

ARTICLES
OF
INTEREST

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Park Service honors composting program at Yosemite

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Sept. 16 -- Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts has received an award from the National Park Service for its composting programs at Yosemite National Park.

The company, which runs Yosemite's visitor services, including lodging, dining, recreation, retail and transportation services as a national park concessioner, earned the 2011 environmental achievement award because of the success of its composting program, which began in 2009.

Through November 2010, the composting operation had diverted 216 tons of organic waste from Yosemite's kitchens and restaurants to Mariposa County's composting facility, the company reported.

"The composting initiative is continuing to expand, with the potential to divert 1,400 tons of waste -- half of Yosemite's waste stream -- from going to the landfill in the future," said Deb Friedel, director of sustainability for Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Vince Bond Jr. at vbond@crain.com or 313-446-1653.

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Mary Pitto

From: pharmasharps@calrecycle.ca.gov
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 6:01 PM
To: Mary Pitto
Subject: National Pharmaceutical Stewardship Legislation Proposed (HR 2939)

CalRecycle: Sharps and Medication Disposal Listserv

According to a press release from New York Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee (see link below), the proposed Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act of 2011 (HR 2939) would, "set up a nonprofit corporation financed by pharmaceutical producers which would be responsible for establishing comprehensive drug take-back programs in every state. The bill would also set up a commission to develop a strategy to prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from polluting our waterways and environments from production to disposal."

The language of the proposed bill (see link below) also states, "Subject to subsection (d)[titled, "Mechanism for Transfer of Costs Among Manufacturers and Brand Owners"], the costs of the program are fully paid by such manufacturers and brand owners...The program shall not impose any fee on individuals for delivery or disposal of a drug through the program." The bill also states a program shall include, in part, "...(i) at least one collection site in every county of every State and one collection site in every city with a population of more than 10,000 individuals on an ongoing, year-round basis; or (ii) if collection is not feasible in a specific county or city, provision of prepaid mailing envelopes to individuals in such county or city for such collection and disposal..."

See the press release here:

http://www.louise.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2557:slaughter-introduces-bill-to-streamline-pharmaceutical-disposal&catid=95:2011-press-releases&Itemid=55

See the language of the proposed bill here:

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=yeo7t5cab&et=1107667896359&s=4562&e=001K-HrckoCyP_5Wf1agrKzNb1pJFoDkEYrFuiOwJslG4nm2DgzWawtJ-gEJJsZHiH8_TeTIzQrttOLk21bgZr0V1IBH2hWW2-1LK2s8E1UVYemW8t8QY_YZ0Jc5caiW Nex4u068kFAs8sGbxvu4VUaJ8atbyPm8o0IwHX44nfW2tGH5o1iJwyxwxoIJfMamQY-rsw0PhUIq4cNemvYr8Yy9Q==

The bill can be tracked here:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d112:1:./temp/~bdS9eI:|/home/LegislativeData.php>

To unsubscribe from the Medication Disposal: Sharps and Medication listserv, please go to <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/listservs/Unsubscribe.asp?LID=73>.

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Events planned for America Recycles Day

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Oct. 4 -- America Recycles Day is coming up on Nov. 15.

The day celebrates recycling and provides an educational platform that informs people about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, according to Keep America Beautiful, a nonprofit environmental advocacy group.

For the first time, Walmart locations across the nation are welcoming organizers to have "educational tabletops" on Nov. 12 as part of its partnership with Keep America Beautiful.

KAB is also working with the College and University Recycling Coalition to create new resources and guidelines for hosting America Recycles Day events at NCAA football games and tailgating parties.

Registration is open at for local organizers interested in scheduling events for their communities on the [web](#).

Events can be scheduled anytime during the month of November, but they should be as close to Nov. 15 as possible, the group reported.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Vince Bond Jr. at vbondt@crain.com or 313-446-1653.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Landfills -- not in my backyard, survey shows

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Sept. 23 -- Most people still don't like to live by landfills.

A new survey by the Saint Consulting Group examining land use shows that 76% of respondents say they would oppose a proposed landfill development in their hometown.

