WasteWise Update

GLOBAL WARMING... IS A WASTE!

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Preserving Resources, Preventing Waste

WasteWise: Changing with the Climate

Many WasteWise partners are already achieving substantial waste reductions throughout their entire operations and are moving beyond waste prevention and recycling towards reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other global sustainability efforts.

To better serve partners and offer a more cutting-edge program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is upgrading its efforts to incorporate climate change education and technical assistance throughout the WasteWise program. Today, more and more organizations are interested in the global environmental impacts of our collective actions and in opportunities for reducing our ecological footprint in ways that boost our economy.

As part of that nationwide effort, WasteWise has committed to launching a national education campaign on the link between climate change and waste and serving as a vehicle for partners to enhance, measure, and obtain recognition for their proactive achievements. To accomplish these goals, WasteWise will publicize the climate and waste message through publications and events and provide tools, technical assistance, and voluntary incentives to help partners apply new technologies and the power of the marketplace to achieve GHG reductions.

As a first step in helping your organization understand and utilize the climate message, this *WasteWise Update* explores the connection between solid waste and climate change, describes waste-related climate impacts, identifies ways to reduce GHG emissions and minimize global climate change, and introduces the new WasteWise Climate Change Initiative and Climate Change Award.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BTU - *British Thermal Unit*
CH_4 - *Methane*
CCP - *Cities for Climate Protection*
CO_2 - *Carbon Dioxide*
DOE- *U.S. Department of Energy*
EPA - *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
HDPE - *High Density Polyethylene*
GHG - *Greenhouse Gas*
ICLEI - *International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives*
WARM - *Waste Reduction Model*
LDPE - *Low Density Polyethylene*
LMOP - *Landfill Methane Outreach Program*
MSW - *Municipal Solid Waste*
MTCE - *Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent*
MTCO2E - *Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent*
NAS - *National Academy of Sciences*
NCEPI - *National Center for Environmental Publications & Information*
N_2O - *Nitrous Oxide*
PAYT - *Pay-As-You-Throw*
PET - *Polyethylene Terephthalate*
RCRA - *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*

Simple Actions, Real Results

Waste reduction can significantly reduce GHG emissions. Each individual action—from double-sided printing to recycling a soda can—contributes to real GHG reductions. The chart below demonstrates the cumulative results of reusing or recycling everyday materials.

PREVENTING 500 TONS OF...	EQUALS A REDUCTION OF...	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT TO REMOVING THIS MANY CARS FROM THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR
Paper	402 MTCE	307 cars
Aluminum*	1,247 MTCE	952 cars
Glass	68 MTCE	52 cars
HDPE	244 MTCE	186 cars
Corrugated cardboard*	257 MTCE	196 cars
RECYCLING 500 TONS OF...	**EQUALS A REDUCTION OF...**	**WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT TO REMOVING THIS MANY CARS FROM THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR**
Paper	339 MTCE	259 cars
Aluminum*	2,055 MTCE	1,569 cars
Glass	38 MTCE	29 cars
HDPE	192 MTCE	147 cars
Corrugated cardboard*	354 MTCE	270 cars

*For an explanation of the values for aluminum and corrugated cardboard, please see "WARM Calculations" on page 11.