

IRNetworking
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Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference, Northampton, MA, October 25-26
NNECERAPPA (Northern New England Chapter of ERAPPA) Fall Conference, Nashua, NH, November 9-10

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GENERAL IRN NEWS

IRN Joins 21st Century, Opens New Web Site

If you haven't been to www.ir-network.com in a while, please take a new look.

When we first started the Network in 1999, the site was OK for its time and place. But graphically and for content, it's gotten run down over the years – a dowager needing something more than a facelift.

We've totally revised the site. It now provides one-click access to information about all of IRN's recycling programs, and all program information is available in pdf format so it's easy to print out to be posted or distributed.

We've also revised and simplified the Service Request capability (which, if you ever tried to use it on the old site, was bulky and pretty much useless). There's now a simple one-page form that lets you request any IRN service (www.ir-network.com/request.html). We've already seen close to a dozen IRN members start to use the new Service Request function, which fulfills our intention to let you order service at any time and from any location with a web connection.

The new site is still developing. We need to add some graphics, and are developing a page of links and resources. If you have comments on the site or suggestions about how we can make it more helpful, please let us know. We'd also like to acknowledge Kenny Kutney, our web designer, who's done a fantastic job with the look, operation, and feel of the new site, and our www.WasteMiser.com C&D site as well.

IRN Adds Vendors and Improves Group Purchase Pricing

As June became July became August, we passed from the yearly "end of the budget and I've got to spend some money," into the yearly "brand new budget and I've got some money to spend." As a result, we've been filling a lot of requests for recycling supplies and equipment – everything from deskside containers to "slim jims" for the copier room to hampers that can wheel electronics out to the loading dock to new compactors and balers.

Meeting member requests, we've also brought several new vendors on board, while our increasing volume has allowed us to negotiate excellent pricing with our longstanding service partners as well as our new vendors. For example, several members have recently purchased wheeled carts from new vendor IPL, which offers the unbeatable combination of low cost, high quality, and almost immediate shipment from their warehouse in Whitinsville, MA. Other IRN members have recently purchased new "dual deskslider" recycling bins from Busch Systems. We've worked with Busch for many years, with the result that we have earned and pass along to members Busch's best pricing and service for their entire product line.

If you have any recycling-related purchasing need, please call or email [Brigitte](#) or [Dana](#) and let them know what's up.

IRN Adds Capability to Invoice by Email

IRN is pleased to offer the capability to manage all invoicing by email. At a member's request, IRN can prepare and submit invoices by email in PDF format, saving several days in preparation and mailing, and facilitating the reproduction and distribution of invoices at member locations. Accessing this capability is at the member's discretion; we will continue to use paper invoices unless a member requests the switch.

Please contact [Brigitte Thompson](#) if you'd like to discuss or ask for this email capability.

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Member-Driven Specification for Cardboard Plus Mixed Paper Proves Successful

Over the years, it's become apparent that many IRN members don't have enough cardboard to recycle really cost-effectively, and don't have enough paper to recycle really cost-effectively, but if you add it up have a lot of fiber to be recycled.

So about a year ago, after discussing the idea with our paper markets, we introduced a paper grade that includes cardboard and all other mixed paper – literally anything that tears. To date, we've used this for compactor accounts only; what it's done is allow smaller accounts, which don't generate enough of a single fiber stream to justify a compactor, to gain the financial benefits of compaction (fewer hauls and much greater tonnage per haul).

Pricing for the OCC/Mixed Paper grade varies by area, depending on our paper market and their capability to use the grade with or without further processing. But it's a revenue-generating mix.

If you'd like more information or an assessment of whether OCC/Mixed Paper collection can make sense for your institution, please give Dana a call or [email](#) at the IRN office.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock is H2E Award Winner

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) has recognized Dartmouth-Hitchcock's recycling program with its Environmental Leadership Award for DHMC's innovative and sustainable environmental programs. Dartmouth-Hitchcock's recycling program is one of the best in the country. In 2004, DHMC increased its recycling rate to nearly 40% of total discards. A 396 bed facility, they recycled 375 tons of paper, 417 tons of cardboard, 29 tons of glass and metal food and beverage containers, 30 tons of scrap metal, and 18 tons of universal and other hazardous recyclables (xylene, alcohol, fluorescent bulbs). DHMC also found outlets for the donation and reuse of 142 tons of pallets, medical supplies, computers and other materials. A comprehensive data collection program means that DHMC can track and report on their progress regularly.