Opposition to landfills has topped the Saint Index survey for all six years the company has conducted the research. But opposition has fallen compared to early years of the survey when 82% of those polled in 2006 and 87% of those polled in 2007 opposed landfill development.

This year's 76% total ticked up from 2010's mark of 74%, Saint Consulting said.

The annual survey interviews 1,000 adults across the country to track attitudes about development and the politics of land use, according to the company.

Saint Consulting calls itself a global leader in land use political consultancy and says it has experience on more than 1,600 controversial land use permitting projects in 45 states, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Casinos are the second-most opposed type of development, with a 74% opposed to them, Saint Consulting said.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS



Are landfills really that bad?

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From Waste & Recycling News

Oct. 3 -- Landfills smell. They're noisy. They're an eyesore. Big garbage haulers rip up the roads around them. Property values adjacent to them shrink.

It's no surprise that landfills consistently rank at the top of the Saint Consulting Group annual survey about which property development Americans hate the most for their local community.

This year, landfill development garnered a 76% opposition rate. That's bad for our industry, but not as bad as the first two years of the survey when more than 80% opposed landfill development – including a whopping 87% in 2007.

Perhaps the public is starting to see the value in their trash – just as we all have.

Landfills produce methane gas, which can be sold to local utility companies as renewable energy.

Landfills sometimes bring recycling centers, which can commoditize what would otherwise be waste.

Landfills generate a strong and consistent tax base. We know of one rural municipality where residents don't have to pay a dime toward township property tax because a landfill is there.

Landfills create jobs – good jobs. With the national unemployment rate hovering at 9.2%, just about any municipality could use more jobs.

Landfill operators help build playgrounds, sponsor local Little League teams, donate money for scholarship funds, libraries, fire stations and other community causes. You can read about them every other week in the business notes section of Waste & Recycling News.

Landfills can become green spaces, such as parks and ski hills. Communities and landfill operators, working together, can re-imagine that former eyesore into a destination for out-of-town guests, a boon to local businesses.

Landfills may never fall from the top of the most unwanted list – they've been there for all six years of the survey – but with additional public education about the benefits of landfills, perhaps more municipalities will support their development.

Contact WRN at 313-446-5869 or editorial@wastnews.com

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Update: Landfills still No. 1 -- public enemy, that is

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By Jim Johnson | WRN senior reporter

Oct. 6 -- Saint Consulting Group each year surveys Americans about their property development preferences.

And every time in the survey's first five years, landfills come out as public enemy No. 1.

Make that six years.

Landfills once again top the list of unwanted projects.

It's a Who's Who of unwelcome development – power plants, Wal-Marts, casinos and quarries all join landfills on the list.

But landfills, with a 76% opposition rate, consistently rank first.

"It is the most opposed land use in the United States," said Patrick Fox, president of Saint Consulting, a land use consulting company that specializes in controversial projects. "It is difficult to come up with reasons to give abutters for why they should want to support a landfill.

"There are great cases you can make for what it's going to look like in 20 or 30 years. It's going to be a great park. There are great things we're going to do with it. We're really going to benefit and enhance the community. But during the period that it's a landfill, it's not helping your real estate values. The truck traffic isn't helping. It's a problem," Fox said.

While more than three out of every four people surveyed say they are opposed to landfills, the number isn't as high as what was posted during the first two years of the survey.

In both 2006 and 2007, more than 80% of those participating in the survey opposed landfills in their hometowns – 82% in 2006 and 87% in 2007.

Will Flower, a spokesman for Republic Services Inc., figures he's been directly involved in promoting 20 or so landfill projects over the course of his career.

"I'm not surprised the public opinion is that landfills are difficult to site, having spent a career working in the trenches trying to convince communities that there are benefits associated with landfills," he said. "People need to understand that landfills serve as a vital component of the infrastructure of any municipality."

Those most likely to oppose a landfill are those who have the most to lose by living near a disposal site, Fox said.

"All of that just comes down to the more affluent the community, the more opposition you are going to get. The more education, the more value in the home, the more they have to protect," Fox said.

