

IRNetworking
The Newsletter of the Institution Recycling Network
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January 2006

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January 25: New Hampshire Small Quantity Generator Training. NHDES, Concord, NH. Information at www.des.state.nh.us/sqg.

January 30. Maine Resource Recovery Association Winter Workshop, explaining Maine's new rules for E-waste, universal wastes, wood waste, and demo debris. Auburn, ME. Information at www.mrra.net.

February 10: H2E Award Applications due. (See story, or <http://www.h2e-online.org/awards/index.htm>)

March 1: Sixth Massachusetts Organics Recycling Summit, Marlborough, MA. Information at www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/composti.htm.

March 21-23: Northeast Recycling Council Spring Conference and joint meeting with MACRO and MACREDO. Philadelphia. Information at www.nerc.org.

April 19-20. CleanMed conference on environmentally preferable products, Green Building, and waste reduction/recycling. Seattle. Information at www.cleanmed.org.

April 24-25: Maine's 13th Annual Recycling Recycling and Solid Waste Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME. Information at www.mrra.net.

June 5-6: Northeast Resource Recovery Association 25th Annual Recycling Conference and Expo, Nashua, NH. Information at www.recyclewithus.org.

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GENERAL IRN NEWS

IRN Opens Second Warehouse in Springfield

By the time you're reading this, IRN should have closed on our second warehouse, 6,000 square feet in Holyoke, Mass.

As many of you know from experience, our Everett warehouse is a fantastic success. The warehouse does a couple of things for us. First, it lets us handle small loads of surplus property. So we can reach out to member institutions and take away just a few desks or chairs or doors or beds or file cabinets, whatever it is that's clogging up your storage rooms or hallways. We unload into the warehouse, which can hold four or five trailer-loads of material. When the warehouse fills up, we call in a loading crew and trailers from our nonprofit partners, and in just a few hours send out tens of tons of material that we have collected in small loads over the course of several weeks. It's a smooth and very cost effective operation.

Second, the warehouse lets us collect multiple commodities at the same time, on the same truck. With the warehouse as a buffer, we can pick up, for example, electronics, fluorescent lamps, and surplus in a single truck. At the warehouse, we can sort and split the load for different markets. Any increase in handling costs is more than offset by the efficiency gained in collecting several different commodities at once.

As we got the bugs worked out in Everett, it became clear that we should offer the same efficiencies to our members in western Massachusetts, along with nearby parts of Connecticut, Vermont, and eastern New York. So we've been looking for space since early December, and we've reached a tentative lease agreement on 6,000 square feet in Holyoke.

The lease should be signed any day, with an expected "grand opening" date of February 1. IRN members in Worcester and west should expect to hear details in the next couple of weeks, as we continue to search for ways to offer more comprehensive, more cost effective services across the entire IRN region.

[Multiple Commodity Pickup Benefits Healthcare and Urban Institutions](#)

The IRN was one of the first organizations to pioneer "milk run" pickup of more than one commodity. We've been doing joint collection of electronics and universal wastes since we first opened our doors in 1999. But with our new warehouse in Everett (and newer warehouse in Springfield) we're able to expand the milk run to pick up almost everything else at the same time: pallets, surplus property, baled or loose paper, along with the electronics and universals. The warehouse gives us the capability to break down these mixed truckloads, sort them, and send them on to the appropriate markets, quickly and cost effectively.

We've been offering these mixed commodity runs for several months now. They've gotten a fantastic reception, particularly in healthcare, where many different materials are recycled, quantities are not that great, and storage/loading space is at a real premium. The capability to get rid of surplus on a regular basis has been particularly attractive to many healthcare organizations, where surplus in hallways and storage rooms is a day-to-day nightmare. Multiple commodity pickup has also been a real benefit to many of IRN's urban members, who face similar problems of constant generation, small quantities, and difficult loading and access.

High Fashion – IRN's Newest Recyclable

Designer clothes. Recyclable? Yes.

In its Fall issue, the Smith College *Alumnae Quarterly* featured an article about Smith's excellent recycling program (reprinted in this issue of *IRNetworking* – see below). The article caught the eye of Darby Scott, a Smith alum and very successful New York fashion designer.