U.S. EPA Fines Vermont VA Hospital for Waste Violations

The Veterans Administration hospital in White River Junction, Vt. has been cited and fined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for improper handling and storage of hazardous waste, and will pay a fine in addition to addressing EPA's concerns for public health and safety.

According to EPA, the hospital's actions posed a significant threat to human health and the environment. Along with citing numerous violations, EPA's complaint requires the VA to come into compliance with applicable hazardous waste laws within 30-days of receipt of the complaint, and seeks a penalty of \$372,254. The proposed fine is one of the largest ever issued by EPA against a Veterans Administration facility nationwide. It is also the largest fine ever issued to a federal facility by EPA's New England regional office for improper handling and storage of hazardous waste.

[IRN Recycles Shrink Wrap from Rhode Island Marinas](#)

It's a bit of a stretch for the Network, but this spring we recycled 40,000 pounds of shrink wrap from Rhode Island marinas.

In a pilot project sponsored by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and American Plastics Council, we worked with 15 marinas to recycle wrap from close to 1,500 boats. The project demonstrated a simple model that makes it cost effective to recycle shrink wrap from any area where marinas can be organized for milk-run collection (an IRN specialty). Based on the success in 2005, we're working to expand into a statewide initiative for the coming year.

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Metal Markets Soften

After a white-hot runup for most of the past two years, metal markets have cooled considerably since spring. Prices for most ferrous and nonferrous grades have fallen by as much as 40%. That's the bad news. The good news for recyclers is that markets are still strong, and current prices are still decent by historical standards. Even better is that falling prices have triggered a dropoff in supplies of metal being delivered to buyers, with the result that buyers are now actively looking for metals, where a few months ago they were turning away loads they couldn't or didn't want to handle.

We haven't seen a good explanation for the drop in metal prices. Overseas (particularly Chinese) demand is still strong, and there's been no weakening in U.S. demand either. According to trade talk, the best explanation is that the runup was a classic bubble, with buyers feeding off buyers in a mania that was bound, eventually, to burst.

CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

[IRN Adds C&D Recycling Projects in Five States](#)

With new projects in five states, IRN is one of the most active and accomplished recyclers of construction and demolition wastes in the Northeast. The new assignments include:

- Comprehensive jobsite recycling during development of a Technology Village in North Conway, NH;
- New construction of three residence halls at the University of Rhode Island;
- Reconstruction of a downtown office building for Liberty Mutual in Boston;
- Gut and renovation of three office buildings (87KSF) for Harvard University in Cambridge;
- Tracking and providing documentation for all wastes removed in demolition of a 13,000 SF office building for Maine Medical Center
- Advising on deconstruction techniques, values, and markets in a pilot project for the VT Agency of Transportation.

[Now Available: Specification for Fixed Asset Removal and Recycling](#)

In response to members' requests, IRN has developed a bid and/or RFP specification for the reuse or recycling of fixed assets such as doors and windows, millwork, flooring, sinks and toilets, bathroom partitions, and similar items. The purpose of the specification is to facilitate the recovery of fixed assets *before* demolition contractors begin wrecking a structure and render usable goods worthless.

This is a simple one-page spec that details materials to be recycled/reused, recycling procedures, and recordkeeping. It can be modified and inserted into the Waste Management section of the specifications for any renovation or demolition project. In IRN's experience, recovering fixed assets is a good financial move, even as it provides real social and environmental benefits.

Massachusetts Waste Ban Update

There's still no formal word on the schedule for promulgation and implementation of the Massachusetts waste bans on asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, and wood. The most recent (informal) word is that the final waste ban regulation will be published sometime this fall, and that the bans will become effective in spring or summer of 2006.

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Maine DEP To Study C&D Imports and Impacts

In response to proposed legislation that would have banned importation of construction/demolition debris into Maine for disposal, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has been directed to study and report on the source, volume and management of construction/demolition debris in Maine. The original legislation was a vehicle to carry a concern regarding possible toxic releases from the incineration of construction/demolition debris. Given that Maine biomass-to-energy facilities are one of the largest markets for wood from construction/demolition recycling projects throughout New England, the progress and outcome of ME DEP's analysis deserve close attention.

Construction Recycling Guide Released and Available Online

The IRN, Boston Society of Architects, Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, and Mass. Department of Environmental Protection are pleased to announce the release of "Recycling Construction and Demolition Wastes: A Guide for Architects and Contractors."

