

THE UPRC AT WORK

Recently, the Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition has enabled a fellow member to benefit from the networking that takes place within the organization.

TRICO Opportunities, Inc. was looking for a solution to the processing of materials they have been receiving from area residents and businesses. Over the past 3 years, TRICO has provided a drop off site for paper products and was becoming overwhelmed with the amount of materials they were receiving. All materials were processed by way of shredding and baling, creating an overload of materials to be handled.

After discussing the situation with Lakestate Industries and Manistique Papers UPRC members, TRICO was able to acquire boxes through Lakestate to ship materials in, saving on the process time and still providing work for their labor force.

By comparison, it takes the employees of TRICO an average of 3½ hours to complete a bale. With the new system, it only takes 15 minutes to have the same amount boxed. Manistique Papers then takes the filled boxes to recycle into other paper products.

TRICO still shreds and bales all of their confidential materials and bales cardboard, which is completed in a timelier manner, thus reducing the need for extended storage.

Working together, the UPRC is keeping the recycling efforts strong here in the UP.

THREE SCHOOLS HONORED WITH JUNIOR RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition is pleased to announce the 2003 Junior Recyclers of the Year. The schools were honored at the UPRC Annual Conference, held in October in Iron Mountain.

Holy Name School in Escanaba was one of the recipients. Holy Name has involved all grades in the school, with the 8th grade class managing much of the efforts. Holy Name is committed to the reduction of paper usage by limiting the use of handouts and other unnecessary copying. Holy Name currently recycles pop cans, plastics, glass, paper, and magazines. They also collect old crayons to be sent to less fortunate children in the world. The Staff at Holy Name has incorporated recycling into their school, stressing the importance of recycling to future generations.

Another school honored was the Gladstone Middle School. Two of the students enclosed essays of what the school is doing and ideas to improve their recycling efforts. Photos of the recycling program and a cover letter from a 6th grade student were also enclosed. Gladstone Middle School recycles paper products, cardboard, batteries, and printer cartridges, along with pop/juice cans and bottles. The kids are encouraged to bring in items from home to be recycled. They also reuse many items in the Art class. Everything from paper towel rolls to Styrofoam cartons and cardboard boxes are used to create original artwork. The school also has reduced its' paper consumption by reusing the other side of note/computer paper instead of using new. Both essay writers feel more students would get involved in recycling if the school offered incentives to recycle, whether it be recognition for their efforts or receive a prize of some sort. Hats off to Gladstone Middle School for their recycling efforts.

The Dickinson Conservative District was the third award winner. The students are from the Iron Mountain and Kingsford high schools. The students focused on the problem of illegal tire dumping in the Dickinson County area. They cleaned one dumpsite, held an "Adopt A Tire" campaign and education campaign, and recycled a tire into a unique swing. Their 11-page project outline included recycling options for tires, news articles, and photos of their efforts. The team also listed the project itinerary for 2003-2004, which includes continued community awareness, site mapping and clean ups, data compilation, and lobbying for a "Dickinson County Tire Amnesty Day".

The students are pleased to acknowledge the local businesses and individuals that have made this project possible. Without the community support, both financial and volunteering their time, this project would not succeed. Congratulations to the Dickinson Conservative District and thanks to all of the schools who are making a difference in our communities by reducing, reusing, and recycling.



UPRC HONORS TWO UPPER PENINSULA RECYCLERS

The Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition announced the 2003 Recyclers of the Year at their annual conference, held at the Premiere Center in Iron Mountain on October 8th. Each year, awards are given to both business and individual efforts of recycling in the U. P. This year, newcomers, and familiar folks were the recipients.

Dickinson County Healthcare System was the business category winner. DCHS has shown their recycling efforts by reducing their medical waste to under 6% of its' total waste, which is under the guidelines recommend, (10% maximum total waste). This has been achieved by monitoring medical waste containers for proper usage. They have also recycled many of their items, including 27.57 tons of cardboard and 24.9 tons of paper. DCHS also recycles all metals, toner and printer cartridges, linens, light bulbs, computers, and chemicals. The facility is also a mercury free building, implementing a program starting in 1999 to address the use of mercury and eliminating its' usage. DCHS remains committed to the environment by constructing new additions and improving existing facilities using strategies designed to be environmentally friendly. With their efforts, the UPRC is proud to acknowledge DCHS as the Business Recycler of the Year for 2003.

The Individual award goes to Ron Bloch for the second year running. Ron, a Korean War veteran and cancer survivor, remains active in the community and is committed to keeping our natural resources available for the generation to come. Along with his personal efforts, Ron has encouraged others in his community to recycle. Many local individuals, businesses, and government agency facilities take advantage of the pick-up sites established in Mackinac County with Ron's urging. Ron has set aside about 18 hours a week to continue his personal efforts of collecting recyclables. He is always spreading the word by encouraging everyone he is in contact with to recycle, touching all corners of the UP and extending to friends in downstate Michigan. Ron has future goals that include allocating funds received from his efforts from recycling to benefit a local housing committee. The UPRC is proud to Salute Ron Bloch as the 2003 Individual Recycler of the Year.

U.P. RECYCLING COALITION PROMOTES:

RECYCLING, REUSING, REDUCTION
COOPERATIVE RECYCLING PROGRAMS
NETWORKING TO SHARE RECYCLING IDEAS
RECYCLING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION
Recycling Product Research and Development

Visit the UPRC for membership information, news, and events,
and other points of interest online at:

www.uprecycles.org

Useful WebLinks for Additional Information:

Michigan Recycling Coalition
www.michiganrecycles.org

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Assistance Division
Recycling Web Page
www.michigan.gov/deg

Michigan Composting Council
www.michiganrecycles.org

The National Recycling Coalition
www.nrc-recycle.org