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And it turns out, recycling high fashion is a problem. Designers make hundreds or thousands of pieces that aren't sold or used more than once. These can be pieces made for runway shows, pre-production runs, designs that don't make it into production, limited production items that aren't sold – there are dozens of reasons that fashions can end up in a designer's castoff pile.

And usually in the trash. This was Darby's concern, that serviceable clothing from hundreds of New York designers is being thrown away, while around the world millions of people could put this clothing to use.

So Darby contacted the IRN, and asked if the year-end clothing collections we help organize for Smith could be extended to the New York fashion community. The answer is, Yes. Our network of donation partners is able to receive and distribute clothing of any variety. We can't promise that a ball gown wrapped in eight layers of chiffon won't be taken apart for curtains or bedding, but we can promise that all of the clothing we collect will be used, one way or another.

So if you stop into our offices, more likely than not you'll see a big cardboard box or two of Darby Scott clothing staged for donation. And Darby has been busy spreading the word to other designers in the city – castoff clothing should not be cast off, but saved, packed up, and sent where it will live another life.

H2E Award Applications Due February 10

February 10 is the deadline for healthcare facilities to apply for Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) awards for 2006. H2E recognizes hospitals for outstanding contributions in waste reduction and recycling, with awards in the following categories: *Partner Recognition*, given to H2E partner facilities that have met their self-identified waste reduction goals; *Making Medicine Mercury Free*, given to facilities that have met the challenge of becoming nearly mercury-free; *Partners for Change*, given to facilities that have made outstanding progress in waste reduction, preventing pollution, and eliminating mercury; *Champion for Change*, given to organizations leading the way in improving environmental performance among hospitals; and the *H2E Environmental Leadership Award*, H2E's premier award, given to facilities that are establishing industry standards for environmental programs and policies. Information and award applications can be obtained at www.h2e-online.org/awards/index.htm. If your facility is not yet an H2E partner, obtain information about joining H2E at www.h2e-online.org.

SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM NEWS

[2005 Cleanout Summary: 203 Containers, 32,500 Items, 3.8 Million Pounds](#)

With the paperwork following the last containers down the road, IRN has completed 108 facility cleanouts large and small during 2005. We – really you, our members – have filled over 200 trailers and shipping containers, providing over 32,000 items of furniture, medical equipment and supplies, kitchen equipment and furnishings, office, library, and classroom furnishings, and a thousand other items for disaster relief and economic assistance.

This year's cleanouts span almost every conceivable size and situation. There were the 22 trailers we filled from UMass – Amherst over the course of a nine-building, ten-day cleanout. There were the 22 trailers we filled in under three days from a single dorm at Framingham State. There was Middlebury's cleanout of a thousand pieces from 18 small residences (no elevators, no loading facilities) scattered across the campus. There was the kitchen we disassembled at Harvard, and bathroom fixtures, doors, and stalls from Harvard Business School. A truckload of dining chairs from Phillips Exeter, a half-trailer of student move-out leftovers from Brown, a partial container of mattresses from BU. And there was our first West Coast project: two container loads of furnishings from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA.



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Our healthcare membership has been equally active. Warehouse cleanouts for Baystate Health and the Cambridge Health Alliance. A one-container live-load of stored furniture and medical equipment from New England Baptist. Six containers live-loaded from St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. And the most exciting new development with a half-dozen or more of our healthcare members – scheduled or on-call pickup of partial truckloads of surplus, which we collect, bring to our warehouse, and combine into full container-loads for our charitable partners.

For more information (including a slide show of cleanout photos and pictures of furnishings and equipment arriving in relief areas), see http://www.ir-network.com/prog_prop.html. If you'd like to discuss surplus management or an upcoming cleanout, call Mark Berry at 603-229-1062) or [email](#) the IRN office.

IRN and Massachusetts Hospital Association Team for Disaster Relief

The IRN is teaming with the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) and its member hospitals to send surplus hospital supplies, equipment, and furnishings for disaster relief.

In August, the IRN signed an affinity agreement with the MHA to offer IRN's services to hospitals throughout the Commonwealth. With the devastating hurricanes in the U.S. and Caribbean this year, our first organized joint effort with MHA has focused on surplus property for relief efforts. Since the program started earlier this fall, eight Massachusetts hospitals have teamed with the IRN to send over 21 tons of surplus for relief in parts of the southern U.S. devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and to overseas disaster relief as well.

