Fall 2001 Vol. 10, No. 1

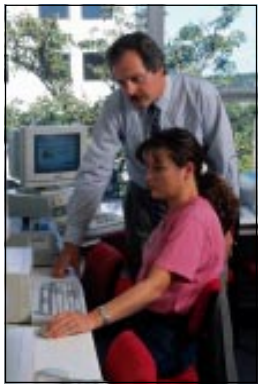
North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance

waste minimization FOCUS

Providing current pollution prevention information to North Carolina industries

# Environmental Assistance on the Web

The information highway has created access to unlimited types of data. For environmental professionals, the Internet offers information on virtually every aspect of doing business including environmental regulations, compliance assistance and pollution prevention (P2). The Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA) strives to continuously improve its level of electronic assistance on its Web site at www.p2pays.org. For example, in March 2001, DPPEA's Web site served over 110,000 Internet users. The most popular item was the Directory of Markets for Recyclable Materials located at www.p2pays.org/DMRM, followed by the Web site's search engine at www.p2pays.org/search. Businesses and corporations were the top users with institutions and research organizations taking the number two spot. The most downloaded document was the Water Efficiency Manual at www.p2pays.org/ref/01/00692.pdf.



Of additional interest to many users is DPPEA's "Information by Industrial Sector" page. This online collection consists of pollution prevention references sorted by industry sector. Experienced DPPEA staff members have researched volumes of current pollution prevention information and compiled some of the best information available for each sector. Each page includes an industry description and a list of references, such as links to other Web sites, technical resources, and case studies on sector-specific P2 techniques. This site is available at wrrc.p2pays.org/industry/indsector.htm.

These thirty sectors represent common industries in North Carolina such as furniture, textiles and food processing, as well as areas of environmental concern such as energy efficiency and water conservation. Each sector has a dedicated environmental professional or group of professionals that routinely peer review and update the information. These documents are deemed to be the "best" by the entities that compiled them.

The sector approach to identify and provide industry-specific information is growing among assistance providers. Supplying seamless access to high-quality, peer-reviewed P2 information and expertise offers the user a "one-stop" location for assistance. For users who don't find what they need in the industry sectors, DPPEA has an electronically searchable reference collection that includes over 20,000 articles and reports. To access this and the many other types of data necessary for managing environmental affairs, whether for a manufacturer or municipality, visit DPPEA's Web site at www.p2pays.org.

To access the Internet, download the desired materials, and even send the information to another location, we all use electronic components (computers, modems, keyboards, etc.). What happens to these components when they have reached their life expectancy? In this issue you will learn about "green" computer purchasing, electronics donation/recycling, and environmental regulations affecting the disposal of computers and associated components. ▪

# EPA Electronic Reporting Rule Proposal

Historically, industry and other entities have submitted environmental permits and compliance reports to EPA and the states on paper. During the next three years, EPA will conduct pilot programs to enable the electronic submission of data via the Internet. EPA is planning to establish a model system for electronic reporting and recordkeeping that will result in a more efficient process and reduced paperwork in the implementation of regulations across all agency programs. The system will

*see **EPA RULE**, page 2*

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# Greening Electronic Purchasing

Environmentally friendly or "green" purchasing of electronics can help reduce the environmental impacts of those products during their use, as well as when they are eventually recycled or disposed. Consider various product attributes before purchasing, such as reduced toxics content (lead, mercury and other heavy metals), greater recycled content, higher energy efficiency, longer life expectancy, ease of upgradability, and recycling potential. To help extend the life of your electronics, delay the need for purchasing newer equipment, and reduce disposal costs, look for products that:

- don't contain foams, coatings or paint that can contaminate parts and prevent recycling;
- minimize the use of different material types (e.g., plastic resins) since those with diverse materials are more difficult and time-consuming to sort;
- use internationally recognized symbols for coding plastic parts for easy sorting;
- have connections that allow plastic housings to easily be removed;
- eliminate labels by molding information directly onto parts;
- have rechargeable batteries;
- contain recycled content material and remanufactured parts; and/or
- use replaceable parts that are readily available from the manufacturer or retailer.

Purchasers who don't want the responsibility of dealing with outdated equipment but still want new products should consider leasing instead of buying. This option allows them to return old equipment for upgrades or credits towards future purchases. Leasing also eliminates consumer responsibility for proper product disposal or management since they do not own the equipment. Another option is to locate a vendor that provides a take-back service that allows consumers to return old equipment when purchasing new products or system upgrades.

