



# ShopTalk

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## Ecology Proposes a Chemical Elimination Strategy

The Department of Ecology is embarking on a strategy to eliminate persistent, Bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals from the State's environment (air, land and water). These are pollutants which last a long time, and build up (bioaccumulate) in the bodies of humans and wildlife. Exposure to even low levels of these toxic chemicals can cause serious human health and environmental effects. Ecology has initially identified and targeted 27 of these chemicals.

Toxic chemicals that persist and bioaccumulate are of particular concern because they remain in the environment for long periods of time and concentrate in the organisms exposed to them. Examples include dioxins, heavy metals like cadmium, and some pesticides.

At a recent Ecology-sponsored conference,

held December 2 in Tacoma, Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons said, "What we're learning about the risks associated with these chemicals convinces us that we have a responsibility to explore the issue further, and to make sure we are properly protecting the families and the environment of this State."

Ecology recognizes that the decision on how to proceed is not one the department should or can make on its own. The agency will rely on close cooperation with businesses, environmental groups, other governments and the public to develop and implement this strategy.

To begin the public discussion, Ecology is suggesting a three-tier strategy. The strategy calls for the identified chemicals no longer being emitted or discharged from new facilities by 2005 and from existing facilities by 2020. It also calls for the identified chemicals to be cleaned up from cleanup sites by 2025.

The decision to initiate such a strategy was based, in part, on the information in the recently released *Washington State Dioxin Source Assessment* which shows that little is known about the production, discharge and disposal of dioxins in Washington.

The report concluded that more should be done to collect

data about how much dioxin is produced at various types of facilities and that the State should take greater efforts to prevent dioxin releases to the environment.

The following public meetings have been scheduled to allow people around the State to participate in this important discussion (All meetings will take place in the evening):

- ✓ January 28<sup>th</sup> - Vancouver  
Clark Community College  
Foster Auditorium
- ✓ February 11<sup>th</sup> - Spokane  
Spokane Community College  
Lair Auditorium
- ✓ February 25<sup>th</sup> - Seattle  
Mountaineers Building  
Summit Room

More public meetings will likely be held over the next few months.

For more information about the meetings or to provide input directly, contact Mike Gallagher at (360) 407-6868 or via e-mail at [mgal461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mgal461@ecy.wa.gov)

- 🌐 The *Washington State Dioxin Source Assessment* is available on Ecology's Website at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/eils/pubs/98-320/98-320.html>
- 🌐 The list of 27 chemicals is at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/eils/pubs/98-320/bclist.html>

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*Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons addresses the audience at the December 2 Conference.*

## 1998 Dangerous Waste Annual Reports Due March 1, 1999

1998 Annual Report packets were mailed during December of 1998. Any site having an active RCRA Site ID number during 1998 is required to submit a 1998 Dangerous Waste Annual Report. If your site was active and you HAVE NOT received your annual report packet, call Ecology at the number below.

If, on the other hand, you HAVE received your annual report forms, and you are wondering what to do next, the following tips can help you save time on completing your annual report forms.

- Know your generator status
- Know which forms to complete based on your generator status
- Small Quantity Generators complete only the Verification Form
- Do not count or report excluded waste
- Complete a separate Generation and Management Form (GM) for each waste stream generated
- Cross check your quantities on each GM
- Be consistent with the unit of measure on each GM
- Only Large Quantity Generators are required to complete the manifest list (Section B-5)
- If you generate numerous waste streams, or numerous shipments, electronic reporting might be a shortcut for you. For information about electronic reporting, call Ecology at the number below
- Use applicable recycling credits if recurrent waste is 2,640 or more pounds for the year (see article on page 3 for more information on recycling credits)
- Include recycling credit documentation with your report
- Don't forget to fill out the Off-site Identification Information Form (OI) if reporting manifested shipments

- Don't forget to sign the report and keep a copy for your files
- Call Ecology's toll-free help line at 1-800-874-2022 for assistance

If you would like to learn more about generator requirements, attend one of Ecology's Dangerous Waste Generator Workshops scheduled in January and February of 1999. To find out if there is space available at a workshop in your area call Ecology at 1-800-874-2022.

