



The official e-newsletter for the ND Solid Waste and Recycling Association

## Scrap Tire Management Act Slated for Upcoming Legislative Session

In Berthold, North Dakota, Delta Energy LLC has set up a pilot-scale process to take tire chips and break them down by pyrolysis, into some of the original contents such as carbon black, methane, oil, etc. The company is presenting information on this and seeking to create a Resource Recovery & Conservation Act (RRC) that would collect a fee on used tires and use it towards processing them at a facility proposed to be built in Moorhead, MN where the former Tire Depot scrap tire management company closed in 2000, leaving 400 tons of partially shredded tires to be cleaned up. This bill will affect used tire/hose/belt generators (including cities, counties, ambulance services, retailers and more), the ND Department of Health and residents across the state. For more information on this pressing topic, visit [www.ndswra.org](http://www.ndswra.org).

## MSW Landfill Operators Certification Course Offered

The annual Certification Course for operators at Municipal Solid Waste landfills will be offered from March 1 – 4, 2005. Training and the exam, provided by the North Dakota Department of Health – Division of Waste Management, will take place at the Environmental Training Center in Bismarck. Environmental Health Inspector Brad Torgerson states, "The course is most appropriate for municipal waste landfill operators; however, we do present information specifically relating to the operation of inert waste landfills." Even though inert waste landfills are not required to have a certified landfill operator onsite during operations, the course is helpful and provides valuable information related to these types of landfills. Past attendee Gary Backman, Bismarck MSW Landfill Operator states, "I thought it was a very interesting class. They cover a lot of interesting points of the landfill

and (explain) why we do things the way we do". The letter and registration form are available in a PDF format on both the Association's Web site and the North Dakota Department of Health Web site.

## Medical Waste News: Proper Needle Disposal and Used Equipment Notice

*Submitted by Board Members Terry Horst and Kent Belland*

The following Web sites [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org) and [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/sharps.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/sharps.htm) are

excellent reference sites for information on handling and disposal of Sharps needles which recycling or waste hauling staff can be and are exposed to in the work place. Please pass it on to anyone looking for information on this problem that concerns many workers today.

Project Hero is a non-profit recycling clearinghouse for health care materials to patients and healthcare providers in need, and as a resource to regional healthcare facilities in the effective management of these materials. The program's mission statement is as follows:

- Recycling appropriate medical supplies and equipment normally discarded in this country for use by local healthcare agencies and missionaries.
- Reduce community medical material in area landfills and incinerators.
- Educate and assist local healthcare facilities in benefits of waste reduction.
- Offer local volunteers an opportunity for service learning.

Learn more about Project Hero at [www.fmhero.org](http://www.fmhero.org). E-mail Kent at [kbelland@state.nd.us](mailto:kbelland@state.nd.us) or check the NDSWRA Web site for their most recent newsletter. In the interest of recycling, we ask that you please share this message with all clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. located in your area.

### Time for a Break?

Take an educational art break and check out photos by Chris Jordan. His current work focuses on the materials that feed the American consumption/consumerism machine and the waste it leaves behind. Photos of drums, containers, crushed cans, recycling yards, pallets and more can be found online at [www.chrisjordanphoto.com](http://www.chrisjordanphoto.com), under "current work".

## Get Solid Waste and Recycling Information into Your Local Schools

Have you visited your local second or third grade teachers to find out if students in your area are learning about solid waste and recycling – hands on? If you aren't in the classroom talking about it, then make sure you get the word out about "Project Learning Tree" (PLT). All teachers in the state have access to this program. ND Forest Service member, Glenda Fauske, is the PLT State Coordinator, and has provided the NDSWRA with a brief overview of this award-winning environmental education program. Contact Glenda at (701) 228-5446 or at [Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu](mailto:Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu) (please note the new e-mail address for your records).

## Insecticide Diazinon Banned

Check your local hardware shelves. As of January 1, 2005, it is unlawful for U.S. retailers to sell Diazinon products for home, lawn or garden use (non-agricultural use). After Dec. 31, 2004, diazinon registrants are offering a "buy back" program to assist with removing these products from the market and preventing further sale. The registrants will repurchase any unopened, unused outdoor residential products from retailers or formulators. The insecticide is commonly found on the shelves of hardware and lawn and garden shops under trade names such as Ortho, Spectracide and Real-Kill. Diazinon is one of 45 pesticides known as organophosphates, a group of chemicals derived from the same family of chemicals as the sarin nerve gas agent developed during World War II. Visit the [EPA fact sheet](#) online.

## News Around the State

The City of Bismarck's Composting Program is featured in the January/February issue of MSW Management Magazine, check online later this month for the article ([www.mswmanagement.com](http://www.mswmanagement.com)).

Former Board Member Captain Kevin Solie will be featured on Bismarck's KXMB (CBS affiliate) at 10 p.m. on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Greetings from the 141<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion are listed [online](#).

The City of West Fargo's Inert Landfill, operated by former-member Sheyenne Disposal is closed. For more information, see the 1/18/05 Fargo Forum's [online article](#).

## Fergus Falls, MN Waste-to-Energy Plant to Close; Minneapolis Recycling Program Blazes Trail

*Submitted by member, Paul Gardner, RAM*

Check out the December 6<sup>th</sup> online article, "[Where Will All the Garbage Go?](#)" Minnesota Public Radio covers the imminent closing of the Fergus Falls waste-to-energy plant due to the closing of the Regional Treatment Center that is the primary steam customer. About 28,000 tons of MSW would likely go to Elk River or Gwinner, ND.

The City of Minneapolis, MN is close to offsetting the collection costs of recycling with a new processing and marketing agreement. Member RW Beck worked with the city on this review and consulting project. The article was in the Nov/Dec MSW Management magazine (and [online](#)), and quotes the success as being a "rare accomplishment in the industry today".

Encourage community members to bring their Diazinon products, along with other outdated or unused pesticides, herbicides and insecticides to the 2005 Project Safe Send sites this summer; dates and locations, sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, will be announced in May or June 2005.

## Earth Day Contest Deadline Jan. 31

The North Dakota State Game and Fish Department is seeking entries for design of a North Dakota Earth Day patch. Contestants must be North Dakota residents between ages 6-18 and a \$75 savings bond will be awarded to the winner in three age categories: 6-9, 10-13, and 14-18. The final patch design will be chosen from the three winners.

The patch should incorporate some aspect of Earth Day (celebrated April 22) or keeping ND clean. The winning design will be used on a patch given to members of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H clubs that participate in Earth Day cleanup projects on state-owned or managed lands in North Dakota in April. Contact Jeb Williams at the NDGF for

details on the patch dimensions, where to mail it to and more (701-328-6332 or email [jwilliam@state.nd.us](mailto:jwilliam@state.nd.us)).



## Board Member Spotlight

**Name:** Robert (Bob) Oihus (pronounced i - whose)

**Position:** Owner and Operator of Refuse Disposal Services (solid waste/recycling hauling services and Inert Waste Landfill)

**Duties:** Anything from changing tires and fixing taillights to collecting garbage or fixing dumpsters; he's a jack of all trades (but master of none per Bob!)

**Best Thing about the Job:** "I like the variety of jobs and helping people, showing them how to do things the easy way."

**Before this Job:** After graduating, Bob collected garbage (3 years), then as a water plant operator (3 years), and has been back on garbage ever since. He purchased the business 11 years ago from his father.

**Grew up in:** Grafton, North Dakota – life long resident!

**Enjoy:** Hunting and target shooting when he can, and the hot tub at night.