In November 2000, IBM began a computer recycling initiative. With the program, U.S. residents and small businesses, regardless of location, can call IBM at (888) SHOP-IBM (746-7426) and pay $29.99 to recycle any used computer. IBM's PC Recycling Service will provide a prepaid shipping label. The individual will be responsible for packaging the computer (any manufacturer type) and components (monitors, printers other attachments) and mailing via United Parcel Service (UPS) for delivery to the recycler. Customers may also purchase the PC Recycling Service in advance when they buy a new IBM computer. Depending upon the age and performance capability of the computer, it will be refurbished or disassembled for recycling. If the computer is suitable for donation, the donor receives a receipt for potential deduction on their annual federal tax return. Nonprofit charities providing adult literacy, job training, family and youth services, and services for the disabled are the major beneficiaries of the refurbished computer systems. IBM recycled more than 120 million pounds of equipment parts and machines in 1999, with less than four percent deemed unsalvageable/non-recyclable. For more information, visit www.ibm.com/environment or contact Rhea Hale with IBM's Engineering Center for Environmentally Conscious Products at (919) 543-8626 or rhale@us.ibm.com. ▪

# Cary's Computer Recycling Program

In November 2000, the Town of Cary started the state's first municipal computer collection program. Cary established an appointment-based curbside collection of broken computers. Citizens who have non-working computers can call the town to arrange for collection. Those with outdated but still working computers are referred to non-profit agencies that will put them to good use including Goodwill Industries, the Computer Exchange, Explornet and the Disabled American Veterans. Cary's goals for the recycling initiative are to reduce the amount of computers going into the landfill, reuse the computers in working order, and recycle the different components of the rest.

From program inception to mid-May, Cary collected over nine tons of electronics for recycling, including computer monitors, keyboards, scanners and even fax machines. Contact Karen Hales, Recycling and Solid Waste Specialist, at (919) 462-3873 for additional information on Cary's computer recycling program. ▪

EPA RULE, *from page 1*

be an optional means of fulfilling any reporting or recordkeeping requirement with EPA.

The proposed rule governing this system, known as the Cross-Media Electronic Reporting and Recordkeeping Rule (CROMERR), potentially could affect all agency environmental compliance reporting, including delegated states programs. In cases where the implementation of federal laws has been delegated to states, the responsible agencies will be required to adhere to technical criteria proposed in the rule for electronic submissions. Eventually, state and tribal national agencies are expected to copy the system for reporting and recordkeeping requirements under their laws.

The proposed rule will be published soon in the Federal Register. The public comment period will extend to 90 days after publication. You can download a copy of the rule at www.epa.gov/cdx. ▪

# Reap the Benefits of Electronics Donation

Used electronic equipment is a fast-growing part of our nation's waste. Technological advances quickly render formerly cutting-edge electronics obsolete. Currently, the life of a computer is 3-5 years—a figure which is shrinking. In 2005, more than 63 million personal computers are predicted to be retired, according to a recent study by the National Safety Council.

Many of the electronic parts may contain toxic substances. CRTs in computer monitors and televisions can have a lead content as high as 27 percent. Other components may have mercury, cadmium, chromium and flame retardants. Since batteries have started to be removed from the waste stream, electronic products represent the largest remaining contributor of heavy metals to the solid waste stream. State and local officials are concerned that products containing these constituents might create environmental risks without proper management.

Donation of electronic products also extends their useful life while offering needed equipment to individuals/organizations that could not afford purchasing new. Additionally, donating and reusing these components create a supply of parts and materials for refurbishing older products or manufacturing new ones; use fewer virgin materials and energy, reduces pollutant generation and save on the demand for natural resources. Donating also diverts electronic materials from disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Once you've decided to donate electronics, move quickly to identify recipients to maximize value of transferring the equipment and the potential tax write-offs in which you may qualify. In the 21st Century Classrooms Act for Private Technology Investment, the U.S. Congress expanded tax incentives for private companies that donate computer technology, equipment or software. Companies that donate computers and related equipment to public or private schools, grades K-12, can deduct the full purchase costs from their adjusted gross incomes. Visit the following Web site to take advantage of the computer donation tax deduction at www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/taxes.html.

