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### Boston, Massachusetts REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS BOOST RECYCLING

Grants totaling \$500,000 have been awarded to 13 companies and organizations through the state's Recycling Industries Reimbursement Credit Program to promote use of recyclable and recycled materials in the manufacture of new products. The recipients were chosen from a field of 30 applicants by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Chelsea Center for Recycling and Economic Development. The companies will receive up to \$45,000 each for reimbursement of new equipment purchases and investments in research, development and engineering. The estimated impact will be nearly 100,000 tons/year of increased recycling. Initiated in 1999, the Recycling Industries Reimbursement Credit Program has contributed \$830,000 to the state's commercial and institutional recycling infrastructure, increasing the volume of recyclable and recycled materials used in the manufacture of new products by 170,000 tons annually.

The following companies recently received grants: Boston Building Materials Resource Center in Roxbury — a nonprofit group that handles unused building materials and products from construction sites — to buy a truck to transport and process an estimated \$1 million of carpet, paint and wood products to end users; EAC Organics Inc. (Cape Resources Company) in Marstons Mills, to purchase a screen to remove soil from wood materials and increase its wood recycling capacity by 4,362 tons/year; Greenleaf Composting Co. in Boston, to buy a loader to increase food and wood residuals processing by 2,000 tons/year; Kaknes Wood Products and Landscape Supply Inc. in Woburn, to purchase a screen to increase wood residuals processing by 15,500 tons/year; Recycle Away Group Services in Taunton, to conduct pilot testing of equipment that could enable the company to compost up to 10,000 tons of wood residuals and 9,000 tons of food residuals annually; and S&J Exco Inc. in South Dennis, to buy equipment to manufacture mulch at its landfill, increasing wood residuals processing capacity by up to 13,000 tons/year.

### Athens, Georgia PILOT-SCALE COMPOSTING OF UNIVERSITY FOOD RESIDUALS

A pilot study was conducted at the University of Georgia's Bioconversion Research and Education Center to test the feasibility of composting pre- and postconsumer institutional food residuals. The university has been composting its yard trimmings for several years in windrows.

The cafeteria food residuals were pulped to reduce moisture content from 90 percent to 70 percent. They were mixed with ground yard trimmings in a roughly 2:1 ratio by volume and loaded into three Earth Tubs. Some of the results recorded were: Compost exceeded 55°C for well over 72 hours to provide pathogen kill and weed seed reduction; Leachate production ranged from 35.5 to 117.5 liters; Ammonia levels peaked at 560 ppm; and Inerts ranged from 0.4 percent to 0.6 percent in the cured compost. Other parameters studied were temperature and percent oxygen inside the composting matrix, compaction rates, weight and volume reduction, moisture content,

container air flow rates, C:N ratios, nutrients and bulk density.

The compost was scheduled to be land applied in two separate demonstration plots. One is a roadside demonstration sown with Bermuda grass to exhibit the immediate benefits of compost in Georgia's red clay soils. A second plot is being used as an educational tool to illustrate differences between surface application and soil incorporation of compost. For more information, e-mail Britt Faucette at [britt\\_faucette@hotmail.com](mailto:britt_faucette@hotmail.com), K.C. Das at [kdas@bae.uga.edu](mailto:kdas@bae.uga.edu), or Mark Risse at [mrisse@bae.uga.edu](mailto:mrisse@bae.uga.edu).

**Framingham, Massachusetts  
FILLING POTHoles  
AND PAVEMENT CRACKS  
WITH RECYCLED MIX**

With help from the state Department of Environmental Protection and the American Plastics Council — plus an \$8,000 new product grant from the Chelsea Center (in Chelsea, MA) — Conigliaro Industries is manufacturing Boston's Best Patch, a cold patch made from 100 percent recycled aggregate materials to fill potholes and large cracks in pavement. The cold patch is a blend of ground mixed plastics, including old computer housings and flower pots, liquid asphalt, and standard aggregate. "The cold patch is sold in hardware stores in 30-pound buckets, each using 20.4 pounds of recycled plastic, an unusual mix that makes the product much lighter and easier to use than traditional patches," reports the Chelsea Center. Conigliaro Industries has been developing its own markets for the recyclables it processes since 1992. Its products with recycled content include packaging peanuts, mulch as well as the cold patch.

**Asheville, North Carolina  
PALLET COMPANY SUCCEEDS  
WITH MOVE INTO  
MULCH, COMPOST**

Western North Carolina Pallet and Forest Products Company (WNC) is one of the oldest sawmill and pallet operations in the state, notes Craig Coker, organics recycling coordinator with the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. The company generates nearly 20,000 cubic yards/year of wood residu-

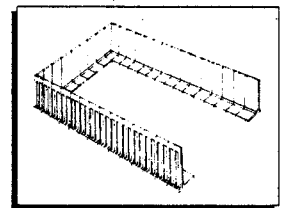
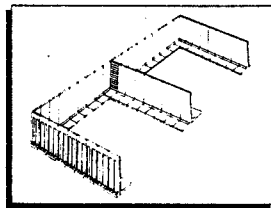
als, which were stockpiled at a nearby site for years. In 1998, WNC created Mountain Organic Materials to convert this material into marketable products. Bark residuals are processed into mulches and sold at the stockpile site.

Mountain Organic also has developed aerated composting bins to process sawdust and shavings, which are mixed with dairy manure from a nearby farm. The walls of the bins are concrete blocks measuring three feet long, two feet thick and two feet tall. They were created by a local company as an outlet for leftover concrete returning to the yard at the end of the day. The blocks are formed with a tongue-and-groove system that allows them to be easily assembled and interlocked to form retaining walls. Compost is mixed with fines from the mulch preparation process and sold as topsoil and potting soil. For information on recycling by pallet companies, see "Recycling Continues Ascent In Pallet Business" in this issue.

**Portland, Maine  
NEW EQUIPMENT DOUBLES  
AREA'S RECYCLING CAPACITY**

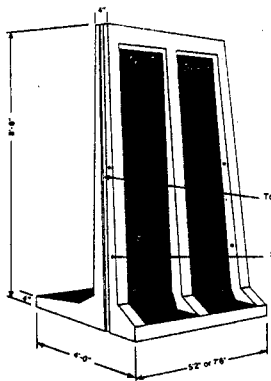
Owned and operated by the towns it serves, Regional Waste Systems, Inc. (RWS) runs Maine's largest municipal recycling program. The organization has seen a dramatic increase in its recycling rate over the past year, with further changes anticipated to push the rate even higher. The increase is attributed to RWS' ability to process commingled recyclables since purchasing new sorting equipment manufactured by Hustler Conveyor of St. Charles, Missouri. The equipment has made the process of sorting and dropping off of recyclables much easier and quicker for southern Maine residents, say RWS staff, as all cans, glass and plastic bottles can be mixed together. RWS predicts that the equipment will more than double its recycling capacity with its fiber and container sorting line. About 13,000 tons of recyclables were collected last year.

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Tongue & Groove Joint

Sections Set Together

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