



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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Unified Program Newsletter October 2009

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California Environmental Protection Agency

California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) Bulletin #4

This bulletin provides an update to the Electronic Reporting Work Group and serves as an introduction to the UPA Help and Support Guide. Topics include:

1. Updates: Information to help you implement electronic reporting in your jurisdiction.
2. Action Items: These are suggestions for actions that you should be taking RIGHT NOW.
3. New FAQs: Aimed at answering many of your questions.

Bulletin #4 is now available on the Unified Program website
at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/Documents/eReporting/Bulletin4.pdf>.

Reminder: January 1, 2013 all businesses and UPAs are required to report electronically.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Final Notice for the 2009 EPA ID Number

In late October or early November 2009, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will mail a Verification Questionnaire Final Notice to approximately 30,000 permanent EPA ID Number owners who did not return the 2009 Verification Questionnaire and fee documents that DTSC mailed on June 12, 2009.

Businesses are required to return the Verification Questionnaire and Fees Assessment forms to DTSC even if they do not owe fees or do not have changes to their facility information. Any generator, transporter or facility owner who fails to verify the accuracy of their EPA ID Number information is subject to suspension of their ID Number (Health and Safety Code section 25205.16(c).)

The EPA ID Number verification process is necessary to ensure that the data contained in the Hazardous Waste Tracking System (HWTS) is accurate. The annual verification also helps to ensure that businesses use the correct EPA ID Number for their hazardous waste activities.

DTSC will have dedicated telephone lines and staff to answer calls regarding the Verification Questionnaire and Manifest Fee Assessment process. Please refer Questionnaire and Fee Assessment questions to (877) 454-4012 (toll-free) if calling from within California, and (916) 255-4439 when calling from outside California. These telephone lines will be extremely busy for several weeks after the mailing. Callers will hear a recorded message while on hold which provides them with information about the verification process. In addition, businesses can find most of the answers to questions regarding the verification process in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on the DTSC website at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/IDManifest/VQ_FAQ.cfm.

As part our normal EPA ID Number process, if a business needs a permanent EPA ID Number they should go to www.dtsc.ca.gov/IDManifest/index.cfm and print out DTSC Form 1358. If a business needs a temporary EPA ID Number, they should call (800) 618-6942.

New Enforcement Program Direction at DTSC – Community Policing

Gale Filter, Program Director for the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Enforcement and Emergency Response Program, is taking the Department's Enforcement Program in new directions. Recently a proposal for creating a fundamental change in environmental enforcement was completed. The Environmental Hope and Health Partnership calls for changing environmental protection for the 21st century, making it smarter and results-oriented by including heretofore untapped resources in environmental justice communities. The proposal calls for the creation of green jobs and utilizes environmental enforcement tools such as predictive policing, data-mining techniques and community-based environmental prosecution.

The work under this program is community focused. Communities with the greatest burden of environmental pollution are identified and targeted enforcement work is done in the communities to reduce that environmental pollution burden. The work is done through a multi-agency approach. Companies located in these communities must be in compliance with all environmental laws and regulations. Successful community policing relies on timely and accurate data, effective tactics, rapid response and relentless follow up. Community residents play a pivotal role in the new program by working with government regulators in identifying environmental harms.

Gale Filter will be talking with the CUPA forum Board in December. The CUPA programs are being encouraged to be partners in this new approach. The Department's enforcement program will work with the CUPA Programs to modify the regulatory standards for CUPA programs and move away from a strictly numbers performance management systems to a new system that more accurately measures environmental gain.

One source of data that is available for this work is the data collected by communities through a process called "ground truthing". The ground truthing process begins when volunteers in the community are trained to recognize and map hazardous and sensitive sites. The volunteers then conduct inventories of the businesses in their neighborhood. During the summer of 2008, ground truthing was conducted in eight communities within Los Angeles County. Over the summer the volunteers mapped their neighborhoods and worked with researchers to compare their findings with official databases of regulatory agencies. The eight Los Angeles Communities are Boyle Heights, City of Commerce, The Figueroa Corridor, Maywood, Pacoima, South Los Angeles, Van Nuys and Wilmington

Often the companies identified through this process are companies that are "flying below the radar". The companies have not stepped across the regulatory threshold by obtaining the business licenses and permits required to operate legally. Recently the City of Maywood provided information to the Department regarding three companies that met this description. Inspections were conducted and the companies were cited for violations of hazardous waste regulations.

Enforcement Bus Tours

The beginning point for the Department in our efforts to work with communities is the enforcement bus tours and workshops. One of the most significant elements of the Environmental Justice tours is the effort that is made to reach out to community members. Planning for the tours begins with a dialogue directly with the people who live and work in the community. Enforcement staff seeks their input on the environmental problems that affect their lives. This approach is very different from the communications community residents normally have with their government. The difference is on priorities; the priorities for the tours are not the government's priorities; they are the priorities of the people we serve. Often community members have never had a government organization reach out to them, they feel completely out of touch with the organizations that serve them. They have also not had the experience of working with government representatives, who are willing to go to the places they live, talk with them, listen to them and experience what it is like to live in their community.

Government participants see and experience firsthand how the cumulative impact of diesel trucks, industry, etc. affects the quality of life and health of the citizens living in an impacted community. They are able to talk with community representatives, listen to their concerns share information on steps that can be taken to alleviate those concerns. As a result of the tours government representatives feel a greater responsibility to work together and solve problems. The 100 day follow-up meeting brings accountability to the public into the forefront. It is harder to ignore the concerns of the public when you have met and spent the day with them. Mutual respect is developed. People begin to see things in a different way. Relationships are built.

Provided below are some of the most significant things that have happened as a result of our tours:

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Department of Toxic Substances Control are working closely together on sites identified during the tours in the Los Angeles area. This collaboration has resulted in enforcement actions from both agencies on the Gregg Industries and Exide facilities. When faced with the need to modernize an old foundry operating in a residential community in order to bring it up to today's environmental standards the Gregg Industries facility decided to close. The Exide facility is now responding to requirements from both the District and the Department in order to eliminate offsite releases of lead and clean up past contamination in and around the site.
- In Fresno and Imperial Counties the tours have resulted in the creation of forums to address environmental concerns that did not exist before. Several facilities have been inspected and are now required to address violations cited during the inspections. Also important are the avenues that now exist to discuss environmental problems that require long term, more effective solutions. Issues related to the New River and lead contamination in older homes are examples of the issues that are being addressed. New communication channels have enabled dialogue with local and state agencies to more effectively solve problems.

This Initiative is a prime example of government doing things differently and intelligently to better coordinate and respond to the needs of Californians. Who better to provide information and tips on environmental hazards and law-breaking than the Californians who live closest to it and see what's going on every day in their communities. The Department's Enforcement Program is eager to work with the CUPA's to make this program even more successful.

Automated Manifest Correction Letters

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 25160.5, the Generator Information Services Section (GISS) has initiated automated manifest correction letters that are currently being sent to Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs). After sending 30 and 60 day delinquent notices for failure to respond, GISS is now in the process of sending 90 day delinquent letters that will also be copied to DTSC's Enforcement Branch and the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs).

Contact: Bonnie Amoruso at (916) 255-0881 or bamoruso@dtsc.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board

Proposed Regulation for Interim Variance for UST's Storing Certain Biodiesel Blends

On August 14, 2009, the State Water Board posted notice to add section 2631.2 to Article 3 (commencing with section 2630), chapter 16, division 3, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, which would provide a variance from specific independent testing and approval requirements for UST systems storing certain biodiesel blends. The State Water Board requested comments from interested persons to present any statements, arguments, or contentions relating to the proposed regulation. The comments were required to be submitted in writing and received by the State Water Board before the close of the written comment period in order to be considered by the State Water Board before it adopts the proposed regulation. The written comment period closed September 28, 2009.

On October 1, 2009, the State Water Board posted a notice of modifications to the original text of the above mentioned regulations. The modifications are reflected in ~~strikeout~~ and underline format (attached). If you have any comments regarding the proposed changes, the State Water Board will accept written comments. All written comments must be received by the State Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2009, and addressed to:

Ms. Laura Fisher
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2231
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 341-5870

Comments may be submitted by e-mail to lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov or by fax to (916) 341-5808. Please limit your comments to the modifications of the originally-proposed text.

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5870.

Biodiesel Guidance on California Biodiesel Alliance (CBA) Website

We have been working closely with the CBA to develop forms to help make the biodiesel variance process smoother. While these forms are not in regulation the State Water Board UST Program staff recommends using these forms to assist with guiding UST owners in providing the proper documentation.