Before you donate, consider establishing criteria for determining how equipment will be handled (upgraded, remanufactured, donated, sold or recycled). Remove all sensitive information and personal files from the hard drives. Locate donees with whom you are comfortable. Additionally, the longer used electronics are kept, the quicker they lose any potential value they might have.

If no one is interested in receiving the electronics for reuse or refurbishing, recycling is the next option. Frequently the material value of the retired equipment does not cover the cost of dismantling or preparing the components for market. Prices for recycling vary widely with geographic areas and quantities. Stripping proprietary data and recording destruction methods may generate additional expenses. However, when compared to disposal, recycling is still financially preferable for many organizations. Check the electronic resources listed on page 5 for additional information. ▪

# DENR's 1 STOP Permit Assistance

DENR's Customer Service Center (CSC) has been in operation for almost two years and the 1-STOP permit information program for nearly a year. The 1-STOP program provides a single entry point where businesses and citizens can seek assistance in identifying state and federal environmental requirements that may apply to a proposed project. The goal of this service is to identify potential environmental permits in the early stages of project development and to work with the customer and associated permit agencies to ensure requirements are addressed and met in a timely manner.

Currently, the 1-STOP permit decision timeline program is being piloted in DENR's Wilmington and Mooresville regional offices. Permit assistance coordinators are available in these offices to guide the applicant or other interested party through the regulatory process. These coordinators act as project managers to assess the customer's needs, develop a project plan, identify relevant permits and prepare an integrated permit decision timeline. Use of the coordinators is encouraged for projects requiring multiple permits, using innovative technologies, or having significant public interest. Coordinators are in the Mooresville Regional Office, (704) 799-2987; and the Wilmington Regional Office, (910) 790-2317.

In addition to 1-STOP, the CSC had added a "Quick Links" on its Web site—www.envhelp.org—which has several new additions including State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) information, grants and loans, tax certification/credits, technical assistance and citizen education. The SEPA site provides a general overview, as well as links to more detailed information. Two links, "Grants and Loans" and "Tax Certification/Credit," list those available through DENR or affiliated agencies. The "Technical Assistance" link explains what is available through DENR to help customers solve problems, make improvements and comply with regulations.

Soon, there's more to come. The CSC is adding "frequently asked questions" to its Web site. These questions range from topics such as asbestos, noise pollution and spills; to odors, stormwater, mold and mildew, job applications and emergency response.

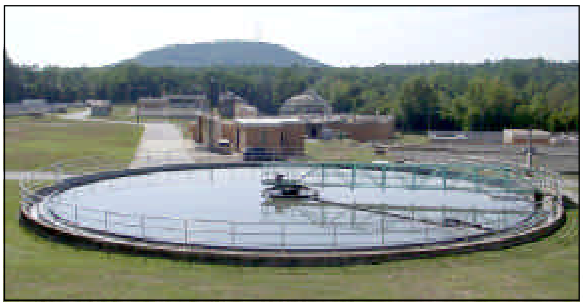
"Many of the additions and improvements made by the CSC are based on comments and needs expressed by customers," said CSC Director Edythe McKinney. "We encourage folks to share their ideas with us whether it's general customer service or 1-STOP permit assistance. Customer input is the key to improving our services."

The telephone number for the Customer Service Center is toll free at (877) 623-6748. ▪

# Environmental Excellence Showcase

## Gastonia's Wastewater Treatment Division Implements Certified Environmental Management System

Gastonia has become North Carolina's first governmental entity to become certified for achieving an international environmental management standard for practices established at the city's Wastewater Treatment Division (WWTD). In June 2001, third-party auditor American Quality Assessors USA approved WWTD's environmental management system (EMS) as being in conformance to the voluntary international standard ISO 14001.



Jim Page

GASTONIA'S LONG CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Gastonia's WWTD began development of its EMS in February 1999, when it became one of six members of a DENR pilot program to better understand EMS implementation and its effectiveness in improving environmental performance, compliance and pollution prevention. With assistance from DPPEA, Gastonia designed and implemented its EMS according to ISO 14001, an international standard that many organizations use as their model for an EMS.

