

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE  
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING	)	Resolution No. 90-1232A
THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE	)	
DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE	)	Introduced by Councilor
STREAM	)	Gary Hansen

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Service District is committed to reducing the volume of waste landfilled and to promoting alternatives to disposable products; and

WHEREAS, Disposable diapers comprise about one percent of the region's solid waste stream (11,600 tons per year); and

WHEREAS, Using disposable diapers, the average baby contributes over 1,000 pounds of waste per child per year; and

WHEREAS, As the Metro composting facility and other materials processing facilities come on line, alternatives are being created for recycling and composting waste, such as disposable diapers, which alternatives should be utilized to the maximum extent feasible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metropolitan Service District establishes a goal of reduction and diversion of disposable diapers from landfills.
2. That Metro shall actively encourage the use of environmentally sound alternatives to disposable diapers.
3. That Metro recognizes composting of disposable diapers is preferable to landfilling of diapers and will work with the disposable diaper manufacturers and users to encourage composting of disposable diapers.

4. That Metro will actively work with local solid waste collection authorities to encourage diversion of disposable diapers to the composter.

5. That Metro shall advise and assist institutions such as nursing homes, day care centers, housing authorities, and multi-family residences in the transition to cloth diapers or composting of disposable diapers.

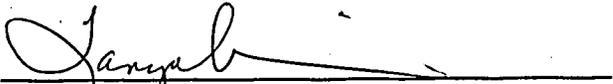
6. That the goal of reduction of disposable diapers in landfills shall be incorporated in all relevant policies and legislative agendas of Metro.

7. The Executive Officer shall initiate the following during FY 1990-1991:

- a. Prepare and distribute an educational brochure, explaining costs and environmental impacts, for new parents and available to the general public regarding alternatives for diapering their children;
  - b. Develop programs for inclusion in future budgets.
8. The Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee shall

establish a task force to make recommendations to local governments regarding the reduction of disposable diapers in the landfilled waste stream; and

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this 12th day of April, 1990.

  
Tanya Collier, Presiding Officer

GH:pa/gpwb  
a:\90-1232A.RES

## SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT

### RESOLUTION NO. 90-1232A, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE STREAM

Date: April 4, 1990

Presented by: Councilor Gary Hansen

Committee Recommendation: The Solid Waste Committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 90-1232A as amended. Voting aye: Councilors Hansen, Bauer, Buchanan, and Wyers. Voting nay: Councilor DeJardin. This action was taken April 3, 1990.

Committee Discussion/Issues: On March 12, 1990, the Solid Waste Committee after holding a public hearing, voted to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 90-1232. The Council on March 22, 1990, referred the resolution back to the Solid Waste Committee.

Two new versions of Resolution No. 90-1232 were introduced at the Solid Waste Committee meeting on April 3, 1990: Resolution No. 90-1232A by Councilor Hansen and Resolution No. 90-1232B by Councilor DeJardin. The major differences between the new resolutions are as follows:

1. The "A" version refers to disposable diapers throughout the resolution whereas the "B" version refers to paper and paper products, including disposable diapers.
2. The "B" version includes a statement that the paper industry has committed to work with Metro and others to develop plans for increasing the recycling of paper and paperboard products wherever feasible, and the composting of paper and paperboard products including disposable diapers if recycling is not feasible.
3. The "A" version includes the preparation of an educational brochure regarding alternatives for diapering; the establishment of a task force to make recommendations to local governments and the development of programs for inclusion in future budgets.

Both resolutions were considered at the public hearing held April 3, 1990, by the Solid Waste Committee. Two paper industry representatives spoke in favor of Resolution No. 90-1232B, and indicated the industry's commitment to reducing the amount of paper and paper products, including disposable diapers, going to landfills.

Metro Councilor Knowles; a representative for "Citizens for Cloth Diapers;" a representative of a cloth diaper service; and a citizen indicated their support for the original version of the

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT  
Resolution No. 90-1232A  
April 4, 1990  
Page 2

resolution. They expressed their concern over the environmental impacts of disposable diapers.

The Solid Waste Committee again emphasized that Metro is not proposing a ban on disposable diapers. The intent is to reduce the amount of disposable diapers going to the landfill.