The Recycling Guide was developed to answer the questions and concerns that many building owners, architects, and contractors have about recycling on the job site: will it take more time, will it cost more, how do we do it? Particularly among healthcare and education institutions, where renovation and new construction are almost continuous, there's large and growing interest in construction recycling, but a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about making it work. The Recycling Guide provides the factual basis to consider jobsite recycling, "how to" information on handling and marketing recyclable materials from the jobsite, and information to address the concerns that often stand in the way of recycling. Also included are recycling case studies, information on recyclable materials and markets, sample recycling specifications, and contact and reference information.

The Recycling Guide is only 37 pages long. Divided into five sections, it is quick and easy to get through. It can be downloaded from the IRN's construction and demolition website, www.WasteMiser.com, or from the websites of the Boston Society of Architects (www.architects.org), Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts (www.agcmass.org), or Mass. Dep't of Environmental Protection (www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/cdhome.htm). The IRN and Mass. DEP sites also provide additional information and web links related to construction recycling.

LEED-CI Confirms Innovation Credit for 95% Recycling

The new Reference Guide for LEED-CI (Commercial Interiors) was issued in early August. The text for Credits MR 2.1 and MR 2.2 (Construction Waste Management) includes a paragraph titled Exemplary Performance which reads as follows: "Project teams may earn an *Innovation in Design* Point for exemplary performance in Construction Waste Management when the percent diverted is 95% of total waste or greater." As IRN has demonstrated in several projects, recycling rates of 95+ percent are achievable in many situations, so this innovation point should be considered by architects and contractors whenever possible.

SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM NEWS

Members Ship 130 Containers of Surplus Through June 2005

On behalf of its members, IRN managed the donation of over 130 container and trailer loads of surplus to charitable organizations in the first six months of 2005. Five hundred forty tons, and nearly 24,000 individual items. The surplus has reached eight different countries in Central America and the Caribbean, the Ukraine, and multiple recipients in the U.S.

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The surplus came from twenty-three different IRN members, in quantities ranging from partial trailer loads that we moved through our new warehouse space in Everett, to large dorm cleanouts of 20+ live-loaded containers. In some cases, we've picked up a few desks or hospital beds from a member's loading dock. In others we've been on site for 7 to 10 days with a crew of two dozen movers. A summary can be found at www.ir-network.com/programs/Cleanout%20Summary%202005.pdf.

In house, [Mark Berry](#) has morphed into our surplus property specialist. Mark has logged over 10,000 miles since the first of the year organizing and managing cleanouts at member locations. Mark's job is to make sure that IRN services provide the best possible match to member needs – whether it's a tail-to-tail transfer of stored desks and chairs into a shipping container, a one- or two-day cleanout with labor provided by the member, or a full service dorm cleanout where IRN takes over all aspects of planning, plans and supplies labor for the move, and provides full-time onsite management.

We'd like to recognize IRN members as the driving force behind this success story. Like most of our programs, this didn't spring from our own heads, but was brought forward as a need by IRN members. It's our job to respond when you do that, and in this case we're happy to have been able to organize a program that does so much good for so many needy and deserving people.

IRN Helping Hospitals Focus on Pre-JCAHO Cleanouts

“JCAHO” strikes dread into the heart of almost every healthcare facility manager. When JCAHO inspects, there's not a room, closet, or hallway that's immune from prying eyes and white gloves. JCAHO's switch from massive scheduled inspections to unannounced drop-ins hasn't helped. Instead of terror and frenzy in occasional large doses there's constant anxiety like a low-grade migraine.

A half-dozen or so IRN members have found relief in IRN's surplus property management capabilities. Rather than hold onto surplus for a periodic large-scale cleanout, they've asked the IRN to come in on a regular (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) basis and sweep out whatever they've accumulated. With our Everett warehouse, we're able to make the pickup even if it's only a few IV poles and a couple of night tables. The member's hallways and storage areas remain pristine, there's less clutter to bump into, and at least one concern is taken off the JCAHO anxiety list.

[Mark Berry](#) is the person to contact if you'd like to consider a regular surplus sweep, or if you have any cleanout issue that needs attention.

Surplus Property Warehouse Makes a Huge Difference in IRN Capabilities

IRN's warehouse in Everett is making a huge difference in our capability to manage surplus of almost any type and quantity.