"Rebuilding the public health infrastructure is one of the highest priorities in disaster relief," says MHA's President Ronald Hollander. "Without the foundation of good, readily available healthcare, other relief and reconstruction efforts are slowed or shut down. We're happy that the MHA can work with IRN to be part of this vital reconstruction effort."

Time to Plan for Spring Cleanouts

It's a grey and rainy eve of New Year's Eve – the perfect time to plan for Spring.

Actually, it is. If you'd like the IRN to help with a spring cleanout, we'd like to hear from you as soon as possible.

The IRN has helped dozens of schools with two kinds of cleanouts.

- ***Cleaning up when students move out*** for the summer. Students leave behind thousands of pieces of perfectly good stuff: furniture, rugs, clothing, TVs, shoes, bed linens, appliances, textbooks, school supplies. Most schools just bring in extra dumpsters. But that's a waste. It's a waste of money, and more important it's a waste of valuable, reusable resources. For less than the cost of the dumpsters, IRN can help organize a spring cleaning drive that will collect and send almost all of these materials to our charitable partners for disaster relief and economic assistance.
- ***Managing the removal and reuse of dormitory, classroom, and administrative furnishings***. Most campuses schedule dorm or other cleanouts almost every spring, as part of renovations or regular replacement. These are often hectic, high-pressure situations, where one set of furniture needs to go away, rooms need to be cleaned and/or repaired, and new furnishings have to be brought in before new occupants arrive for summer term, reunions, or special classes. Again, the IRN can help. We can plan and organize the cleanout, match your materials with our network of donation partners, mobilize moving crews (or use your own labor), and schedule shipping containers to load your materials and direct it to relief efforts in the U.S. or overseas. This is a turnkey program; you need do no more than hand the keys to IRN on the first day of the move, and we'll get everything right from there.

You don't need to look any further than today's headlines to know that there's overwhelming need, in the U.S. and elsewhere, for the stuff that's cast off from every school in America. The IRN can be your link to make sure that your surplus furnishings and student leftovers aren't wasted, but are sent where they are desperately needed and will be truly appreciated, immediately and for years to come.

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A Christmas Story: St. Vincent Hospital Donates Six Trailers to Disaster Relief

On December 21 and 22, Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester made a Christmastime donation of six container loads of surplus property for disaster relief and public health infrastructure in Guatemala.

The surplus included items from just about every department in the hospital: patient room beds and furnishings; operating room equipment; diagnostic equipment; anesthesia equipment; even doors from a renovation project. Still in good condition, these items had been replaced as part of St. Vincent's planned upgrade schedule. Unable to find local outlets for this secondhand material, the IRN contacted the IRN.



Through our network of donation partners, we found a match for St. Vincent in the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta in Guatemala, which will place the St. Vincent surplus in hospitals and clinics where it is much needed throughout Guatemala. Over the course of two long days we loaded six shipping containers nose-to-tail-to-roof with St. Vincent's surplus. All in all, the transfer totaled close to 40 tons of furnishings and equipment, nearly 1,000 items, with a second-hand value of about a half million dollars.

The real value, of course, is much, much higher, because the poor in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and elsewhere can't afford equivalent furnishings and equipment at any price. A Christmas story in the truest sense: a gift of almost immeasurable value to those who have practically nothing.

CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Massachusetts Construction Waste Bans to Take Effect July 1

In October, the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) finalized regulations that prohibit the disposal of five major waste streams from construction and demolition projects: asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, wood, and metal. In addition, DEP is re-emphasizing its existing ban on disposal of cardboard, another major commodity on many construction/renovation sites. These bans will take effect on July 1, 2006.

The language of the waste bans does not directly affect the job site. Instead, the bans are effective on disposal facilities and transfer stations. No such facility will be allowed to accept banned materials for disposal. Every facility must develop and implement a plan to identify the banned wastes when they are delivered to the facility, and assure that these materials are diverted to recycling or composting.

Although the waste bans are not directed at the job site, that is where their impact will be felt, and it will be simple and dramatic: the large majority of all wastes, from almost all construction projects in Massachusetts, will have to be recycled as of next July 1. Project managers will need to assure that all banned wastes are directed to recycling facilities, and not to landfills, incinerators, or transfer stations that deliver wastes to disposal facilities. The only exceptions to the rule are for very small (less than a pickup-truckload) quantities from home renovation, and for "de minimis" levels of banned materials in loads of mixed solid waste.