The Committee indicated its concern about the limited capacity of the composter. The region cannot send all disposable diapers to the composter. The amount of disposable diapers in the wastestream needs to be reduced.

The Committee stressed the importance of public education--the need to make the public aware of diapering alternatives and their costs and environmental impacts.

Councilor DeJardin stated he supports an approach that does not target a specific product such as disposable diapers; an approach that works closely with the paper industry to reduce the amount of paper products, including disposable diapers, going to the landfill. He moved adoption of Resolution No. 90-1232B. The motion failed 4 to 1.

The majority of the Committee felt Resolution No. 90-1232A would better achieve the objective of reducing the amount of disposable diapers going to the landfill because it is more specific and more complete in its stated actions. Councilor Wyers recommended amendments which were approved by the Committee and are included in the resolution.

GH:RB:pa  
RB:166

MINORITY REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 90-1232A, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE  
AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE STREAM

Date: April 12, 1990

Presented by: Councilor Tom  
DeJardin

On April 3, 1990, the Solid Waste Committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 90-1232A as amended. While I support some of the objectives of the resolution, I do not support the resolution as proposed.

At the Solid Waste Committee referred to above, I introduced Resolution No. 90-1232B, For the Purpose of Increasing the Amount of Recycled and Composted Waste. I think this resolution provides a better approach to reducing the amount of waste that is landfilled, and to promoting alternatives to landfilling. It provides an approach that works closely with the paper industry to reduce the amount of paper products, including disposable diapers, going to the landfill. It includes steps to increase the recycling and composting of paper and paperboard products, including disposable diapers.

My main concern with Resolution No. 90-1232A is that it targets a specific product, namely, disposable diapers. Regardless of how many times we say the resolution does not ban disposable diapers, it will still be construed as a ban. In addition, I think the resolution is predicated on public education. Public education to address the problem is good, but we also need the cooperation and resources of the paper industry and others to be successful in our efforts to increase the amount of recycled and composted waste.

The paper industry has committed to work with Metro, local solid waste collection authorities, and operators of the region's transfer stations, landfills, composting and materials processing facilities to develop plans for increasing the recycling of paper and paperboard products wherever feasible, and the composting of paper and paperboard products including disposable diapers, if recycling is not feasible.

Since I think the above approach is better policy, I am recommending the following amendments to Resolution No. 90-1232A.

TD:RB:pa  
A:RRB.174

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION #90-1232A

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE  
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING ) Resolution No. 90-1232A  
THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE )  
DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE ) Introduced by Councilor  
STREAM ) Gary Hansen

WHEREAS, Metro is committed to reducing the volume of waste landfilled and to promoting alternatives to disposable products; and

WHEREAS, Disposable diapers comprise about one percent of the region's solid waste stream (11,600 tons per year); and

~~WHEREAS, The average baby requires approximately 3,120 diaper changes a year and which results in over 1,000 pounds of waste per child; and~~

WHEREAS, As the Metro composting facility and other materials processing facilities come on line, alternatives are being created for recycling and composting waste, such as disposable diapers, which alternatives should be utilized to the maximum extent feasible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metropolitan Service District establish<sup>5</sup>a goal of reduction and diversion of disposable diapers from the landfill, ~~to the maximum extent feasible.~~

2. That Metro shall actively encourage ~~the use of environmentally sound alternatives to disposable diapers~~ consumers and institutions to consider environmental impacts in their selection of diapering products.

3. That Metro recognizes composting of disposable diapers is preferable to landfilling of diapers and will work

with the disposable diaper manufacturers and users to encourage composting of disposable diapers.

4. That Metro will actively work with local solid waste collection authorities to encourage diversion of disposable diapers to the composter.

5. That Metro shall advise and assist institutions such as nursing homes, day care centers, housing authorities, and multi-family residences in the transition to [alternative] cloth diapers or composting of disposable diapers.

6. That the goal of reduction of disposable diapers in the landfill to the maximum extent feasible shall be incorporated in all relevant policies and legislative agendas of Metro.