Jim Page

DON CARMICHAEL, GASTONIA'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES, SHARES DETAILS ABOUT THE CITY'S EMS WITH BILL ROSS

In order to become certified to ISO 14001, an organization must develop a plan to meet the standard's 17 required elements, which include developing an environmental policy, identifying environmental aspects and impacts, devising an environmental management program, training employees to ensure they are aware and capable of completing their environmental responsibilities, and having a system in place to identify and correct any problems and prevent recurrences.

"After attending DPPEA's EMS introductory workshop, we recognized how it could benefit our organization," said Gastonia Public Works Director Donald Carmichael, P.E. "It helps us to minimize our environmental impact, provides consistency over time within our operation, and provides impartial evidence to our customers of our environmental commitment."

"The City of Gastonia should be commended for being the state's first public agency to step forward and achieve ISO 14001 certification," Bill Ross, DENR secretary, said. "This certification is a status that fewer than one dozen public agencies nationwide have achieved. The adoption of EMSs by North Carolina organizations, public and private, furthers DENR's vision of a healthy environment and a vibrant economy by moving organizations beyond compliance and toward environmental sustainability."

Jim Page

GASTONIA EMS COORDINATOR BETH ECKERT EXPLAINS THE CITY'S EMS PROCEDURES TO DENR SECRETARY BILL ROSS

"The City of Gastonia has taken the position that we would like to consistently go above and beyond compliance," said Dr. Danny Crew, Gastonia city manager. "We feel that ISO 14001 is an important step in that direction because it provides for continual improvement, maintains a proactive approach to managing environmental affairs, and provides a systematic method to solving current and future problems."

For more information about this project, please contact Beth Graves, EMS Project Coordinator, N.C. DPPEA, at (919) 715-6506 or Beth.Graves@ncmail.net; or Donald Carmichael, Gastonia Public Works Director at (704) 866-6763 or donc@cityofgastonia.com. For further information about Gastonia's EMS, please visit www.p2pays.org/ref/12/11403.pdf, and for information about EMS, please visit www.p2pays.org/iso. ▪

# Explore DPPEA's Web Site

**HOT TOPICS**
Current environmental concerns of major interest such as the Recycle Guys campaign

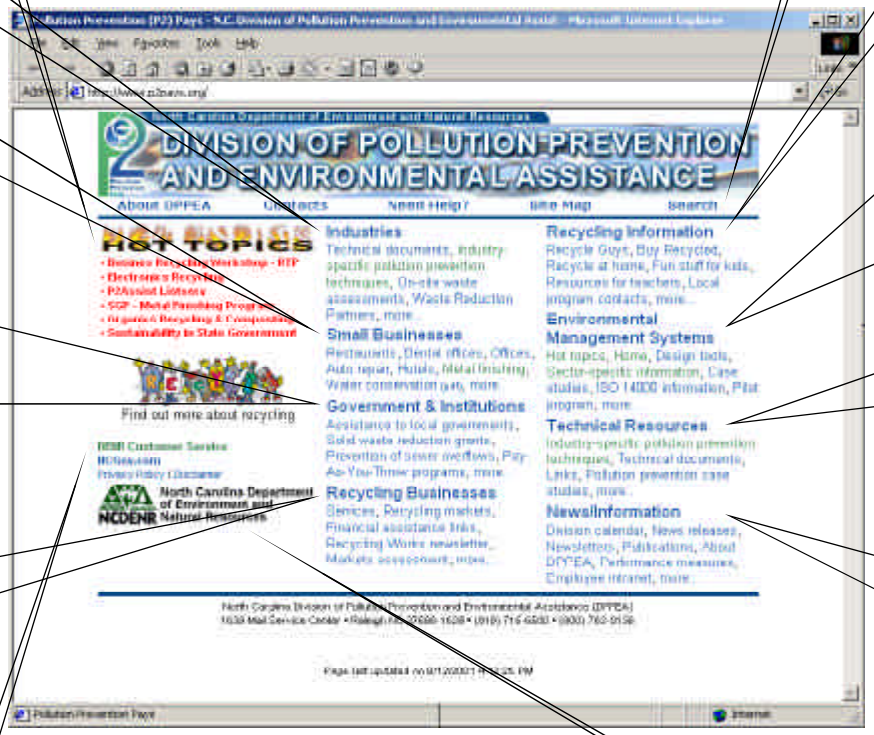
**SEARCH**
More than 20,000 electronically available documents