Two other features of the bans should be noted. First, there is no requirement that wastes must be separated for recycling. The regulation is silent on this issue, so that mixed debris recycling is acceptable. Second, the bans make a distinction between wood and other banned wastes. Wood may be sent for incineration (biomass-to-energy), while the other wastes are banned from both landfill and incineration.

More information about the waste bans, along with the text of the regulations, can be found on DEP's web site, www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/lawsrule.htm. DEP has also scheduled four public meetings about the new regulations: January 17, 9:30 AM in Wilmington; January 18, 9:30 AM in Springfield; January 25, 9:30 AM in Lakeville; and February 1, 9:30 AM, in Worcester. Additional information can be obtained from Jim McQuade at Mass. DEP, 617-348-4095.

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What Happens To That Stuff? Questions You Should Ask

On any project where C&D is recycled, or “recycled,” “What happens to that stuff” is a question you need to ask, and you need to know the answer.

The question is particularly important (and the answer can be complicated) when you’re managing mixed debris. Some “recyclers” will dump your material on the ground, pull out the biggest chunks of metal and wood (maybe 35 percent by weight on a good day) and call the load “recycled”. At the opposite extreme are the region’s most reputable recyclers, who have constructed million-dollar facilities employing multiple technologies to achieve legitimate recycling rates of 85+ percent. But both call themselves recyclers. And there are many facilities in between. In common is the fact that no mixed debris is 100 percent recycled; all facilities have a larger or smaller stream of residuals that is disposed of. You need to know this number.

And you need to know the products from recycling or “recycling.” There are processors who recover as much as possible and get it back into the economy in value-added products. There are others who grind just about everything and send it to a landfill as “alternate daily cover” – landfilled by another name.

On many construction sites, the waste hauler will be the critical link in providing information on recycling markets, processes, and rates. If you’re not specifying markets yourself, you need to make very sure that your hauler is recycling in a way that truly meets your project goals, and gives you prompt, accurate, and detailed information. If the hauler hesitates, or if you have any doubts about the information you receive, you should take steps to get good information, or find someone who can and will provide it.

Vermont Law Opens Debevoise Hall with 80.4 Percent Recycling Rate

IRN completed its work on Vermont Law School’s Debevoise Hall renovation (28,000 sq ft) and new construction (7,250 sq ft) with an 80.4 percent recycling rate. Recycling totals included over 350 tons of concrete, 111 tons of wood, 45 tons of metal, 35 tons of gypsum wallboard, 15 tons of mixed debris (net, after residuals were disposed of), 13 tons of asphalt, and 12 tons of reused building materials, against 141 tons landfilled. Also recycled or reused were dozens of tons of materials taken by workers and local residents. Although not documented, we estimate these added 4-6 percent to the recycling rate.



Unlike many urban projects, Debevoise Hall had an issue with *too much* space. Miles and miles too much, in some cases over 100 miles to the nearest recycling market. And no facilities that could handle mixed debris and deliver the 75-plus percent recycling rate that VLS sought. Fortunately, IRN and the H.P. Cummings construction team were able to carry out aggressive source separation. As a result, over 90 percent of the materials recycled were managed as source-separated commodities.

Another help on this project was local reuse. VLS and Cummings opened the site to residents who could reuse many waste materials – wood, aggregate, porcelain appliances, and the like – and tons were taken, putting a big dent in the quantities disposed or recycled. Local residents also took away hundreds of pieces of furnishings before renovation got started.

A final positive factor on the site was Cummings’ superintendent, Leet Ware. Initially a skeptic, he had concerns that recycling would get in the way. But Leet became a convert when he saw that recycling got great worker support, didn’t impede the flow of work, and gave him a neater, safer worksite. To see hundreds of tons of materials returned to productive use rather than discarded also appealed to Leet’s Yankee thrift – resources used again, rather than tossed into a hole. As superintendent, Leet was also the primary point of contact for subcontractors, assuring that subs understood and complied with the project’s waste management plan and recycling procedures.

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Debevoise Hall is one of the first LEED-certified projects in Vermont, bringing new life to a historic (1893) local asset. We're proud and happy to have played a part, and to demonstrate that geography and distance need not be barriers to successful jobsite recycling.