Interestingly, landfill opposition is most likely to occur in the Northeast.

Those most likely to support a landfill development rent their homes and have a lower household income, Fox said. "They have less to lose. They are concerned about jobs," he said.

More landfill supporters also tend to live in the South.

While landfills rank first again this year, casinos are not far behind with a 74% opposition rate in 2010. Comparatively, 72% of Americans were opposed to landfills last year and 77% were opposed to them in 2008.

Fox said he doesn't expect landfill opposition to change much. "I don't think it's going to get any better. It's always going to be difficult," he said.

Development opponents have become more vocal and sophisticated over the years and now have the ear of politicians. That requires landfill developers to garner support in different ways. That could include finding supporters from a different part of town and becoming part of the community in other ways.

"Elected officials are not going to commit political suicide for your project," Fox said. "Prove that you are a good neighbor, that you are going to sponsor things in the community. Maybe it's Little League. Maybe it's local hockey. Maybe it's the mayor's library project."

Flower said it was actually more difficult to site a landfill 10 years ago. "Today, I think the public is, by and large, more educated and there are many more tools for us to communicate with the public," he said.

The solid waste industry, he said, also is more open to communicating landfill plans.

The annual survey interviews 1,000 adults across the country to track attitudes about development and the politics of land use, according to Saint Consulting.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Iowa landfill named 'best place to work'

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By Jim Johnson | WRN senior reporter

Oct. 7 -- Mike Fairchild works around trash all day and he knows he's got it good.

Now all of the folks in and around Des Moines, Iowa, are learning that working for the area's Metro Waste Authority is a pretty good gig, he said.

MWA, which owns two landfills, a transfer station and a composting facility, is being recognized as one of the region's best places to work.

Good jobs at landfills? Really? Yep.

As operations manager for the authority, it was Fairchild who nominated his employer for an annual top workplaces award handed out by the Des Moines Register newspaper. But it was the strength of authority employees' opinions of their employer that helped to win the award.

A total of 70 employers are being highlighted by the newspaper. The award is based on an employee survey that asked folks to rate their places of work in a variety of areas, such as community involvement, employee benefits and empowerment.

"We've always been a continuous improvement-type of an organization. So I think you just try to say we're always looking for ways to do better," said Tom Hadden, MWA executive director.

Landfills and solid waste management agencies don't typically come to mind when thinking about top-notch employers. But Hadden said he was not surprised that this organization, with 60 workers, was recognized.

"I'm sure there are some people scratching their heads on that. Generally, that's not the glamour place to go," he said.

But, he said, MWA has built an organization where employees are treated well and there are high expectations of job performance.

The regional authority does not receive any tax dollars and relies completely on revenue generated from operations. That approach has allowed MWA to act more like a private business instead of a governmental agency over the years, Hadden said.

"We try to put the right people on the bus in the right seats," Hadden said. "And if it doesn't work out, instead of just adding a person or moving him over, we make the adjustment and say, 'OK, maybe this person is not right for the organization at this time or for this purpose.'

"I think our organization's expectations for Metro Waste are pretty high. It shouldn't be a shock that we received this award.

"I thought it showed that a governmental entity can provide a good place to work and be efficient and effective at the same time," he said.

Fairchild has been working at MWA for the past 17 years, and his friends and family have come to learn just how much he appreciates his job, he said. Maybe some even get a little jealous when they find out just how good it is to work there, Fairchild said.

"It's the best job in the world, and I'm going to continue working it," he said.

While plenty of employees had good things to say about the agency, not all of the comments were sparkling, the executive director said. "Not everybody is totally enamored with their jobs. That's natural. You say, 'How can we do the best?' You can't please everybody, obviously.

"There's always ways for organizations to improve. This is a snapshot of where we are now," Hadden said.

MWA serves Des Moines and 22 nearby suburbs and towns that have a total population of about 500,000.

The newspaper recognized employers in three categories: small, mid-sized and large. The authority ranked eighth in the small category. Additional information about the awards, which are handed out by more than two dozen newspapers around the country, is available at www.topworkplaces.com.