7. The Executive Officer shall be empowered to initiate the following during FY 1990-1991:

- a. Prepare and distribute an educational brochure, explaining costs and environmental impacts, for new parents and available to the general public regarding alternatives for diapering their children;
- b. Establish a task force as part of the Solid Waste Policy Committee and make recommendations to local governments regarding the reduction of disposable diapers in the landfilled waste stream; and
- c. Develop programs for inclusion in future budgets.

8. That Metro recognizes that recycling, including composting, of disposable diapers is better solid waste policy than a ban.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tanya Collier, Presiding Officer

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 90-1232A

1. Delete the third recital (page 1, lines 6-8).

Explanation: The figures in this recital are not accurate. They are based on the number of diaper changes made per year by a user of cloth diapers, and the data from independent, national organizations is clear that disposables need to be, and are, changed far less frequently. The figure for pounds of waste per year is dramatically overstated, and inconsistent with Metro's own data collected in its Waste Characterization Studies.

2. Revise the second numbered paragraph to read: "That Metro shall actively encourage consumers and institutions to consider environmental impacts in their selection of diapering products."

Explanation: As written, this part of the resolution presumes that cloth diapers are superior to disposable diapers when the total environmental impact of both products is compared--and that is not true. Independent analysts, like the National Resources Defense Counsel's Dr. Allen Hershkowitz, have concluded that cloth diapers are not better than disposable diapers in terms of environmental impact, and disposable diapers have some significant personal and public health benefits. Dr. Hershkowitz suggests that consumers ought to be well informed before they choose, and if Metro educates the public, it should be by stating fully and fairly the relevant facts.

3. Add an eighth numbered paragraph to read: "That Metro recognizes that recycling, including composting, of disposable diapers is better solid waste policy than a ban."

Explanation: Although several Metro Councilors have stated that this resolution is not a ban, news media reports of Metro's actions to date have confused the public, many of whom still believe (based on initial reports regarding the original resolution) that Metro favors a ban. This addition will clarify the stated intent of the Metro Council, that this resolution is not a ban.

# **———— American Paper Institute ————**

## **Statement of Principles on Municipal Solid Waste**

Municipal solid waste poses a significant and growing challenge to communities across the country. It is, however, a challenge that is within our ability to manage.

As a prominent industry that manufactures useful materials which enhance countless areas of life and commerce, the U.S. paper industry is also well aware that a significant portion of these materials eventually enter the waste stream. Thus, the paper industry is fully aware of the problem and is determined to be a part of the solution.

We, therefore, subscribe to the following principles:

- The U.S. paper industry is committed to active, constructive participation in the development of government policies and private sector initiatives aimed at solving our nation's solid waste problem.
- The U.S. paper industry supports waste management policies and programs that strive to achieve lasting solutions based on a locally tailored, economically driven integration of the five major disposal strategies -- recycling, source reduction, waste-to-energy, landfilling and composting.
- While already by far the largest recycler of materials in the waste stream, the U.S. paper industry is pledged to expand its recycling programs to the maximum extent technologically and economically feasible.
- The U.S. paper industry will continue its aggressive efforts to reduce the amount of material introduced into the waste stream by recovering and recycling wastes generated during manufacturing and converting processes.
- The U.S. paper industry will seek to play a positive leadership role through educational programs that showcase model waste management techniques and help local officials, communities and the media to better understand the solid waste problem and its potential solutions.
- Where necessary, the U.S. paper industry is resolved to fight unwarranted and/or unduly burdensome governmental responses to waste management issues.
- Lastly, the U.S. paper industry is dedicated to improving the utility, safety and environmental compatibility of all paper products through scientific research and the responsible application of available technology. □

# RECYCLING

## Waste Management Option

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The term recycling refers to a multi-stage process through which waste is transformed into marketable new consumer or industrial products. Generally, reusable waste materials are separated from other trash, collected, sold to identified raw materials markets, processed at manufacturing plants and returned to commerce as new products. These recycled "end products" may be formed in part or entirely from municipal solid waste (MSW).

Paper, paperboard, aluminum, glass, plastics, iron and steel, scrap tires, yard waste and used oil are among those waste materials that can be recycled.

