

more waste, in sheer volume, but in three separate forms that have the potential to be recycled.

When we stand back and look at it, even the plastic problem, which is only a small part of the whole waste management picture, looks overwhelming. And it will continue to overwhelm us if we continue to produce and consume at our present rate; more and more municipalities are facing a garbage mound that exceeds their capacity either to store or recover it.

The pressure to "do something" with packaging garbage is also mounting from the Packaging Association, and they warn that any approach we take to recycling must include viable uses for recycled materials, and solutions for difficult-to-recycle packaging, especially the more challenging types of plastic. It seems that packagers, and quite logically, aren't willing to invest in research and redesign without some assurance that the end products will indeed be recycled and reused.

Can consumers make a difference in stemming the tide of packaging refuse? Our roles are relatively clear: to be conscious consumers, to write to producers and packagers, telling them what we expect, and to accept or even create a demand for recycled products. If we stand around with our hands in our pockets and watch the pile grow, it will probably bury us.

Recycling Dictionary

Your study into waste management may uncover several terms which are specific to this field. What do they mean?

ALUMINUM CANS: soft drink or other beverage containers which are produced totally from aluminum. Aluminum is imported into Canada as bauxite ore from tropical areas. The recycling of aluminum cans conserves energy compared to smelting new aluminum ore. Making aluminum from recycled cans takes only 5% of the energy it requires to smelt the metal from scratch.

BIOGAS: Methane gas produced by the decomposition of organic matter.

BLUE BOX: A container distributed to households in many urban recycling programs. It is used to store recyclable materials and is placed at the curbside on pick-up day.

COMPOST: Partially decomposed organic matter which can be added to soil as a conditioner. Compost can be produced from kitchen wastes such as vegetable peelings and yard wastes such as grass clippings.

CULLET: Crushed glass which can be combined with silica, soda ash and lime to produce new glass. The glass collected from recycling projects is usually used in the form of cullet.

DEINKING: A chemical process which removes ink from recyclable paper thus making the wood fibre from the paper

clean and available for use in producing new paper.

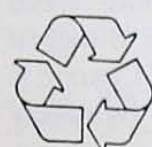
DEPOT: A central drop-off area for recyclable materials. Recycling depots consisting of collection bins have been established in central locations in rural communities.

E.F.W.: Energy from waste. The process of burning waste to produce energy in a recoverable state; usually in the form of steam or electricity. The energy can then be used for heating or in a manufacturing process. Air emissions from E.F.W. plants are regulated by Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

FINE PAPER: A common term for paper such as copier or computer paper. It is often collected from offices and schools.

LANDFILLING: The disposal of waste by deposit, under controlled conditions, on land or on land covered by water, and includes compaction of the waste into a cell and covering the waste with cover materials at regular intervals.

MOBIUS LOOP: The popularly adopted symbol for recycling used



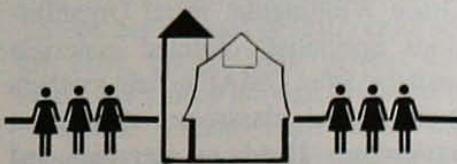
by many recycling groups and industries throughout North America.

The symbol conveys the infinite use and re-use of materials that are recycled: solids, liquids and gases.

Ontario Farm Women's Network

On April 6, representatives from farm women's groups and rural organizations met in Guelph to discuss the formation of a provincial network. The meeting resulted in the establishment of the Ontario Farm Women's Network, an umbrella organization open to all rural and farm women's groups but with the executive positions restricted to women who are actively involved in farming. The founding executive is composed of Rennie Feddema, provincial co-ordinator, Donna Lunn, assistant co-ordinator, and Carol Rock, secretary-treasurer. The primary aim of the network is to promote unity among farm women, through communication be-

tween farm women's groups, education, contact for provincial activities and conferences on leadership development. The network's mission statement asserts that "The Ontario Farm Women's Net-



work promotes social, economic and political equality among Ontario's farm women by recognizing our professional role in agriculture through the sharing

of information and mutual support.

Organizers felt that a newsletter was essential for internal communication among network members; the first issue of what will be a bi-monthly newsletter was printed in August, edited by Corry Martens of Eastern Ontario Women for the Support of Agriculture. The subscription fee for the newsletter is \$10 annually, and individual as well as group subscriptions are available. Contributions to the newsletter should be addressed to Corry Martens, R.R. # 1 Iroquois, Ontario K0E 1K0. For other information regarding the network, contact Rennie Feddema, R.R. # 2, Strathroy, Ontario N7G 3H4.