MWA operations include the agency's flagship Metro Park West landfill near Mitchellville, Iowa, and the smaller Metro Park East landfill near Perry, Iowa. The agency also oversees recycling and household hazardous waste programs.

"The landfill itself, of course, when you are in the nitty-gritty of the daily cell, that's pretty tough going right there," Hadden said. "Still, we make sure our workers are in a safe environment and give them the resources to do their job. We think that's important. And they have a say in how we do things."

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Company installs solar power landfill cover

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Aug. 25 -- A solar power landfill cover is now in place at a landfill in New York and developers expect to be producing power from the site within the next month.

Carlisle Energy Services Inc. said its geomembrane solar cover system is covering eight acres at the Madison County landfill and the system is expected to offset nearly all power needed at the Madison County recycling facility located on the site.

Madison County is the first in the country to use the solar power system on a landfill closure project, Carlisle said.

The landfill is being redeveloped as the Madison County Agriculture and Renewable Energy Park, a location that also will include a landfill gas system that will capture heat generated by turbine engines to dry lumber and heat a building. Developers also are considering construction of a windmill, hydroponic greenhouses and an additional solar array, Carlisle said.

"This photovoltaic landfill cover will play an integral role in Madison County's growing renewable energy initiative, and we are proud to demonstrate the technical and commercial feasibility of Carlisle's unique landfill closure system," said James Zecca, Madison County solid waste department director, in a statement.


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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Dallas City Council passes flow control ordinance

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Sept. 29 -- Dallas became the largest city in the country to enact a flow control ordinance when the City Council passed the measure Sept. 28.

The ordinance forces all commercial waste to be disposed at the city-owned McCommas Bluff Landfill. Residential waste is collected by the city and is already disposed at the landfill. The city estimates that an additional 700,000 to 900,000 tons of waste will be brought to the landfill annually and it will make \$13 million annually after tipping fees and expenses are calculated.

The National Solid Wastes Management Association fought the measure, and Tom Brown, the group's Texas chapter president, said he was disappointed with the result.

"This is going to increase our industry's costs [in Dallas] by 20%," Brown said. "No one can absorb a 20% increase without passing it along to the customers."

He said along with increased tipping fees, haulers will be paying more to haul waste from various parts of the city to the city's southern border.

Three landfills are in communities just outside Dallas, with two owned by Waste Management and one by Republic Services.

The ordinance goes into effect Jan. 2.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Jeremy Carroll at jcarroll@crain.com or 313-446-6780.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Update: Dallas is biggest city to pass flow control law

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By Jeremy Carroll | WRN reporter

Oct. 10 -- Ignoring a threat of a lawsuit from a waste industry advocacy group, Dallas became the largest city in the country to enact a flow control ordinance which city officials say will bring \$13 million in profit to the city annually.

The City Council approved the plan Sept. 28 and the ordinance will go into effect Jan. 2. The ordinance relates only to the collection of garbage produced by business, contracted through private haulers. The city collects residential garbage.

The act of forcing waste haulers to take trash that was generated in a city to a publicly owned landfill was deemed lawful by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007 in the landmark United Haulers Association versus Onedia-Herkimer Solid Waste case.

The additional waste brought in because of the ordinance – the city estimates 700,000 to 900,000 tons annually – will be taken to the McCommas Bluff Landfill in the city's southern section. A transfer station in the northern end will also accept commercial garbage.

Under the ordinance, recycled waste and hazardous waste may be disposed outside the city. Haulers who violate the ordinance will be subject to a \$2,000 fine.

"There are 700,000 to 900,000 tons of commercial waste leaving the city of Dallas and people are making money off of that. Corporations outside of Dallas are making money off of the trash," Mayor Mike Rawlings said before the measure passed.

Rawlings, who supported the ordinance, said the city shouldn't let that money slip away.

"Who deserves that revenue? Should it be the owners of the landfills outside of Dallas, or does it belong to the taxpayers?" Rawlings asked. "I believe the taxpayers deserve that money."

