

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

The Local Landscape

Dear Municipal Leader:

EPA recognizes local government responsibility is to manage and respond to public health and environmental conditions. To aid you in taking preventative measures to protect the health and safeguard your community I am pleased to offer the third edition of EPA New England's Local Landscape.

Summertime brings everyone closer to their natural surroundings. A large portion of this issue focuses on maintaining nature's assets and staying safe while enjoying the sun, water and beaches that draw such crowds throughout the season. Please take advantage of program opportunities, information, funding sources and ideas. We hope that you find this information to be both interesting and useful.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney
Administrator
EPA New England Office

Smooth Sailing for Clean Engines



EPA's voluntary Clean Engine Initiative started in 2002.



Summer is the time to enjoy the great outdoors and here in New England our waterways attract thousands of tourists and boaters each season. While soaking up the natural beauty around us however, we often overlook how much unne-

cessary pollution is produced by inefficient watercraft engines. This is why in 2002 EPA New England began the voluntary Clean Marine Engine Program, designed to accelerate the sale of low pollution two- and four-stroke engines.

This effort has involved a wide range of manufacturers, retailers, trade associations and state and federal environmental agencies in all six New England states. The program recently expanded to include New York and the Lake Champlain area.

Since the programs inception about four-fifths of outboard motors and watercraft engines sold in New England are low pollution models.

"EPA's voluntary clean-marine initiative will have long-term environ-

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Clean Beach Campaign - A Shore Thing

When it's 90 degrees outside and the fresh, cool, ocean beckons, the last thought on anyone's mind is bacteria. How could the salt water NOT be good for you? It's a scary fact that pollution from runoff and sewage overflows can prevent us from enjoying any sunny

summer day and it's scarier that it once went unnoticed. EPA New England's "It's a Shore Thing" campaign is part of the Federal Beaches Act that passed in 2000.



This beach initiative aims to protect public health by monitoring, assessing and reducing pollution/bacteria levels that cause beach closures. Our beach

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(cont.) Clean Engines

mental and fuel-saving benefits during the entire 20 plus years that these clean engines remain in use,” Robert W. Varney. “The clean engines sold over the past few years will greatly reduce air, water and noise pollution around New England’s beautiful lakes and waterways, while allowing greater fuel efficiency for boaters.” ♣

Encourage members of your community to hop on board this program,

for further information please visit: www.epa.gov/ne/assistance/cmei/index.html

To find more on a host of water-related topics including up-to-date info on your favorite beaches, rivers and watersheds; where it is safe to swim or eat freshly caught fish; and other ways for boaters and marina users to keep our waterways clean please visit: www.epa.gov/ne/topics/water/onthewater.html



(cont.) Clean Beaches

Rhode Island Narragansett Beach July 14, 2006. Rhode Island DPH and Governor Carcieri receive over \$ 200,000 from EPA New England this year.



From the left: State Representative David Caprio, State Senator James Sheehan, Governor Donald Carcieri, Ira Leighton Deputy Administrator EPA New England, Curt Spaulding Executive Director of Save the Bay, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee and Ames Colt Bay Coordinator of URI’s Seagrant Program.

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season here in New England is short enough. Working with state environmental and public health agencies the EPA aims to cut down the number of days where it is unsafe to swim. The goals of the program are included below.

This summer alone EPA awarded

- * Monitor water quality, assess pollution sources and notify the public.
- * Control pollution sources (non-point, runoff) that contribute to closures.
- * Establish ‘Flagship’ Beaches to track performance.
- * Promote high quality and consistent assessment methods.
- * Promote information transfer and communication.
- * Involve and educate the public and the local municipalities in their roles.

more than \$1.1 million to the five coastal states. Since the inception of the Federal Beaches Act EPA New England has awarded over \$5 million to our regions beaches. ♣

For more information visit: www.epa.gov/ne/eco/beaches/index.html

The SunWise Program is an environmental and health education program that aims to teach the public how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun through the use of classroom-, school-, and community-based components.



Catch Rays...Safely

Whether you’re at home or on vacation make sure you check the UV Index and Air Quality Forecasts posted by the EPA and created daily by the National Weather Service. SunWise, an EPA program designed to educate the public about how to avoid overexposure from the sun and unhealthy air conditions. Keep your family safe from avoidable threats and take advantage of this easily accessible information. ♣

www.epa.gov/sunwise/index.html

Brownfields 2006 - Revolution in Redevelopment and Revitalization in Boston

Thousands of New England properties are potentially contaminated abandoned by property owners and are considered undesirable by developers. These properties, called Brownfields, will be the topic of the 11th Annual Brownfields Conference to be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibitors Center in Boston on November 13-15, 2006.

This is the first time that this conference has been held in New England and so will provide a special opportunity for local New England communities to learn about cutting edge technology, learn from others' expe-

riences and network with public and private entities who are working on Brownfields all over the country. We expect over 5,000 participants at this free conference.

The conference will feature over 100 educational sessions on topics such as community and economic development, financing and investment, real estate and deal making, greening of redevelopment and more. There will be 10 mobile workshops and walking tours in the Boston metropolitan area, a Transaction Forum where those with properties

will meet with potential deal makers, a design charrette that will educate participants in sustainable design, over 200 plus vendors in the Exhibit Hall, networking events, a film series, and career events are just some of the activities planned for the three day conference.

For more information and registration, go to www.Brownfields2006.org or contact:
Cynthia Greene
phone 617-918-1431
greene.cynthia@epa.gov

Saving Money While Building Better Schools

Communities across New England are struggling to pay the escalating costs to provide a quality education for their children. In some places the costs are soaring out of proportion with the number of children that need to be educated. For example, the Maine State Planning Office found that between 1970 and 1995, the number of elementary and secondary public school students in the state declined by 27,000, yet the state committed \$727 million to new school construction and additions. Some of that money was used to renovate or consolidate old schools, but 46% went to build new schools or classrooms in fast-growing towns.

Communities in some states may feel driven to build new schools rather than rehabilitate old ones because of policies that favor new construction, or because of acreage standards that call for large sites to accommodate playing fields, parking lots, and other facilities. However, these policies and standards that drive communities to build expensive new schools on the outskirts of town are beginning to change. A recent collaborative effort between the EPA and the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) is intended to help communities site or rehabilitate schools so that they are lo-



cated in the towns and neighborhoods they serve. A new publication from CEFPI and EPA—Schools for Successful Communities: An Element of Smart Growth—explains why and how communities can employ smart growth planning principles to build schools that better serve and support students, staff, parents, and the entire community. Smart growth development:

- *conserves resources and land;
- *offers choices in housing, transportation, shopping, recreation, and jobs;
- *encourages community collaboration; and
- *fosters distinctive, attractive neighborhoods.

A school that is safe and easy for students, teachers, parents, and other community members to reach on foot or by bicycle helps reduce the air pollution from automobile use, protecting children's health. Building schools compactly in the neighborhoods they serve minimizes the amount of paved surface they create, which can help protect water quality by reducing polluted runoff. They can also be easier on municipal budgets if fewer students will need to ride a bus to get to school. This new publication from CEFPI and EPA helps communities invest in schools that will give children the best possible education, use taxpayer dollars wisely and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The publication is available by hard copies by calling (800) 490-9198 or the report is downloadable from www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/SmartGrowth_schools_Pub.pdf

For more information on the Smart Growth Program contact:

Rosemary Monahan

Smart Growth Coordinator
phone 617-918-1087

monahan.rosemary@epa.gov

See www.epa.gov/smartgrowth or www.epa.gov/ne/topics/envpractice/gbuildings.html for more resources.

Tips on Saving Money & Energy this Season with ENERGY STAR®

Save your community from excessive energy costs this summer and encourage your local businesses to take on the nationwide voluntary ENERGY STAR challenge. Building owners across the nation can reduce their building's energy consumption by 10% or more in five feasible steps. (*see box at right*)

These steps may require extra time and resources, but do keep in mind that you're contributing to the effort to improve the quality of life in your community. By reducing energy consumption you reduce the amount of greenhouse gases finding their way into our atmosphere. Small changes within even small communities can have an immense impact around the world; whether it's positive or negative is up to each and every one of us. www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cool_change.coolyourworld_index



- ❶. Encourage businesses to measure the energy use of their buildings, then you can set an energy savings goal.
- ❷. Inspect cooling system equipment regularly, perform monthly maintenance
- ❸. If you must run cooling systems 24 hours a day re-evaluate why, scale back if possible or update equipment to make temperature fluctuation easier.
- ❹. Involve occupants, so they realize their office environment is contributing to the global one.
- ❺. Improve, update and maintain lighting systems which account for about 13% of energy used in commercial buildings. Take advantage of today's cost effective technology.