The forms are available for download on CBA's UST Compliance website at <http://www.californiabiodieselalliance.org/USTCompliance/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

The CBA's UST Compliance website also has a list of downloadable manufacturer compatibility documentation and leak detection statements that can be used to supplement the forms. The CBA continues to post documentation as it becomes available.

Additional information on the biodiesel variance regulatory requirements can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/regulatory/biodiesel_reqs.shtml

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5870.

Regulation of B99 and B100

In a letter dated July 20, 2009 the State Water Board clarified its position regarding the regulation of B99 and B100 (attached).

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; 916-341-5870.

Liquid Condensate Traps

It has come to our attention that over the years several liquid condensate traps have been installed without permit or meeting the necessary design and construction requirements. On July 2, 2009, the State Water Board sent out correspondence advising UST owners/operators consult with CUPAs prior to the installation of any EVR system (attached). This coordination provides UST owners/operators the opportunity to bring the liquid condensate trap into compliance during the required EVR construction. If the CUPA is not consulted, and equipment is installed or if work has already started, there is a possibility that the liquid condensate trap may need to be removed or altered again to ensure that the liquid condensate trap is compliant with both the State Water Board and ARB regulations.

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5870.

Updates to Matrix of Pipe Monitoring Applications

On July 22, August 9, and September 30 the State Water Board updated the *Matrix of Pipe Monitoring Applications (nonmetallic and Metallic) for Gravity Flow, Vacuum, Pressure, and Interstitial Liquid Level Monitoring*. The most current version of the Matrix is attached.

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5870.

E85 Storage in USTs

California Health and Safety Code sections 25290.1, 25290.2, 25291, and 25292 require that the primary containment of a UST be compatible with the stored substance (such as a fuel and/or fuel additive), and that secondary containment be constructed to prevent structural weakening because of contact with any released substance. To implement these statutes, Title 23, California Code of Regulations sections 2631 and 2643 require that:

- a) The design and construction of the tank and piping be approved by an independent testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certifications are used to meet this requirement);
- b) An owner or operator use UST system components made of, or lined with, materials that are compatible with the hazardous substances stored in the tank;
- c) The components approved for the installation of a UST system, on and after July 1, 2004, include a list of compatible products tested and the measured permeation rate of those products; and
- d) The leak detection equipment be tested and function with the fuel stored.

To assist with component selection and appropriate component ratings to comply with items a – c above, UL certifications for E85 are posted on UL's web site. Additionally, UL has a web site dedicated to the safety requirements to address material compatibility issues for high alcohol concentrated fuels (greater than 15 percent) (<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offering/industries/chemicals/flammableandcombustiblefluids/faq>). UST staff responsible for compliance review of design and construction, as well as UST inspectors, should cross reference use of UL components in the field with the ethanol ratings outlined by UL.

With respect to item d) above, the owner/operator would need to choose leak detection tested and approved for functionality with E85. This equipment is listed in Local Guidance Letter 113.

UST Program Contact: Laura S. Fisher lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5870.

CUPA Semi-Annual Reporting (Report 6)

As of September 30, 2009, 98 of 99 CUPA/PAs submitted their Report 6s for the January – June 2009 period. 16 of 98 reports submitted were returned for corrections and 13 of those were resubmitted and accepted with 12 Report 6s being submitted after the due date. The number of corrections requested was down from 20 for the previous period but we still had eight agencies reporting SOC criteria the old way. We appreciate your reporting efforts. In the last report it was erroneously reported that the City of Victorville CUPA had given up their program. During this period the City of Newark CUPA turned over their program to the Alameda County Environmental Health CUPA, so currently there are 99 CUPA/PAs who submit Report 6.

Current number of UST facilities, UST systems, and routine inspections with SOC criteria are being recorded into our database and results will be reported in the next update.

You should have been contacted recently to verify your agency contact information. We are updating our CUPA Contacts list which we have linked to our UST website. If you find that your contact info on our webpage is inaccurate or needs updating please contact us. Thank you.

UST Program Contact: Terry Snyder tsnyder@waterboards.ca.gov; (916) 341-5385.

California Emergency Management Agency – None

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Hazardous Materials Plan/Inventory Statement

The Office of the State Fire Marshal updated its Hazardous Materials Management Plan/Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement program website, which may be viewed at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/cupa/cupa.php>.

Contact: Jennifer Lorenzo at (916) 324-0232 or Jennifer.Lorenzo@fire.ca.gov



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Unified Program Newsletter December 2009

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Red Tag Semi-Annual Reporting
Energy Policy Act Public Record Reporting
Training on Determining SOC Compliance for Report 6 Reporting
- Cal EMA None
- OSFM California Fire Code

California Environmental Protection Agency

12th Annual California Unified Program Conference – February 1-4, 2010

The theme of the 12th Annual Unified Program Training Conference is a call to “Continue the Momentum” that has been building since the inception of the program. As before, the conference will offer scores of presentations ranging from basic chemistry to industrial nanotechnology, from communications skills to internet research. Experts in a multitude of fields will share their knowledge and experience with newcomers and old pros alike.

For more information, visit the Cal CUPA website at <http://www.calcupa.net/conference/2010/default.asp>

Department of Toxic Substances Control – None

State Water Resources Control Board

Proposed Regulations on Biodiesel in USTs

On November 17, 2009, the State Water Board adopted a resolution to make permanent the emergency regulations that allow biodiesel blends of up to 20% to be stored in USTs with secondary containment for up to 3 years without the usual third-party certification of compatibility for the tank and ancillary equipment and independent testing laboratory approval of leak detection equipment. This temporary variance from the testing requirements will allow these biodiesel blends to be stored in double-walled USTs while the testing proceeds. The final regulations will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for approval. Please refer to the UST program website for updates on this topic: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/

UST Program Contact:
Laura Fisher
(916) 341-5870
lfisher@waterboards.ca.gov

CUPA Semi-Annual Reporting (Report 6)

For the January-June 2009 period, 99 CUPAs and PAs (100% of the 99 CUPAs/PAs) submitted semi-annual reports (Report 6, Title 27 regulations). 16 of 99 reports submitted were returned for corrections and were resubmitted and accepted with 12 Report 6s being submitted after the due date. The number of corrections requested was down from 20 for the previous period but we still had eight agencies reporting SOC criteria the old way. We appreciate your reporting efforts. In the last report it was erroneously reported that the City of Victorville CUPA had given up their program. During this period the City of Newark CUPA turned over their program to the Alameda County Environmental Health CUPA.

UST inspections for Significant Operational Compliance (SOC) totaled 7,904 compared to the previous period's 6,499 inspections. Local agencies reported that 9.5% of inspected facilities were in SOC with release detection only, 16% were in SOC with release prevention only, 65.7% were in SOC with both release detection and release prevention, and 8.8 % had violations for both release detection and release prevention. UPAs issued 67 Red Tags during this period.

As of June 30, 2009, there were 15,002 UST facilities, with 62 new facilities and 169 facilities closed during the last 6 months. There are 38,504 active and 127,324 closed petroleum USTs with 153 new tanks opened and 421 tanks closed this period. There are 2,215 active and 21,346 closed hazardous substance USTs, with 20 new and 56 closed this period. There were significant adjustments to UST databases, as agencies cleaned up their data. During the reporting period, adjustments by UPAs increased the number of regulated facilities by 56, added 1874 petroleum USTs, and reduced the number of hazardous substance USTs by 245. Consequently, by the end of the period there were 1606 more active petroleum USTs, 303 fewer active hazardous substance USTs, and 51 fewer UST facilities in operation.

Red Tag Semi-Annual Reporting

For the January – June 2009 semi-annual period, 12 CUPAs issued 67 Red Tags. [Counties of: Los Angeles (3), Merced (6), San Bernardino (34), San Francisco (1), Santa Barbara (4), Shasta (3), Stanislaus (3), and Trinity (2)] [Cities of Pasadena (7), San Jose (2), San Leandro (1), and Vernon (1)]

The specific violations cited were as follows:

- 1) 5 violations for conditions at the UST facility threatening to cause a liquid release (Ch. 16, Sec. 2637)
- 2) 47 violations for conditions at the UST facility impairing the ability to detect a leak [Ch.16, Sec. 2636(f)(2)]
- 3) 15 violations for a chronic violation or recalcitrant facility operator/owner.

