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Master Composter Training Sites Set for 2007

Joe Van Rossum

Locations for the Master Composter Program initial training workshops have been set for 2007. Workshops will be held at three sites this year. Master Composter is a train-the-trainer program that aims to build the capacity of composters to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for composting with others. In order to become certified, Master Composters trainees must attend a one day workshop, participate in a Wisline program and complete three outreach activities.

Composters who participate in the program gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program also introduces vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Most importantly, Master Composter trainees learn strategies that enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others.

One day workshops are scheduled in the following communities:

- Eau Claire County, March 24
- Dane County, April 21
- Price County, April 28

For additional information about the scheduled workshops or the Master Composter Program please contact Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC Recycling Specialist: vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu, or 608-262-0936.

Samuels Recycling Purchased by Alter Trading

Joe Van Rossum

St. Louis based Alter Trading Corporation announced January 3, 2007 the acquisition of Samuels Recycling Company. Founded in 1896, Samuels grew into one of Wisconsin's largest scrap metal processors boasting 250 employees across the state. With the purchase of Samuels seven scrap recycling facilities, Alter now has 28 recycling operations in seven states. This acquisition is a continuation of the consolidation trend in the scrap metal industry. Further information may be found online at: <http://www.altertrading.com/> or <http://www.samuelsrec.com/>

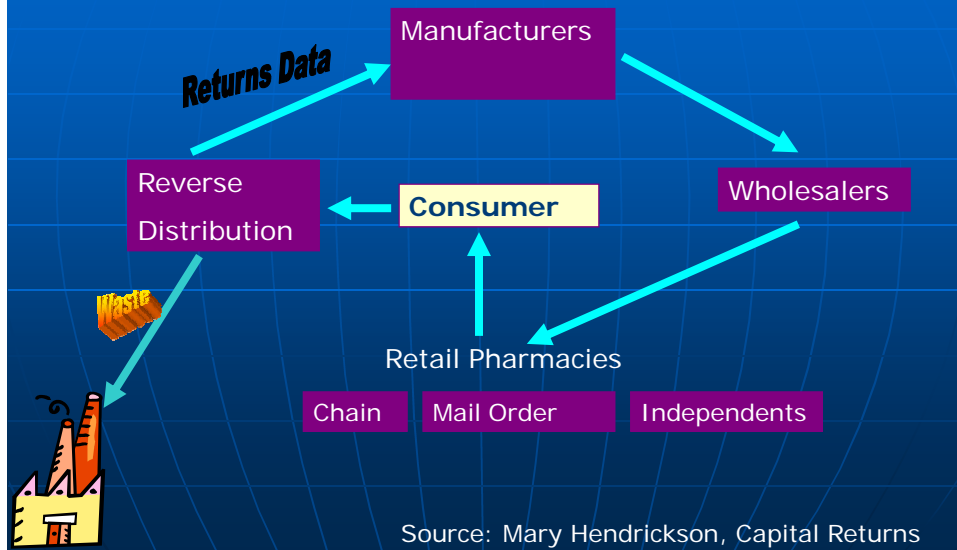
Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Waste Work Group Formed

Steve Brachman

Due to growing interest in one day pharmaceutical waste collection programs, a cross section of interested parties met in Milwaukee in late January to discuss alternatives. Hosted by Capital Returns, a Milwaukee-based reverse distributor for pharmaceuticals, this meeting gave participants an opportunity to explore several options for collecting waste pharmaceuticals, including drop boxes (e.g., Washington State) as well as utilizing the existing reverse distribution network.

Mary Hendrickson, of Capital Returns, presented one model for collection, which is illustrated in the chart below. In addition, she led participants on a tour of the facility.

Model “mail back” program



Participants agreed to a follow up meeting to discuss additional regulatory and legal issues, as well as begin planning a pilot program. For more information, contact Steve Brachman at steve.brachman@uwex.edu.

Stout Participates in Recycling Contest

For the first time ever, the University of Wisconsin-Stout is participating in RecycleMania, a nationwide college campus recycling competition. Now in its sixth year, RecycleMania has grown from a competition between two Ohio universities to a contest involving more than 200 universities in 43 states.

This is the first year that Wisconsin campuses have been involved and include UW-Stout, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Marinette, UW-River Falls and College of Menominee Nation.

RecycleMania is a friendly competition among university recycling programs in the United States that provides students, faculty and staff with a fun, proactive activity in waste reduction. It is organized and operated by university recycling coordinators and endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Wise program, the National Recycling Coalition's College and University Recycling Council (CURC) and the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program.

