



Waste Reduction News

June 2003

Editor's Note: This month, we highlight three success stories in our community. Partnerships like these demonstrate that recycling and natural resources conservation are important to numerous people. Many thanks to the businesses and groups that take extra steps to improve our shared environment. Thanks to you, too, for your efforts.

Recycling is a Priority at Short Pump Mall

While Central Virginians eagerly await the opening of Henrico County's new Short Pump Mall, one contractor is taking the time to do our environment a favor. Nearly 100 tons of metal, drywall and wood were diverted from local landfills and recycled by Winter Construction, general contractor for the new Nordstrom's store in Short Pump.

The recycling effort saved more than \$4,000 on the 170,000-square foot retail project. Lawrence Finn, vice president of operations for Winter Construction, says he does not

understand why more construction companies do not recycle. "Not only is it economically feasible to recycle, it is the right thing to do, it's a no-brainer." Finn says.



Winter Construction positioned waste and recycling containers throughout the Nordstrom construction site. The containers were clearly marked for metal, concrete, wood, drywall, cardboard or waste. Most of the materials to be recycled were hauled off site, except for the drywall which was ground into a mulch product to be used onsite for groundcover and erosion control.

The CVWMA would like to congratulate Winter Construction on a job well done!

This story was first reported by William Turley in *Recycling Today* (5-15-03).

James River Cleanup 2003

Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The James River Cleanup is a regional effort to clean trash and debris from more than 50 miles of the James River. The cleanup will focus on fourteen sites in Chesterfield, Henrico, Powhatan, Goochland and Charles City Counties, as well as Richmond and Lynchburg. The James River Advisory Council is heading organizational efforts for the cleanup.

In its fourth year, the James River Regional Cleanup continues to grow, including both tidal and non-tidal portions of the river.

At last year's events, crews collected trash and tons of recyclable tires, aluminum, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard. Items removed will either be recycled or disposed of properly.

2002 CLEANUP FIGURES

Trash: 216 bags & 20 barrels
Tires: 131
Aluminum: 23 bags & 7 barrels
Plastic: 28 bags & 8 barrels
Glass: 5 bags & 8 barrels
Paper: 1 bag
Cardboard: 2 barrels

For more information please visit www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com/jrcleanup.htm. To register, please call the James River Regional Cleanup information line at (804) 717-6688.

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

Ukrop's and Watkins Nursery Partner in Compost Venture



Environmentally conscious partners Ukrop's Super Markets and Watkins Nurseries are working to turn trash into treasure. The Ukrop's Central Kitchen sends about 3 million pounds of vegetable and fruit trimmings annually to compost piles located at Watkins Nurseries in Chesterfield County. Ukrop's has been looking for an environmentally friendly way to get rid of its fruit and vegetable trimmings, particularly in recent years as sales of cut fruit have increased. Before now, the waste was sent to the landfill.

"Ukrop's is interested in sustainability, which encourages the reduction of waste and the wise use of our natural resources," commented Pat Hadden, Director of Technical Services. "The production of compost from our fruit and vegetable trimmings allows Ukrop's to recycle the trimmings into a usable product instead of being sent to a landfill; therefore, promoting the health of our environment."

While consisting primarily of leaves and fruit and vegetable trimmings, minor amounts of liquids from Ukrop's central cooking operation and dairy products may be added to promote the composting process. (No manure is added to the compost.) The rich organic

compost is sold in 20-pound bags at Ukrop's stores and is available in bulk at Watkins nurseries.

"The beauty of this is that you are taking a lot of natural materials that people have to spend money to get rid of and converting it into something useful," said state Sen. John C. Watkins, president of the nurseries.

CVWMA congratulates Ukrop's Super Markets and Watkins Nurseries for their efforts in recycling resources for the future. To learn how to create healthier gardens by composting at home or to request a composting brochure please visit CVWMA on-line at www.cvwma.com.

Why Compost...

- ✓ Improve soil structure
- ✓ Improve water infiltration and drought tolerance
- ✓ Reduce fertilizer requirements
- ✓ Improve root growth
- ✓ Protect plants from disease
- ✓ Save waste from landfills

Composting at Home... Getting Started

Home composting can be done with a home-constructed bin or by using a plastic unit available at local home and garden supply stores.

1. Pick a location for your compost pile that is level, sunny, and well-drained.
2. Stack a layer of small branches at the bottom of your pile to allow for air movement and drainage.
3. Alternate green (e.g. cut grass, kitchen scraps) and brown (e.g. dry leaves) waste.
4. Add some garden soil which will supply the healthy bacteria needed to start the decomposition process.
5. Keep your pile moist-not wet.
6. To speed up the decomposition process, turn or stir the pile weekly.