Please note when reporting Red Tags, list the total number of Red Tags affixed- not the number of facilities subject to Red Tags.

Energy Policy Act Public Record Reporting

To comply with the Public Record provisions of federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, the SWRCB has posted the following information on the UST Program website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/public_record_sum_info.shtml.

- Number of UST Facilities and Systems
- Number of Annual UST Inspections and Percent of Facilities in SOC Compliance
- Number of Annual Confirmed UST Releases
- Compliance Measurement Statement and Reported UST Universe
- Links to CUPA/PA Websites or Contact Information for Site Specific UST Information
- Link to GeoTracker for Site Specific Release Information

The information will be updated annually for the October 1 to September 30 federal fiscal year period and posted by December 31 of each year.

Training on Determining SOC Compliance for Report 6 Reporting

During 2009, SWRCB staff conducted 3 trainings on SOC to 6 UPAs. Staff prepared a PowerPoint presentation and is available to conduct training on how to track and report SOC and violations identified during the annual compliance inspection. The training covers the release detection and release prevention criteria contained in LG 164-1. It also differentiates between SOC and other measures of facility/tank compliance, reviews the Report 6 instructions on how to make SOC determinations, and offers a sample inspection checklist to track compliance and violations during the inspection.

UST Program Contacts:
Terry Snyder
(916) 341-5385
tsnyder@waterboards.ca.gov

Terry Brazell
(916) 341-5645
tbrazell@waterboards.ca.gov

California Emergency Management Agency – None

Office of the State Fire Marshal

California Fire Code

Title 24 rulemaking continues. Modifications to the proposed building standards, including the California Fire Code, were incorporated in response to comments received during the 45-day public comment period that began on October 2, 2009, and ended on November 16, 2009. The second (15-day) comment period began on November 25, 2009, and will end on December 9, 2009.

The public comments, Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA), and Express Terms are available on the California Building Standards Commission's (CBSC) Web site at http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_09_comment.htm. Written comments must be submitted to CBSC no later than 5:00 pm on December 9, 2009, to the following address:

**California Building Standards Commission,
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95833
Attention: Dave Walls, Executive Director**

Written comments may also be faxed to (916) 263-0959 or e-mailed to CBSC@dgs.ca.gov.

A hearing has been set for the final text of the proposed regulations from the Office of the State Fire Marshal at the next CBSC meeting on January 12 and 13, 2010. The meeting will be Webcasted. For additional information, visit CBSC's Website at <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/default.htm>.



Setting Standards for Excellence

NEMA DRY BATTERY MANUFACTURING SECTION

December 2009

Project Summary: Economic and Environmental Impacts of Alkaline Battery End-of-Life Strategies

Study Period: April 2008 - Present

Research Conducted by:

Materials Systems Laboratory
Department of Materials Science & Engineering and Engineering Systems Division
Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Engineering

Project Abstract

This project consists of research to evaluate the economic and environmental impacts of different end-of-life strategies for alkaline batteries in the United States. In particular, the work focuses on identifying, analyzing, and modeling the economic and environmental impacts of landfilling alkaline batteries versus recycling alkaline batteries at end-of-life. In addition, the study seeks to identify variations in effects related to different recycling scenarios as well as critical factors that drive these impacts.

Methodology

The study employs life-cycle assessment techniques that accord with the ISO 14040 standard. This approach is applied to each end-of-life scenario to provide a comprehensive means of accounting for environmental impacts. The scope of the analyses includes raw material extraction and refining, battery manufacturing, end-of-life disposition, and transportation. Metrics evaluated include cumulative energy demand, global warming potential, and environmental/human health indicators.

Key Topics of Analysis

- Potential impacts associated with placing primary alkaline batteries in landfills at end-of-life. Recycling may reduce those impacts, but may cause additional burdens that outweigh benefits
- Factors that drive the environmental impact of alkaline battery recycling, compared to a landfill scenario, such as recycling technology, the amount of materials recovered, and the state of the recovered materials. Preliminary findings indicate recovering more than zinc is important for reducing environmental impact and technologies involving high temperature are energy intensive
- Principal drivers of end-of-life environmental performance of batteries, which vary depending on the metrics of impact assessment. Preliminary findings indicate metrics around energy and carbon are strongly dependent on recovery technologies, and metrics for human and ecosystem toxicity depend on landfill scenario assumptions
- Relative burden of transportation portion of the burden (*i.e.*, vehicle miles traveled) under consumer drop-off scenario; impact of assumptions of trip characteristics (*i.e.*, dedicated/non-dedicated trips)
- Burden associated with long distance transport of batteries to recycler along with dedicated consumer travel to drop-off sites vs. benefits from processing or recovery credits.



Setting Standards for Excellence

The Association of Electrical and Medical
Imaging Equipment Manufacturers
www.nema.org

NEMA DRY BATTERY MANUFACTURING SECTION

December 2009

Project Summary: Behavior of Alkaline Batteries under Simulated Landfill Conditions

Study Period: August 2007 – December 2009

Research Conducted by:

CalRecovery, Inc.
2454 Stanwell Drive
Concord, California

Hamburg University of Technology
Harburger SchloBstr. 36
21079 Hamburg, Germany

Project Abstract

The project commenced with a comprehensive, critical review of worldwide literature pertaining to the potential environmental and human health impacts of segregation, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal of household batteries. This was followed by a series of controlled studies in lysimeters (*i.e.*, laboratory scale reactors) to simulate relevant processes that occur in the landfill environment. The lysimeters were loaded with mixed solid waste and different concentrations of primary alkaline batteries (size reduced to various degrees) and operated to simulate typical landfill conditions in California (*e.g.*, waste composition, etc.). Researchers periodically collected samples of liquid (leachate) and gas emissions from the study reactors and analyzed them in comparison with controls to characterize impacts on landfill performance and emissions related to presence of the batteries.

Parameters Monitored

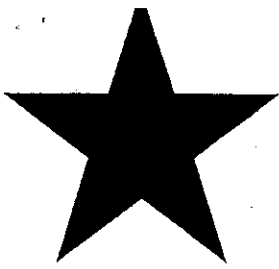
Leachate: pH (acidic-alkaline condition), electrical conductivity, biological oxygen demand, ammonia, nitrate, sulfate, hydrogen sulfide, carbonate, chlorine, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and inorganic persistent and bio-accumulative toxic substances

Gas: methane, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, oxygen, and mercury

Findings

In comparison to the control reactors:

- Despite the potassium hydroxide used in alkaline manganese batteries, the pH of the leachate was observed to be similar during the simulations, namely slightly acidic to neutral.
- No significant difference in rate of gas generation and concentrations of metals was identified. Relatively high, but few, sporadic gaseous mercury concentrations were measured in the biogas of some control and variable reactors. In depth investigation, however, revealed that the alkaline batteries were not contributing to these mercury emissions.
- Concentrations of organic and nitrogen compounds, salts (chloride, etc.), calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and manganese in the LSR leachate showed no significant differences during the investigation, except for higher, but inconsequential concentrations for potassium and manganese. Zinc did not show significant mobilization into the leachate.



A Golden State tire update

Generating more than 44 million scrap tires annually, one would think the State of California has a plan for them all; and you'd be right. Details are provided on what that plan is, where it's been and where it's going in the future.

By Susan Bush and Don Peri

Although many of us consider the 1970s to be when recycling really began to hit its stride, it was not until more than a decade later that we, as a society, really began to focus on scrap tires. Several horrific scrap tire fires in the '80s and '90s helped spur states' efforts to document and abate scrap tire piles. By 2000, the number of scrap tires in "legacy piles" had decreased significantly – from an estimated one billion nationally in 1990 to less than 300 million in 2005 – according to Rubber Manufacturers Association statistics (RMA)

Most states focused not only on cleaning up existing scrap piles, which were comprised of soiled tires with limited potential use and value, but perhaps more importantly, funneled newly generated scrap tires into beneficial uses before they became degraded and their value diminished. Today, developing and supporting end-markets for scrap tires is still a concern for many states, although, with the economic downturn, many states' market

development programs appear to be suffering as their tire funds are largely siphoned into state coffers.

The RMA indicates that, although the number of scrap tires generated nationally has increased annually since 1990, along with the population, the portion of scrap tires used beneficially has increased at an even greater rate. RMA's most recent *Scrap Tire Markets in the United States, 9th Biennial Report* indicates that 89.3 percent of all U.S. annually-generated scrap tires are beneficially used as of 2007, compared with an estimated 25 percent in 1990.