## The Current Situation

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 17 million tons of post-consumer waste were recovered for recycling in 1986. This accounted for about 10.8 percent of the entire waste stream. Current research suggests that the recovery rate rose to approximately 11 percent in 1988. Significant additional increases are anticipated as new recycling programs are implemented. The EPA has strongly encouraged this trend, setting a national goal of 25 percent waste reduction through recycling and source reduction by 1992.

For many communities, recycling has become the method of choice to avoid increasing waste disposal costs and conserve shrinking landfill space. Hundreds of municipalities and states throughout the country now have organized recycling programs. Many, like Portland, Oregon, Montclair, New Jersey, and Islip, New York, have reported significant waste reduction levels at 26 percent, 30 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

Recycling is regarded positively by both opinion leaders and the public. Not only is the concept of recycling given favorable reviews, recent surveys show a majority of community leaders support mandatory recycling programs.

## Points To Consider

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Recycling has become the linchpin of most integrated waste management programs because it offers a variety of benefits. An effective recycling program not only reduces the volume of refuse in the waste stream but can conserve natural resources and energy. Thus, the question facing local officials is not whether to recycle, but how to structure an efficient collection program,

stimulate markets for the recyclables collected and arrange for cost-effective disposal alternatives in the event the supply of recyclables exceeds the market demand.

- Collection programs can be voluntary or mandatory. Household separation/curbside collection or drop-off centers where recyclables can be delivered are the most prevalent collection methods. Among the additional program options gaining popularity are centralized recovery, where workers separate recyclables from unsorted trash, and automated material recovery facilities, where mixed recyclables are sorted and processed.
- Although recycling programs cost money, they are often less expensive than other available disposal options (e.g., landfills and/or waste-to-energy). In fact, many recycling programs are profitable when avoided disposal costs and proceeds from material sales are taken into consideration.
- Recycling does not begin and end with materials recovery. Nor does the separation of recyclable materials guarantee that they will, in fact, be recycled. Reusable waste must be converted into useful, marketable end products. Therefore, the success or failure of recycling programs will depend largely on the availability of markets (potential buyers) for recovered materials.
- In 1986, paper and paperboard constituted 85 percent of all post-consumer material recovered for recycling. However, not all grades of paper are suitable for recycling. High quality paper grades, such as old corrugated containers, high-grade deinking papers and pulp substitutes, are currently considered "supply limited." In other words, the demand for these grades matches or exceeds the available supply, making it easy for the market to absorb all that can be recovered. Other paper grades, such as old newspapers and mixed papers, are currently "demand limited." A gap exists between the large amount that potentially can be collected and what actually can be used. To be effective, recycling programs should concentrate on providing a clean and constant supply of the most recyclable grades.
- It is important not to overpromise on the potential for reducing MSW. For example, one national poll found that most Americans believe that recycling 25 to 50 percent of our waste would largely solve the country's garbage disposal problem. Yet, according to 1986 EPA estimates, many industries already have recycling programs that recover significant portions of the products they manufacture (paper and paperboard, 22.6 percent; aluminum, 25 percent; glass, 8.5 percent; ferrous metals, 3.6 percent; plastics, 1 percent). Even if all these industries were to recover

25 percent of post-consumer discards, overall MSW would be reduced by only an additional 7.7 percent.

## **API Position**

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The American Paper Institute (API) believes that recycling must play a major role in an integrated plan to manage MSW, but recycling cannot alone solve the waste disposal problem.

API believes that communities and/or states should tailor their recycling programs, including sorting/collection methods and marketing strategies, to effectively address community priorities and circumstances.

API believes the most important role for government is to work with the private sector to increase the collection of clean, high quality recyclables, thus creating usable raw material.

API supports the adoption and/or expansion of systematic, phased-in source separation as a means of maximizing recycling and the cost-effective management of the waste stream.

API urges public officials to consider the following criteria when structuring recycling programs: 1) develop a steady supply of clean, high quality recyclables, 2) emphasize the most recyclable materials in the waste stream, 3) consider the avoided cost of disposal, 4) cooperate with industry and others to develop both domestic and export markets for recyclable raw materials, 5) rely on the existing private recycling infrastructure to the maximum extent possible and 6) ensure the continued availability of the widest possible range of management options.

