

## A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO WASTE MANAGEMENT **As If The Future Mattered**

As we move into a new decade more and more Americans are recognizing that the average citizen's most tangible connection with the global environmental crisis is the trash bag! Below we list a set of educational materials which we believe could take someone with a mild interest in the materials contained in their trash bag to the point that they will want to become a part of the worldwide citizen-based movement to protect our planet's biosphere before the damage becomes totally irreparable.

### **RECYCLING: A VIDEO TOUR GUIDE TO SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY.**

**VideoActive Productions** offers a valuable service to communities by making available a growing selection of videos that 'walks us through' successful recycling/composting programs now operating throughout the country. These videos have proved to be immensely popular. They can be viewed in one's home, at group meetings, or at meetings with decision makers. The videos tour recycling operations in Marin County, CA, with Joe Garbarino; North Freedom, WI, with Millie Zantow; North Stonington, CT, with David Birbeck; Fillmore County, MN, which is recycling and composting; Rodman, NY, which shows a small (830 pop.) community taking the initiative to achieve some of the highest reduction rates in NY State without one penny of State financing; and Skamania County, WA, where a recycling facility was built for \$400,000 to handle the complete waste stream for a county of 10,000 people. There are videos with interviews with Peter Karter who has designed and operates successful material recovery facilities; with Mark Lohbauer of NJ and with Bernd Franke of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. The most recent video, titled, "Waste Management as if the Future Mattered," puts the trash issue into a global context. This video features a presentation by Paul Connett in Minneapolis and has proved to be as popular as "Gorillas in the Mist" at a MN video shop! This latest video comes with a 48-page booklet of the same title (see below). Recycling videos range between \$25 and \$30 and are available from **VideoActive Productions**, Box 322, Route 2, Canton, NY 13617.



**BOOKLET: "WASTE MANAGEMENT AS IF THE FUTURE MATTERED".** This 48-page booklet with 100 references goes with the videotape described above, can be obtained separately from **WOW-USA**, 82 Judson Street, Canton, NY 13617. The booklet costs \$3 each or \$2 each for orders over 10 copies.

**BOOK: "WAR ON WASTE" by Louis Blumberg and Robert Gottlieb.** This recently published (1989) paperback is the best book published on the trash wars in the U.S.A. to date. The authors were part of the team of UCLA researchers who helped topple the proposal to build a trash incinerator in South Central Los Angeles. The book puts the trash wars into the larger context of over-consumption and unravels many of the economic and political forces pushing for incineration in the U.S. Jim Hightower, the Commissioner of Agriculture for Texas, has written an excellent forward to the book. The book is published by **Island Press**, Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428, and is available at a 20% discount to **Waste Not** subscribers.

**NETWORKING: CITIZENS CLEARING HOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTES.** CCHW (Lois Gibbs, Will Collette, Steve Lester, Brian Lipsett, et al) is the best organizing group in the

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country. It is in contact with over 8,000 (no misprint, 8,000) citizens groups around the country. If you are fighting any kind of incinerator (trash, hazardous, hospital) or landfill, the first thing to do is to phone CCHW and find out any other group battling the company in question and the consultants in question. These contacts will save you hours and hours of time. CCHW also has an excellent newsletter and has published a set of guides on everything under the sun pertaining to organizing citizens groups. Address: CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216. Tel: 703-276-7070.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: CLEAN WATER ACTION.** CCHW does not get involved in legislation, but Clean Water Action does. They also work closely with a number of other Washington-based groups who work on legislation and so can be very helpful in knowing where the pressure points are. Contact: Dr. Henry Cole, Clean Water Action, 317 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Tel: 202-547-1196.

**BEATING UP ON PLASTICS.** The Environmental Action Foundation published an excellent book on plastics in 1988 by Jeanne Wirka called "Wrapped in Plastics: The Environmental Case for Reducing Plastics Packaging." This book contains a wealth of background material on various plastics so that you don't get easily diverted by the first ad from Amoco or MacDonald's. It is important to know that the plastics industry (i.e., the oil industry) is putting \$36 million into public relations to fight the facts that plastics are bad for us and bad for our environment. "Wrapped in Plastics" costs \$10 for individuals, \$20 for government agencies, and \$30 for industry, and is available from the Environmental Action Foundation, 1525 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Tel: 202-745-4870. Nancy Skinner, a councilwoman from Berkeley, CA, led the fight to get styrofoam banned there, is working with the "Stop Styro: Clearinghouse for Plastics and Packaging Reduction". This group has put together an excellent kit combatting the arguments made by the plastic lobbyists and a rundown on the kind of tactics they use together with plastic legislation that has been passed in U.S. communities. Contact: Berkeley Ecology Center, 1403 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94702. Tel: 415-548-2220.

**COMPOSTING INFORMATION.** Composting remains the weakest link in the rational alternative scenario to trash incinerators and lousy landfills, however, it is getting stronger by the minute. The incinerator industry argument that incineration complements recycling falls apart once composting of organic waste is accepted. For a regular news service and information you cannot do better than subscribe to the monthly journal **Biocycle**. It publishes many articles on the problems and successes of composting, as well as lots of useful information on vendors of equipment, etc. Annual subscription is \$46 for 10 issues. Address: Box 351, 18 S. 7th Street, Emmaus, PA 18149.

**EDUCATION: RACHEL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE NEWS,** a weekly newsletter that articulates the essence of the problems and solutions of hazardous waste. This is essential reading material for every environmental activist. Edited by Dr. Peter Montague and published by the Environmental Research Foundation, PO Box 3541, Princeton, NJ 08543. Subscription rates: \$25 for individuals/citizen groups; \$50 for government agencies, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$250 for businesses and professionals.

**GREENPEACE.** Still the largest and best environmental group on our planet. If only all large environmental groups could stick to its principals like Greenpeace does, perhaps we wouldn't be in the tragic situation we are in today. Greenpeace continues to thrill us and we know they won't compromise our environment away for corporate bucks. Greenpeace Magazine is available for \$20, published 6 times a year, from Greenpeace, 1436 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

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