

Annual Report

State Recycling Program January 2009

Pursuant to the provisions of South Dakota Codified Laws 5-23-40 and Executive Order 96-001, this annual recycling report is submitted to Governor Mike Rounds and the South Dakota Legislature. This report contains information regarding Pierre's state office paper and plastic recycling program, state office paper recycling across the state, the purchase of recycled products and recycling goals for state agencies.

State Office Paper Recycling Program – Pierre

The state office paper recycling program in Pierre has been in place since November 1991. Waste Connections, known locally as EnviroTech Waste Services, currently collects state office paper at no-cost to the state. The paper is collected from each office, transferred by EnviroTech to their baling facility where the paper is baled and then transported off-site to the fiber recycling markets.

The current state paper recycling system within state offices in Pierre requires employees to place waste paper into one of two bins: a gold bag designated for mixed office paper or a white bag designated for white office paper. The bag ensembles are located at various locations within the state office buildings.

Collection of waste paper is set up to occur at regularly scheduled intervals. Flexibility is built into the collection service schedule to allow for fluctuations in the generation of waste paper, such as during a cleanout project or during the legislative sessions. Building and Grounds staff are responsible for collecting the bags of paper on the designated collection day and taking the bags to a central location where EnviroTech collects the paper.

There are two immediate benefits realized when paper is recycled. First, removing state office paper from the general waste stream reduces the amount of waste entering the landfills, thereby saving landfill space. Second, removing state office paper from the general solid waste stream has resulted in a significant savings for state government. For example, currently the Pierre landfill charges \$38.46 per ton to dispose of municipal solid waste. In calendar year 2008, EnviroTech Waste Services of Pierre collected a total of 288 tons (514,000 pounds) of paper product, resulting in a savings of \$11,076 in landfill fees.

State Office Plastic Recycling Program – Pierre

EnviroTech currently collects state office plastic beverage containers at no-cost to the state. The plastic is collected from each office, transferred by EnviroTech to their baling facility where it is baled and then transported off-site to plastic recycling markets.

The plastic container recycling program from state offices in Pierre was originally initiated as a pilot program in the Foss and Anderson buildings in March 2007. After six months of proven success and participation, the plastic recycling program was expanded to include all state offices in Pierre and various offices outside of Pierre. The current state plastic recycling program within state offices in Pierre gives employees the opportunity to place plastic beverage containers into blue recycling bins that are placed at various locations within the state office buildings. Collection of the material is accomplished by Building and Grounds staff and is set up in conjunction with the waste paper so that the paper and plastic are picked up at the same time in order to keep transportation and fuel costs down.

Cooperation by state agencies and the Building and Grounds staff in this recycling effort has been exceptional. In 2008 the state office plastic recycling program has diverted 16,000 lbs of plastic, the equivalent of 256,000 plastic water bottles from entering the landfill.

State Office Paper Recycling Program – Statewide

The waste office paper collection and recycling program for state offices outside of Pierre has been in place since 1994. Responsibility for carrying out the program was given to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in April 1996.

In most other state offices, the method of recycling paper is very similar to that employed at the Pierre offices. As in Pierre, the collection of recycled paper is often performed by a local waste hauler company that also performs services as a recycler. The hauler will either take the paper to a processor to process the paper for sale or the hauler maintains a processing facility and can process the paper themselves. Paper is baled and then is sent out of state for recycling.

In 2008 a total of 333 tons of waste office paper was collected from state agencies outside of Pierre for recycling, an increase of 59 tons from a year ago. Considering that the average landfill tipping fee outside of Pierre is \$36.00 per ton, the state realized a savings of about \$11,988.

In total for 2008, the state paper recycling effort throughout state government has resulted in diverting a total of 621 tons of paper, representing a savings of approximately \$23,064 in landfill fees. Since the program began in 1991, state government has saved approximately \$303,980 in landfill fees.

Recycling of Other Materials

The Administrative Rules of South Dakota Chapter 10:06:01 requires all state agencies to recycle materials that coincide with the landfill bans specified in South Dakota Codified Laws §34A-6-67. The following items are banned from being disposed in South Dakota's landfills: used oil, white goods, yard waste, and lead-acid batteries. In addition to these landfill banned items, the Department of Transportation (DOT) requires the use of recycled asphalt and concrete in many of their highway bid specifications. Glycol coolants, used oil, cardboard, and metals are also recycled by state agencies that generate them.

Aluminum Cans are collected in state offices located in Pierre. Recycling containers coded green are used to identify the aluminum can collection containers. The collection system is

identical to that of the plastic recycling program to increase participation and efficiency. Corrugated cardboard is another paper product that is recycled in state offices. Cardboard recycling bins are located in outside locations throughout state offices in Pierre. Buildings and Grounds staff manages the collection and diversion of cardboard from the waste stream generated by state offices.

Purchase Recycled Products

The Office of Procurement Management continues to make efforts to purchase products containing recycled materials. Every year there are more recycled content products available and the cost for purchasing them continues to become more competitive. Technological advances have allowed the recycling industry to operate more efficiently. The following items are used and or could be purchased by the Office of Procurement Management to promote the use of recycled materials.

- Purchasing recycled paper;
- Printing state publications using soy-based inks;
- Promoting the recovery of used tires, solvents, oil and oil filters;
- Purchasing equipment to recycle used antifreeze and biodegradable antifreeze;
- Use of recycled asphalt and concrete in state DOT road construction projects;
- Purchasing lumber, picnic tables, playground equipment, and other outdoor materials that have been made from recycled plastic;
- Purchasing products that are environmentally “green” and or Energy Star approved.

Recommendations

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has the following recommendations for the upcoming year:

1. State government offices should implement an efficient recycling program for newsprint and magazines generated in state offices. Implementation of the program along with the existing paper and plastic programs will achieve cost savings by diverting waste from the landfills and provides marketable material to local haulers and recyclers;
2. State government offices should continue to recycle all waste office paper in addition to providing and promoting the state office plastic recycling program;
3. State government should continue to purchase products containing recycled materials and whenever cost effective, utilize bid specifications that include recycled materials;
4. Continue to promote and support a more sustainable “green” government within South Dakota;
5. State government should continue to encourage new and efficient recycling programs throughout rural South Dakota; and
6. Agencies within state government should continue to support the South Dakota Sustainable Government Program. All agencies should develop their own action plans that model the framework designed by the sustainable government committee.