## 1998 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award Winners

On November 9, Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons announced the winners of the 1998 Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. He applauded the facilities for going beyond standard pollution control technology and finding ways to avoid generating pollution. The winners have helped to keep hazardous waste out of our waters, air and land. Their leadership and innovation make these facilities worthy of highest commendation and recognition. The winners are good neighbors, supportive of the community and protective of human health and the environment.

The winners are:

- ☞ Ace Galvanizing, Incorporated, Seattle
- ☞ Cablecraft Tacoma, Tacoma
- ☞ Fairchild Air Force Base
- ☞ Hansville Repair, Hansville
- ☞ Thurston County Waste Program, Olympia
- ☞ United Paint and Coatings, Greenacres
- For Continuing Excellence
- ☞ Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Silverdale
- Honorable Mention
- ☞ Praegitzer Industries, Redmond

## Are You Y2K Ready? (Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure)

It's difficult to say just what will happen to the computer-run systems we all take for granted when the clock strikes 12:01 on January 1, 2000. The problem is that computer programs are designed to read the year as two digits rather than four (for example, 89 rather than 1989). When the year 2000 arrives, many computers will incorrectly interpret the "00" to mean "1900," causing them to malfunction.

And the problem is not limited to computers. It can extend to other things that contain an embedded chip. Items that have a digital read-out or turn themselves on or off may have an embedded chip.

Think about this ... what would happen if you started your solvent distillation unit before leaving work on December 31, 1999 and set it to shut off at 1:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000 but the embedded chip did not function properly?

If you use any type of automated pollution control equipment such as pumps, monitors, alarms or automatic control systems, it is important that you take steps now to ensure that your equipment will function beyond the year 1999. You should either document that the equipment manufacturer is certain you won't have a problem, or plan ahead for those potential problems or replace the equipment.

Since it is impossible to identify every possible computer and computer chip that could malfunction, contingency planning should be a high priority.

The following are just a few of the sites on the Internet that have more information on the Y2K issue:

- ☞ [www.y2k.gov](http://www.y2k.gov)
- ☞ [www.epa.gov/year2000/](http://www.epa.gov/year2000/)
- ☞ [www.sba.gov/y2k/](http://www.sba.gov/y2k/)

You can also call 1-800-633-7585 and ask for a free copy of Ecology's fact sheet *What Ecology is Doing About the Year 2000*, publication #98-1000-HQ.

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## 1998 Governor's Award Winner Hansville Repair

This four-bay auto repair facility located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula has set itself the challenging goal of completely eliminating all discharges. To try to meet this goal, owners Chip and Linda Keen have sought out cutting-edge pollution prevention opportunities.

Hansville Repair has no floor drains, which means that spills cannot reach ground or surface waters. Floors are kept swept, but when mopping is required the dirty mop water is carefully stored and recycled off-site by an outside vendor. Instead of washing vehicles on-site, Hansville Repair patronizes a local carwash, where water is properly treated before disposal. The shop no longer performs pressure washing of transmissions; instead they have replaced the practice with an innovative black light cleaning system. In addition, they have eliminated the use of chlorinated solvents, and installed an aqueous system to replace solvent brake cleaner.

The shop's waste reduction coordinator oversees all the materials used and works to reach the pollution prevention goals. At Hansville Repair the employees look throughout the facility for ways to minimize their environmental impact. Worker morale has benefited from process changes and the facility has received local and industry recognition. Facility employees use repair opportunities to explain environmental impacts to customers and set a conscientious environmental example for the community.

The Keens are industry leaders; they served on the Department of Ecology Antifreeze Advisory Committee and write for trade journals on environmental issues.

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## Answers to Your Questions About Recycling Credits

You may be eligible to earn recycling credits if you recycle any hazardous wastes off-site. *What do recycling credits do?* Recycling credits are credits that can be used as a discount to the amount of waste you report annually. The amount of waste annually reported determines if you are subject to the requirements of pollution prevention planning and fees. For example, if you send 100 pounds of solvent off-site for recycling and you have a 95% recycling credit, 95 pounds are "discounted" and only 5 pounds are counted towards planning and fees.