**INDUSTRIES**
P2 services available for manufacturers

**SMALL BUSINESS**
P2 info to help small businesses effectively minimize/manage waste

**GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONS**
Resources specific to the environmental concerns of these entities

**RECYCLING BUSINESSES**
Find companies that take recyclables, and information on recycling financial assistance and services




**RECYCLING INFORMATION**
Resources relating to waste reduction and the importance of recycling

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**
Comprehensive compilation of information and resources

**TECHNICAL RESOURCES**
Industry and government-specific information on environmental issues

**NEWS/INFORMATION**
Events, activities and access to newsletters (FOCUS and Recycling Works)

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**
Status checks on permit activities

**NCDENR**
Access to other DENR divisions

# DPPEA Web Highlight: Information by Industry Sector

This page briefly describes those core sectors that may apply to many types of manufacturing operations or other areas of environmental concern.

**AUTO REPAIR AND FLEET MAINTENANCE**
How to properly manage your automobile repair shop's waste

**ELECTRONICS**
Information on managing end-of-life electronics and computers

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**
Cut your electric costs with this information

**FOOD PROCESSING**
Explains how to minimize and properly manage food waste

**FURNITURE AND WOOD FINISHING**
Learn how to reduce waste from these operations and improve transfer efficiency

**HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL**
Reduce the amounts of mercury released from these facilities

**LABORATORIES**
P2 options to reduce both the amount of chemicals used and wastes generated

**METALS CLEANING, COATING & MACHINING**
Opportunities in metal fabrication to significantly decrease air emissions and hazardous waste from these operations

**TRANSPORT PACKAGING**
Options for packaging reductions and materials reuse and recycling

**WATER EFFICIENCY**
Water saving ideas for a variety of industries and other applications

# Old Cell Phones Find New Homes

Out of the 50 million people in the United States with cellular phones, 25 percent have at least one other cellular phone that is inactive (estimate by the Yankee Group, Boston, Mass.). Obsolete mobile phones don't just disappear—they make their way into drawers, shelves and even trash cans of many Americans. Every year the stockpile grows as new phones replace those considered outdated.

"Some of the metals contained in the phones—including lead, mercury and cadmium from old nickel batteries—could be an environmental hazard in landfills," said Leslie Byster, spokeswoman for the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. Disposal of these devices adds to the problem of toxic materials that old computer parts bring to landfills. While landfill leakage is a possible consequence of disposed phones, the Environmental Protection Agency has more pressing concerns. As technology improves, and the phones are "improved" with more features, people are shelving older models more quickly and companies have already begun marketing disposable phones. "Things cheap to produce, like cell phones, will have shorter and shorter lifespans, and they'll have an obsolescence of a year or less in the future," said David Jones of the EPA's Office of Strategic Planning in San Francisco. "They will become a disposable commodity much faster than other electronics." The EPA has found that electronic waste is growing at a rate two to three times faster than any other waste stream, Jones said.

To combat the threat of landfill disposal of obsolete cell phones and provide an important commodity to those in need, Goodwill Industries takes donations of cellular phones that do not need repairs. Contact your local Goodwill for more details. Many other organizations have established donation programs:

- **CollectiveGood** is the online mobile phone recycling resource. If you have a used mobile phone sitting on a shelf or in a drawer, you can learn how to dispose of it here in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, www.collectivegood.com/donate_phone.htm
- **Cell Phone Donation Programs** invite consumers to donate used wireless phones for refurbishment and distribution to domestic violence shelters, dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/WASTERED/donatecell.htm

- **Donate a Phone** is a national campaign which collects wireless phones to benefit victims of domestic violence. In the hands of a victim, these phones can be a lifeline that enables them to call for assistance when faced with an emergency situation, www.wirelessfoundation.org/12give.
- **The Wireless Foundation** collects and distributes cellular phones for neighborhood crime prevention, domestic safety, and education programs, www.wirelessfoundation.org.

Trade-ins from cell phone suppliers are also gaining popularity. Bell Atlantic Mobile gives customers a $30 to $50 credit toward a digital phone if they turn in their analog models. The company says they send the phones to companies that refurbish them or use them for spare parts. Nextel Communications has offered trade-in programs in some markets. Whether donating or trading in, you can help keep these electronics out of the solid waste stream and in the hands of the needy. ▪

### ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

www.p2pays.org/electronics
DPPEA's Electronics site provides information on the mangement and disposal of discarded electronics.

www.iaer.org
International Association of Electronics Recyclers serves the interests and needs of electronics recyclers and related organizations.

www.electronicxchange.org
Southern Waste Information Exchange (SWIX) Electronics Exchange is a non-profit clearinghouse for businesses and government agencies looking for electronics recycling information.

www.recycle.net/recycle/index.html
Recycler's World is a world wide trading site for information related to secondary or recyclable commodities, by-products, used and surplus items or materials.

www.nrc-recycle.org/programs/electronics/index.htm
National Recycling Coalition's Electronic Recycling Initiative has information for electronics recycling and donation policies and programs.

### MANUFACTURER'S ASSET RECOVERY AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

www.digital.com/das039hm.html
COMPAQ Computer Asset Recovery Services (CARS) serves as a responsible source for disposition of any brand of computer-related equipment, (800) 580-7370.

www.dell.com/us/en/hied/services/asset_000.htm
Dell Financial Services (DFS) Asset Recovery Services offers disposition services for functional and non-functional or outdated equipment, (800) 955-3355.

www.pc.ibm.com/ww/healthycomputing/envreport/end.html
IBM Product End-of-Life Management (PELM) Service offers customers a return program for any brand computer equipment. Contact your local IBM representative for additional information.

www.micronpc.com/programs/mpower/ind_recycle.htm
Micron Green Recycling Program offers customers that purchase new Micron equipment to return old equipment to be recycled for a fee of $75 per system if less than five systems are returned.

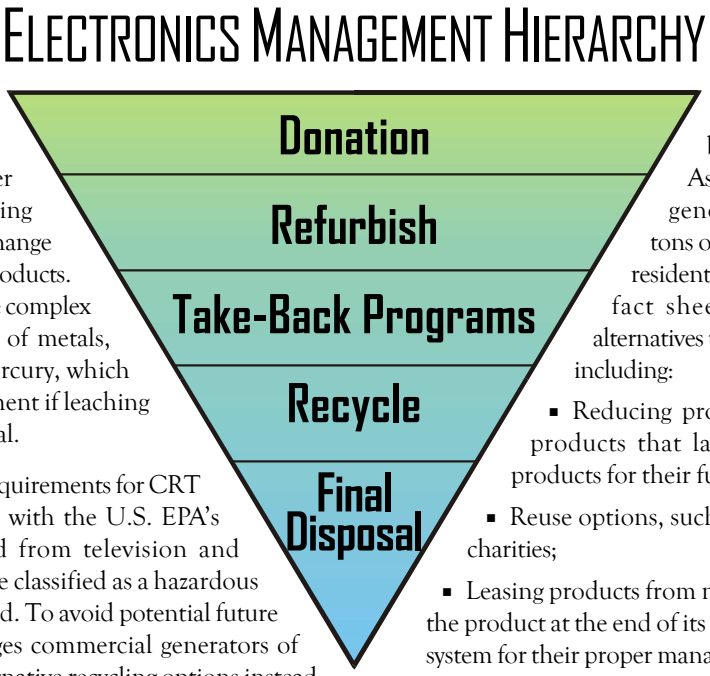
# Media News Update

## *Waste Management News*

### MANAGEMENT OF CATHODE RAY TUBES FROM ELECTRONIC DISCARDS

The Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA), along with the Division of Waste Management (DWM), has issued a fact sheet to clarify the duties and responsibilities of both the generators and handlers of electronic discards, especially those containing cathode ray tubes (CRTs). The fact sheet also includes regulatory requirements and provides suggestions for alternatives to disposal.

The management of obsolete and discarded CRTs from computer monitors and televisions is a mounting concern in North Carolina as electronic devices begin to enter the solid waste stream in growing numbers due to technological change and consumer interest in new products. Electronics, especially CRTs, are complex products that contain a range of metals, such as lead, cadmium and mercury, which can be harmful to the environment if leaching occurs following landfill disposal.




The fact sheet gives regulatory requirements for CRT disposal. DWM officials agree with the U.S. EPA's position that CRTs removed from television and computer monitor housings are classified as a hazardous waste due to the presence of lead. To avoid potential future liability, the division encourages commercial generators of electronics discards to seek alternative recycling options instead of landfill disposal for these products. Although CRT-containing electronic equipment from residential households would be exempt from hazardous waste management requirements, they should be recycled, when feasible, as well.

