



Waste Reduction and Recycling Opportunities for...

# AUTO MAINTENANCE

## Fact Sheet #2 from the Washtenaw County Department of Planning

### Why reduce waste and recycle?

Washtenaw County has taken a close look at the types of waste being generated by area businesses. We've found that a lot of material is being dumped as a waste rather than utilized as a **resource**. The state of Michigan agrees, and actually requires through state law that 25% of waste generated by residences and businesses be prevented from landfill or incinerator disposal. In Washtenaw County, this means diverting nearly 75,000 tons of waste per year! This is a big job to tackle, and one that we cannot do alone. So we're asking for your help.

### How can I help?

You can help by establishing a waste reduction and recycling program within your office. You've already taken the first step by reading this brochure! Take a look around your business. What kinds of things are being thrown away? Can any of them be separated out for recycling? Are any of them "Target Materials?"

### What are "Target Materials"?

Washtenaw County has developed a series of "Targeted Materials Listings" for commercial businesses. The listings are specific to particular business sectors. For example, items commonly generated for recycling in restaurants may differ greatly from those generated in offices. Page two will provide to you the materials which should be targeted for recycling in auto maintenance and repair shops.

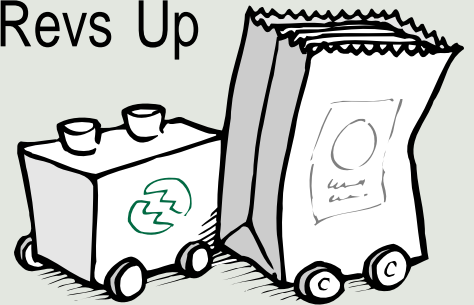
### Putting the Brakes on Auto Waste

Each day, auto maintenance and repair shops throughout Washtenaw County toss valuable materials into the trash. Many materials commonly generated in the auto maintenance and repair industry, such as metals, cardboard and oils could be easily recovered for recycling. Washtenaw County is committed to making a difference in our business community. Please read on to find out how waste reduction and recycling could work for your organization.

### Local Dealership Revs Up to Recycling

**Harper Pontiac Sales & Service, Inc.** of Chelsea, Michigan began recycling four years ago. Owner Joanne Osterle was alarmed at the number of environmental problems throughout the world. Rather than become frustrated with the status quo, Osterle decided to put her thoughts into action by starting a recycling program.

Before getting started, she took a look at the types of waste being generated. After looking in trash cans, dumpsters, and other usually overlooked depositories, she was able to identify several items that could be easily separated out for recycling. Next she contacted a variety of haulers and processors to see what types of recycling services were available. With just



a little bit of extra effort, she was able to identify markets for things that had traditionally been thrown away, including oils, auto fluids, metals, cardboard and office paper.

Osterle reports that the program has been successful and that she feels confident that her efforts are making a difference. She added that the key to success is participation by all employees. For this reason, she has made recycling a company policy and plays an active role in ensuring that all employees do their part.

### What if I need more information?

There are many sources of additional information for recycling in auto maintenance and repair shops. Please contact Washtenaw County Public Works at 994-2398 and ask to speak to the Solid Waste Coordinator. Additional printed materials, contact names, and case studies may be available to suit your particular needs.

# THREE EASY STEPS TO A "GREEN" BUSINESS

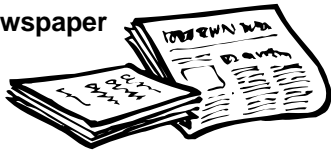
## STEP 1: Identify Your Target Materials

The following items should be included in your "Green Business" Management Plan. Your program should address these items at a minimum. There are likely many other materials which could be included, and we encourage you to investigate your options for those items as well.