The paper industry believes it is essential to focus on developing markets and assuring supply when initiating a recycling program. Community leaders and policymakers should understand fully, and communicate clearly to the public, both the benefits and limitations of recycling programs.

API encourages the manufacturers to become increasingly sensitive to the mechanics of recycling when designing their products.

API is committed to working with policymakers at all levels of government to develop constructive, realistic responses to the solid waste problem. API believes that effective waste management requires a locally tailored approach that balances the costs with the objectives and integrates the most productive management options available – recycling, source reduction, waste-to-energy, landfilling and composting – into a comprehensive, long-term plan. □

# COMPOSTING

## **Waste Management Option**

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Composting is the biological decomposition of organic waste materials under controlled aerobic conditions. During the composting process, municipal solid waste (MSW) is shredded and decomposed by naturally occurring micro-organisms. The process releases carbon dioxide, water vapor and heat as decomposition occurs.

Composting transforms the waste materials into stabilized organic material known as humus or mulch. When applied, these additives enhance the physical properties of soil.

## **The Current Situation**

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Composting, traditionally perceived to address only the disposal of garden clippings and yard wastes, is now being viewed as a viable component of an integrated waste management program – a means to address the disposal of not only yard waste, but paper, paperboard, food waste and other organic material as well.

With yard waste accounting for roughly 20 percent of MSW, and food waste, paper and paperboard available candidates for the process as well, communities have begun to identify composting as a means to conserve landfill capacity and produce a useful product. Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida and Minnesota are among the states that have banned leaves, brush and grass clippings from landfills, actively promoting the composting of yard waste. New Jersey has banned leaves from its landfills, with Pennsylvania and Connecticut preparing to follow suit. Cities and towns in many states, including New York and California, have initiated special programs aimed at keeping yard wastes out of landfills. Composting of sewage sludge is also on the rise in many communities.

Co-composting, the mixing of other degradable municipal solid waste with yard waste for composting, is also receiving increased attention. A co-composting facility in Wilmington, Delaware, processes approximately 700 tons of mixed MSW each day and has generated such a high level of interest that a minimum of one tour daily is given to representatives from interested communities in both the U.S. and abroad.

The level of technology employed and the materials to be processed determine the design and construction costs of composting facilities. The low-medium level technology, employed at municipal composting facilities handling yard waste exclusively, keeps costs relatively low. A community can expect to spend \$200,000 to \$300,000 designing and constructing a facility that will handle approximately 10,000 to 20,000 unprocessed tons of yard waste.

Co-composting is considerably more expensive due to the high level of technology employed and the relatively rapid processing time. Costs for such systems, while highly variable, are estimated at well over one million dollars.

Tipping fees vary widely and are not assessed at all in some communities. The fees can range from \$3 per ton to \$80 per ton. Per bag charges are assessed in some communities for yard waste.

### **Points To Consider**

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While communities have historically been slow to adopt composting as a component of their waste management programs (generally due to limited awareness regarding the process itself and/or concerns regarding marketing the final product), the composting of yard wastes, food waste and paper and paperboard deserves consideration as an alternative to landfilling and waste-to-energy operations.

- Through composting, not only is a useful soil additive produced – a portion of the waste stream is also diverted from landfills and waste-to-energy operations, thus conserving capacity at these facilities.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a combination of recycling and composting as a technology that can prevent the depletion of landfill capacity, save energy and natural resources, provide useful products from discarded materials – and be considered profitable, when the avoided costs of combustion or landfilling are taken into account.
- Composting on a large scale, while technically feasible, has two principal drawbacks: 1) the availability of potential sites (citizen concerns include odor control, airborne bacteria and possible contamination by fertilizers, pesticides and other alien materials, such as metals and plastics); and 2) market availability for the end product.
- High levels of public acceptance have been achieved in areas where public education efforts were extensive.

## **API Position**

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The American Paper Institute (API) believes that composting can be a viable component of an integrated waste management program, and recognizes its potential to prolong landfill life and provide an alternate, less costly, method of MSW disposal/reuse.