*Is documentation required?* Yes. You must attach all documentation of the credits you are claiming for the calendar year of the Annual Report. You do not have to keep recycling credit documentation in your site record retention files. **Please note this new requirement:** Reports submitted electronically must have the documentation attached to the Verification Form (VF).

*Do recycling credits affect my generator status?* No. Recycling credits only reduce the amount of waste counted to determine your pollution prevention status and calculate the planning fee.

*Is there credit for on-site recycling?*

No. Credit is only for waste manifested to a treatment, storage, disposal or recycling facility (TSDR) for reclamation. However, wastes that are recycled on-site aren't counted at all with respect to planning status. For example, if you recycle your solvent on-site, the only wastes you need to count are the manifested filters and still bottoms.

*How do I know if I am entitled to a credit and how do I get it?*

Contact your TSDR to find out if they recycle your waste stream,

then request written documentation. Many TSDRs routinely furnish this information on an annual recap report to their individual customers. You may also receive a separate notification of any entitled credits. Either will provide enough documentation to attach to your annual report.

*Do all TSDRs give the same credits?*

No. You will need to check with each TSDR that you used during the year for that year's recycling credit.

*Can recycling credits change from one year to the next?*

Yes. They can vary from one year to the next even for the exact same waste stream.

*Will you accept 100% credit?*

No. Reclamation and recycling processes recover only a part of incoming waste streams. The portion of the waste stream that must be disposed is not eligible for credit. Credit is based on the amount of product recovered, not the amount of waste sent for recycling.

*Do I need any special forms?*

No. Each TSDR can supply written documentation in any format they choose as long as it includes the waste stream name and system code. However, you need to report your credits on the Annual Dangerous Waste Report. *What if I can't get documentation in time to meet the March 1 reporting deadline?*

If you have difficulty getting the required documentation from your TSDR, notify Holly Sullivan at (360) 407-6733.

*What if I find I was entitled to recycling credits after I've submitted my annual report?*

Contact Holly Sullivan at (360) 407-6733. Recycling credit amendments can be accepted until December 31 of the year the report is due.

## Questions and Answers:

**Q** How can I find out where I can recycle rechargeable Ni-Cd batteries?

**A** EPA has approved a new label to identify recyclable batteries and to locate the nearest recycling collection sites. The newly approved label will be displayed on all nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) rechargeable batteries, which are commonly used in cellular phones, video cameras, power tools and laptop computers.

These batteries contain cadmium, a heavy metal that can be harmful to public health and the environment if not disposed of properly. While cadmium poses no real health risks while the battery is in use, it can be of concern if it gets into the environment when discarded in a landfill or incinerator.

The new label, which began appearing at the end of 1998, depicts a battery surrounded by three chasing arrows with the word "RECYCLE" above it. The label also includes a help line (1-800-822-8837), which will provide information on how and where to recycle used Ni-Cd batteries.

The help line is part of the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's (RBRC) national battery recycling program, "Charge Up to Recycle." RBRC's website, [www.rbrc.com](http://www.rbrc.com), also provides information for consumers, retailers, businesses and agencies on how and where to ship Ni-Cd batteries for recycling. *Note: Regulated hazardous waste generators should refer to the Universal Waste Rule (WAC 173-303-573) to ensure that they are properly managing their batteries.*

## Solid Waste Awards for Businesses

The Department of Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program is seeking applications for its annual solid waste prevention, reduction and recycling awards for 1998 programs and activities. Applications are due by March 12, 1999.

To request an application form or for more information, please call Curtis Durrant at (509) 456-6370 or E-mail him at [cdur461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cdur461@ecy.wa.gov)

## Ecology Contacts

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue (425) 649-7000  
Lacey (360) 407-6300  
Yakima (509) 575-2490  
Spokane (509) 456-2926

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## Shoptalk

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