The National Solid Wastes Management Association sent a letter to city officials, warning that if the city passed the flow control ordinance that it would "take whatever lawful actions are available to protect our customer relationships, our contracts, our property and our investments."

Tom Brown, president of the Texas chapter of NSWMA and senior vice president and chief operating officers for IESI Corp., said he was very disappointed by the decision.

"It will be up to the association and individual companies if they want to pursue litigation," Brown said.

There are three landfills right outside of Dallas, two owned by Waste Management and one by Republic Services.

Brown had advocated the City Council slow down the process and start a task force to explore all options, including privatizing residential collection, privatizing landfill operations or selling the landfill.

"This is going to increase our industry's costs [in Dallas] by 20%," Brown said. "No one can absorb a 20% increase without passing it along to the customers."

He said along with increased tipping fees, haulers will be paying more to haul waste from various parts of the city to the city's southern tip.

Sanitation Director Mary Nix said many haulers bypass the city's McCommas Bluff Landfill and head even farther south to the Skyline Landfill in Duncanville, Texas, approximately 10.5 miles from the city's landfill.

She said concerns that the ordinance will artificially raise tipping fees are unfounded.

"Solid waste is a utility and any rate changes are going to be in front of City Council with a lot of discussion," Nix said. "It has to be done in a public forum. Private landfills can change their tipping fees any time, for any reason."

The \$21.50 a ton fee for the landfill will stay the same and the Bachmann Transfer Station tipping fee is going to drop from \$47 a ton to \$36 a ton when flow control begins, she said.

Brown said the city will fall far short of revenue expectations, with the city collecting only \$6 million to \$7 million in profit from the new waste.

"It's very disappointing, but it's government in action," he said.

NSWMA, which represents private haulers, aggressively opposed the measure, creating a website about the issue, sending flyers and placing an ad in a Dallas newspaper.

John Skinner, executive director and CEO of the Solid Waste Association of North America, which represents public entities in the waste industry, said the group supports flow control.

"We believe [the] United Haulers [case] clearly authorized local governments to use flow control," Skinner said. "It is one tool they can use to manage their systems."

The measure passed the City Council 9-6, and there were several outspoken critics, including Vonciel Hill who called the measure an "environmental injustice" because of the added trash coming to the city's southern edge.

"The landfill was placed in the wrong place in the first place," she said. "Having put it there doesn't mean I favor exacerbating what I believe was wrong in the first place."

Assistant City Manager Ryan Evans said the flow control ordinance is just the first piece of a multi-step process, which will include adding resource recovery facilities in the city to collect recyclable materials and keep them out of the landfill.

"Before we can build a resource recovery facility, we will first need to assess what is going into our landfills," he said.

As part of the flow control measure, city officials also established an investment fund for the area near the landfill. The city will deposit \$1 million into the fund annually from the profits of flow control for projects aimed at spurring economic development in the community.

"This is going to be the beginning of the revitalization of an area that needs it," said council member Dwaine Caraway.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

NSWMA seeks to overturn trash importation law

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Sept. 14 -- A national trade group representing private trash companies is throwing its support behind an effort to block a local law in Solano County, Calif., that stops importation of waste and recyclables.

The National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA) filed a friend-of-the-court brief that opposes the county's Measure E, passed by voters years ago that effectively bans out-of-county materials.

The county has never enforced the measure because it says the rule is unconstitutional, according to the NSWMA.

"Several organizations, including the Sierra Club, filed lawsuits seeking enforcement of Measure E in 2009 as part of their strategy to block the expansion of the Potrero Hills Landfill," the NSWMA said in a statement.

Now the matter is before the California Court of Appeals.

"Measure E isolates Solano County from waste originating in other parts of California and in other states," said David Biderman, general counsel for the NSWMA, in a statement.

The landfill is owned by Waste Connections Inc. of Folsom, Calif.


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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Study: Wastewater recycling can be bad for environment

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Aug. 30 -- Wastewater treatment processes may produce more greenhouse gases than traditional water treatment methods, according to a study by researchers from the University of Cincinnati and the University of California, Irvine.