During a 10-week period that runs through April 7, schools compete in different contests to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables and the least amount of trash — and produce the highest recycling rate.

Participating schools report measurements on a weekly basis in pounds recycled per student living on campus, as well as the overall recycling rate for the university. The university or college that recycles the most during the 10-week period will be awarded a RecycleMania trophy.

UW-Stout's RecycleMania coordinator is Bob Dodge, buildings and grounds superintendent. He is working closely with Martin Fritz, associate director of university housing and Krista James, of the biology department and Greensense advisor. Student coordinators of the UW-Stout RecycleMania committee are Jenna Haroldson (senior, psychology major) and Heidi Behnke (sophomore, psychology major).

As appropriately stated by Dodge, "Ultimately, recycling is everyone's responsibility. We need to all be responsible for providing future generations with the opportunity to live in a green environment." More information can be found on RecycleMania's Web site at <http://www.recyclemaniacs.org/index.htm>.

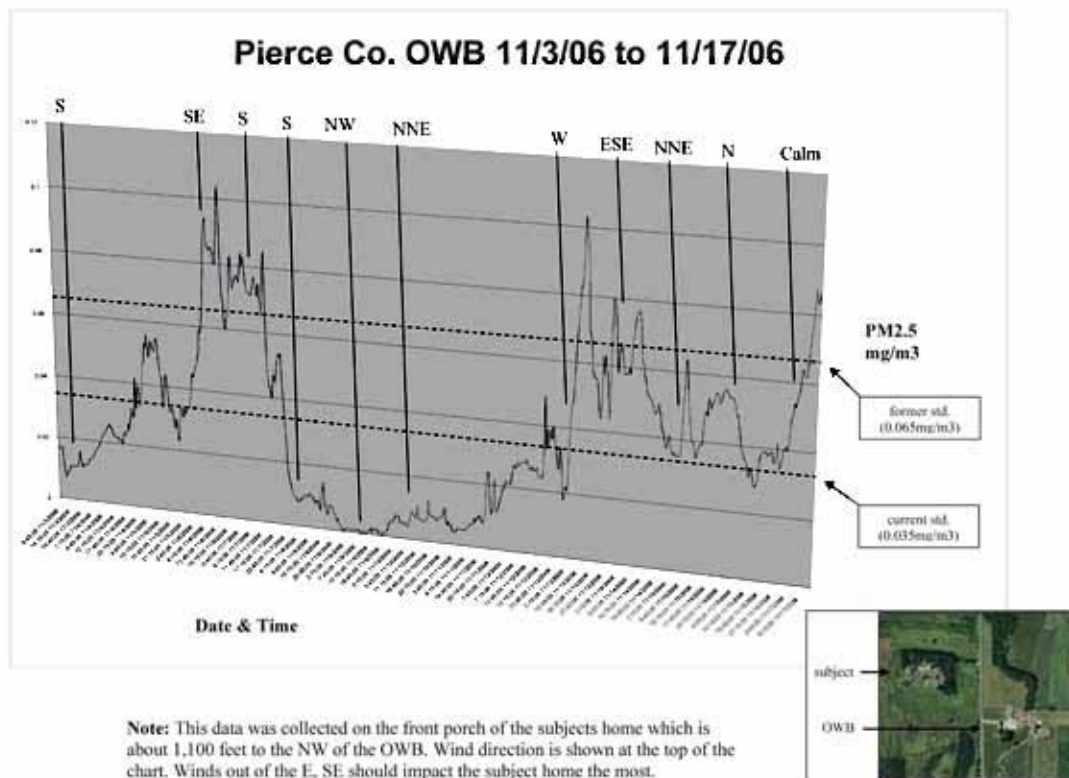
OWB Setbacks Fail to Provide Respiratory Protection

David S. Liebl

As the use of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers (OWBs) becomes more common in Wisconsin, municipalities have begun to regulate them to prevent the health and nuisance impacts of the dense smoke they produce. One approach being used is to require setbacks from adjacent buildings or property line, to allow smoke to disperse before it can effect neighbors.

