

INTENSIVE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING SYSTEM RESULTS SHOW THAT 84.4% OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TRASH CAN BE RECYCLED AND COMPOSTED.

The Center for the Biology of Natural Systems (CBNS) has just published a 300 page report on its experimental 10-week, 100 volunteer family study on an Intensive Recycling System, undertaken in the town of East Hampton, Long Island, NY. East Hampton is a rural, resort community with a population of 16,000. In the summer the population increases to 48,000. The East Hampton Intensive Recycling System employed a 4-bin collection system and collected 18 tons of materials in 10 weeks. The breakdown was:

Bin # 1	Food Garbage and soiled paper	32.9%
Bin # 2	Paper/Cardboard	40.5%
Bin # 3	Metal cans/glass bottles	13.4%
Bin # 4	Non-recyclables	13.2%

Material rejected during compost/recycle process 2.4%

Total converted into compost/secondary materials 84.4%

- * Not included were bulky items, yard waste, and hazardous waste.
- * Report estimates net cost of constructing, operating and financing a full-scale Intensive Recycling System for East Hampton.
- * Report compares the main features of the Intensive Recycling System with those of incineration or off-island shipping of unseparated trash for the town of East Hampton.

	<u>Reduce Landfill Volume</u>	<u>Costs Per Ton</u>
Intensive Recycling System	69%	\$123-127
Incineration	79%	\$195-209
Off-Island Shipping	0%	\$179

- * Future markets were analysed by assessing the impact of expanding supplies of secondary materials on the user's demand for them. The analysis shows that growth in supply is very likely to induce a comparable growth in demand rather -as is sometimes suggested- overwhelming the market and causing it to collapse.
- * The environmental emissions from the composting operations and from the normal operations of the materials recovery facility were monitored. CBNS found that in almost every instance, the avoided environmental impact is greater than the incurred impact, so that the net effect of recycling is to reduce the overall environmental impact. Regarding toxic chemicals, the available data do not allow such comparisons.
- * Report considered the applicability of the Intensive Recycling System to other New York populations. To be cost-effective and to facilitate marketing, the system's materials recovery facility should serve a minimum population of about 100,000.

Smaller towns should be organized into regional systems of at least that total size.

Councilman Pat Trunzo who supervised East Hampton's participation in the project said the CBNS results show "that we can dispose of our trash without incineration, avoiding its serious environmental hazards and exorbitant cost." Waste Not interviewed Councilman Trunzo. Trunzo said that the members of the Town Board are enthusiastic about proceeding with an Intensive Recycling System and that in 1989 the town will hold public hearings to receive input from the residents to decide on implementing such a program. The CBNS 300 page main report is available to non-profits for \$20, and to for-profits for \$30. Separate from the main report are the appendices which contain the methodologies employed, lists of market and vendor contacts, etc. The cost for the appendices have not been estimated as yet. Available from: CBNS, Queens College, Flushing, NY 11367. Telephone: 718-670-4180.

MARYLAND: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY REJECTS 1,500 TPD MASS-BURN INCINERATOR. Responding to tremendous citizen opposition, the County Council voted 9-0, on November 29, to reject the proposal for a 1,500 tpd incinerator. According to the *Washington Post* of 11-30-88: "The Prince George's County Council, expressing concern over the environmental risks of burning the county's trash, yesterday became the first

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Washington area jurisdiction to reject plans to build a large-scale incinerator. The unanimous vote, though not completely closing the door on incineration in the future, represented a major defeat for County Executive Parris Glendening. Glendening proposed a 10-year solid waste plan to burn half of the county's trash in a \$146 million incinerator on Brown Station Road in Largo, recycle up to 35% and bury the rest in landfills." **Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.** was awarded the contract by the Prince George's county in January 1987 to study county trash disposal options. **Malcolm Pirnie's** study recommended a 1,500 tpd incinerator. According to the Position Paper on Incineration, Recycling and Alternatives, compiled by the **Sierra Club Patuxent Group**, the **Prince George's Recycling Coalition** and the **Prince George's Citizens Waste Coalition**: "The consultant (**Malcolm Pirnie**) and Mr. Glendening (County Executive) have misrepresented expected revenues from the incinerator's generation of electricity. The County Executive is telling us that the incinerator will pay back 30-40% of its costs through revenues from the generation of electricity. This claim, based on **Malcolm Pirnie's** estimates, is inaccurate and deceptive." The Position Paper states that "an incinerator and its toxic ash landfill could cost at least \$30 million more than just a landfill. The consultant's (**Malcolm Pirnie**) untenable assumption inflates the estimates of electricity revenues and thus disguises the real cost of an incinerator." There are two parts to the Position Paper. Part one examines economic and environmental costs. Part two focuses on recycling, alternatives and recommendations. Both reports cost \$6 each, which include postage. Available from either: **Sierra Club**, PO Box 1597, Laurel, MD 20707, contact Virginia or John Bird; or **Prince George's Recycling Coalition**, 12600 Hilda Court, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, contact Wendy or Barry Cohen.

MICHIGAN: JACKSON COUNTY INCINERATOR SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE LEVELS OF LEAD IN INCINERATOR ASH. The 200 tpd mass-burn Jackson County incinerator went on line in 1987. It is located on the property of the Southern Michigan State Prison and the incinerator supplies steam to the prison. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**) in Jackson, tests for lead in the ash ranged from 5.8 to 94 ppm. The DNR Director declared the ash a hazardous waste. The incinerator designed by **Black & Veatch**, has acid gas scrubbers and a baghouse, both designed by **Research-Cottrell**. "With no solution in sight for ash problems at Jackson County's incinerator, the county Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday (Nov. 22) to lay off all but two of the facility's employees as of Dec. 1. Commissioners, saying the state **DNR** is at least partly responsible for problems that closed the facility indefinitely Nov. 5, also authorized the county's lawyers to look into the possibility of forcing the state to pay for disposing the ash...The facility is closed because tests showed that ash from refuse burned in the incinerator exceeds safety standards for lead. **DNR** officials have ruled that ash must be handled as hazardous waste, which would cost the county more than \$1 million a year. Because the incinerator is closed, the Board of Commissioners voted to lay off 23 incinerator employees...McDevitt and other commissioners argued the lead standard for incinerator ash is a state requirement that could be waived..." Citizen Patriot, MI, 11-23-88, front page.

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