The largest use for scrap tires, nationally, is tire-derived fuel. Fifty-four percent of our nation's scrap tires are used (either whole or in chipped format) as a fuel source for cement kilns, industrial boilers and pulp and paper mills. In addition, there is one facility in Sterling, Connecticut that is a dedicated tires-to-energy facility.

The next most common market for scrap tires, nationally, is ground rubber applications, which is how 17 percent of scrap tires

are used; followed by civil engineering purposes, at 12 percent. About 13 percent of scrap tires are landfilled.

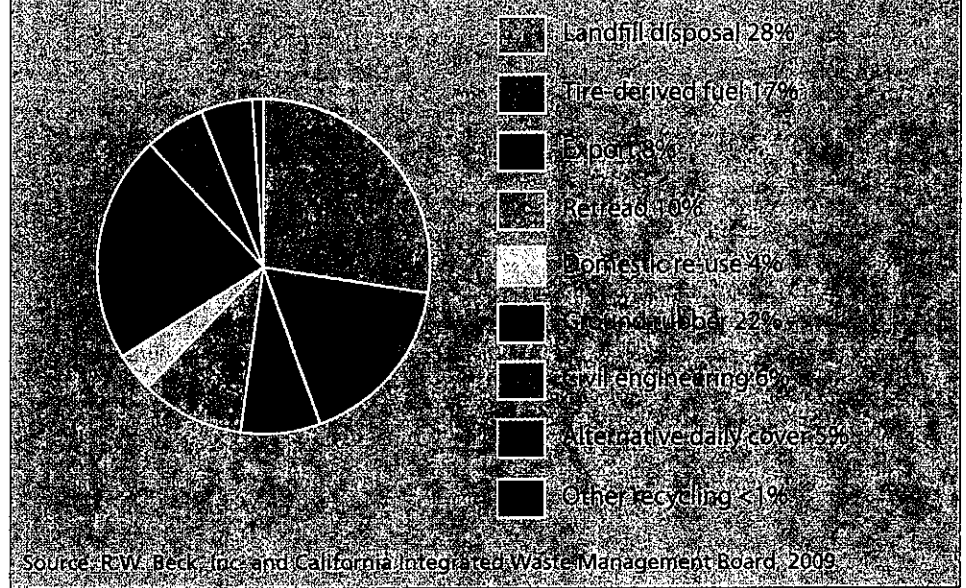
California initiatives

California has more registered vehicles than any other state, generating more than 44 million reusable and waste tires annually. California has been a leader in promoting uses for newly generated scrap tires, while simultaneously cleaning up legacy tire piles. The California Tire Recycling Act was implemented in 1989 and has since been amended several times. This Act, among other things, imposes a \$1.75-per-tire fee assessed on the sale of new tires. The fee funds tire-related programs at the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and the California Air Resources Board.

Through its regulations, policies and programs, the CIWMB's goals are to:

- 1.) Develop a strong regulatory framework to protect public health and the environment
- 2.) Support expansion of the business and government market infrastructure for producing and using tire-derived products.

Figure 1 | Scrap tire markets in California (2008)



The Board has set a goal of achieving a 90-percent scrap tire diversion rate by 2015. Currently, California diverts approximately 72 percent of its scrap tires.

Some of the strategies the board has implemented to move toward achieving that goal include the following "supply-

side" activities and policies:

- Implementation of a scrap tire hauler registration and scrap tire manifest system to gain an understanding of where tires are going, and better monitor scrap tire activities
- Tire recycling, cleanup and Amnesty

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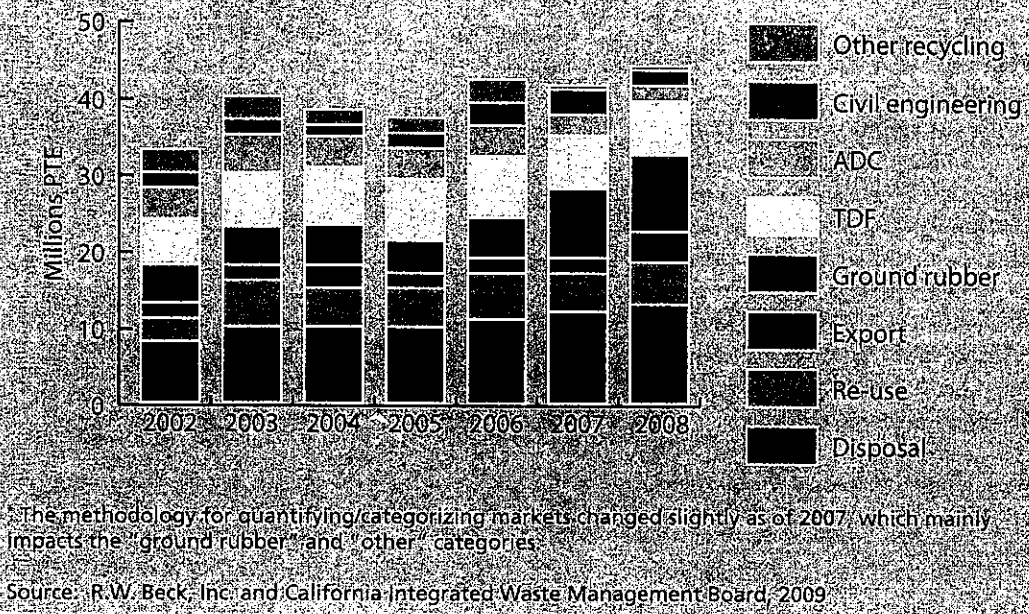
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Day programs to help local governments recover newly generated scrap tires, as well as scrap tire piles

- Waste tire enforcement grants to help communities investigate illegal tire disposal activities, perform waste tire facilities inspections, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Education and outreach efforts conducted in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and RMA, to inform drivers about the importance of proper tire maintenance, which can prolong the life of tires.

Figure 2 | Scrap Tire Usage in California (2002 – 2008)*



The Board has also implemented several programs to help promote the use of scrap tires, thus stimulating the demand for tire-derived products, including:

- Rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) grant programs to help local governments fund RAC projects, including hot-seal and chip-seal applications
- Tire-derived product grants to help eligible entities purchase tire-derived products made from 100-percent recycled California waste tires. Projects generally fall into one of three categories: Agricultural/landscape, recreational or transportation
- Tire-Derived Product Business Assistance Program (TBAP) grants, which provide eligible businesses with technical and consultative assistance in 1.) Evaluating and improving their business plan and operations, 2.) Enhancing marketing efforts, and 3.) Testing and certifying new products
- Tire equipment loan program (new in 2009/2010), which encourages California-based tire businesses to locate new facilities and expand existing operations by providing low-interest rate loans for equipment purchases. This loan program is designed to help California tire businesses increase their processing capabilities and markets for tire-derived recycled-content products
- Research regarding cutting-edge uses for scrap tires, to help tire-derived product manufacturers and consumers become better educated about new products and research being

conducted.

California's leading manufacturers, stimulated in part by the Board's TBAP Grants, are introducing crumb rubber into their material mixes (feedstock conversion) to manufacture adhesives, flooring, paint, roofing, automobile parts, surfacing, and many other high-value products. The crumb rubber business is becoming increasingly sophisticated, as products are tested and rated, helping consumers gauge the quality and benefits of such products.

California market analysis

The CIWMB annually conducts a thorough market analysis through surveys and evaluation of data from the board's comprehensive series of databases. Many factors, including the general economic climate, markets for competing products, and the implementation of these programs and strategies, have had an impact on the development of scrap tire markets in California. The disposition of scrap tires in California in 2008 is summarized in Figure 1.

As Figure 1 shows, ground rubber is a fairly significant use for scrap tires, at 22 percent. Seventeen percent of scrap tires are used for tire-derived fuel (TDF), primarily in the cement industry, as well as by some co-generation plants. Approximately six percent of scrap tires are used in civil engineering purposes, primarily in such landfill applications as leachate drainage

fields and methane gas line underlayment.

Figure 2 shows how the markets for scrap tires in California have evolved between 2002 and 2008. As displayed, diversion to ground rubber markets continued to increase steadily, as it has over the past several years, to more than 10 million passenger tire equivalent (PTE) in 2008, up from 9.2 million PTE in 2007. Final products made of ground rubber include artificial turf, molded building products (e.g., ramps, flooring and flooring underlayment, mats and drains) and playground surfaces. Several projects are planned, or are underway, to expand California ground rubber production capacity, indicating the possibility of continued growth in this category over the short term. However, while strong demand for ground rubber products has driven growth in recent years, the current economic downturn could result in sharp declines for certain products.