For example, the LaCrosse County ordinance states "The *outdoor wood-fired furnace shall be located at least 200 feet from any residence which is not on the same property as the outdoor wood-fired furnace. (and) If there is a residence within 200 feet to 500 feet of the wood-fired furnace which is not on the same property, then the outdoor wood-fired furnace shall have an attached permanent stack extending higher than the roof line of the structure being served.*"

However, the recent experience of a Pierce County family calls into question the effectiveness of OWB setbacks as a means for reducing exposure to wood smoke. Situated in a rural valley 1,200 feet from the nearest OWB, this family is exposed fine particulate (PM 2.5) levels 3-4 times the maximum USEPA 24-hour exposure level of 35 ug/m³. (see figure provided by Pierce County Health dept.).



This family's exposure is year-round as the OWB is used for heating water during the summer months. When wind direction is unfavorable, or under low-wind conditions, family members are forced to use respirators to avoid health problems caused by smoke inhalation.

Until US-EPA or WI-DNR chooses to regulate OWBs, local municipalities will be faced with mediating landowner disputes resulting from OWB smoke exposure. Relying on 200-500 foot setbacks, as the in LaCrosse County ordinance, is clearly no guarantee of maintaining healthy air for all to breathe. For more information of OWB's see:

<http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/shwec/publications/cabinet/p2/Woodburning2-06.pdf>

"Recycling Brochure Creation Tool" Proves Useful

Joe Van Rossum

The "Recycling Brochure Creation Tool" allows the user to create a professional looking brochure in a matter of minutes. Education is a vital component of any recycling program according to Joe Van Rossum, a SHWEC Recycling Specialist. "This tool has been used by local recycling program coordinators to create quality educational materials."

Community based recycling programs access the brochure creation tool to help them better communicate program requirements to residents. The website allows a community to create a customized tri-fold brochure that can be duplicated in-house or taken to a commercial printer. The brochure allows a community to communicate what materials are collected for recycling as well as the method in which these items are collected.

The "Recycling Brochure Creation Tool" can be found online at:

www3.uwm.edu/Dept/shwec/brochure/. The user is prompted to enter program specific information as well as contact information. The tool further allows the selection of specific materials that are collected by a community's collection program. The final product also contains information on waste reduction and encourages the reader to seek further information about starting a home compost pile. For additional information about this tool visit the website or contact Joe Van Rossum by phone 608-262-0936 or email vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu.

Learning to Spray Paint with Zero Waste

Jack Annis

Anyone who owns or operates a business that uses manual spray painting knows that it is a process that generates considerable waste. The waste is often hazardous, sometimes dangerous for health, and always expensive to dispose properly. Training painters to spray products efficiently has always been a critical factor in maintaining product quality and reducing costs as well as very important to any serious efforts to reduce waste.

For several years the Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) has been leading the effort to develop spray painting techniques, training and equipment that helps reduce the environmental impact of spray painting operations while still maintaining quality. IWRC continues to lead that effort by introducing a spray painting training method that has absolutely no waste -- a virtual spray painting training system. The system uses real equipment but with computer modeling and projection; no paint booth is required. The cost of the training system is not cheap but could be a significant cost saver for businesses using a large amount of spray painting in operations. Check out the system at <http://www.virtualpaint.us/about/>.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board Considers Petition on the "Mercury Rule"

The Department of Natural Resources has received a petition from concerned citizens about the NR 446 control of mercury emissions rule. In response, the DNR has deferred until February 2007 the request for hearing authorization from the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and, instead, presented an informational item on key mercury issues at the January NRB meeting.

The presentation to the NRB Board on the Clean Air Mercury Rule and the citizen petition received by the DNR on January 22, 2007 on revisions to, and adoption of NR 446, can be found under the "January 2007" heading in the "Recent News" section at this web page <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/reg/mercury/camr.htm>

DNR To Make Outdoor Burning More Convenient

David S. Liebl

Despite evidence that outdoor burning can be hazardous to health and the environment, DNR wildfire control officials are proposing to make burning yard waste more convenient in nine northern counties.

Property owners in Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida and Vilas counties will be able to apply for a season-long burning permit for burning yard waste in 2007, under a pilot program to test a new outdoor burning permit system in Wisconsin. All other areas of the state will continue to operate on the current system of burn permitting.

Under current burning rules, homeowners may apply for a season-long permit to burn approved materials in barrels, but they must apply for separate three-day permits for yard waste burning activities. Permit holders are required to have their permit available upon request and are still responsible for their fire and any damage it may cause.

Under the pilot program, a single permit will be good for the entire year for both burn barrels and yard waste piles. If successful in the nine-county pilot study area, the new system could be expanded to other areas, say DNR wildfire control officials.