Early this winter we took the major step of securing permanent warehouse space in Everett, 10 minutes from downtown Boston. Previously, we had been able to manage surplus in whole truck- or container-loads, but small quantities had been difficult.

The warehouse allows us to do several things. First, it allows us to bring in small quantities of surplus that otherwise would be very difficult or expensive to manage. With the warehouse, we can consolidate a number of small loads of surplus into quantities that we can pack and ship outbound in multiple shipping containers.

Second, the warehouse allows us to sort surplus into lots that best match the needs of our charitable partners. This adds a great deal of value.

Third, we can be much more flexible in collecting surplus and fixed assets. For example, we've done a number of jobs this summer where we've shuttled multiple loads from a member location over a period of three or four days, in situations where having large shipping containers on the member's site simply wasn't an option.

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Here's an example: One container we shipped earlier this month held materials from 15 different IRN members – desks from BU, griddles from BC, an x-ray table from Cambridge Hospital, hospital beds from Somerville Hospital. None of these members had enough to fill a container on their own. But consolidating through the warehouse, we were able to sweep out the small loads and keep the surplus from accumulating in our members' hallways and loading docks. Even more important, we were able to keep a lot of this material from being thrown away, as it would have been when the hallways and loading docks got too full.

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Connecticut Bottle Bill Expansion Rejected by Legislature

Despite strong lobbying from numerous environmental groups the effort to expand CT's deposit law to include plastic water bottles died. Legislators were unwilling and/or unable to bring it to a vote.

Ian Finlayson Joins Massachusetts Sustainability Program

Ian Finlayson has joined the Mass. State Sustainability Program, where he'll work with Eric Friedman as program manager. Among other responsibilities, he is putting together the first annual state sustainability report, and coordinating the state sustainability pilot project program.

Ian previously worked in Boston for the Community Builders, Inc., the largest affordable housing non-profit in the US, on instituting best practices and introducing green building into neighborhood revitalization efforts. Other work experience includes research on environmental policy reform in Wisconsin, critiquing the economics of climate change modeling, and work in sustainable fisheries. Ian has also worked internationally in Afghanistan for Save the Children and the United Nations, where he designed and managed data systems for regional and national humanitarian surveys.

If you haven't met or spoken with Ian yet, you'll notice an accent when he picks up the phone. Ian was born and raised in the UK, and recently became a U.S. citizen.

Those of you who have worked with the Sustainability Program know what a good job they've done supporting source reduction and recycling among other environmental initiatives, focusing particularly on state schools and other state institutions. We've had the opportunity to work with Ian already on several projects, and he's a great addition to the Program.

New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program is H2E Champion for Change

In April, at the National Environment Partnership Summit in Chicago, Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) presented the New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) with the Champion for Change award. The award recognized the NHPPP's efforts to promote mercury elimination and waste reduction and the coordination of the New Hampshire Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (NH3E). Sara Johnson of NHPPP has been working with healthcare facilities since 1998 promoting pollution prevention and most recently pharmaceutical management.

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CALENDAR

Connecticut Hospital Roundtable, Hartford, CT, September 8

The topic of this meeting is "Managing Pharmaceutical Waste In Healthcare Facilities" with a national expert on the topic, Charlotte Smith of PharmEcology. Managing pharmaceutical waste is fast becoming a major concern for hospitals and healthcare facilities due to regulatory, liability and cost issues. This workshop is targeted to pharmacists, facility managers, safety engineers, environmental services, nursing administrators, industrial hygienists, oncology and cardiology staff, as well as Chief Operating Officials. Please forward this e-mail to anyone you think may want to attend. For additional information contact Connie Mendolia or Nan Peckham of CT DEP at 860-424-3297.

ERAPPA Annual Conference, Atlantic City, October 2-5

For additional information, see www.erappa.com

Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference, Northampton, MA, October 25-26

The agenda for the conference includes: 1) Growing Concern over Industrial Packaging Materials; 2) Rebranding Recycling to develop new messages that rekindle enthusiasm; 3) Enforcement of Mandatory Recycling Programs. Additional information and registration at www.nerc.org.

2005 WasteWise Annual Conference, Arlington, VA, October 24-25

For more information see www.epa.gov/wastewise

NNECERAPPA (APPA Northern New England Chapter) Fall Conference, Nashua, NH, November 9-10

For more information see www.erappa.org/nne/currentmeeting/Fall%202005.htm

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