



NEWS

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CONTACT: John Opdycke
Edward Howard & Co.
216/376-6500

OVER ONE THOUSAND U.S. COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO VINYL RECYCLING

WAYNE, New Jersey, April 29, 1992 — The most recent survey of U.S. municipal recycling coordinators and solid waste managers has identified approximately 1200 communities with access to vinyl plastics (PVC or polyvinyl chloride) recycling.

The survey, conducted by R.W. Beck & Associates on behalf of the Council for Solid Waste Solutions, was intended to identify communities with access to plastics recycling through some kind of curbside, drop-off or buy-back programs.

The state of New York leads the U.S., with more than 360 communities reporting that they offer access to some type of vinyl recycling program. Minnesota has the second largest number of community-based programs, with nearly 200 cities reporting access to vinyl recycling. Only nine states responded as not having access to vinyl recycling in some form.

According to Robert H. Burnett, executive director of the Vinyl Institute, this survey presents the first concrete evidence of the extent of vinyl recycling in the U.S. "We have known for some time that vinyl is being recycled, but our evidence was based only on scattered programs. Now we have a benchmark to grow from," he said.

(more)

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R.W. Beck also recently found that the recycling rate for vinyl packaging is comparable to that of "custom" PET. Both plastic materials are often used to package vegetable oil and salad dressing, liquid dish detergent and window cleaners, mouthwash and shampoo.

Vinyl packaging typically carries a "V-3" recycling code. Currently, PET soda bottles and HDPE milk jugs are the most frequently recycled plastic products because they exist in large quantities and are the easiest for consumers to identify and sort. Many communities are just beginning to collect the other types of plastic bottles and containers made of custom PET and vinyl. Developments in automated plastics separation technology — many of which have been funded with assistance from the Vinyl Institute — are likely to help municipalities expand their programs in this area.

For a complete state-by-state listing of communities with access to vinyl recycling and the type of programs offered, contact the Vinyl Environmental Resource Center at 1-800-969-VINYL (8469), or write the Resource Center at One Cascade Plaza, 19th Floor, Akron, OH 44308.

The Vinyl Institute is a national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of vinyl, vinyl feedstocks, additives, and film and sheet products. Founded in 1982, the Institute serves as the voice of the vinyl industry, with a dual charter to promote and protect the industry and the markets it serves. It is a division of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. and is headquartered in Wayne, N.J.

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Post-Consumer Vinyl Recycling in the United States

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	Curbside	Drop Off	Buy Back
Alabama	2	3	—
Alaska	—	—	—
Arizona	1	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	20	11	5
Colorado	2	17	—
Connecticut	1	4	—
Delaware	—	3	—
Florida	12	9	—
Georgia	1	11	—
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	2	—
Illinois	3	8	—
Indiana	1	22	2
Iowa	13	37	—
Kansas	2	2	—
Kentucky	2	3	—
Louisiana	12	9	1
Maine	—	3	—
Maryland	27	45	—
Massachusetts	2	16	1
Michigan	3	37	—
Minnesota	112	172	28
Mississippi	—	—	—
Missouri	4	4	—
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	2	—
Nevada	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	7	1
New Jersey	41	50	—
New Mexico	—	1	—
New York	300	237	—
North Carolina	13	38	6
North Dakota	—	5	—
Ohio	18	19	3
Oklahoma	1	—	—
Oregon	—	2	—
Pennsylvania	20	21	2
Rhode Island	—	—	—
South Carolina	—	1	—
South Dakota	—	2	—
Tennessee	1	2	—
Texas	4	7	1
Utah	—	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—
Virginia	1	22	—
Washington	—	1	1
West Virginia	2	3	—
Wisconsin	30	82	—
Wyoming	—	—	—

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(Source: R. W. Beck & Associates)