Preserving Resources, Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Summer, 2014
WasteWise…improving your bottom line and the environment through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.

Donation Is the Name of the Game for Old Sports Equipment

The New York Times recently featured a short video entitled "Pass it on" in its online publication found at www.nytimes.com. The video is about a Congolese man who reuses plastic scraps, tattered rags and other materials that are littering the landscape to make soccer balls for the children in his village. Retired New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera and his childhood friends grew up impoverished in Panama and made baseball gloves out of old cardboard milk cartons and bats from tree branches. While these are both tales of reuse and resourcefulness, it is probably fair to say that many American children and adults take for granted all of the goods, including sporting equipment, that are readily available in the United States, as well as the ability of many Americans to purchase these goods and thus be able to obtain a soccer ball or baseball glove, for example. In fact, many American families, especially those with children involved in various sports, will most likely find at one time or another that they have quite a surplus of old sporting equipment stored in their house or garage that either no longer fits or is no longer used or wanted.

While throwing that old softball bat or ice hockey stick in the trash may be the quickest way to clean out one's house or garage, there are many organizations that are eagerly looking for donations of new or used sporting equipment. These non-profit organizations then distribute the donated sporting equipment to needy communities in the United States, as well as to developing countries in need of assistance. Sport-specific donation programs have been established for some of the major sports – see information below - but there are other more local opportunities to consider, as well. For example, local charitable organizations, youth groups, community groups or recreational sports leagues might also be looking for donated sports equipment. Thus, think of donation, and not disposal, when cleaning out the garage and considering what to do with old sporting goods. There are children and adults all around the world that would treasure these surplus items and put them to good use.

Baseball Equipment Donations:
http://www.pitchinforbaseball.org/html/faq.html

Ice Hockey Equipment Donations:
http://www.restorehockey.org/page/show/266503-recycle-the-game

Soccer Equipment Donations:
http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org/our-programs/passback

Softball Equipment Donations:
http://www.isfsoftball.org/english/development/equipment_donation.asp

Reuse Marketplace Still a Great Alternative to Trash

Now in its second full year, the Reuse Marketplace is a free regional network to find, sell, trade, or give away reusable and surplus items that would otherwise be disposed as trash. Businesses, institutions, governments, and organizations in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont are eligible to create accounts and to post listings. Anyone is welcome to search or browse the posted items. The Reuse Marketplace helps members save money, obtain low cost and free reusable goods, reduce disposal costs, reduce their carbon footprint, and achieve sustainability and waste reduction goals. Visit www.reusemarketplace.org for more details.

Did You Know...

- Walmart and eight other major U.S. companies have joined together to form a $100 million recycling fund, called the Closed Loop Fund, that will help finance projects that increase recycling.
- By leaving grass clippings on your lawn rather than bagging them, you will save time by not having to stop to empty the bag and money since you will not need to purchase bags or as much fertilizer. Additional information on the "Cut it and Leave it" approach is available at http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/brochures/recycling%20brochures/grass.pdf.
- The recent demolition of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, the former home of the Minnesota Vikings football team, resulted in the recycling of 80,000 tons of concrete debris!
- Portuguese designer, Joao Sabino, has created a line of handbags made from recycled keyboard keys called KeyBags. Four different colored bags are available, and each one is made from 393 computer keyboard keys. Visit https://www.joaosabino.pt/ for details.
- The U.S. used aluminum beverage can recycling rate reached 67 percent in 2012, 1.9 percentage points higher than the 2011 rate of 65.1 percent, according to the Aluminum Association, Can Manufacturing Institute and ISRI.
- The NJDEP maintains online lists of various New Jersey based recycling centers for a wide range of materials at www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/recymkts_directory.htm.
- CounterEvolution, a furniture company in New York, creates innovative furniture from reclaimed wood from bowling alleys. For more information, visit www.counterev.com.
- The Northeast Recycling Council received funding from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation to develop model environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) specifications for three common products that purchasers find challenging to buy "in green" - toner cartridges, copy and multipurpose 20 lb. paper, and office supplies. Visit www.nerc.org for details.

Sustainability Network for Law Firms Created

The Law Firm Sustainability Network is a nonprofit organization of law firms and legal departments committed to promoting the benefits of environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility within their firms and throughout the legal industry. Among other things, the Law Firm Sustainability Network's mission is to recognize innovation regarding environmental sustainability in the U.S. legal sector. The organization is currently working on the American Legal Industry Sustainability Standards (ALISS), a self-assessment tool that measures law firms' implementation of environmentally friendly practices that promote energy efficiency, conservation of energy and resources, recycling, and related measures. The Law Firm Sustainability Network intends to launch ALISS next year.

CarpetCycle Celebrates 15 Years on the Job

CarpetCycle, New Jersey's only carpet recycling facility, has not only been operating at its new facility in Newark since 2012, but has been operating in the State of New Jersey for the past 15 years! In this time, the company has been able to keep over 200 million pounds of carpeting out of landfills and has become the Northeast's largest carpet recycling operation. Once processed through CarpetCycle's separation system, carpet materials can be given "second life" as new carpet yarns for clothing and textiles, auto parts and even racetracks. CarpetCycle recycles both residential and commercial carpeting, including carpet tiles, as well as ceiling tiles through the Armstrong Company's recycling program. For further information, visit www.carpetcycle.com.

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Steven Rinaldi, Chair, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste Management –
Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us
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