Passenger-tire equivalent

Historically, a passenger-tire equivalent (PTE) tire has been assigned a weight of 20 pounds. However, the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) conducted research, which determined that a PTE is now heavier, on average, weighing in at 22.5 pounds. RMA estimates that one scrap tire (PTE) per capita, is generated annually in the U.S., on average.

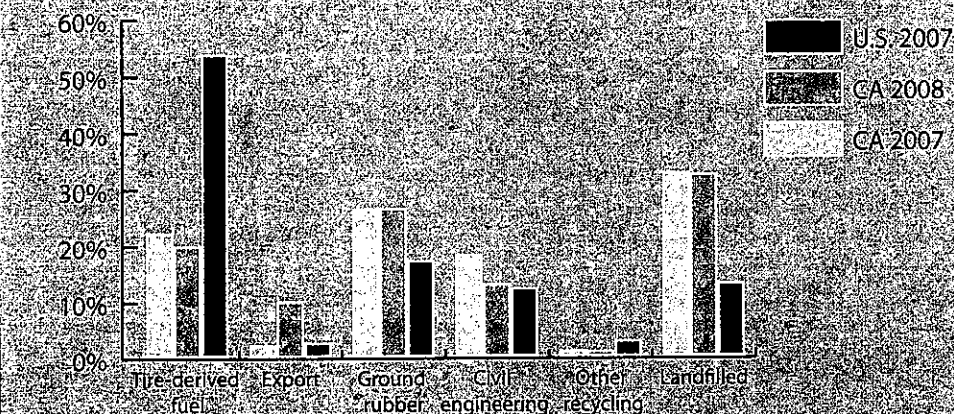
Ground rubber markets also face adverse media attention regarding potential health and environmental concerns associated primarily with synthetic turf, playground surfacing and, to a lesser degree, rubber bark/mulch. More than 60 studies have addressed these concerns, and the CIWMB is sponsoring a study by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, due for completion in 2010.

Diversion through export, especially waste tire exports to Asia, increased and reached an estimated 3.7 million PTE in 2008. Interest in exports is likely to remain high and export activity, although potentially volatile, could increase further in 2009, as agents representing buyers in several Asian countries are making an increasing number of inquiries. To date, most waste tire exports have reportedly been delivered to ports in China (largely through other Asian ports of entry), most likely driven by the rapid development of industries that use scrap tires, including ground rubber production, cement kiln and other industrial TDF users, and emerging technologies, such as pyrolysis. Because China is rapidly expanding its scrap tire processing and end-use manufacturing activities simultaneously with its domestic scrap tire collection infrastructure, it is possible that, over time, its demand for imported tires may decline as more Chinese scrap tires become available.

The amount of scrap tires diverted from landfills in California declined slightly, with the diversion rate falling from 73.5 percent in 2007 to 72.4 percent in 2008. The diversion rate may drop further in 2009, depending on whether potential increases through ground rubber and exports can offset expected short-term declines in landfill civil engineering applications and tire-derived fuel. The overall decline is the result of a combined 11-percent decline, since 2007, in diversion through landfill civil engineering, alternative daily cover (ADC) and TDF, which, as a group, declined from a total of 14 million PTE in 2007 to a total of 12.4 million PTE in 2008.

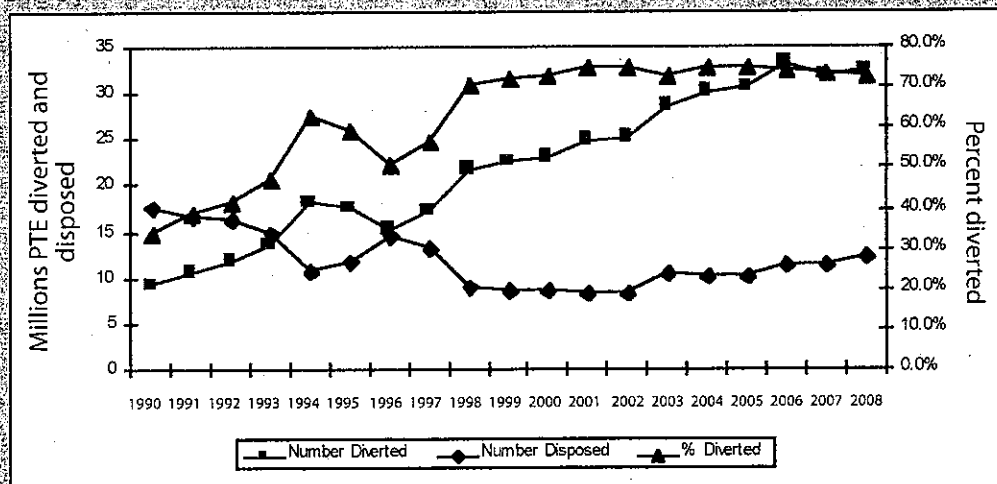
Further declines are anticipated in

Figure 3 | California versus national usage of scrap tires



Source: R.W. Beck, Inc., California Integrated Waste Management Board and Rubber Manufacturers Association, 2009

Figure 4 | Scrap tire diversion and disposal trends



Source: R.W. Beck, Inc. and California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2009

landfill civil engineering and tire-derived fuel based on discussions with facility representatives about their expected usage in 2009. Tire-derived fuel is declining largely because of declining demand for cement, due to the recent economic recession.

Landfill civil engineering applications for scrap tires are expected to decline because one landfill that had used large quantities ceased its use in early 2009. The use of tire chips as ADC is expected to hold steady in 2009; however, because ADC and landfill civil engineering uses involve a small number of facilities, they are subject to abrupt increases or decreases in demand as landfills expand, adjust operations or close. These sudden changes in demand can have a significant impact

on the overall diversion rate. The CIWMB is aggressively promoting a range of civil engineering applications that have the potential to substantially increase demand for tire-derived aggregate.

California markets compared with national markets

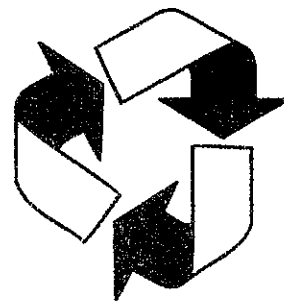
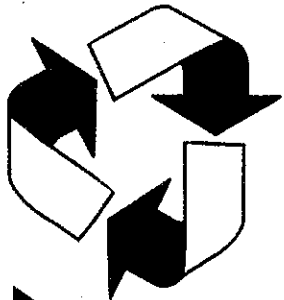
Figure 3 provides a comparison between California (2007 and 2008) and national (2007) scrap tire usage. Note that RMA excludes retread and re-use from their data, so these uses have also been excluded from California data for comparison.

Clearly a higher portion of tires are

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used at the national level for TDF, as compared with California. This is due in part because the board is statutorily prohibited from promoting the use of tire-derived fuel. In addition, the feasibility of using tire-derived fuel is, in large part, driven by economics. For example, the large distance between scrap tire generators and cement or co-generation plants, combined with competing fuel sources, may make TDF the less economical choice. Similarly, transportation distances, processing costs and regulations that limit the quantity of tire-derived aggregate that can be stored on site can potentially make tire-derived aggregate a relatively costly choice in civil engineering applications. However, the board has just undergone a review of regulations and has proposed potential changes that would address the storage issue in part.

California has a slightly higher usage of crumb rubber than the national marketplace, due likely to the business assistance programs and low-interest loan programs that have helped such businesses evolve in the Golden State. California exports a higher portion of tires, as tire haulers and processors that are looking for no- or low-cost transportation and disposal can find such markets somewhat readily available via California ports, as well as proximity to Mexico, where many U.S.-scrap tires are seen as suitable for re-use.

California also landfills a higher portion of tires than the rest of the nation. In part, this is due likely to the limited tire-derived fuel usages in California. Other parts of the nation use tires not only in cement kilns and electric utilities, but also in pulp and paper mills, industrial boilers, a large dedicated tires-to-energy facility, lime kilns and electric arc furnaces. These uses do not exist in California.

What's next for California?

The CIWMB has adopted a goal of increasing the scrap tire diversion rate to 90 percent by 2015. As shown in Figure 4, California scrap tire diversion steadily increased from about 31 percent in 1990 to about 75 percent in 2001 and has ranged between 72.4 percent and 75 percent since.

