

Refuse & Recycling • No. 160 • 4/05

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Overview

Benjamin, Daniel K. **The Good News About Your Garbage.** *Consumers' Research Magazine*, v. 86, no. 11, p. 28 (3 pages), November 2003.

Benjamin's article "measures the total resource usage of different waste-disposal methods...by examining the costs of landfill disposal versus recycling as alternative methods of handling municipal solid waste."

Kaufman, Scott M., Nora Goldstein, Karsten Millrath, and Nicklas J. Themelis. **The State of Garbage in America.** *BioCycle*, v. 45, no. 1, p. 31 (11 pages), January 2004.

This is the 14th annual nationwide survey of solid waste management in the United States. The report is a collaborative effort examining the differences between State of Garbage in America tonnage data and Franklin Associates' annual survey for the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Themelis, Nickolas J. and Scott M. Kaufman. **State of Garbage in America—Data and Methodology Assessment.** *BioCycle*, v. 45, no. 4, p. 22 (5 pages), April 2004.

A post-survey analysis of the state of garbage in the United States that gives per capita waste generation estimates, recycling and composting rates, and the effects of waste-to-energy rates.

Electronics Waste

Brown, Valerie J. **Electronics, Lead, and Landfills.** *Environmental Health Perspectives*, v. 112, no.13, p. A734, September 2004.

In her article, Valerie Brown notes that "ironically, some of our most advanced technologies, when discarded, may represent a rapidly expanding and sometimes unregulated exposure to a toxicant that plagued even the ancient Romans: lead."

Dahl, Richard. **Funds for Phones.** *Environmental Health Perspectives*, v. 112, no. 14, p. A 804, October 2004.

Richard Dahl provides an overview on fundraising opportunities through cell phone collection drives. Although the collection drives are well received, the total collected will "only amount to 5% of the 100 million phones that will be discarded."

DeBlanc-Knowles, Jaime. **Spilt Ink.** *E: the Environmental Magazine*, v. 14, no. 3, p. 12 (2 pages), May/June 2003.

The author discusses the cost of computer printer ink cartridges, the benefits of remanufactured cartridges, and the effects of cartridge smart chips on the market and recycling.

Truini, Joe. **Feds Enter E-waste Arena.** *Waste News*, v. 10, no. 25, p. 3, March 14, 2005.

“A national bill (S. 510) with bipartisan support seeks to ban electronics from landfills and establish tax incentives for consumers and businesses to recycle computers and other electronics. The Electronic Waste Recycling and Promotion and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 would create a national infrastructure to recycle end-of-life electronics, including computers, laptops, monitors and televisions.”

Landfills

Clement, Douglas. **Not in My Back 40.** *Fedgazette*, v. 17, no. 2, p. 2 (5 pages), March 2005.

This article takes a look at the expansion of landfills, focusing in on a case in Sarona, Wisconsin. The author examines the basis of the landfill controversies.

Hopkins, Kyle. **Population Boom in Valley Means a Lot More Garbage.** *Anchorage Daily News*, p. B7, February 15, 2005.

“The Matanuska-Susitna Borough population is expected to grow from roughly 70,000 now to 100,000 by 2016, according to state Labor Department and University of Alaska Anchorage estimates. All those new people mean untold truckloads of trash, but the borough says it’s ready for the onslaught and recently finished a new plan for its 620-acre landfill at the southern end of 49th State Street.”

Landfills as Energy Sources

Biosolids Treatment Systems Reduce Energy Costs, Protect Environment. *WaterWorld*, v. 21, no. 2, p. 30 (2 pages), February 2005.

“Many U.S. municipalities are searching for ways to manage biosolids in an economical and environmentally friendly manner. In some cases, reducing sludge volume is simply not enough today, as municipalities try to find value in everything they do. Sludge has value in its nutrient load and in the stored energy it contains. There is a growing consensus that the energy value is worth more than the nutrient value.”

Johnson, Jim. **A Long Pipeline to Power.** *Waste News*, v. 10, no. 22, p. 13, January 31, 2005.

“The pipeline stretches 23 miles from Waverly to Hopewell, Va., from one of the nation’s largest landfills to the world’s largest maker of components used to help make nylon and fertilizer.”

Made for Methane. *Modern Power System*, v. 24, no. 9, p. 43, September 2004.

