

## **Annual Report**

### **State Recycling Program December 2011**

Pursuant to the provisions of South Dakota Codified Laws 1-40-42 and Executive Order 96-001, this annual recycling report is submitted to Governor Dennis Daugaard and the South Dakota Legislature. This report contains information regarding Pierre's state office paper, plastic, magazine and newspaper 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. Recycled paper is generally used in the production of new paper at the same or lower grade, egg cartons, fruit trays, and also in ceiling and wall insulation.

The current 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. Paper that is shredded is placed in the gold bag or handled separately. The bag ensembles are located at various areas within the state office buildings.

Waste paper is collected 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 picks up 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 that can be measured by the reduction in tipping fees paid to the landfill. For example, currently the Pierre landfill charges \$40.00 per ton to dispose of municipal solid waste. In calendar year 2011, EnviroTech Waste Services of Pierre collected a total of 148 tons (296,000 pounds) of waste paper, resulting in a savings of \$5,920 in landfill fees. In addition, recycling gives individuals a sense of contributing to the conservation of our natural resources - something that cannot be measured.

## **State Office Plastic Recycling Program –Pierre**

EnviroTech currently collects state office plastic beverage containers at no-cost to the state. Plastic is handled in nearly the same manner as waste paper, transferred by EnviroTech to their baling facility where it is baled and then transported off-site to plastic recycling markets. Plastic is generally recycled into carpet fibers, playground equipment, plastic lumber, clothing, textiles and automobile parts.

The plastic container recycling program for 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. The current plastic recycling program within state offices in Pierre gives employees the opportunity to place plastic beverage containers into labeled 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 continues to be exceptional. In 2011, the state office plastic recycling program diverted 10,646 pounds of plastic, the equivalent of 170,337 plastic beverage containers, from entering the landfill.

In addition to state offices in Pierre, plastic recycling containers have also been put in place in other state offices, such as Watertown and Rapid City.

## **State Office Newspaper and Magazine Recycling Program –Pierre**

EnviroTech currently collects state office newspapers, phone books, and magazines at no-cost to the state. The material is collected in nearly the same manner as the waste paper and plastic, transferred by EnviroTech to their baling facility where it is baled and then transported off-site to recycling markets. This type of waste paper is generally recycled into similar paper products such as newspapers, phone books, and paperboard cartons like cereal boxes. The program was originated in June 2009 and gives employees the opportunity to recycle their old newspapers and magazines by placing them in a green recycling tote generally located next to the waste paper recycling bags. In calendar year 2011, the state office newspaper and magazine recycling program diverted 139 tons (278,000 pounds) of newspapers, phone books, and magazines from entering the landfill. This results in a savings of \$5,560 in landfill tipping fees.

## **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 from the Bureau of Administration in April 1996.

In most state offices outside of Pierre, 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 that also performs recycling services. The hauler will either take the paper to another company for processing or the hauler maintains their own processing facility. Waste paper is baled and then sent out of state for recycling. Currently, the cost associated with the service provided by the haulers and recyclers in some communities makes it challenging to set up a feasible and efficient recycling program. Some state offices must rely on state employees to haul state office paper to local recyclers along with the responsibility to collect the tonnage data needed for this report.

In 2011, a total of 226 tons (452,000 pounds) of waste paper were collected from state agencies outside of Pierre for recycling. Considering the average landfill tipping fee outside of Pierre is about \$40.63 per ton, the state realized a savings of about \$9,182. In total for 2011, the state recycling effort throughout state government has resulted in diverting a total of 518 tons of paper, plastic, newspaper, phone books, and magazines that represent a savings of approximately \$20,862 in landfill fees. Since the program began in 1991, state government has saved approximately \$367,026 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. Glycol coolants, used oil, cardboard, and metals are also recycled by state agencies that generate them. These are not required to be reported and numbers for these items are not readily available.

Aluminum cans are collected in state offices located in Pierre. Labeled, green recycling containers 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 sorted for recycling by state offices in Pierre. Cardboard recycling bins are located in outside areas throughout state office buildings in Pierre. Buildings and Grounds staff manages the collection and diversion of aluminum cans and cardboard from the waste stream generated by state offices.

Over the course of several years, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been working with the Bureau of Information and Technology and the Bureau of Administration's Property Management Program to take a closer look at the options for implementing a recycling program, turn it back program, or a purchase agreement that includes returning and recycling of old computers as part of the price quote for new computers. In 2010, the implementation of a new way of handling state electronic equipment, mostly old computers, was put in place by the Property Management Program.

All state electronic equipment that is turned over to surplus property will be bid out and awarded to the highest electronic recycling bidder for recycling. Other electronics that are not sent to

surplus property are handed down and reused at other remote or satellite state agencies, school programs, and other social service's department programs.

### **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 Bureau of Administration has established a policy for agencies under the control of the Governor to require purchase of paper with minimum recycled content levels, environmentally preferred cleaning products, and energy consuming products that are Energy Star® designated. 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 continue to support and promote the existing state electronic recycling program. The electronic recycling program along with the existing paper, newspaper, magazine, plastic, and aluminum programs will achieve cost savings by diverting waste from the landfills, provides marketable material to local haulers and recyclers, and reduces our liability by proper disposition of these wastes that are classified as hazardous when disposed of improperly;
2. State government offices should continue to recycle all waste office paper in addition to providing and promoting the other state office recycling programs, especially outside of the Pierre area;
3. State government should continue to purchase products containing recycled materials; and whenever cost effective, utilize bid specifications that include recycled materials;