"By making the permit process a single stop for the entire year we make it more convenient for the public," said Trent Marty, director of DNR Bureau of Forest Protection.

DNR air quality staff and the Wisconsin Department of Health on the other hand continue to discourage outdoor burning, burn barrels and outdoor wood fired boilers. For more information of the health and environmental impacts of smoke see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob/>

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/HlthHaz/fs/WoodBrn.htm>

US-EPA News from January 2007.....



EPA Announces 2006 Results from Plug-In To e-Cycling Program

Retailers and electronics manufacturers voluntarily recycled more than 34 million pounds of electronics in 2006 as part of their commitment to the Plug-In To eCycling program.

The program is a voluntary partnership between EPA and electronics manufacturers and retailers to offer consumers more opportunities to donate or recycle used electronics.

Since 2003, Plug-In partners have recycled more than 95 million pounds of electronics.

EPA's Plug-In to eCycling Partners include: Apple, Best Buy, Cingular, Dell, eBay's Rethink initiative, HP, Intel, JVC, Lexmark, NEC Display, Office Depot, Panasonic, Philips, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Staples and Toshiba. For information about the program and its partners: <http://www.epa.gov/plugin/>

Simple Radon Test Can Help Prevent Lung Cancer

Each year, nearly 20,000 people die from lung cancer caused by exposure to radon. A common source of avoidable exposure to radon in the home, yet only one in five homeowners has actually tested for radon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is urging people to test their homes. Radon is an invisible radioactive gas that seeps into your home from underground, and can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors. The only way to know if your home contains high radon levels is to test for it. Nearly 80 percent of American homes have not been tested for radon, even though a simple test costing as little as \$25 can help detect a possible radon problem. More information about Radon Action Month:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/rnactionmonth.html> and to get your home tested:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html>

EPA Rules Out Wood Preservative ACC for Residential Use

EPA is taking legal action to deny registration of acid copper chromate, commonly known as ACC, for residential use. ACC is a wood preservative pesticide. EPA's scientific review process concluded that ACC would pose a cancer risk to treatment plant and manufacturing workers, as well as non-cancer risks to homeowners, children and contractors. The disposal of ACC-treated wood could require that it be handled and disposed of as a hazardous waste since the wood may contain high levels of hexavalent chromium. Under the federal pesticide law, EPA is following the administrative process to finalize this decision. For more information: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/acid_copper_chromate.htm

EPA Helps Farmers Turn Livestock Waste into Wealth

EPA and its partners have released guidance that can help farmers manage livestock waste and boost farm earnings while reducing greenhouse gases. Processing livestock manure under controlled conditions can produce biogas which is made up of methane and carbon dioxide. Capturing biogas provides significant environmental benefits and farmers can use biogas for on-site electricity generation or for delivery to a local electric utility. Waste methane recovery systems, also known as anaerobic digestion systems, are estimated to be feasible at about 7,000 dairy and swine operations in the United States. In 2005, about 110 systems were operational or under construction, and another 80 were in the planning stages. The standardized guidance was developed jointly by EPA's AgStar program, the Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions, and USDA. Information on the AgStar Protocol: <http://www.epa.gov/agstar/resources/protocol.html> or general information on Methane to Markets Partnership: <http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets>

Events, Training, Workshop and Tour Opportunities

February 21-23 2007 the **2007 Winter Conference** is sponsored by AROW, SWANA and WCSWMA in Appleton. To register call 608-339-9178 or download the brochure at: [2007 Conference Agenda & Registration Form \(as of 11/06\)](#)

March 12-14 2007 **Environment 2007 Conference and Exhibition** is sponsored by FET and held in Milwaukee. The conference is one of the oldest and largest environmental conferences held in the state and includes the recognition of companies or organizations for the Governors Award for Environmental Excellence. Go to www.fetinc.org or call 414-354-0070 for more information on exhibiting or to register.

March 12-14 2007 the **Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable** meeting and seminar in Chicago Illinois at the US-EPA Region V Headquarters
<http://www.glrppr.org/meetings/Spring2007/>

March 23, 2007 - **Recycling Education Workshop**, Eau Claire, DNR Regional Headquarters 1300 West Clairemont, Eau Claire, WI. Basic principles of social based marketing, strategies for working with local media, and techniques for measuring the success of recycling education programs. Contact Joseph Van Rossum, 608-262-0936, vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu.