



# Shoptalk

Spring 2004  
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A PUBLICATION FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS

## Shoptalk "Walks The Talk" on Sustainability

You've heard of "walking your talk?" It means **acting** on one's values. At *Shoptalk* we've made some changes that will reduce our use of energy and resources, increase the use of less-toxic alternatives, and support sustainable business practices. We are "walking our talk."

### Publishing Schedule

*Shoptalk* now comes out three times each year instead of four, in spring (April), summer (August), and winter (December). Each issue of *Shoptalk* consumes about 50,000+ sheets of paper, along with the cost of ink, postage, energy, transportation, and all the handling that goes along with distributing paper copies. By eliminating one issue per year we are able to:

- save taxpayers about \$9,000 in printing and mailing costs,
- reduce the amount of production resources and energy used, and
- still deliver the important news you need.

### Electronic Subscription

Did you know you can subscribe to and read *Shoptalk* online while saving paper and transportation energy? Sign up on the *Shoptalk* listserv and get notification when the newsletter comes out. You get the news you need, taxpayers again save printing and postage costs, and the trees breathe a sigh of relief.

To sign up on the listserv, go to <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/ecy-shoptalk.html>. To read *Shoptalk*, go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline/index.html> and follow the links to the online version. You can also view a printable version from the links at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/shoptalk.html>

### Paper and Ink

While we hope many *Shoptalk* readers will switch to the "tree-free" electronic version, we know this won't work for everyone. The newsletter will still be produced on paper, but hopefully in reduced numbers and in ways that place less burden on our natural resources. For instance, we are trying out different types of more environmentally-friendly paper. To reduce the use of toxics and the generation of harmful by-products, we use paper that has been processed without the use of chlorine.

The Washington Department of Printing (DOP) already uses vegetable-based inks and recycled-content paper. Vegetable-based inks help reduce toxic waste from the ink itself and the solvents needed to clean the presses.

The level of recycled content varies among different types of paper. Most paper used at DOP has at least 30% recycled content. To reduce resource consumption and make every bit go as far as possible, we will request paper that is made entirely of post-consumer recycled fiber, fiber that has already been used — not just mill trimmings. This issue of *Shoptalk* is printed on a newly-available paper — 100% post-consumer and processed chlorine free. What do you think?

In a related development, Ecology

staff worked with the Department of General Administration in 2003 to routinely use 100% recycled-content paper in printers and photocopiers at Ecology and other agencies.

These and other efforts support the Governor's Executive Order on Sustainability. The order, signed in 2002, directs state agencies to study their business practices and make changes to support sustainability.

For more information, or if you are looking for ideas you can use to promote sustainability in your business, explore Ecology's sustainability web site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability>

### Subscribe to Shoptalk Online

1. Saves YOU, the taxpayer, money!!
2. Helps save resources for future generations.
3. Nothing to end up in the wastebasket or the landfill.
4. Less \$ spent on postage means more \$ for technical assistance.
5. Easy access to *Shoptalk* via the Internet, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
6. Active links allow access to more information.
7. Archives are at your fingertips - no need to worry about saving each copy.
8. Online *Shoptalk* will always be where you left it (with no one folding it into a paper airplane).
9. Helps keep your desk neat; no need to find a place for the paper copy.
10. Extra space in your mailbox!

## Education Fee (Billing) Study Underway

Ecology is undertaking a study of education fee codes and business activities subject to the annual \$46 Hazardous Waste Education Fee. Since 1990, this fee has been assessed to businesses whose primary activities are listed in Chapter 173-305 WAC, Hazardous Waste Fee Regulations, and who also generate hazardous waste. The funds provide technical assistance to businesses across the state, including onsite visits by Ecology's regional staff and other waste reduction activities.

A study of the current fee codes and business activities is needed since the Washington State Department of Revenue (Revenue) recently adopted a new statewide business coding system, the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). This more accurate six-digit system replaces the old Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) four-digit codes. Since Ecology uses the Revenue business codes for billing the Education Fee, the conversion will result in some changes to the billing universe.