LEED is Streamlined, Refined, and Online

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced a series of enhancements to the LEED Rating System certification process. The result of a process involving extensive customer feedback and market research, the LEED innovations are intended to reduce the LEED documentation process time, paperwork, and cost. Key innovations include:

LEED Goes Paperless: LEED projects can now submit 100% of their documentation on-line in an easy-to-use interface featuring Adobe LiveCycle technology.

Streamlined Documentation and Certification: Documentation requirements have been aligned so that existing instruments of service can be accepted. Additionally, the credit review process has been modified to make it more user-friendly.

Design and Construction Phase Submittals: Project teams will have to option to submit documentation in two separate phases: first for the design phase, and then the construction phase.

Building in a Feedback Loop: In addition to improved customer service throughout the LEED process, USGBC is taking steps to make customer feedback and interaction an integral part of that process.

To learn more, see www.usgbc.org/News/usgbcnews_details.asp?ID=2046

IRN Adapts Global Warming Calculator

Among the many good reasons to recycle is to reduce energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases. Recycling does this in many ways. For example, manufacturing with recycled raw materials is much less energy and material-intensive than manufacturing from virgin materials; recycling typically eliminates significant transportation impacts; and recycling eliminates the manifold impacts associated with raw material extraction.

Recycling's energy use and global warming benefits have been estimated by several organizations. Among the best report we've seen is the Environmental Benefits Calculator released by the Northeast Recycling Council (www.nerc.org) in December 2004, which updates earlier work funded by the U.S. EPA. The Calculator is based on per ton figures of the estimated energy use and emissions for recycled and virgin materials from several lifecycle analysis studies.

IRN has adapted the Calculator to estimate the energy use and greenhouse gas emission benefits of recycling from any construction project. Briefly, we calculate emissions and energy use associated with managing project wastes with and without recycling; the difference is the environmental benefit, which we report. We report benefits using five common measures: Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent, Metric Tons Carbon Dioxide, and Reuse/Recycling Energy Savings in Million BTU's, Equivalent Barrels of Oil, and Equivalent Gallons of Gasoline.

We're making these calculations part of our standard reports for IRN's construction waste management projects. For example, we calculated that recycling from Harvard's Schlesinger Library renovation completed last year resulted in net savings of 425 metric tons of carbon equivalent, 1,558 tons of CO₂ emissions, and 14.48 billion BTUs energy consumption (2,495 bbl of oil, or 116,000 gallons of gasoline).

Any questions about the calculator or its application to a specific project can be directed by email to Matt McKinney (mmckinney@ir-network.com) or John Gundling (jgundling@ir-network.com) or by calling the IRN office.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SMITH COLLEGE

[“Trash to Treasure – Well, Almost”](#)

By Elise Gibson, *Smith Alumnae Quarterly*, Fall 2005, reprinted with permission

On a sunny morning five days before Commencement, Mike LaRiviere and Dave Hickson drive an open truck from house to house on the Smith campus. The two are on the lookout for big, clear trash bags that have been set outside by house custodians. Inside the bags are designer clothes with the tags still attached, jeans of all kinds, winter coats and boots, sweatshirts, scarves, bedding, underwear, hundreds of shoes. And, seen through a bag outside Talbot House, one pair of extremely gaudy flame-embroidered cowboy boots. By the time the annual clean-out of the houses is complete, they will collect ten tons of clothing alone.

The sheer volume of stuff collected at the end of the year puts Smith's evolving recycling program into sharp focus. In the past decade, recycling at Smith has grown from a rudimentary effort into an efficient collection operation that diverts about a third of campus waste from the landfill. Specialized recycling trucks make the rounds of campus buildings on a regular schedule, picking up blue Toter bins filled with paper or glass or cans that are dumped into forty-foot containers hidden away at a site near campus. When the containers fill up every ten days or so, they are trucked to a regional materials recycling facility, where glass and cans are crushed and the paper is baled. Smith gets paid for these, but the trucking and handling costs make it a break-even operation. Cardboard is a moneymaker. A few years ago, Smith purchased its own cardboard balers, so now every time it fills a trailer with 200 half-ton bales, Smith can make \$3,000 to \$3,500. "We're offsetting the costs of recycling with the revenue we get from cardboard," says Bob Dombkowski, Smith's grounds supervisor who has overseen the recycling program since 1995

Finding the best possible resting place at the lowest possible cost is the challenge facing any recycling program. That's where Smith's six-year association with the Institution Recycling Network (IRN) comes in. Smith is a founding member of the IRN cooperative. The IRN locates end markets for a growing list of materials, from construction waste to furniture, cell phones, and even porcelain sinks. When Lilly Hall was renovated last year, the IRN assisted Smith in diverting virtually all of the construction waste from landfills. "Every year we add more and more to our recycling list, and the IRN gets more and more creative," Dombkowski said.



