

Revving up on recycling: *delving into some trashy habits*

The Environmental Stewardship's Recycling Working Group has started delving into some trashy habits at JSC. The group has come up with some ways to improve existing recycling activities at JSC and will also look at new items that could be added to the center's recycling program.

All of the items in the trash can are potentially recyclable except food waste (which could possibly be composted). And the white paper, aluminum cans and printer cartridges can be recycled at JSC. The group will be using these numbers to help decide where to focus the center's recycling program. There are other areas on site where different kinds of wastes other than typical office wastes are generated and those will be investigated, too.

As just about everyone knows, JSC currently collects and recycles aluminum cans and white paper. Cardboard is also collected, primarily from the Logistics area since so many items are received in cardboard. Currently, Tolman Building Maintenance picks up four to five tons of cardboard each month. Once collected, the cardboard is taken to a compactor at Bldg. 336, and the contents are emptied for recycling one to two times a month. However, lots of hardware, computers and other items are shipped in cardboard packaging and delivered directly to buildings on site.

To find out where the majority of the cardboard is generated, group members Chris Slade and Sandy Parker conducted a survey. First, they reviewed the number of items that are shipped through Logistics Central Receiving and determined which buildings receive the most packaging. These buildings include 3, 4S, 9, 10, 11, 16, 44, 45, and 227. Then, they visited each of the buildings and took

photographs of the areas currently being used to collect the discarded cardboard packaging material.

As a result of the survey, BRSP, with funding and support of the Center Operations Directorate's Logistics Division, is providing collection carts to allow for easier and proper storage of the cardboard. More efficient storage will hopefully increase cardboard collection. Each of these buildings will be provided with a new cart, and the facility managers along with the appropriate shipping and receiving personnel will receive instructions for proper cardboard storage and pick-up once the cart is full. Also, look for a JSC announcement of the new cardboard collection procedure.

JSC recycles scrap metal, toner cartridges, lead-acid and nickel cadmium batteries, silver from the photographic laboratory, metals from metal finishing and photographic

processing wastes, and mercury from facility equipment. In November, JSC partnered with a company to take some construction wastes, like concrete and soil, that will be used by the Texas Department of Transportation as raw materials for aggregate and roadbed materials in its construction projects.

A new Presidential Executive Order, "Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition," requires federal agencies to develop affirmative procurement programs for the purchasing of certain items that contain recycled content (when economically feasible and available). The EO also requires federal facilities to review and revise standards and product specifications, to report their progress on recycling and solid waste prevention or waste diversion, and to provide outreach programs and implement new technologies.

Some items that contain recycled content include paper and paper products, re-refined lubricating oils, traffic cones, retread tires, building insulation products, latex paints, floor tiles, running tracks, garden hoses, lawn and garden edging and pallets. JSC is working toward doing its part to comply with the Executive Order. The following items

purchased by JSC Logistics have recycled content: copy and loose leaf paper; paper notebooks, pads and steno pads; toner cartridges; 3 1/2" disks; storage and filing binders; trash bags; tape dispensers; wire and metal vertical desk organizers; toilet paper; paper towels;

envelopes and some calendars. Here are a few recycling related facts to ponder (taken from www.houstonrecycles.com). Texans dump enough trash every two weeks to fill the Astrodome.



JSC Photos by Benny Benavides S98-19282
Jake Giden of Brown and Root places cardboard in the cardboard compactor in the 300 area. The cardboard is collected here for recycling offsite.

To get a better idea of exactly what is in JSC's trash, one of the group's members went to a typical office trash can and found some surprising things. Here's a breakdown:

Non-white Paper/ Newspapers/Magazines	4.0 pounds
White Paper	1.5
3-Color Printer Cartridges	2.5
2 Glass Bottles	0.5
Newspaper and Magazines	2.0
3 Plastic CD Boxes	0.5
Cardboard	0.4
Food Waste	0.4
11 Aluminum Cans	0.4
Spray Can	0.25
Plastic Beverage Bottle	0.05
Total	~10.5 pounds

JSC Recycling Work Group members, from left, Robin Nini (USA), Vivian Preiss of the Center Operations Directorate and Mary Halligan of the Engineering Directorate place a poster with the results of a trash can audit on an aluminum can recycling bin prior to Texas Recycles Day last year. The information showed that a lot of recyclables are being thrown out at JSC.



S98-19281

The 19.2 million tons of Texas municipal solid waste would fill two lanes of IH-10 from Beaumont to El Paso 10 feet high.

In the U.S., 8 out of 10 people are willing to separate household trash for recycling.

The recycling industry accounts for more than 20,000 private-sector jobs in Texas in the processing and end-market facilities, adding \$2.8 billion to the Texas economy annually.

Throughout the year, at least 20 percent of solid waste by Texans comes from grass clippings, tree leaves and other landscape wastes.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a TV or a 100-watt light bulb for three hours.

The average baby will use about 10,000 diapers before toilet training. An estimated one billion trees a year are required to produce disposable diapers.

For more information about the JSC Recycling Working Group, or would like to join the group, please contact Jo Kines of the Environmental Services Office or Robin Nini of United Space Alliance. ■

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Two special girls

The organization began in 1986 when Moody sought help from Langley Research Center in finding a cooling garment for her nephew, who suffered from HED. Victims of HED lack sweat glands, which can lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion and even death.

The foundation also provides cooling garments to children with multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and other disorders. A documentary on that use of technology was widely televised, resulting in the creation of the foun-

dition. Moody says people and organizations she refers to as her "Angels Network" have made a huge difference.

In 1997, JSC, seeking a broader use for spacesuit technology, offered Moody the concept for the UV-protective garment and a fashion model donated money to the foundation. Word spread and more donations came from other sources.

The first three suits distributed were prototypes provided by NASA. The foundation has provided 15

additional UV suits, most to children suffering from XP disease. The most recent was in January – it went to a 5-year-old girl in Keystone Heights, Fla. ■

For more information, contact the HED Foundation at Box 9421, Hampton, Va., 23670, or at <http://www.hedfoundation.org>.