Waste generation and composition have changed in the 13 years that Ecology has been assessing the fee. This study allows Ecology an opportunity to re-examine the business classifications and ensure that new, billed NAICS codes meet the intent of the law, are accurate and create an even playing field for fee payers.

The extent of the changes will not be known until later this spring when the study has been completed. A brochure enclosed with billing materials scheduled for release in May will discuss the study findings and recommendations.

If you have questions about the study, contact Larry McCallum, at (360) 407-6725, or e-mail him at [lamc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lamc461@ecy.wa.gov)

## New Web Site on Waste Management Facilities

Thinking about shipping off your hazardous waste for recycling, treatment or disposal? Would you like to know more about a particular waste management facility in Washington and reduce your possible future liability?

Ecology has developed an Internet site focused on facilities that are currently managing hazardous wastes and used oil. While the number changes frequently, there are currently 29 active facilities in Washington, including:

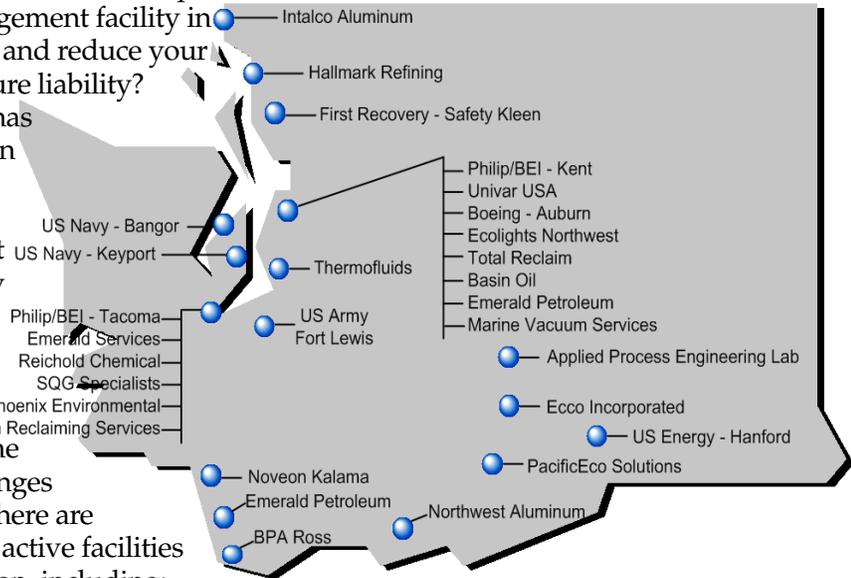
- ✓ six commercial treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDs)
- ✓ five TSDs that accept wastes only from their own companies
- ✓ five federal TSDs that accept wastes only from the military or the Department of Energy
- ✓ six hazardous waste recyclers
- ✓ seven used oil processors

The web site provides basic information about the type and location of the facility, the types of wastes that may be accepted, and facility and Ecology contact. It also provides a link to an EPA web site that shows inspection, compliance and enforcement data for these operations in Washington and throughout the U.S.

An important feature of the new web site is the guide on "How to Choose a Hazardous Waste or Used Oil Contractor." The guide presents resources and tools to help waste generators evaluate and compare compliance, liability, services and price.

Check out the new site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hwfacilities>

### Active waste management facilities in Washington State



## Summary of State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plans to be Published

The draft summary of the state hazardous waste and solid waste plans, developed as part of the Beyond Waste project, is scheduled to be released in early May. For a copy of the summary or more information about the project, check out the Beyond Waste web site at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste)

Ecology is planning to hold public meetings on the content of the plans on both the west and east side of the state in late May and early June. The plans have been several years in the making and will set new directions for hazardous and solid waste management in the state over the next 30 years.

The vision of Beyond Waste is that most wastes can be used as resources to benefit Washington state economically, environmentally and socially. Call Chris Chapman at (360) 407-7160 for more information about the plans and the project.