The researchers studied how various wastewater treatment strategies affected emissions of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas with a warming potential 300 times greater than carbon dioxide.

The team found that the wastewater recycling plant they tracked emitted nearly three times more nitrous oxide than the traditional water treatment facility they chose, according to the University of Cincinnati.

Even with these results, the team says wastewater recycling is still good option.

The findings will be published in the September-October issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality.

"Wastewater recycling is an essential component of the urban water-resource portfolio, especially in the semiarid, urban southwest," said Amy Townsend-Small, assistant professor of geology and geography at Cincinnati. "Because drinking water in southern California is imported over very long distances, it is responsible for large energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission rates."


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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Congress says no to composting, will burn waste

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Oct. 7 -- About 5,300 tons of Congress' trash will soon be sent to waste-to-energy facilities.

Up to 90% of the U.S. Capitol Complex's nonrecyclable solid waste will be shipped each year to local high-temperature incinerators and used to fuel generators that will produce electricity for the Capitol's power grid, The New York Times reported.

In recent years, Congress was composting its waste and sending it to landfills.

"This is a response to the need for us to be more energy-efficient, more environmentally sensitive, more economical," Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., chairman of the House Administration Committee, told the newspaper.

Lungren, who oversees the Architect of the Capitol along with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, also said the effort had initially been planned just for the House side of the Capitol before earning support from Senate leaders in recent months.

In metropolitan Washington, there are three waste-to-energy facilities that can process about 3,000 tons of waste per day, the newspaper said, with more projects on the horizon.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Onsite Electronics is a certified e-waste steward

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Aug. 26 -- Onsite Electronics Recycling was recently certified to the Basel Action Network's (BAN) e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment.

Stockton, Calif.-based Onsite is the third company in California and the 14th in the nation to receive the e-Stewards Certification program distinction, which was created by BAN to formally recognize electronics recyclers that follow environmentally and socially responsible practices when recovering hazardous electronic materials.

Onsite's customers include equipment manufacturers, small- and medium-size businesses, residents, nonprofit groups, solid waste companies and governmental organizations.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Charges follow '60 Minutes' e-waste case

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By Jeremy Carroll | WRN reporter

Oct. 6 -- The indictment of two executives of an electronic waste recycler accused of duping customers and sending e-waste to developing nations is a watershed moment for the battle for responsible e-waste recycling, an activist said.

Executive Recycling, based in Englewood, Colo. with facilities in Utah and Nebraska, sent more than 100,000 highly hazardous cathode ray tubes overseas in more than 300 shipments between February 2005 and January 2009, a 16-count indictment alleges.

CEO of the company, Brandon Richter, 36, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., and its former vice president of operations, Tor Olson, 36, of Parker, Colo., each face a myriad of charges, including wire fraud, mail fraud, failure to file notification on shipments of hazardous waste, and destruction, alteration or falsification of records.

Both executives face up to 20 years in prison if convicted on the most serious charges.

They are the first criminal charges to be levied against an e-waste recycler, said Jim Puckett, executive director of the Basel Action Network, a nonprofit organization which certifies e-waste companies.

"We've had a lot of so-called recyclers that have been slapped on the wrist in the past [with fines]," Puckett said. "None have stopped doing business as usual. This is really different. It sends such a strong message."

He said the possibility of serious jail time sends a signal to other companies and CEOs that there are serious consequences to sending e-waste to developing countries and lying to customers about what is happening to the materials.

"This cannot be ignored," Puckett said. "It's a real victory for environmental justice. Its message is loud and clear."

The grand jury concluded an indictment was warranted after federal officials completed a 30-month investigation.

"The investigation confirmed that Executive Recycling repeatedly exported used cathode ray tubes to China," said David Marwell, special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigation, in a statement. "Executive Recycling also made false promises to its customers who believed that [the company] was properly disposing of their electronic waste."

The indictment says the company developed a scheme to falsely represent that it would dispose of all e-waste in an environmentally friendly or green manner. The company also said it would recycle the items in the U.S., not overseas.

