>. A fact sheet on this topic can also be found on the NJDEP's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/uwmerc.lamps.htm>.

## NJDEP Sustainable Communities Guide Available Online

In 1987, the UN World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as that which "meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." To help New Jersey communities become more sustainable, the NJDEP recently made available an online guide that provides a series of fact sheets on a wide array of sustainable practices and technologies. Each fact sheet includes: the benefits from implementing the practice, how it relates to and helps address a state goal or policy, a description of the practice or technology, sources of State government assistance, and sources of additional information. Among other topics, source reduction, recycling, composting and recycled product procurement are covered in the guide. Visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/opsc/sdtguide.html> for a closer look at this new guide.

## Quote of the Day

"What we have found is that if you take environmental sustainability and make it a policy, it is a very profitable way of doing business." (Gary Vernon, Senior Environmental Manager for Wal-Mart, Inc.)

## Meeting Update

The next meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at PSE&G's Hadley Road site in South Plainfield, New Jersey. RSVP to: [Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us).

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