



WRATT

WASTE REDUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOUNDATION

WRATT Information Bulletin 05-02 – May 2005

The **WRATT Information Bulletin** is published periodically by the Waste Reduction & Technology Transfer Foundation as a free source of information on waste reduction and energy savings for our clients, contractors, and partners.

Update on the New Waste Exchange!

As discussed in our last Information Bulletin, WRATT is operating the newly established online **WasteTrade** waste and surplus material exchange, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

WasteTrade provides a opportunity for Alabama manufacturers, businesses, schools, and hospitals to reduce waste disposal costs and improve efficiency by accessing cheaper raw materials and supplies. The free internet-accessible exchange, available at www.wastetrade.org, has been described as an 'eBay-like' trading system which helps organizations dispose of unneeded materials and possibly find items they need at the same time.

Examples of 'Available' items listed so far on the exchange include:

- Machining fluids
- Cutting oils
- Wastewater treatment sludge from papermaking (has substantial fuel value)
- Computers
- Computer monitors, keyboards, mice
- CD-ROM drives
- 10MB rack mount fiber optic networking equipment
- Complete Nortel telephone system
- 300 gallon carbon steel tote with hopper bottom
- Tote bin stands
- Carton flow rack
- New, unused residential bath tubs

Types of 'Wanted' materials include:

- Catalytic converters or auto catalysts
- Angle Iron, Rebar, I-Beam, Plate Steels
- Concrete building blocks
- 55-gallon drums

The **WasteTrade** website has received more than 2600 hits since the exchange became operational. While most of the hits have come from Alabama locations of course, it has also been accessed from 20 other states and 11 foreign countries!

So far, the **WasteTrade** exchange has received publicity from articles appearing in The Florence TimesDaily, The Decatur Daily News, and The Huntsville Times. WRATT staff has discussed the exchange before meetings of the Shoals Manufacturers Association, the Morgan County Industrial Council, The West Alabama Regional Commission, the Shoals Economic Development Authority, and an Alabama State Department of Education Information Technology coordinators meeting. (If your organization is interested in such a presentation, just give us a call!)

WasteTrade has also received help from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and the Economic Development Partners of Alabama (EDPA), and Auburn University's Alabama Grassroots Clearinghouse who have placed links to the exchange on their websites.

The **WasteTrade** exchange currently uses the following categories of materials:

- Automotive
- Batteries
- Computers/Electronics
- Iron/Steel
- Non-Ferrous Metals
- Glass/Fiberglass
- Plastics
- Surplus Consumer Goods
- Surplus Commercial Goods
- Paper/Cardboard
- Tires/Rubber
- Textiles/Leather
- Liquids/Oils/Chemicals
- Food Waste
- Used Equipment
- Wood

All types of organizations can use **WasteTrade**: businesses, service and manufacturing industries, government facilities, public and private institutions such as schools, hospitals, churches, and non-profit corporations.

Users of the exchange can post information about their own waste or surplus materials and search for materials available from other sources. Organizational identities remain confidential until they contact each other directly to arrange sales and delivery. There is no charge for use of the exchange.

For more information about the materials exchange, visit <http://www.wastetrade.org/>, or call the WRATT Foundation at 256-248-0191.

Zero % Interest Loans for Energy-related Upgrades!

If you're the operator of a city or county facility, public or non-profit school, or water or wastewater treatment plant, you may be eligible for a zero percent interest loan for a wide variety of energy efficiency projects. The program is targeted to rural, low- to moderate-income areas in Alabama. Specifically, eligible facilities must be located in: a) a town or city with a maximum population of 20,000, or b) a county with a maximum population of 50,000.

The program is provided by ADECA and its partners, Powersoft, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Energy efficiency projects that would be eligible under the program include: lighting retrofits, HVAC equipment, heat recovery systems, electrical load management devices or distribution systems, energy management systems, boiler and central plant improvements, sewage and water systems improvements, and alternate or renewable energy systems.

The maximum amount of a loan is \$150,000 per unit of local government or per school campus. Maximum funding per school system is \$300,000. The loan interest rate is zero percent over a maximum of 10 years, with quarterly repayments. There is a one-time 3 percent management fee to Powersoft.

For more information, contact Renee Fuller, of ADECA's Science, Technology and Energy Division, by telephone at (800) 392-8098, or by email at reneef@adeca.state.al.us.

Save 30% or More in Water Heating Costs!

If your facility uses once-through hot water (showers, tubs, sinks, dishwashers, clothes washers, some types of process operations, etc.) you may be able to save 30 to 50% on the energy required to heat that water.

The Gravity-Film Heat Exchanger (GFX) is a simple heat exchanger for heat recovery developed under a grant from the Department of Energy Inventions Program. The GFX is installed into a section of vertical drain line in a building. The design consists of a 3 or 4 inch central copper pipe (which carries the warm drainwater) around which is wound a ½ inch copper coil. Heat is transferred from the drainwater passing through the large central pipe to incoming cold water simultaneously moving upward through the coil on the outside of the pipe. The simple design has no moving parts and requires no cleaning.

The GFX system is particularly applicable to apartment buildings, hotels, motels, hospitals, dormitories, senior living facilities, gyms, beauty salons, laundries, commercial or school kitchens, gymnasiums, restaurants, and other operations which have once-through hot water use and which have vertical drain lines.

For more information, conduct a Google search on the terms "GFX" and "heat recovery", or visit:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/inventions/pdfs/waterfilm.pdf>

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/emergingtech/page2d.html>

http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/techfocus_gravity_film_ex.pdf

Free On-line ENERGY-STAR Training!

A series of free Internet presentations shows public-sector organizations how to save money on energy expenditures, how to benchmark their facilities, and how to obtain money or financing for upgrades. You can participate in these EPA ENERGY STAR training sessions using your own computer and phone, or gather interested colleagues around a central phone and computer to train several people in your organization at the same time. During the sessions you can discuss questions with energy and financing experts. More information and the current schedule for presentations is available at:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business_bu_s_internet_presentations.

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