API shares EPA's view that recycling and composting should be implemented in tandem, with yard wastes and other degradable materials (e.g., nonrecyclable paper) separated and diverted for composting where practical.

API encourages siting of composting facilities adjacent to proposed or existing landfills or transfer stations as a means to alleviate potential citizen opposition.

API encourages each individual community to evaluate composting and its compatibility with other planned or existing disposal practices.

API views paper and paperboard products as being especially well-suited to the composting process due to their cellulose composition and natural biodegradability.

API supports the strict adherence to EPA established requirements for composting operations and encourages monitoring and periodic analysis of all compost to assure that regulatory requirements for both the production and use of the compost are met.

API recommends the detailed analysis of end-product demand before the adoption of composting on a large scale by any community or municipality.

API acknowledges that an aggressive marketing/public education campaign is essential to a successful composting program. Both the development of educational materials and guidelines for application of the end product are recommended.

API is committed to working with policymakers at all levels of government to develop constructive, realistic responses to the solid waste problem. API believes that effective waste management requires a locally tailored approach that balances the costs with the objectives and integrates the most productive management options available – recycling, source reduction, waste-to-energy, landfilling and composting – into a comprehensive, long-term plan. □

# Weyerhaeuser Paper Company

5505 Southwest Western Avenue  
Beeverson, Oregon 97005  
Tel (503) 643 0118  
Fax (503) 646 2267



Metropolitan Service District  
Attn: Tom D. DeJardin  
2000 SW First Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201

RE: SOLID WASTE REDUCTION COMMITMENT:  
Recycling and Resolution 90-1232B

Weyerhaeuser, in recognition of the increasing solid waste crisis facing this area, and the entire nation, is committed to increasing its already substantial recycling commitments. We believe that the primary industries must be leaders in insuring that their products are recycled in fact. Nationally, paper comprises about 35% of the solid waste stream by weight. As a nation we have only a 30% recovery rate for paper in general. The Metro area is doing much better than the national average. Current recycling programs, Wastech's proposed expansion, better curbside programs, the addition of the eastside transfer station, and a Washington County high grading facility coupled with viable markets, will drive this collection rate much higher in the 90's.

Weyerhaeuser has made significant investments in recycling in this area:

- . Started using recycled corrugated in the early 70's
- . Currently use 350 Tons per day of old corrugated containers at North Bend, Oregon
- . Our Springfield, Oregon Mill uses recycled computer paper in manufacturing white faced linerboard
- . The "WOW", (We-Cycle Office Wastepaper), Program is 15 years old and the largest desktop program in the U.S.
- . Operate Recycling Plants in Eugene and Beaverton, Oregon and 15 other locations
- . As Brokers/Mill Buyers have actively encouraged the recovery of recycled paper throughout the Northwest

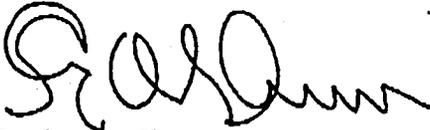
Projected Commitments to Recycling/Waste Reduction:

- . The NORPAC Mill in Longview, Washington will use 700 tons per day of Old News by 1991
- . Our Springfield, Oregon Mill will use over 400 tons/day of OCC by 1993
- . New Boiler capacity at any of our Mills will evaluate select Munciple Solid Waste, (MSW), Pellets as a fuel source
- . Composting will be encouraged as a waste reduction program for disposable diapers and wastepapers without viable markets

Weyerhaeuser and Metro have worked closely to maximize paper recoveries throughout this area. With our increasing demand for recycled paper, we obviously intend to re-double these efforts in the 90's.

Metro has supported a multi-program approach towards the reduction of solid waste. Composting has been recognized as being a viable solid waste reduction tool. Weyerhaeuser supports Resolution 90-1232B, as a functional and cost effective way to deal with disposable diapers in the solid waste stream. Enclosed is a letter from Riedel Waste Disposal Systems, supporting the Compost approach for disposable diapers, (Attachment 1). I should point out that the copy that Alex Cross refers to as 90-1232 has since been designated 90-1232B. We would encourage council to authorize a study on a collection and composting system Metro-wide for disposable diapers. Weyerhaeuser would very much like to be part of that study.