“Cummins Power Generation has produced a new ‘low-BTU’ series of generator sets specifically designed to run on the dilute methane gas mixture produced by landfills, sewage digesters or coal seam leakage.”

Organic Waste

Crawford, Janis. **Global Worming.** *Ecologist*, v. 33, no. 3, p. 52 (2 pages), April 2003.

“Contrary to instinct, organic waste actually does more harm than good in landfill. Many cities, town councils, school canteens, restaurants and community groups are planning and piloting worm composting as an efficient means of dealing with organic waste instead of filling up landfill sites.”

The Incredible Shrinking Landfill. *Environment*, v. 45, no. 5, p. 9, June 2003.

In this news release, the author describes Florida’s New River Regional Landfill bioreactor project designed to “reduce the mass of the mound considerably...creating more space and reducing the threat of groundwater contamination.”

Parsell, Diana. **Compost reduces landfill gas.** *Science News*, v. 166, no. 11, Septemeber 11, 2004.

“Mountains of decomposing garbage release about 10 million metric tons of methane each year in the United States alone.” To reduce methane gas emissions, researchers in North Carolina are covering the landfills with microbe rich compost.

Recycling

California Integrated Waste Management Board. **Curbside Recycling, The Next Generation: A Model for Local Government Recycling and Waste Reduction.** July 2002, accessed at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=969>.

“Studies completed for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) in California and nationally provide reliable information on the impacts of demographics, program designs, and financial features on the performance of curbside recycling programs.”

Kornblum, Janet. **Freecycling to the rescue.** *USA Today*, 12/21/2004

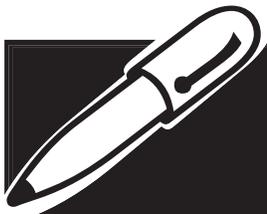
Article describes two year old Freecycle program out of Tucson, Arizona, encouraging people to “recycle instead of throwing things away when they didn’t want them anymore.” The organization is inspiring other groups around the nation to set up similar programs.

Manuel, John S. **Unbuilding for the Environment.** *Environmental Health Perspectives*, v. 111, no.16, p. A880 (8 pages), December 2003.

This article describes how “deconstruction has numerous potential environmental benefits over demolition, and, being more labor-intensive, it can provide relatively more jobs.” It discusses deconstruction methodologies, re-use of materials, health and safety issues, and environmental perspectives.

Matsch, Dan. **Community Organization Cycles in Many Ways.** *In Business*, v. 27, no.1, p. 23 (3 pages), January/February 2005.

“In Boulder County, Colorado, the name Eco-Cycle has long been synonymous with recycling. Founded by committed and visionary volunteers in 1976, Eco-Cycle remains one of the oldest and largest private nonprofit recyclers in the country. Recognizing that recycling is only part of the picture, however, Eco-Cycle is now going beyond recycling and into the world of composting and zero waste services.”



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Suggested Internet Sources (last accessed April 2005)

Center for the Development of Recycling

<http://recyclestuff.org/CDR.asp>

“The Center for Development of Recycling (CDR) is a non-profit, university-based recycling resource for Santa Clara County. CDR is funded by the County to operate its Recycling Hotline on behalf of the county’s 15 cities and unincorporated areas.”

Grassroots Recycling Network

<http://www.grrn.org/>

“Our mission is to eliminate the waste of natural and human resources -- Zero Waste. We utilize classic activist strategies to achieve corporate accountability for and public policies to eliminate waste, and to build sustainable communities.”

National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA)

<http://www.nswma.org/>

“NSWMA is a trade association representing for-profit companies in North America that provide solid, hazardous and medical waste collection, recycling and disposal services, and companies that provide professional and consulting services to the waste services industry. Promote the management of waste in a manner that is environmentally responsible, efficient, profitable and ethical, while benefiting the public and protecting employees.”

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

<http://www.swana.org/sections/ABOUT/>

“For over 40 years, the SWANA has been the leading professional association in the solid waste field. Our association serves over 7,200 members throughout North America, and thousands more with conferences, certifications, publications, and technical training courses.”

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Waste Disposal Web Site

<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/wastwastedisposal.html>

This site links you to the EPA’s waste disposal resources such as publications, programs, regulations, and standards. Topics include landfills, recycling, hazardous and non-hazardous solid wastes, waste reduction, and more.

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