Heads Up on Lead Requirements

Despite a federal ban on the use of lead in house paint back in 1978, more than 38 million homes in the U.S. still contain harmful amounts. The EPA will be mailing an informational pamphlet in August to building inspectors, and local housing authorities as part of a campaign to ensure safe practices with lead paint removal. In past compliance inspections it has come to the attention of the region that many contractors are still not aware of the requirements. Therefore, via the Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Rule it is hoped that municipal officials can spread this knowledge and provide residents with information on how to prevent unnecessary lead exposure.

For more information or to obtain additional pamphlets contact:
Chris Jendras: Jendras.chris@epa.gov
www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadrenf.htm

Eliminating Mercury in Schools

Last December a high school in western Massachusetts had to temporarily close and re-locate 950 students while hazardous waste companies cleaned up mercury that spilled from a barometer. Another incident with a broken mercury barometer cost a Connecticut school more than \$250,000 to clean and replace damaged property.

Accidents with mercury are costly, dangerous and avoidable. By removing all items containing mercury so long as it's within federal guidelines for disposal, you can easily prevent serious accidents in your schools. Thermometers and barometers as well as bulk elemental mercury and mercury compounds can be replaced with easy-to-find alternatives.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the health risks of elemental mercury. When it is breathed as a vapor and absorbed through the lungs, depending on the level of exposure it can cause trem-

ors, insomnia, neuromuscular changes (weakness, muscle atrophy, twitching), headaches, disturbances in sensations as well as changes in nerve responses and even cognitive function.

Metallic or elemental mercury is the most common form of mercury used in chemistry or physical science experiments. It is vital to take any spill or release of mercury seriously. If a spill is more than a thermometer's worth, you must contact your local or state health or state environmental agency. Less than or equal to a fever thermometer's worth, you can avoid a health problem by cleaning it promptly and correctly. Liquid mercury vaporizes and contaminates the air at room temperature. The longer a spill goes unaddressed the greater the potential for exposure. If a mercury spill is not contained and cleaned up, mercury can be tracked into hallways, spreading the *continued on page 5*

eCycling-Keeping PC's From the Solid Waste Stream

Electronic, or e-waste, refers to electronic products being discarded by consumers:

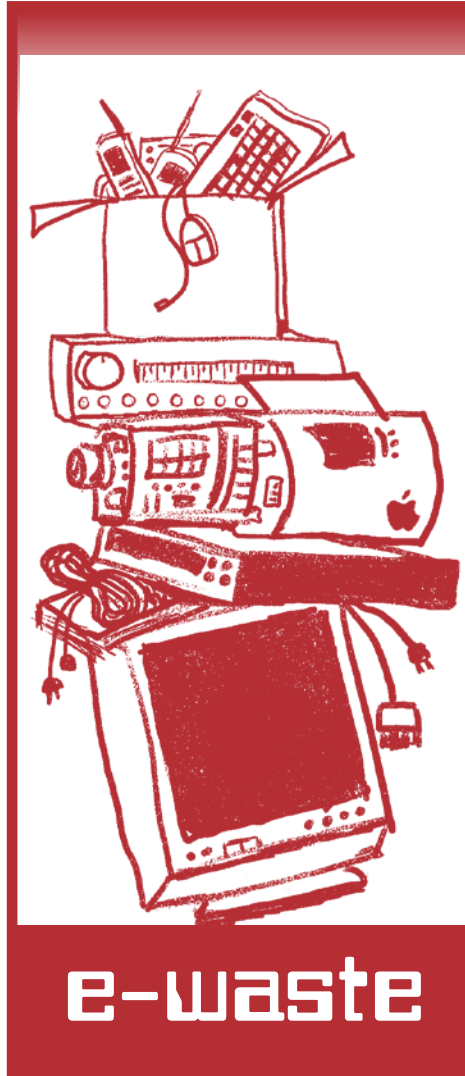
- televisions and computer monitors
- computers and computer peripherals (e.g., monitors and keyboards)
- audio and stereo equipment
- VCRs and DVD players
- video cameras
- telephones, cellular phones and other wireless devices
- fax and copy machines
- video game consoles