In summary, Weyerhaeuser is committed to recycling. Fortunately not all paper products are suitable or desirable for recycling. Pelletized fuel and composting offer viable alternatives to land filling. In the 90's, we will support actively all three approaches to reducing the volume of paper products in the solid waste stream.



Craig O. Sherman  
Northwest Brokerage Manager  
Secondary Fiber Division

Attachment: 1 copy-Riedel Waste Endorsement

cc: Rena Cusma: METRO  
Tania Collier: METRO  
Paul Cosgrove: Lindsey, Hart, Neil & Wrigler  
Kelly Conover: Weyerhaeuser



**RIEDEL WASTE  
DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, INC.**

**MAR 27 REC'D**

Corporate:  
P.O. Box 5007  
Portland, Oregon 97208-5007  
(503) 286-4656  
FAX (503) 283-2802

March 23, 1990

Mr. Craig Sherman  
Secondary Fibre Division  
Weyerhaeuser Paper Company  
5505 S.W. Western Avenue  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Dear Craig:

It was good to hear from you last week. I received the FAX copy of resolution #90-1232 (Metro). If this resolution goes forward in this fashion, it certainly should represent no imminent threat to the disposable diaper industry. It appears to provide for an opportunity to develop plans for managing disposable diapers at the Portland Compost Facility in such a way to facilitate proper disposal and maximize recycling and composting.

Riedel can certainly go on record as supporting an approach like this. If we can help in that direction, please let me know.

I enclosed a package of material relative on the Portland Compost Facility, which is under construction right now. As you can see from the flow diagram, there is no point in the system where shredding takes place.

I will be calling you the first part of April to arrange for a couple of my associates and me to come on out and visit your facility in Beaverton. I think it is important to keep the total recycling community in contact with each other, so that our complimentary activities always fit together.

Warm regards,

W. Alex Cross  
President

WAC:jak

Enclosure

4811 N. Channel Ave., Portland, Oregon 97217

A Subsidiary of RIEDEL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 90-1232, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE  
AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE STREAM

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Date: March 13, 1990

Presented by: Councilor  
Gary Hansen

Committee Recommendation: The Solid Waste Committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 90-1232. Voting aye: Councilors Hansen, Bauer, Buchanan and Wyers. Voting nay: Councilor DeJardin. This action was taken March 12, 1990.

Committee Discussion/Issues: Councilor Hansen introduced Resolution No. 90-1232 which he had written. He stated that the resolution was not intended to be a ban on disposable diapers but an effort to reduce a possible health hazard and a way to reduce landfill costs and preserve landfill space. He said that efforts should be made now to reduce the amount of disposable diapers in the waste stream before Metro's new solid waste facilities go on-line.

Nine individuals testified at the public hearing on March 12, 1990.

The majority of those testifying were opposed to the resolution. Included in those opposing the resolution were representatives of the disposable diaper industry who stated that there were no health hazards with disposable diapers; that they could be recycled; and that they are "good for the composter." Individuals said disposable diapers are more convenient than cloth diapers, there is less leakage with them than with cloth diapers and fewer skin problems. Some individuals stated that they wanted to be able to choose between cloth and disposable diapers.

Those individuals speaking in favor of the resolution stated that the cost was less for cloth diapers, that cloth diapers were better for the environment, that cloth diapers did not leak if used with the proper reusable plastic covering.

The Committee pointed out that the composter is not the answer to disposable diapers. It will only handle 185,000 tons of solid waste per year--a small amount of the region's total waste stream. The Committee emphasized that the resolution did not create a ban on disposable diapers. Its purpose was to reduce the amount of disposable diapers going to the landfill.

The Committee received and noted letters of support for the resolution from City Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, Senator Dick Springer and County Commissioner Pauline Anderson.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolution No. 90-1232

March 13, 1990

Page 2

Chairman Hansen pointed out that many thought that having the landfill in Gilliam County would mean out of sight, out of mind, for solid waste and that recycling efforts would suffer. This resolution is another indication that Metro is serious about recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to the landfill.

The Committee noted that the City of Seattle has an ordinance prohibiting the disposal of disposable diapers containing human feces.