## 2020 ENGINEERING Wins the Governor's Pollution Prevention Award for Innovative Design

2020 ENGINEERING, Inc. of Bellingham excels in innovation, seeking out new solutions in low-impact development, sustainable stormwater management, water conservation and "green" building. This commitment to finding a better way earned the firm a 2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices.

The company designed a greenhouse-based system to treat and re-use wastewater for the IslandWood outdoor learning center on Bainbridge Island. This was the first such small, onsite system in the state. It required extra time and effort working with the state Health and Ecology departments to get the experimental system permitted and evaluated.

The company researches and develops "low-impact" development techniques to reduce the pollution from urban stormwater run-off. They have designed permeable driving and parking areas, including a "first in Washington" porous-concrete driving surface in a public right-of-way. They design stormwater systems that avoid the hard, erosive run-off from cement sidewalks, curbs and gutters, by using a softer approach of sheet flow and pervious pavements, rainwater catchments and swales.

The environment benefits from less stormwater run-off and their clients benefit from reduced water and sewer utility fees.



Governor Locke (center) presents the award to Mark Buehre (left) and Christopher Webb (right) of 2020 ENGINEERING, Inc.

### 2004 Governor's Award Application Period Opens

The application period for the 2004 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices starts on April 1. If your company, organization, school or government facility reduced the use of toxics, prevented waste or moved to more sustainable business practices, it could be eligible.

What actions can make a facility eligible? Any of these, and more:

- ✓ Reducing the use of toxic materials
- ✓ Reducing the generation of solid and/or hazardous waste at the source (**not** recycling)
- ✓ Reducing emissions to air or water
- ✓ Product stewardship
- ✓ Eliminating persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs)
- ✓ Increasing the use of renewable and recycled materials
- ✓ Reducing energy use or using renewable energy sources
- ✓ Reducing water use

The deadline for applications is June 4, 2004. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Olympia in the fall. For more information (and an online application form after April 1) visit the awards web site at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward/gov\\_awards.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward/gov_awards.htm)

Or call Mariann Cook Andrews, at (360) 407-6740, or e-mail at [maco461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:maco461@ecy.wa.gov)

### Coming Soon

Watch for the *Shoptalk* web page to be updated in the upcoming months. If you have ideas or comments on how to improve the web page, or if you've got an idea for a *Shoptalk* article, contact Mariann Cook Andrews, *Shoptalk* editor. Contact her at (360) 407-6740, or email her at [maco461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:maco461@ecy.wa.gov)

Ecology forms often ask for contact information. The questions and answers below will help you understand what information needs to be provided.

**Q What is a forms contact?**

**A** An authorized person within your company who is thoroughly familiar with the operation of the site and the facts reported on the Site Identification Forms. This person will be contacted at the address they provide regarding questions on the forms. (For companies using TurboWaste.Net, the PIN number for TurboWaste. Net will be mailed to the forms contact.)

**Q What is a site contact?**

**A** The owner/operator, primary emergency coordinator or other available designated person who has access to all parts of the facility, is thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the facility contingency plan, operations and activities at the facility, the location and properties of all waste handled, the location of all records, and the facility layout.

**Help for Medical Facilities with Pharmaceutical Waste**

A new set of Web pages, "Managing Pharmaceutical Wastes" is now online. The web pages offer information on what is dangerous waste as well as specific information on different types of pharmaceuticals. Some of the pages provide information to help minimize pharmaceutical waste and what to do if the waste presents an infection hazard in addition to being a chemical hazard. A flow chart and reference to other resources round out this useful tool. All users of the site are encouraged to use the feedback form to tell us what needs to be added or changed. If you need further assistance, contact Ecology's regional offices. The site is at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/pharmaceuticals/index.html>

**Correction**

The Q&A in the last *Shoptalk* implied that overfill controls on tanks must be inspected daily. This is incorrect. WAC 173-303-640(6)(a) says that a schedule and procedure for inspecting overfill controls must be developed and followed, but does not dictate what the schedule must be.

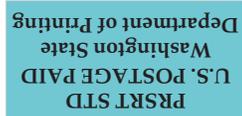
**Department of Ecology**

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) 329-3400

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711, or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

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