

1998 RECIPIENTS

Governor's Awards for Excellence in Recycling

Business and Industry

Arvin Exhaust North America Gladstone Plant Waste Management Team, Columbus—Eighty-five percent of Arvin's 834 employees participate in the Columbus plant's aggressive recycling initiatives. Arvin diverted approximately 220 tons of waste from landfills in 1997. Accomplishments of the 10-member Waste Management Team include: a plant-wide recycling program for cardboard, office paper, newspaper and magazines; working with suppliers to use returnable drums and reusable packaging; and reusing lumber for packaging and shipping or selling.

Gasification Services, Inc., West Terre Haute—Recycling is built into the design of Gasification Services, which, in conjunction with Cinergy Corp., is the world's largest coal gasification facility. The gasification process removes sulfur from locally mined coal, eliminating sulfur dioxide emissions. The sulfur is then recycled into a salable material. This "clean" process is one of the first of its kind in the country. Since 1995, the company has eliminated more than 51 million pounds of sulfur dioxide, recovering more than 25 million pounds of pure, chemical-grade sulfur.

Therapeutic Innovations, Brookston—Therapeutic Innovations is the only small business to win a 1998 Governor's Award. With nine employees, the private clinic provides occupational and physical therapy for children with disabilities in nine counties. The staff continuously pursues recycling opportunities for the clinic, such as recycling pediatric wheelchairs by reclaiming used parts and installing them on children's wheelchairs that need replacement parts at much lower cost. The staff fills only two cans of trash each month.

Priority Waste Streams

CIDONE Industries, LLC, Indianapolis—CIDONE manufactures agricultural and commercial irrigation products. The company received a Governor's Award for its OSMILE™ Membrane Pipe, an irrigation hose made completely from recycled tire rubber and recycled polyethylene plastic. At full production potential, CIDONE plans to use 2,772 tons of recycled rubber and 1,400 tons of recycled plastic annually.

Navistar-Indianapolis Casting Corp., Indianapolis—The automotive foundry, which produces 120,000 tons of engine head and block castings each year for medium-duty diesel engines, reused nearly 70 percent – or 70,000 tons annually – of excess foundry sand produced during manufacturing. Instead of going to landfills, the sand is used as feed stock for a kiln that produces Portland cement. The foundry worked with the state through the Indiana Cast Metals Association to develop guidance documents for alternative uses for foundry sand.

50% Achievement

Dubois County Solid Waste Management District, Jasper—53% landfill diversion—The district received more recyclables than trash in 1997 from its 39,000 residents. The district has developed a cooperative program among the county, five communities, area waste haulers and area recyclers. Comprehensive efforts include collection of 16 commodities for recycling, pay-as-you-throw trash program, curbside recycling for six items, biannual household hazardous waste and bulky item collection, and magazine collection and processing for Midwest paper mills.

City of Marion —51% landfill diversion—Marion instituted a comprehensive, voluntary curbside recycling program in 1994. The city disposed of 3,654 tons of trash, but diverted 4,710 tons of trash through yard waste, drop-off and curbside initiatives in 1997. Marion's Clean City organization helped develop 18 neighborhood associations to promote and disseminate information about source reduction and recycling.

City of Rensselaer—52% landfill diversion—To win residents away from paying only \$6 per month for trash pick up, Rensselaer designed a recycling program that was convenient and cost effective for the community. The city launched a pilot pick-up program and promotional campaign in May 1994. Free local media coverage, speaking engagements at schools and civic groups, and articles in the city newsletter got residents' attention. Within 10 months, the city council adopted a full-scale program and instituted both a volume-based rate charge of \$.85 per week per trash bag and curbside collection of recyclables every other week at no extra charge. Recycling in Rensselaer has netted a \$13,000 annual profit for the city.

City of West Lafayette—52% landfill diversion—West Lafayette has improved its recycling drop-off center, curbside recycling, and yard waste programs continuously since 1989. The city has expanded the type and amount of materials accepted and has invited residents of Tippecanoe County and Purdue University to participate. The city prints and mails a flyer and brochure on environmentally conscious lawn care to each West Lafayette household—justifying the expense by the environmental and financial gains: the mailing cost \$1,500 to print and mail, but the city saved \$73,740 in hauling and \$36,870 in disposal costs from residents who left grass clippings on their lawns and composted in their backyards in 1997.

City of Bloomington—50% landfill diversion—The city of Bloomington offers curbside collection of trash, yard waste and recyclables to approximately 13,500 single-family homes. The city has diverted more than 11,220 tons of recyclables and yard waste from the Monroe County landfill since 1991. While the city experienced a 42% increase in the number of households serviced, trash collected since 1994 increased only 9%, with recyclables increasing 67%. Recycling is collected free of charge.

Solid Waste Management Districts

Fountain County Solid Waste Management District, Veedersburg—This district has created a model drop-off program for rural communities without major private recyclers. In 18 months the district diverted approximately 900 tons of recyclables from landfills. The district has exemplary programs for a rural community, including a paint exchange program, Refrigerator Round-Up, tire recycling day, and 24-hour access to all the drop-off sites. Fountain County's collection program has grown from three trailers to seven drop-off sites in four years, including a 7,200-square-foot materials recovery facility. The district also encourages business recycling and distributes promotional and educational materials made only of recycled content.