There is a high probability that the data will reflect a reduced diversion rate in 2009 in California. The demand for tire-derived aggregate, for use in landfill civil engineering applications and tire-derived fuel, are estimated to decline by at least

two million PTE, compared to 2008, based on statements from specific facilities about their expected usage. Ground rubber has the potential to increase, but, based on processor interviews and the timing of new production capacity, it is likely that data will show that growth in 2009 will not exceed an additional one million PTE (representing 10-percent growth over 2008).

Diversion through ground rubber could continue at a high, steady growth rate in 2009; however, it is also possible that the recession will cause reductions in demand, especially as government and school district budgets face increasing pressure. The worst-case scenario for ground rubber would be if the market experienced a ground rubber glut in the coming years, as it experienced earlier in this decade, which would result in decreasing prices and possible plant closures.

Non-landfill civil engineering applications could become a large-scale market in future years, if constraints can be overcome. Finally, the export market may absorb any loss of demand in TDF, landfill civil engineering or ADC, though this is not a certainty and its benefits are controversial.

The CIWMB has been resolute in developing programs and policies to ensure that scrap tires are managed responsibly, at a time when other states are seeing program funding diverted elsewhere. As a result, in some cases, scrap tire piles are re-emerging. The board's programs and policies have been driven by the legislatively mandated Five-Year Plan for the Waste Tire Recycling Management Program. Feedback received during the public hearing process of the development of the last Five-Year Plan led to the decision to evaluate California's tire programs. The CIWMB is currently embarking on this project. This process will hopefully prove to be enlightening and ensure that the state's tire-related programs proceed with clear direction and purpose in a continuing effort to shape the landscape of the scrap tire marketplace in California. **RR**

Susan Bush is a project manager and senior analyst with R.W. Beck, Inc., an SAIC company. She can be contacted at sbush@rwbeck.com. Don Peri is a senior integrated waste management specialist with the California Integrated Waste Management Board. He can be contacted at (916) 341-6766 or dperi@ciwmb.org.



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[Switch to LED lights reduces energy bill by 82%](#)

November 6, 2009 by Tom Guay

Posted in: [Cost Cutting](#), [In this week's e-newsletter](#), [Latest News & Views](#), [News](#), [solar power](#)

Wal-Mart has again pushed ahead of the retailing pack to polish its green image. The company's latest eco-friendly move is to relamp 650 stores with energy-saving LED lighting systems.

The payoff for Wal-Mart is huge. The company expects to reduce electricity costs by 82% by replacing ceramic metal halide lighting systems with Low Emitting Diode (LED) lamps.

The life span of the LED lamps can be more than five years in Wal-Mart stores that will be operating 24/7. Lighting manufacturer Cree, Inc. will be installing its Cree's LRP-38 lighting system to replace use of 70-watt-bulb lighting systems.

The switch to LED lighting is part of a revolution in business and industry to switch to highly efficient lights. Why? Because they greatly reduce operating expenses. The environmental benefit is that companies can earn credit for doing their part to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing demand for coal-fired electricity.

The Cree lighting systems will be installed in new and renovated Wal-Wart stores. Wal-Mart has already added LED systems to display cases in over 500 stores.

The push to get away from coal-fired electricity and GHG and other pollutants associated with fossil fuels is also driving Wal-Mart to switch to clean, renewable energy providers.

For example, Wal-Mart plans to double its use of solar power by 2012 by installing rooftop solar arrays in up to 20 stores in California and Hawaii.

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3 Responses to “Switch to LED lights reduces energy bill by 82%”

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2. *Switch to LED lights reduces energy bill by 82% EcoLEDLighting* Says:
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3. *jim many* Says:
[November 12th, 2009 at 4:21 pm](#)

I've heard the LED lights in coolers have been problematic for Walmart and that in general there are issues w/ reliability of the LED's in some applications, though makes one wonder why Walmart would push forward using them if there are issues.

Wonder what length of warranty comes w/ LED's?

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Mary Pitto

From: hhwie@yahoogroups.com on behalf of mesweeney95482 [sweeney@pacific.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 2:55 PM
To: hhwie@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [hhwie] Walmart tests a ban on plastic bags

Walmart has initiated a 3-store pilot program to eliminate plastic carry-out bags. The three stores are all in Northern California--Ukiah, Folsom and Citrus Heights. The kickoff date in Ukiah is October 25. Notices are posted in the store stating that no plastic carryout bags will be available at the checkstands after that date.

To substitute for give-away plastic bags, Walmart is offering a light reusable bag for 15 cents each, and a heavier reusable bag for 50 cents.

According to Angie Stoner, public affairs official for Walmart, (479-721-9489), the corporation will consider adding additional Walmarts to this program depending on the results.

This gives local governments an opportunity to play an important role in encouraging Walmart to expand this program. As the largest retailer in the world, Walmart could decisively tip the balance on this issue. The way that local jurisdictions can help is by immediately and aggressively contacting Walmart and asking that Walmarts in their jurisdiction be added to the pilot program.

Walmart's pilot program is an outgrowth of the corporation's "sustainability policy" that includes initiatives on many environmental issues. Walmart has a specific goal of reducing plastic bag use by 33% globally by 2013. Walmart has posted its plastic bag goals at http://walmartstores.com/sites/sustainabilityreport/2009/en_w_fs.html

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Waste Connections expands landfill gas program in Calif.

Oct. 13 -- Waste Connections Inc. is expanding its landfill gas-to-energy operations at the company's Potrero Hills landfill in Suisun, Calif.

The solid waste management company has a 25-year agreement with DTE Biomass Energy to recover landfill gas to create electricity.

"We currently have 17 renewable energy projects either operating or in development that are expected to produce almost 40 megawatts of power and 10,000 cubic feet per minute of pipeline quality gas," said Jim Little, senior vice president of engineering and disposal for Waste Connections.

The project being developed by DTE Biomass Energy will provide enough power for approximately 7,000 homes.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjjohnson@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Companies sign agreement to build waste-to-energy plant

Oct. 19 -- An agreement signed last week will mean the construction of a new waste-to-energy plant within the next two years in the western United States, two companies announced.

General Environmental Management Inc. and Cake Energy LLC announced the agreement. GEM, a hazardous waste management and environmental services firm, and Cake Energy will build and operate the new plant.

Cake Energy's technology processes sewer sludge, atomizing wet sludge for use as the primary dry fuel for the ongoing drying, deodorizing and sterilizing of all toxins. Surplus fuel produced from the drying process is used as a high grade atomized fuel for alternate power generation. Up to 60% of the water evaporated during the process can be recaptured, the company said.

The companies plan to build a plant near a major metropolitan area. Municipalities using the facility would be charged a flat fee per ton of sludge processed.

Pilot projects were conducted over the past four years, the companies said.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

New law: San Francisco residents must separate trash

Oct. 19 -- Residents of San Francisco must start separating compostable materials from their trash, thanks to a new law that takes effect this week.

The Board of Supervisors of the county and city passed the law this summer in an effort to help meet its goal of diverting 75% of its waste from landfills or incineration by 2010.

Residents must place compostable materials, such as food waste, yard trimmings and soiled paper, in green carts which are then collected. Separate carts for recyclable and non-recyclable waste are also provided. Failure to use or provide the carts could result in fines, the law states.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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Posted on Thu, Oct. 22, 2009

Solar farms on old landfills could be a bright idea

last updated: October 21, 2009 07:53:44 PM

A former landfill and property around an existing landfill aren't suitable for many purposes, but they could place for solar farms.

We think it's exciting that Stanislaus County is exploring that possibility for about 1,600 acres adjoining the landfill, and, if the city of Modesto agrees, for 160 acres at the former Geer Road landfill.

The county does not want to get into the solar energy business. The Board of Supervisors is inviting inquiry energy companies interested in leasing the properties and building solar farms. The idea was initiated by a interested companies, apparently motivated in part by the availability of federal stimulus dollars for green projects.

One of the challenges of solar is that it requires a lot of surface area — land or rooftops, usually — to generate amounts of electricity. And it doesn't make sense to take highly productive farmland out of field crop or trees for solar farms. But if there's limited water supply, that could change the equation. The property around the landfill has been leased to an almond grower, but that lease is expiring.

The Geer Road site is more sensitive. The landfill is closed and under clean-up orders from the Regional Water Control Board. There's a membrane and a layer of dirt over the landfill that cannot be significantly disturbed. The board would have to approve any solar installation on the property and might impose conditions that would make a solar project or make it financially unfeasible.