### Target Materials for Auto Repair Recycling:

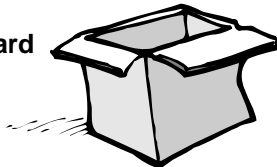
**White Paper/Computer Paper**

**Newspaper**

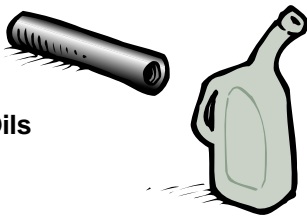


**Mixed File Stock**

**Cardboard**

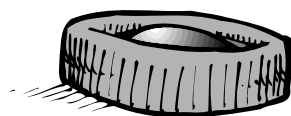


**Metals**

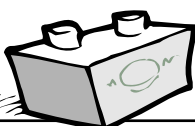


**Oils**

**Tires**



**Automotive  
Batteries**



## STEP 2: Consider Waste Reduction Alternatives

The best way to manage your waste is to not create it at all! Consider these ideas:

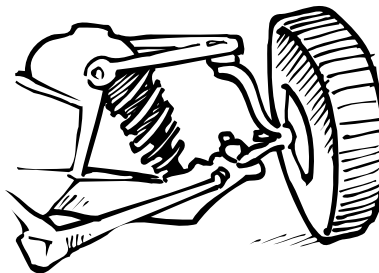
Manually clean parts whenever possible with less toxic cleaning agents.



Use rags to clean up rather than disposable paper towels.



Repair/rebuild and reuse parts such as engines, etc.



Contact your trade association for other ideas on waste reduction.

## STEP 3: Establish a Recycling Program

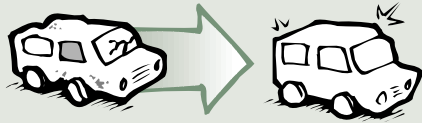
Each business is unique and has different needs to fulfill in a recycling program. Consider which items on the target materials list you would like to recycle.

There are many options for starting a recycling program. A good place to start is to talk with the person who is currently handling your waste removal, and ask what type of recycling services are available. Look for haulers who are flexible and willing to work with you to design a recycling program based on **your** needs. There are some basic questions you should be sure to ask, including:

- What materials will they accept?
- What is the minimum amount they will accept?
- Will they provide recycling containers?
- How much will the service cost?
- Where will the recyclables be taken?
- Do they provide education materials such as training videos, pamphlets, etc.?
- Ask for references.

Companies who generate larger volumes of materials may find it preferable to work directly with a broker. Call DPW for an up-to-date listing of brokers in your area.

## Automotive Recycling Facts:



- In 1993, the Automobile industry's steel recovery rate from old cars was 94%. That was enough steel to produce almost 12 million new automobiles.

- Approximately 1.5 million tons of automotive batteries are generated each year. 96% are recycled.

- Approximately 73.3 million tons of paper and paperboard are generated each year. Paper has an overall recovery rate of 28.6%. About 48% of cardboard and 26.5% of office paper is recycled.

Companies who generate higher volumes may find they can be paid for some materials. Call DPW for an up to date listing of materials, minimum quantities and vendors in your area.



## How Can I Recycle More?

Washtenaw County is asking you to consider developing recycling programs for the "Targeted Materials" listed on page 2. There are, however, many other items in the waste stream which can be recycled.

Following is a listing of other materials generated in the auto repair industry that can be recycled. There are several drop-off centers throughout the County where these items can be taken for recycling. Contact DPW at (313) 994-2398 for information on the center located nearest you.

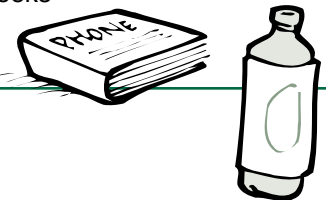
Aluminum cans



Anti-freeze



Phone books



Plastic

## Recycling Recognition Program in the Works

- Does your business have strategies put in place to prevent waste?
- Is your business recycling its waste?
- Is your business buying products manufactured out of recycled materials?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above – let us know about it! We'd like to give your business the recognition it deserves. Washtenaw County is developing a recognition program to honor businesses that exhibit environmentally-friendly business practices. If your business qualifies, you will be eligible for FREE public recognition in an ad campaign in local newspapers, business publications, and consumer media. In addition, you'll receive a Certificate of Recognition and a decorative window decal to publicize your efforts to customers. Keep an eye out for program information in your local newspaper.