Local Governments

City of Crown Point—Mayor James Metros was so moved by an 11-year-old girl's letter about trash in a nearby park that together they went to work on organizing a community cleanup project. About 200 volunteers collected 13 tons of garbage on the first Angie's Clean Up Day, named for the letter's author. Waste Management of Northwest Indiana donated four large dumpsters, and the Crown Point Community School Corp. provided vans to transport volunteers. The city, Crown Point Garden Club and Northern Indiana Public Service Co. planted trees and perennial flower beds. The city's ongoing curbside recycling pick up diverted 2,000 tons of trash from landfills in 1997.

Hospitals

St. Joseph Medical Center, Fort Wayne—The state rarely issues a second Governor's Award to the same facility, but St. Joseph Medical Center recycled about five times more in 1997 than when it received its 1996 award. The hospital encourages employees to practice source reduction and buy recycled products. More than 40 "recycling captains" educate and help their colleagues recycle and identify new items to be recycled. Innovative projects include: annual purchases and recycling of 15,000 plastic items, using reusable cloth instead of disposable drapes and gowns, and donating clothes to emergency room patients in need. St. Joseph Medical Center diverted 80%, or 84.76 tons, of its waste in 1997.

Schools

Most Precious Blood Catholic School, Fort Wayne—The school invites the entire parish and neighborhood residents to bring recycled paper, cardboard, plastic bags and aluminum cans to recycling bins on the school premises. Other examples of the school's comprehensive efforts: older students help younger grades carry and empty classroom recycling bins; students flatten cardboard, aluminum and tin; custodians use scrap metal barrels to sort metals for recycling; art students create projects with recycled products; and teachers relate recycling to topics such as economics and stewardship. When the school renovated its heating system, parents separated recyclable metals from the old hot water heaters and metal water pipes.

Switzerland County Schools, Vevay—Four schools in Switzerland County work with local businesses and the Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District to recycle paper, cardboard and aluminum cans. The district provides paper and cardboard recycling bins at each school and pays for a truck and driver to pick up materials. The local Nine West Group shoe factory donates collection boxes. Teachers supervise students as they sort materials and empty their classroom supply into collection bins. The school district diverted approximately 20,000 pounds of cardboard in 1997. Proceeds from the sales of recyclables help pay for classroom supplies and field trips for special education classes.

Individuals

Hartley O. Holte, Bloomington—Holte is employed part time by the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District but works full time on behalf of Indiana's source reduction and recycling goals. He serves on several local and state environmental committees, including the Indiana Recycling Coalition board and as chair of the Local Solid Waste District Advisory Council, where he brought together county, city and Indiana University representatives. As a participant in the Indiana Institute on Recycling's Solid Waste Prevention Program, he researched and published innovative waste prevention and management techniques employed by Midwest industries and businesses.

Jeffrey Langbehn, Merrillville—Langbehn is director of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District, which has received several Governor's Awards. His strengths as a facilitator and innovator make him an outstanding district director. Langbehn simply makes things happen. For instance, realizing glass recycling could not be sustained without developing a greater market and state infrastructure, he secured a \$500,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce, rather than from landfill tipping fees, to bring Futuristic Tile, a manufacturing company that will use all of the Northwest region's recycled glass for bathroom tiles, floors and counter tops, to Lake County. Langbehn also facilitated the opening of Hoosier Saw Mill, which will divert 600 trees from the city of Hammond waste stream annually.

Groups

Jefferson County Environmental Roundtable, Madison—You're never on your own in Jefferson County if you're interested in starting or improving a recycling program. A group of 60 individuals who believe that responsible use, reuse and recycling should take place at work and at home, the roundtable has been an important catalyst for recycling and waste reduction efforts in southern Indiana since 1992. Members include citizens, recyclers, city of Madison representatives and businesses.

Noblesville Senior Citizens Organization, Noblesville—The Senior Citizens Organization promotes the needs of older persons in Hamilton County. Volunteer members run a recycling center behind their community center. The senior citizens opened the center because they felt that recycling was a must for Hamilton County. The proceeds from the sale of recyclables provide a revenue source for the community center. In one month alone the seniors collected 2,620 pounds of aluminum cans, 4,190 pounds of glass bottles and 44,920 pounds of newspapers.

Mountain Movers

Michigan City Refuse Department—The Michigan City Refuse Department collected approximately 18,000 tires in three sweeps. With assistance from the sanitary district and the LaPorte County Solid Waste Board, the city transferred the tires to Dillion Tire Recycling, where 40% of the tires go toward beneficial reuse, such as playground material and landfill leachate layers. Prisoners and Community Together workers helped load the tires.

Mary Campbell, Paragon—Campbell is a housewife and mother of six who organized Paragon Elementary's Environmental Club, which maintains the county's recycling bins at the school parking lot. When political disagreement led to the removal of the bins, Campbell waged a campaign to get them returned to the community, advocating the cause to county commissioners, city council members and newspapers. In March, the West Central Solid Waste Management District returned the bins to the school parking lot. They are the only permanent recycling bins located in Morgan County.

Media, Journalism or Marketing

Melanie McCullough, Decatur Daily Democrat—McCullough has reported consistently on the recycling activities of the Adams County Solid Waste Management District for the *Decatur Daily Democrat*, circulation 6,100. McCullough has covered practically every district meeting, even those in the early days that went well beyond midnight. When the district's waste transfer building was under construction, McCullough reported diligently and accurately on its progress, while keeping the district accountable for its commitments.