Those are issues that would have to be worked out by whatever company might earn the right to negotiate the solar project. The county is moving quickly and the firm or firms could be selected before the end of the year.

Whether or not this pans out, we applaud local governments for looking at new ways of generating money, ones that would help the state meet its goal of generating one-third of its energy from renewable sources.

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Folsom trash firm sues El Dorado County over contract

mglover@sacbee.com

Published Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

Folsom-based trash hauler Waste Connections Inc. has filed a lawsuit against El Dorado County, claiming the county is not honoring terms of its waste-handling contract.

The suit was filed Friday in El Dorado Superior Court.

Waste Connections is seeking a 3.4 percent rate increase to reflect increases in the consumer price index, under terms it said are outlined in a contract scheduled to run through 2012.

Ron Mittelstaedt, Waste Connections' chairman and CEO, said Wednesday that the lawsuit "was really just a formality in the process we started 45 days ago."

The company filed an administrative claim with the county on Aug. 31. By law, county supervisors had 45 days to accept or reject the claim, or simply to let the deadline pass.

The county took no action, and spokesman Mike Applegarth said Tuesday that the county will not comment on ongoing litigation.

Mittelstaedt said his company and county officials have had "brief discussions" since Aug. 31.

He said Waste Connections told the county it intended to file a suit as part of the legal process, but that discussions likely will continue in the future.

"I think there's agreement that we want to resolve it, but we haven't agreed on how to resolve it, so (the lawsuit) was filed," Mittelstaedt said.

The suit asks for unspecified compensatory damages.

El Dorado officials have been attempting to rein in costs in several areas, including waste disposal.

In mid-June, supervisors unanimously declared their intent to do away with the fuel surcharge that El Dorado Disposal Service – a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Connections – has passed along to customers since 2006.

County officials contended the fuel surcharge was not needed because fluctuations in diesel prices (the primary fuel for Waste Connections' trucks) are reflected in annual garbage collection rate adjustments.

At a June 23 meeting, supervisors approved a 0.1 percent rate increase without a fuel surcharge.

For residential customers, Waste Connections said a 3.4 percent rate increase translates to about 45 cents to 85 cents a month.

Waste Connections did not disclose the total value of the original contract, which dates to 1997. Mittelstaedt has said that a 3.4 percent increase "means more than a million dollars to us" over the next several years.

Call The Bee's Mark Glover, (916) 321-1184.

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

WM Inc. producing vehicle fuel from landfill gas in Calif.

Nov. 3 -- Waste Management Inc. is now producing vehicle fuel from landfill gas in California.

The nation's largest solid waste management company and Linde North America are partners on the world's largest landfill gas-to-liquefied natural gas plant at the Altamont landfill near Livermore, Calif.

The facility, built by Linde, purifies and liquefies landfill gas, creating 13,000 gallons per day. That's enough to fuel 300 of Waste Management's 485 LNG waste and recycling collection vehicles in 20 California communities, the waste company said.

"The Altamont LFG-to-LNG facility enables us to recover and utilize a valuable source of clean energy in another practical way, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels," said Duane Woods, senior vice president for Waste Management's Western Group.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjjohnson@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

ISRI agrees with professor's study on scrap industry

Nov. 6 -- A new study conducted by University of Indiana professor Dr. Kevin Whiteacre examines the scrap industry, metal theft and the opportunities for law enforcement collaboration.

Whiteacre presented his study, "Scrap Yards and Metal Theft Insurance Claims in 51 U.S. Cities," this week at American Society of Criminology's annual conference in Philadelphia.

Findings include the statement that metals theft provides "an excellent opportunity for cooperation between law enforcement and scrapyards operators to work together to reduce purchases of stolen metals and maintain the integrity of the scrap market," according to the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industry. While agreeing with the study, ISRI stated it was disappointed the finding, mentioned in the "discussion" portion of the study, was not given higher prominence.

"ISRI has been promoting cooperative relationships with law enforcement agencies for many years," stated Robin Wiener, president of ISRI. "One of the many strong points of this research is that it does not seek to place blame. Instead, it provides hard data to suggest that the scrap recycling industry both provides an excellent source of information for law enforcement through cooperative relationships and the scrap industry should accept that responsibility. ISRI's work on the metal theft issue strongly tracks that same conclusion."

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Nevada governor wants to eliminate landfills in state

Nov. 9 -- Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons wants to eliminate landfills in the state and instead recycle as much waste as possible and use the rest to generate energy.

"There have been huge leaps in recycling technology," said Gibbons, a Republican. "We can conserve natural resources, create clean energy and create jobs by looking at landfills not as places where we bury our trash, but as places where recycling and energy recovery begin."

Gibbons, in announcing what he called a "major initiative" Nov. 6, said he plans to propose legislation that would reward the waste industry for superior performance in recycling and energy recovery. The measure also will include various incentives, including tax abatements, to encourage businesses to locate in Nevada and use recycled materials in their operations. He also plans to develop plans for offering low-cost financing to help businesses build waste recovery facilities.

Gibbons said current recycling and renewable energy technology should allow solid waste companies to divert at least 75% of the waste that currently ends up in Nevada landfills. He cited San Jose, Calif., which boasts a high diversion rate, as a role model for Nevada.

The governor's announcement did not include a timetable for eliminating landfills "as we presently know them."

"Mandated waste recovery can be a significant part of diversifying our economy and provide much needed jobs," Gibbons said.

Gibbons pledged that he would not allow Nevada to become the "landfill of the West," and said he has been in contact with Waste Management Inc. and Republic Services Inc. officials, which operate landfills in Washoe and Clark counties respectively, about increasing efforts to reduce landfill waste.

"I am pleased that they understand the need to do a better job of protecting our environment, and that they have agreed to work with us for the benefit of Nevada," Gibbons said.

Republic Services is anxious to learn details about the governor's plan, company spokesman Will Flower said. Managing solid waste to protect the environment and public health entails a balanced approach, which includes the use of landfills along with recycling and energy recovery projects, he said.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Bruce Geiselman at 330-865-6172 or bgeiselman@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Officials ask groups to drop opposition to e-recycling law

Nov. 9 -- A group of state officials and waste management directors from across the nation have sent a letter to the Consumer Electronics Association and the Information Technology Industry Council asking those trade groups to drop their opposition to New York City's new electronics recycling law.

"Despite your member companies' public support for the producer responsibility concept, your respective trade associations have taken the alarming step of filing a lawsuit against the New York City law implementing producer responsibility," the group of officials state in a letter sent to the CEA and ITIC. The letter, dated Nov. 5, is available on the web site of Electronics Take Back Coalition, an organization that advocates producer responsibility for end-of-life electronics. "As such, your actions are a direct challenge to state and local government efforts to protect public health and the environment. Governments can little afford to cover the recycling or disposal costs of each product brought to market. In bringing forth this lawsuit, we believe the industry is not meeting its fiscal responsibility and shifting it to taxpayers/ratepayers."

In July, the trade groups filed a lawsuit against a New York City law requiring take-back for electronics and pickup service for some of the heaviest pieces. Electronics manufacturers say the law places too much burden on the companies and conversely, consumers.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

VRSD announces startup of biosolids facility in Calif.

Nov. 13 -- The Ventura Regional Sanitation District has announced the startup of its new Biosolids Drying and Electric Generation Facility. Powered by landfill gas, this system recycles 100% of its resources to provide a regional biosolids management solution and generate renewable energy for the local power grid.

A grand opening ceremony is being held next week at the Toland Road Sanitary Landfill in Santa Paula, Calif.

The facility includes 80-ton-per-day biosolids dryers and the nine microturbines that generate 2.25 megawatts of electricity.

The project allows communities to manage biosolids waste from domestic and commercial wastewater treatment. The regional facility converts more than 150 tons of biosolids per day into recyclable material.

VRSD serves more than 600,000 residents of Ventura County and provides solid waste management, water supply, and wastewater treatment throughout the region.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Coca-Cola to use bottles made from plant materials

Nov. 16 -- Coca-Cola beverages will soon be arriving in new plastic bottles made partially from plant materials.

Drinks bottled in the new PlantBottle packaging are being sent to store shelves in select worldwide markets, the company said. Coca-Cola plans to produce 2 billion of the special PET plastic bottles by the end of 2010.