Those flame-embroidered cowboy boots may yet find the perfect owner.

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

MassDEP Web Page Takes on a New Look and Adds Recycling Information

New Changes Have Come to the MassDEP Web Site

The MassDEP web site (www.mass.gov/dep) has recently undergone restructuring and has a totally new look. Based upon user feedback, the site has been updated to be more customer-friendly, utilizing more common and less technical terminology. Frequent users of the web site are encouraged to check their "bookmarks" to make sure that the URLs are still correct.

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New MassDEP Web Page Provides Resources for Recycling and Composting

MassDEP has added a new web page for recycling and composting businesses. The "Resources for Recycling and Composting Businesses" web page (www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/mktdev.htm) compiles a wide variety of web-based links to resources for businesses specifically related to recycling and composting. MassDEP sorted through many state and national resources and web sites to create a streamlined set of links to resources that will be useful to veteran recyclers or people new to the field. Information included on the Business Resources page includes: planning, siting, funding, service providers, industry data, equipment vendors, regulations, and markets. Please contact Steve Long, MassDEP at 617-292-5734 or stephen.long@state.ma.us with any comments or suggestions for the new "Resources" page.

Interns Available Through New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program

Reserve your intern today. This University of New Hampshire program is open to NH education and healthcare facilities who would like assistance in almost any aspect of pollution prevention, source reduction, or recycling. Contact Dr. Ihab Farag, UNH, at (603) 862-2313 or email at ihab.farag@unh.edu. See <http://www.unh.edu/p2/nhppp/> - for more information.

CALENDAR

January 20. Hospitals for A Health Environment Teleconference: Introduction to H2E and Solid Waste Data Collection. Information at <http://www.h2e-online.org/events/teleconf/index.cfm>.

January 25: New Hampshire Small Quantity Generator Training – description of SQG program and assistance in preparing self-certification forms. NH DES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, 9:00 – 11:30 AM. For information: www.des.state.nh.us/sqg, or contact David Rousseau, 603-271-6425.

January 30. Maine Resource Recovery Association Winter Workshop. "Rebuilding Recycling's Image and Explanation of Maine's New Rules for E-Waste, Universal Wastes, Wood Waste, and Demo Debris. Hilton Garden, Auburn, ME. Information at www.mrra.net.

February 10: H2E Award Applications due. (See story, or <http://www.h2e-online.org/awards/index.htm>)

March 1: The Sixth Massachusetts Organics Recycling Summit: "Growing Business Opportunities in Organics Recycling". Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Conference and vendor exhibit focused on the food waste management and composting infrastructure in Massachusetts. The Ecological Landscaping Association's 2006 Winter Conference & Eco-Marketplace will be held at the same location on March 3 & 4. Summit agenda and registration at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/composti.htm> or contact Steve Long at stephen.long@state.ma.us or 617-292-5734; or, Sumner Martinson at sumner.martinson@state.ma.us or 617-292-5969.

March 21-23: Northeast Recycling Council Spring Conference and joint meeting with MACRO and MACREDO. Philadelphia. Focusing on regional recycling issues, recycling markets, and electronics waste management. Information at www.nerc.org.

April 19-20. CleanMed Conference and Vendor Exhibition, Seattle, WA. CleanMed is a top-shelf conference for environmental leaders in health care. The agenda for 2006 includes: Preconference workshop on green building; Design and Operation of Green Buildings; Environmentally Preferable Products for Health Care; Reducing Waste and Toxicity; and Healthy Food in Health Care. Information at www.cleanmed.org.

April 24-25: Maine's 13th Annual Recycling Recycling and Solid Waste Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME. Information at www.mrra.net.

June 5-6: Northeast Resource Recovery Association 25th Annual Recycling Conference and Expo, Nashua, NH. Information at www.recyclewithus.org.

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