Executive Recycling was the subject of a "60 Minutes" report in 2008 which tracked containers from its facility to Hong Kong. Richter publically denied sending items overseas, instead blaming the shipments on a second company which Executive Recycling sold the CRTs to, which then shipped the items overseas.

Pamela Mackey, attorney for Richter, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Olson's attorney, Bill Leone, who said he wanted to litigate the case in the courtroom and not in the media, declined to discuss the case in detail.

"We're disappointed in the government for bringing this case forward and we're looking forward to our day in court," he said.

The indictment alleges that both Richter and Olson engaged in exporting e-waste to foreign countries, including China. The two regularly negotiated the sale of e-waste to brokers who represented foreign buyers. The foreign buyers often paid Richter and Olson directly, the indictment alleges.

Shipping cargo was regularly loaded directly at the company's Englewood, Colo., facility.

Federal and state law prohibits the export of hazardous waste to another country without first filing a notice with the U.S. EPA and obtaining the consent of the receiving country. That did not occur, the indictment says.

"The proper disposal of our electronic waste is not only critical today, but will also become more important in the future," said U.S. Attorney John Walsh, in a statement. "U.S. law requires proper disposal of this type of waste not only for the protection of Americans, but also so that we in the United States live up to our responsibility to be good international environmental stewards."

Executive Recyclers duped El Paso, Broomfield and Boulder, Colo., Jefferson County Public Schools, the Children's Hospital, Centura Health Hospital, Denver Newspaper Agency and Cherry Creek School District, the indictment alleges.

The company sold the e-waste it received from those entities and others to brokers, generating more than \$1.8 million in sales.

Puckett said pending legislation in Congress to completely ban the shipment of e-waste to developing countries must be passed so it would be easier for police to charge exporters of e-waste.

"The laws on e-waste, the CRT rule, it's really weak," Puckett said. "It's really easy to circumvent. In spite of that, they misled so many people, there's fraud there."

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Jeremy Carroll at jcarroll@crain.com or 313-446-6780.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Calif. company begins recycling carpet

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Aug. 17 -- Napa Recycling and Waste Services in California began accepting carpet discards as part of its recycling program this month.

The carpet is sent to a plant in West Sacramento where it's converted into plastic products or reused as carpet backing and usable carpeting, according to the Napa Valley Register.

If the program becomes popular among residents, more than 8,000 pounds of carpet can be diverted each year from the city's landfill in Contra Costa County.

"According to recent studies, 3.2 percent of landfills are carpet," said Kevin Miller, manager of Napa Recycling and Waste Services. "I've been working in Napa for 15 years, and this is one of the most exciting programs I've seen as an industry professional because there's not many occasions when you can take something that's virtually always thrown away and divert it from the landfill."

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Company credited with boosting county recycling rate

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Aug. 19 -- In just three months handling construction and demolition recycling in Tulare County, Calif., Peña's Disposal Service has taken that sector's recycling rate from 56% to 82%.

"We have been very impressed with what Peña's has been able to do," Anne Magaña, administrator of the Consolidated Waste Management Authority in Tulare County, said in a statement. "We are faced with an overall state goal of 75% diversion rate by 2020, and what Peña's is doing with C&D, and their 20-year plan for expansion, will really help. Their plan puts it on the table as a challenge to others in the industry to plan ahead and be more aggressive."

Cutler, Calif.-based Peña's Disposal facility is a material recovery facility for recycling household hazardous waste, organic waste, e-waste and construction and demolition waste, as well as California Redemption Value buy-back.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Shawn Wright at swright@crain.com or 313-446-0346.

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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

WM Inc. opens public-access CNG station in Calif.

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Sept. 6 -- Waste Management Inc. recently opened a new public access compressed natural gas fueling station at its facility in Santa Ana, Calif.

The new station, operated by fuel distributor PetroCard, is being used by the solid waste management company and is open to commercial fleets such as transit agencies, school districts and taxis, Waste Management said. Private owners of CNG-powered vehicles also can use the site.