PlantBottle PET plastic bottles are made partially from plants. Throughout Denmark, Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola Light and Coca-Cola Zero in 500mL and 2L sizes are now available in the PlantBottle packaging. Coca-Cola, Sprite, Fresca and DASANI in Western Canada will be shipped in the PlantBottle beginning in December and for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. PlantBottle packaging will be used for sparkling brands and DASANI in several sizes, starting in January, in select markets in the Western United States, including Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

PlantBottle packaging is currently made through a process that turns sugar cane and molasses, a by-product of sugar production, into a key component for PET plastic. The sugar cane being used comes from predominantly rain-fed crops that were processed into ethanol, not refined sugar. Ultimately, the Company's goal is to use non-food, plant-based waste, such as wood chips or wheat stalks, to produce recyclable PET plastic bottles.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

EPA to hold hearings on emissions, Clean Air Act permits

Nov. 17 -- The U.S. EPA, which has announced plans for regulating greenhouse gas emissions, is holding two public hearings on its proposed emissions thresholds defining when Clean Air Act permits would apply to new or existing industrial facilities.

The program would cover nearly 70% of the nation's total greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources. Regulated sources would include power plants, refineries and cement production facilities that emit at least 25,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. They would be required to obtain operating and construction permits.

The hearings will be held Nov. 18 in Arlington, Va., and Nov. 19 in Rosemont, Ill. Both hearings will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. local time.

The Arlington hearing will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, and the Rosemont hearing will be held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.

Information about participating at the hearings is available from the EPA's Pamela Long at long.pam@epa.gov or 919-541-0641.

The EPA also will accept written comments on the proposed rule until Dec. 28.

More information on the proposed rule and instructions for submitting written comments are available at <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html>.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Ameresco, Santa Clara to use landfill gas for electricity

Nov. 20 -- Ameresco and the city of Santa Clara have a new project that's using gas from the city's closed landfill to create electricity.

Ameresco designed, built and owns the project that will generate enough power to operate more than 477 homes, the company said.

"Anytime we can turn waste into something useful we should take that opportunity, and this project is a perfect example," Mayor Patricia M. Mahan. "Our customers are very interested in green power."

Ameresco calls itself the largest independent energy service provider in North America.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjjohnson@crain.com

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latimes.com/news/local/la-me-recycling30-2009nov30,0,34531.story

latimes.com

Recycling centers close, eliminating 'green' jobs

Operators are suing the state over its raid on deposit funds, and regional conservation groups have eliminated jobs for at-risk youths.

By Shane Goldmacher

November 30, 2009

Reporting from Sacramento

Recycling centers across California are closing, and scores of troubled youths are being tossed from "green" jobs onto unemployment rolls in the wake of Sacramento's raid on bottle deposit funds.

California's recycling treasury, filled by consumers' nickel and dime deposits on drink containers, had hummed along successfully for two decades until state officials left it nearly bankrupt after taking \$451 million out to help balance the budget.

The unredeemed deposits that subsidized recycling facilities and such projects as a local conservation corps are virtually gone, leaving the programs in the lurch.

Now operators of recycling depots in many supermarket parking lots are suing the state. Without the subsidies, Tomra Pacific Inc., a leading depot company, has closed at least 33 recycling sites -- more than 8% of its total, said company president Adrian White.

"Finding a location to recycle is going to get harder," White said.

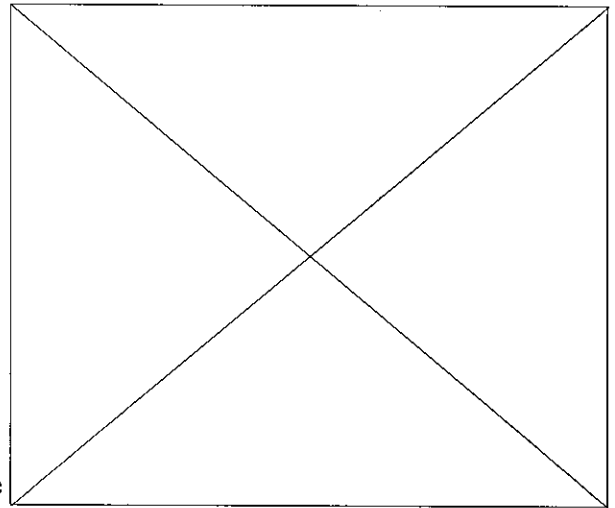
Lacking a nearby redemption center, consumers can return containers to the grocery store. But the obscure state law permitting that is as unfamiliar to consumers as it is to most store employees.

"If . . . you have to be in the know just to get your deposit back," then the promise at the core of the bottle program -- pay a deposit, get it back when you recycle -- is voided, said Susan Collins, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Container Recycling Institute.

Beyond the recycling program are the regional conservation groups that employ at-risk youths -- high-school dropouts, former gang members and parolees.

Scott Dosick, spokesman for the California Assn. of Local Conservation Corps, said that the state's 12 programs typically employ 4,000 but that cutbacks this year have eliminated roughly 500 of those jobs.

"We are their last resort," Dosick said of corps members. "If we lay them off, they're pretty much back on the street."



"Once they're gone," he said, "the odds of getting them back are extraordinarily slim."

Lawmakers tried last summer to increase deposits or impose new ones on roughly 5 billion drink containers to replenish the recycling fund. Opponents called the effort a back-door tax increase; Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it. On July 1, the Schwarzenegger administration cut 85% of the state subsidies, and this month it eliminated them entirely.

White said the governor had cast "a veto against green jobs."

H.D. Palmer, a spokesman for the state's Finance Department, said he "would defy anyone to find a governor in this country more committed to the green jobs agenda than Arnold Schwarzenegger."

The governor will propose a plan to refill the fund in January, when he unveils his next budget proposal, Palmer said.

A hint of the fight to come was in Schwarzenegger's veto message, which chastised lawmakers for trying to expand the deposit program without including liquor and wine bottles. Requiring deposits on those items would pit lawmakers against the powerful alcohol lobby, a major source of political contributions that has scuttled similar efforts in the past.

Schwarzenegger also demanded in his veto message that legislators pass a law forbidding future raids of the deposit fund. It was Schwarzenegger himself who first proposed taking \$100 million from the fund in early 2009.

That struck recycling advocates, such as Californians Against Waste Executive Director Mark Murray, as more than a bit hypocritical.

Murray, in an analysis of the veto, said the governor's demand was akin to yelling, "Save me from myself!"

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Don't let garbage go to waste

By Katy Grimes

Posted: 12/01/2009 01:01:55 AM PST

Capturing and using methane gas for energy can be traced back as far as the 10th century B.C. There are hundreds of landfills throughout the country that are transforming methane into biofuels for use in transportation and industrial applications and into electricity for more general use.

At last count, 400 landfills in the United States have methane energy plants, which in turn provide electricity to thousands of homes and businesses.

Of these landfills, 100 are in California. More locally, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Yolo, Sacramento, Alameda and Tulare counties are each home to landfill gas power plants.

Waste Connections Inc. has just signed an energy deal with DTE Biomass Energy to turn waste from the Potrero Hills Landfill outside Suisun City into usable energy.

Landfill gas will be recovered and converted into renewable electric energy, serving initially approximately 7,000 homes per year. That number could more than double in the future.

According to the EPA, instead of burning the gas off as waste, capturing it and converting it into electricity greatly benefits area residents by reducing emissions and improving air quality, reducing environmental compliance costs and conserving land.

Waste Connections currently has 17 renewable energy landfill gas projects either in operation or under development that are expected to produce almost 40 megawatts of power and 10,000 cubic feet per minute of pipeline-quality gas.

It also has 15 additional landfills that either qualify or could qualify for carbon emission credits and could potentially be developed into future renewable energy projects.

DTE Biomass Energy provides communities with energy by developing landfill gas recovery systems throughout the United States. It has more than 25 operating sites in 14 states.

Why should we care about garbage gas?

If it is not captured, according to the EPA, landfill methane becomes a greenhouse gas at least 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide when it rises into the atmosphere.

As the price of energy has increased, there is finally more interest in getting some energy production out of these landfills instead of simply burning off or "flaring" the gas.

Promoting the use of waste-produced methane gas to create electricity is not only a responsible thing to do, but we also all benefit with energy savings.




In 2008, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-14-08 committing to get a third of California's electricity from renewable sources by 2020 -- the most aggressive renewable energy mandate in the country.

Landfill gas power plants make excellent use of a

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growing problem in California, turning garbage into energy and turning what is often thought of as a liability into an asset.

The author, a Sacramento resident, is a longtime political analyst, writer and columnist.

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