DWM currently allows CRTs to be managed as a "scrap metal" for purposes of recycling if the CRT is kept intact. U.S. EPA is considering placing CRTs under the Universal Waste Rule, which decreases regulatory burdens in the collection and storage of these items but would require recyclers to be classified as Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) facilities. However, it is uncertain how and when EPA will proceed with this action. In general, the EPA seems to be leaving wide discretion to the states on electronic disposal issues. With North Carolina's goal of reducing landfill disposal of solid waste, generators are strongly encouraged to identify viable alternatives to disposal. Click on www.p2pays.org/DMRM/01.htm for DPPEA's listing of electronic recyclers.

According to the *1998 Markets Assessment of the Recycling Industry and Recyclable Materials* compiled by DPPEA's Recycling Business Assistance Center, North Carolina generates approximately 50,000 tons of electronic scraps per year from residential and commercial sources. The fact sheet provides suggestions for alternatives to disposal of electronic discards, including:

- Reducing product turnover by choosing products that last longer and using those products for their functional lives;
- Reuse options, such as donating to schools and charities;
- Leasing products from manufacturers who take back the product at the end of its useful life, and establishing a system for their proper management and/or disposal; and
- Electronics recycling programs, which North Carolina municipalities, such as the town of Cary and Mecklenburg, Wake, Rowan and Iredell counties, are putting in place.

The fact sheet can be found on the Web at: www.p2pays.org/ref/14/13001.pdf. For more information on CRT and electronic discards management, view DPPEA's core sector page on electronics at wrrc.p2pays.org/industry/electronics.htm or its new electronics Web site at www.p2pays.org/electronics. If you are unable to download the fact sheet and would like a hard copy, contact Norma Murphy at (919) 715-6513 or Norma.Murphy@ncmail.net. ▪

*FOCUS: Waste Minimization* is published by the divisions of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, Waste Management, Air Quality, and Water Quality of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is intended to provide North Carolina industries and other interested parties with current information concerning proper waste management and waste reduction. The information contained in this publication is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, the application of this information is at the reader's own risk. Mention of products and services in the publication does not constitute an endorsement by the State of North Carolina. The information contained in this publication may be cited freely.

If you have comments, waste minimization case summaries, resource information, or questions for the next issue of the *FOCUS* newsletter, call Norma Murphy at (919) 715-6513, fax (919) 715-6794, e-mail *Norma.Murphy@ncmail.net*, or write the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA), 1639 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH NC 27699-1639.

State of North Carolina: Michael F. Easley, Governor; William G. Ross Jr., DENR Secretary; Gary Hunt, DPPEA Director.

NCDENR

Visit DPPEA online:

www.p2pays.org

# Air Quality News

## Real-Time Data Now Available for Air Quality

Triangle residents can now obtain current air quality information through a Web site that posts real-time data on ozone and the weather. The Web site shows current levels of ozone and particulate matter (dust) as measured at the N.C. Division of Air Quality's (DAQ) North Raleigh monitoring station. It also includes views from an outdoor camera in downtown Raleigh, as well as current data on temperature, wind, precipitation, relative humidity and solar radiation.

"As we enter the ozone season, this Web site can provide valuable information particularly for people who are sensitive to air pollution," said George Murray, head of the DAQ's ambient air monitoring section.

The real-time air data can be found at this Web site: daq.state.nc.us/Offices/Monitoring/Visibility. Information on current ozone levels in the Triangle and other metro areas across the state can be obtained by calling the toll-free Air Quality Index at 1-888-AIRWISE (888) 247-9473.

North Carolina's ozone forecasting season started May 1, with its network expanding from four to six metropolitan areas across the state. Fayetteville and Hickory area residents now have access to air quality forecasts such as those issued in recent years for the Charlotte, Triad, Triangle and Asheville metropolitan areas. State and local air quality programs provide the daily ozone forecasts to the news media for weather reports in the six metro areas.