"We are dedicated to doing business in the most sustainable way possible as well as offering our customers more ways to live green," said Jason Rose, general manager and vice president of Waste Management of San Diego and Orange County, in a statement. "Natural gas powered vehicles run cleaner and quieter, improving air quality and reducing noise pollution."

Waste Management operates the largest fleet of heavy-duty natural gas trucks in North America; the company said, including 141 vehicles in Orange County where Santa Ana is located.


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WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Walmart teams up to convert food waste into animal feed

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Sept. 7 -- A pilot food waste recycling program is in the works for a Walmart being constructed in Palm Springs, Fla.

The shopping center could be the first Walmart in Palm Beach County where fruit, vegetables and baked goods will be recycled, according to the Palm Beach (Fla.) Post.

The waste will be put in dumpsters and collected at least once a week by Quest Recycling, the recycling contractor for Walmart.

Quest will haul the food to Bartow, Fla., where Organic Matters Inc. will convert it to animal food.

During the two-year pilot project, Quest will gather organic materials from eight Walmart stores and one Sam's Club store, the paper reported.

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Cutler facility helps Tulare County recycling increase

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An excavator dumps cement pieces into a grinder at Peña's Material Recovery Facility in Cutler Monday afternoon. The company has increased the county's construction and demolition material recycling rate. / Luis Hernandez

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CUTLER — A grinder chews on cement chunks brought to Peña's Material Recovery Facility in Cutler from demolition and construction projects throughout the county, turning it into marble-size rocks that can be used as roadway base.

A few feet away, a large pile of wood, also the product of the sorting process from the construction materials, await its turn to go through a different grinder, which will turn it into wood chips that will be used at a cogeneration plant in Dinuba.

"It'll be turned into energy," said Carlos Garcia of Peña's Disposal.

Metals, glass, carton board and other materials will also be processed as part of the recycling process to give materials from demolition sites a second life.

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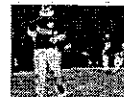
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Such is the way Peña's disposal plant is helping Tulare County improve its recycling rate on demolition and construction material and reducing what ends up in the local landfills.

"We pull out what's recyclable," Garcia said. "The [less] that goes to the landfills, the better."

In fact, in the last three months, the county's recycling rate of demolition and construction material has reached 82 percent.

Previously, the county had a contract with a Fresno County company; the recovery rate was 50 percent.

Peña's Disposal landed the contract with the county and seven large cities to recycle the construction materials. The move also added 20 jobs at the plant.

"The jobs were over," Garcia said. "Now, they're over here."

Garcia said the new hires were specifically for the handling of the construction material recyclables.

Aggressive approach

The increase in construction material recycled is a reflection of Peña Disposal's aggressive approach to recycling, said Anne Magaña, administrator of Consolidated Waste Management Authority.

"[It] really helps us get closer to the state's overall [goal] for diverting waste from the waste stream and into recycling," she said.

CWMA is the agency that reports recycling rates to state officials.

Peña's Disposal's increased recycling rate resonates with Magaña and the recycling industry.

"We have been very impressed with what Peña's has been able to do," she said. "We are faced with an overall state goal of 75 percent diversion rate by 2020, and what Peña's is doing with [construction and demolition], and their 20-year plan for expansion, will really help."

Magaña continues: "Their plan puts it on the table as a challenge to others in the industry to plan ahead and be more aggressive."

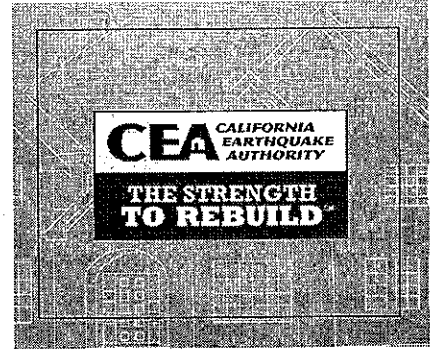
Peña's Disposal is seeking a permit to quadruple its output to 2,000 tons a day, Garcia said.

The expansion plans could mean additional employment opportunities.

Peña's Disposal's construction material recovery is just one component to their operation.

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