## Need Assistance?

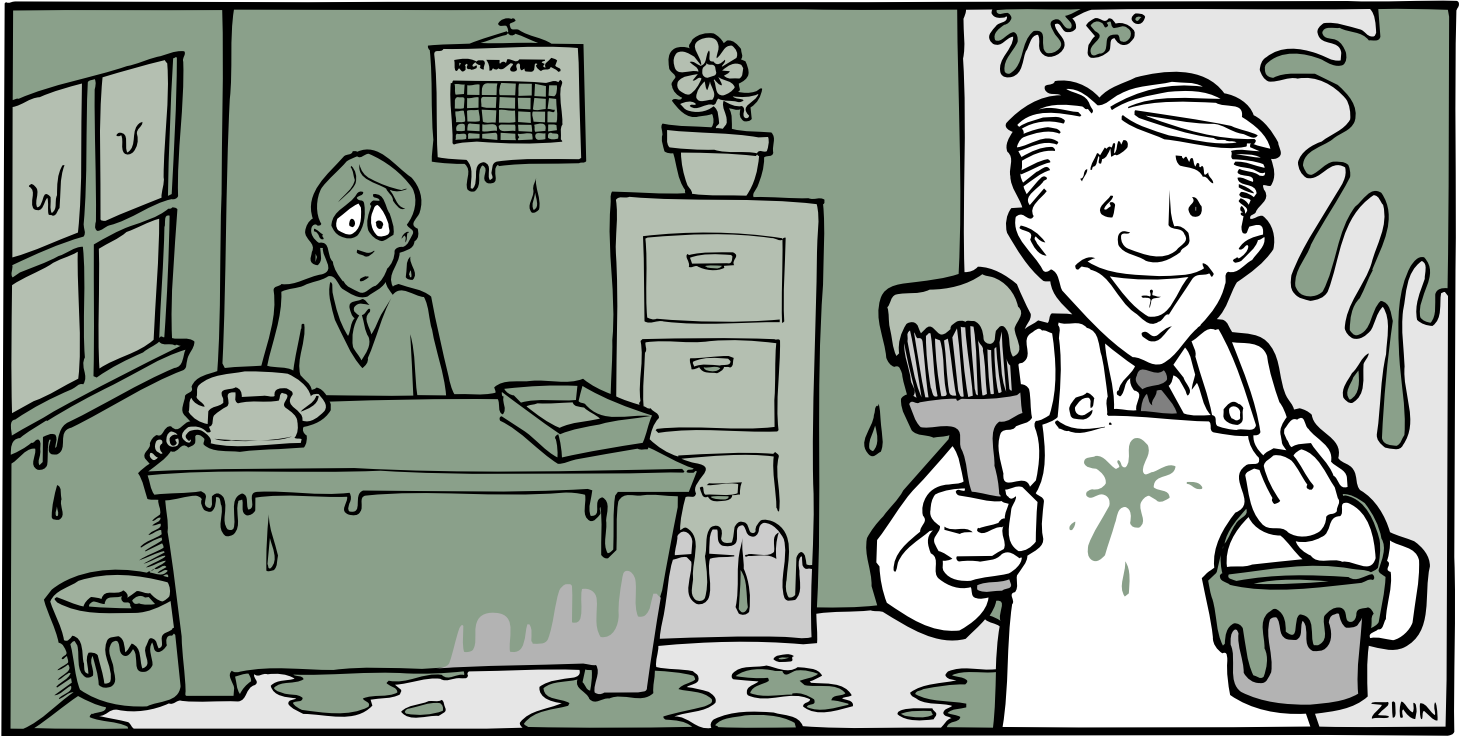
A network of knowledgeable solid waste managers has been assembled throughout the County and is available to advise you on how to start a program. Please contact DPW at **994-2398** for the name of an expert in your area.

## Recycling Haulers Servicing Washtenaw County

Action Disposal & Recycling .....	313-485-4666
Browning Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI) .....	313-729-8200
Calvert's Roll-Off Container .....	313-994-5256
City Environmental Services, Inc. ....	313-292-0800
Daily Recycling of Michigan .....	313-654-9800
Dinverno, Inc. ....	313-892-3535
Laidlaw Waste Systems .....	313-292-5100
Mister Rubbish .....	800-971-7490
Recycle Ann Arbor .....	313-971-9676
Tiger Rose Trucking .....	810-437-9210
Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority .....	313-475-6160

This listing represents a partial listing of haulers who have indicated an interest in servicing businesses in Washtenaw County. This listing should not be construed as an endorsement of any particular company or program. If your company would like to be added to the listing, please contact the Solid Waste Department at 222-6874.

**There's more than one way to have a green business...**



**...look inside for other options.**



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