

Environment

Waste should be regarded as surplus resources

By BARBARA HALSALL

Sell Your Garbage

(If this column doesn't apply to you, please clip it for someone you know.)

What could you do with about 500 kg of waste ice cream? How about a million gallons per year of pregnant mares' urine? Or 150 tons a year of lemon oil from Peru? These are among the odd wastes listed in the bulletin of the Canadian Waste Exchange, where many suppliers are successfully matched to a user.

We should look at waste as surplus resources. The industrial and commercial sectors are responsible for an estimated 60% of the Ontario waste stream. The hope is that one company's wastes could become another company's raw material. Waste exchanges are a trend that began in Europe in the 1970's and has spread to North America.

Since exchanges reduce both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, they are a boon to the environment. But the main attraction is economics: the rising cost of both raw materials and waste disposal. Through exchanges a firm can reduce or eliminate its disposal costs for certain materials. Depending on the nature of the wastes, it may even make money on the deal. Mean-



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while, another firm gains access to raw materials at bargain prices.

The Ontario Waste Exchange is a joint project of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Ontario Waste Management Corporation and Ortech International. Their brochure says: "Is the cost of waste treatment and disposal getting you down in the dumps?" ... "We can help you to find: users for waste (waste exchange), recyclers for waste, technologies to help minimize waste."

They provide free information and advise based on considerable experience. For the Ontario Waste Exchange call Ortech at 416-822-4111 and ask for Linda Varangu, ext. 512 or for the Canadian Waste Materials Exchange contact Bob Laughlin at Ortech 416-822-4111, ext. 265.

The first step to developing a waste reduction strategy is to

conduct a waste audit. This helps to identify the quantity and quality of a firm's waste. Ontario Waste Management Corporation has sold over 3,000 copies of a Waste Audit Manual and they are into their second edition. This is primarily for industrial plants with solid or liquid waste. For your Waste Audit Manual send a cheque for \$42.80 (that includes GST) to: Ontario Waste Management Corporation, 2 Bloor Street

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Pollution Probe has two books called Profits from Pollution Prevention. The first book is on waste management techniques employed in different industries. The second book published in 1990, tells how to set up a waste reduction team in your company. Both are \$25. and are available from Pollution Probe, 416-928-1907.

You can make a difference in your place of business and be pleasantly surprised to see it cost effective.

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Environmental groups cynical about seminar

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald

A seminar on waste management hosted by Provincial Environment Minister Ruth Grier Tuesday and Wednesday in Toronto is looked upon with little optimism by two local environmental groups.

Rather than participate in the seminar, which is being held to gain input on the waste management issue from environmental groups, Incineration Counteracts the Environment group (I.C.E.) will be picketing the event, said spokesperson Rita Landry. I.C.E. was established last year in response to Halton's investigation of establishing an Energy From Waste plant. The group opposes incineration as a waste management initiative.

Protect Our Water Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) President Barbara Halsall said she will be attending the seminar but doing so "reluctantly."

Ms. Landry said I.C.E. has nothing to say to Ms. Grier as long as the minister continues to look outside the Metro Toronto area for a landfill to take that municipality's garbage.

"It's no secret Ms. Grier is looking for a long term landfill site for Metro outside its borders," said Ms. Landry.

"Until this idea fades away," said Ms. Landry. "We have

nothing to discuss with Ms. Grier."

Ms. Landry explained it's unfair for one community to expect other communities to accept it's garbage. When this happens recycling and reuse program in the community fall to the wayside, she said. "Out of sight, out of mind."

When questioned how I.C.E. can take this position given the fact Halton transports its garbage to New York State, Ms. Landry said "people can't be blamed for past mistakes when they didn't know the dangers of landfilling."

Ms. Halsall said she will be attending the seminar with some wariness because during similar meetings held by the previous government only lip service was paid to environmental groups.

The decisions had already been made before the meeting took place, said Ms. Halsall. "I'm hoping this government will be different," she added.

Ms. Halsall said the seminar will focus on approaches the government should take to select a landfill. The discussion will include criteria that should be used to determine what areas shouldn't be included for landfills. Ms. Halsall said some ideas she is considering putting forth in this area include banning landfills in quarries and on top of aquifers.

P.O.W.E.R. meeting

The environmental group P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water Environmental Resources) has scheduled its next general meeting for Wednesday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m. at Limehouse School. The public is invited to attend.

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