While various reports estimate that electronic waste is less than 4% of the total solid waste stream in the United States, e-waste is growing 2-3 times faster than any other kind of waste. No surprise given the tech boom of recent decades. In 1998, 20 million computers were taken out of service and only 2.3 million (slightly more than 10%), were re-cycled; most of those were from large businesses and institutions.

Between 2000 and 2007, a staggering 500 million personal computers will become obsolete and enter the municipal solid waste system. In response, both Massachusetts and Maine have passed laws regulating e-waste management. In 2003, more than 330 New England municipalities had e-cycling programs—approximately 90% of these were located in Massachusetts. So how can you get rid of that clunky computer and prevent waste?

To facilitate computer reuse and recycling and discourage discarding equipment in the trash, EPA offers New England residents a list of reuse and donation organizations. It can be found at: www.epa.gov/ne/solidwaste/electronic/reuse.html

All the organizations listed are located in New England and accept computer equipment for reuse or recycling. However, the list does not end there. We encourage you to use this as a starting point, but to also check your local phone directory to identify other options. For example, local universi-



ties and colleges, vocational schools, charities, libraries and religious organizations might accept computers for reuse. In addition, local recycling coordinators might offer information on other programs.

Additionally, this link will take you through the process of listing your equipment on a materials/waste exchange network. It's at: www.epa.gov/ne/solidwaste/electronic/exchange.html

If you cannot find someone to use your computer, you may be able to find someone to demanufacture/recycle it. Typically, demanufacturers take your equipment apart and salvage and/or recycle any valuable materials. It is important to note that there is usually a cost associated with this option. The following link will take you to a list of de-manufacturers, recyclers and precious metal refiners located in New England: www.epa.gov/ne/solidwaste/electronic/demanu.html

For questions and general information:
Christine Beling
phone 617-918-1792
beling.christine@epa.gov
www.epa.gov/ne/solidwaste/electronic/index.html

(cont.) Mercury

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contamination. Even small incidents can force a school to close and pay for an expensive clean up. ♣

For more information about how to remove mercury from your school, clean up methods or on how to meet state requirements for managing mercury products, check the resources listed here.

For questions and general information:
Jeri Weiss
phone 617-918-1568
weiss.jeri@epa.gov

Mercury Resources:

Mercury in Schools
www.epa.gov/mercury/schools.htm
www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/schools/

Mercury Spill Clean-up
www.epa.gov/mercury/disposal.htm#todo

State Mercury Websites
www.epa.gov/ne/eco/mercury/newengland-links.htm

“Advanced Energy Performance” is the Remedy for Tufts Health Plan Building

On August 16, 2006 EPA New England awarded Tufts Health Plan’s Watertown facility with the ENERGY STAR® label for advanced energy performance. “We applaud Tufts Health Plan’s leadership and invite others in New England to join the commitment to superior energy performance. Together we’re showing that efficient buildings improve both our environment and the bottom line,” stated Regional Administrator Robert Varney.

The facility in Watertown, MA was built in 1931, formerly a manufacturing plant. EPA estimates that this Tufts Health Plan building reduced their CO2 emissions by more than six million annual pounds, enough energy to power 370 homes for a year or conversely 600 less cars on the road. Good management and sensible upgrades granted

this large and complex facility which services almost 1,300 employees, an impressive score on ENERGY STAR national performance rating system.

The Energy Star label is given to commercial and public buildings that rank in the top 25 percent nationwide in energy performance and have an indoor environment that meets industry standards. Any building manager can benchmark building energy performance via the website at www.energystar.gov/buildings

For more information on the ENERGY STAR Program visit: www.energystar.gov or contact:

William White
Energy Star Coordinator
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