Councilor DeJardin stated that he felt the resolution should be considered again before it goes to the Metro Council.

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COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 90-1232, FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE  
STREAM

Date: March 5, 1990

Presented by: Councilor Gary  
Hansen

Factual Background and Analysis: Disposable, or single-use, diapers comprise about 11,600 tons per year of the region's solid waste stream. Next to newspapers and beverage containers, disposable diapers are the single consumer product that contributes most to the waste stream.

A review of articles written on disposable diapers indicates that, nation-wide, approximately 90 percent of all diaper changes involve the use of single-use diapers. An estimated 90 percent of single-use diapers end up in the solid waste stream.

A health hazard may exist for solid waste haulers and solid waste facility workers coming into contact with disposable diapers. The feces of babies can contain more than 100 different viruses, including polio and hepatitis. It is recommended that efforts be made now to reduce the amount of disposable diapers in the waste stream before Metro's new generation solid waste facilities go on-line.

There is a less expensive alternative to disposable diapers. Cloth diapers can be re-used from 50 to 200 times and are more likely to be disposed of properly. The average baby uses 60 diapers per week or about 3,120 changes per year. The average cost per use for disposable diapers is \$0.39. Cotton diapers washed at home cost an estimated \$0.14 per use. Diaper service for cotton diapers averages \$0.20 per use.

Resolution No. 90-1232 provides that Metro shall develop an aggressive public information program to encourage residents of the region to use alternatives to disposable diapers. It is likely that if the problems of disposable diapers are understood by the public, the public will respond by using alternatives.

The resolution provides that Metro shall take steps to reduce the health hazards accompanying disposable diapers and to reduce the amount of disposable diapers in the waste stream. The resolution directs the Executive Officer to incorporate disposable diaper abatement programs in the FY 1990-91 Metro Budget

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BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE  
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING ) Resolution No. 90-1232  
THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE )  
DIAPERS IN THE SOLID WASTE ) Introduced by Councilor  
STREAM ) Gary Hansen

WHEREAS, Metro is committed to reducing the volume of waste landfilled and to promoting alternatives to disposable products; and

WHEREAS, Disposable, or single-use, diapers comprise about one percent of the region's solid waste stream (11,600 tons per year) and next to newspapers and beverage containers, are the single consumer product that contributes the most to the regional solid waste stream; and

WHEREAS, Nation-wide, approximately 90 percent of all diaper changes involve the use of single-use diapers; and

WHEREAS, The average baby requires 3,120 diaper changes a year and which results in over 1,000 pounds of waste per child; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 90 percent of single-use diapers end up in the solid waste stream and about one-third of all diapers disposed contain fecal matter; and

WHEREAS, The feces of babies can contain more than 100 different enteric viruses, including the polio and hepatitis; and

WHEREAS, As the Metro composting facility and other materials processing facilities come on line, a health hazard may exist by facility workers coming into contact with contaminated human feces; and

WHEREAS, Cloth diapers can be re-used from 50 to 200 times and cost less per use than disposable diapers, and are more likely to be disposed of properly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metropolitan Service District shall take steps to reduce both the health hazards accompanying disposable diapers and the unwarranted waste of disposal space in Metro landfills.

2. That Metro shall declare disposable diapers are incompatible with the region's solid waste system.

3. That Metro shall actively encourage the use of environmentally sound alternatives to disposable diapers.

4. That Metro will actively work with local solid waste collection authorities to eliminate casual disposal of disposable diapers into the solid waste stream.

5. That Metro shall develop an aggressive public information program to encourage residents of the region to use alternatives to disposable diapers.

6. That Metro shall advise and assist institutions such as nursing homes, day care centers, and housing authorities, in the transition to alternative diapers.

7. [That the goal of elimination of all] That the goal of reduction of disposable diapers in the solid waste stream shall be incorporated in all relevant policies and legislative agendas of Metro.

8. That Metro does not recognize recycling of single use diapers as practical, environmentally sound or meeting the goals of this resolution.

9. That the Executive Officer shall incorporate specific disposable diaper abatement programs in the FY 1990-1991 Metro budget.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1990.

Tanya Collier, Presiding Officer

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