Ozone, a highly reactive form of oxygen, can be unhealthful to breathe, particularly for children, people with asthma or other respiratory problems, and adults who work or exercise outdoors. Ozone also can damage trees and reduce crop yields. Such concerns led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt a stricter standard for ozone in 1997. The DAQ estimates that more than half of the state's residents live in counties where ozone levels top the new standard. For additional information contact Tom Mather, public information officer at (919) 715-7408, tom.mather@ncmail.net. ▪

# Water Quality News

## Proposed Metal Products and Machinery Rules

On Jan.3, 2001, EPA submitted a proposed new rule for effluent limitation guidelines, pretreatment standards and new source performance standards for the metal products and machinery point source category. These regulations will address new effluent guidelines for both direct and indirect industrial and governmental discharges of facilities that manufacture, rebuild and maintain metal parts. The public comment period ended May 3, 2001, and the rule promulgation signature date will occur Dec. 2002.

Refer to the chart at right for the industrial sectors which are being examined for the Metal Products and Machinery regulation.

The guidelines will not include wastewater covered by other metals-related effluent guidelines (except 413, 433 and 420), non-process wastewater, and vehicle-washing wastewater. The rule will replace 40 CFR 413 and 433 for metal finishing job shop and printed wiring board subcategories as well as general metals facilities discharging greater than one million gallon per year of wastewater. 40 CFR 420 for steel forming and finishing will also be replaced. For more information contact Michael Ebner at (202) 260-5397, ebner.michael@epa.gov or go to www.epa.gov/ost/guide/mpm. ▪

**PHASE I**

- Aerospace
- Aircraft
- Electronic Equipment
- Hardware
- Mobile Industrial Equipment
- Ordinance
- Stationary Industrial Equipment

**PHASE II**

- Bus and Truck
- Household Equipment
- Instruments
- Motor Vehicles
- Offices Machines
- Precious Metals and Jewelry
- Railroad
- Ships and Boats
- Job Shops
- Printed Wiring Boards
- Miscellaneous Metal Products

## ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

Several common terms are used to describe the different levels of electronic management. Each level has distinct characteristics that relate to the degree of modification the equipment must undergo such as the following:

**ASSET RECOVERY** typically refers to a manufacturer's internal program that recovers pre or postconsumer materials for remanufacturing or use in new products.

**REFURBISHING AND REUSE** involves fixing and reselling or donating used electronic equipment for its original purpose. This usually requires part repair or replacement, memory upgrade and new software installation. Technically, reuse is not considered end-of-life management since a reusable product has not reached the end of its useful life.

**DEMANUFACTURING** or disassembling includes manual breaking down equipment into separate components to recover materials resale or reuse or to sort parts prior to recycling.

**RECYCLING** or salvaging refers to separating and processing raw materials such as plastics, metals and glass for recovery.

## *Announcing...*

The Way To Go

www.sustainablenc.org/thewaytogo

The newest resource Web site on Environmentally Sustainable Lands and Buildings in North Carolina. Learn about energy efficient and environmentally friendly building maintenance and landscape management. Gain insight into construction site management, tax advantages of rehabbing older commercial/ industrial buildings, and a new North Carolina High Performance building rating system.

## WELCOME TO P2ASSIST!

P2assist is a dynamic forum for anyone who is interested in discussing and sharing information regarding environmental issues. Users include businesses, industries, governments, consultants and environmental stakeholders. In short,...everybody!

Check out our Frequently Asked Questions section and click on the links for even more information. Sign up for p2assist listserv at: lists.p2pays.org/mailman/listinfo/p2assist. ▪

## 2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| EVENT | DATE | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|---|---|---|---|
| **EMS Development Course for Governmental Agencies – Aspects & Impacts Ranking** | Oct. 9 | Novozymes Inc., Franklinton, N.C. | Julie Woosley, (800) 763-0136 |
| **"Go Green, Save Green" Business Recycling Workshop** | Oct. 15 | Sheraton Imperial RTP, N.C. | Kelley Dennings, (919) 856-5277 |
| **N.C. Green 2001 Event** | Oct. 24 | Halifax Mall Raleigh, N.C. | Sharron Rogers, (800) 763-0136 |
| **ISO 14001 Bootcamp – Jumpstart Your EMS** | Oct. 24 | Wyndham Resort Myrtle Beach, S.C. | Suzanne Sessoms (919) 520-3641 |
| **32nd CAPCA Fall Meeting** | Oct. 24-26 | Wyndham Resort Myrtle Beach, S.C. | (919) 859-3926 |

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**FOCUS: WASTE MINIMIZATION**
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES —
DIVISION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
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