

Michigan Materials Exchange Service



Fact Sheet

Eliminating waste generation is the best solution for preventing pollution.



Sometimes wastes such as industrial and commercial materials cannot be avoided. When there is a material that cannot be used, what can be done with it? Handling and disposal are costs to businesses. Recycling is a good alternative if there is a market for the material.



Another way to reuse unwanted material is to find someone else who can use it. This can be done through a materials exchange. Formal materials exchange programs have been set up by a number of states, regional agencies, and private companies. Often they consist of a catalogue listing available and wanted items. There is a growing trend to also offer on-line lists. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Assistance Division (EAD), uses four such Internet materials exchanges to help Michigan companies that do not have access to the Internet. Individual companies with Internet access can contact these on-line materials exchanges directly to post materials.

- *Recycler's World:* www.recycle.net
- *Indiana Environment and Materials Exchange:* www.state.in.us/idem/imex
- *OMEx: Ohio's Materials Exchange:* www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/recyc/omex.html
- *The Millennium Exchange:* www.millenniumexchange.com



For those companies that do not have Internet access or are not comfortable posting materials directly, they can use the Michigan Materials Exchange Service to assist them.

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HOW THE MICHIGAN MATERIALS EXCHANGE SERVICE WORKS

Step 1: Determine what material there is to list, the quantity and quality being generated, and whether or not this is a one-time generation or the material is being generated on a regular basis.

Step 2: Identify a contact person for the exchange. When there is interest in the material, that person will be contacted directly.

Step 3: Contact the Environmental Assistance Center (EAC) at 800-662-9278 and ask to speak to materials exchange staff. Requests can also be sent via e-mail to doroshkl@state.mi.us. Staff will post information on the Internet exchanges.

Step 4: Staff will contact the designated company contact person if there is interest in the posting.

After that, it is up to the company to negotiate with the potential purchaser. As always, when dealing with a hauler, recycler, or anyone handling generated materials, make sure the materials are managed appropriately. The generating company is ultimately responsible for any material generated by the facility. Postings usually run for several months on materials exchanges and listings may be renewed.

FINDING MATERIALS ON AN EXCHANGE LIST

A company may find useful materials on a materials exchange. Anyone looking for surplus or by-product materials from another business should check the many available on-line materials exchanges. For assistance, contact materials exchange staff through the EAC at 800-662-9278 or via e-mail at doroshkl@state.mi.us

OTHER MATERIAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES YOU CAN USE

The Chicago Board of Trade Recyclables Exchange is dedicated to the trade of recyclable goods and is open to all registered users worldwide. Its goal is to allow easy and immediate contact between buyers and sellers of recyclable commodities active on the market at any given time.

Material categories include paper and fiber, plastics, glass, tires and related materials, and miscellaneous. This trading service is affiliated with the Chicago Board of Trade, a well-established, worldwide commodities market. For more information, see the website at www.cbot-recycle.com.

Michigan Materials Exchange Success Story

- **Using the Michigan Materials Exchange Service, a Michigan paper company found a use for 70,000 pounds of off-specification liner paper it had generated. The successful exchange saved the company over \$2,000 in disposal costs, freed up valuable floor space in its warehouse, and saved landfill space in the community.**

The Kentucky Industrial Materials Exchange sponsors a website containing an extensive list of available materials exchanges on and off the Internet. The list is available at www.enviroworld.com/Resources/matexchs.html.

LOCAL EXCHANGES

Often materials are generated in small quantity, or transportation costs can limit the exchange opportunities in some areas. Local exchanges can be very useful in these instances. One on-line local exchange in Michigan is located in Washtenaw County, www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eisex.htm. Anyone with material or looking for material in Washtenaw County, Michigan, please check this site.

EXCHANGE TIPS TO REDUCE WASTE LEAVING YOUR FACILITY

- Set up an internal materials exchange.
- Circulate “Surplus Lists” to departments at the facility. Materials may be generated in one area that could be useful in another.
- Seek local outlets for your excess materials. Transportation costs can sometimes discourage exchanges.



Michigan Materials Exchange Success Story

- **Research and development is an area of business that can produce a number of materials which cannot be used by the purchaser. Some ideas start out well but may not be best in the long run.**

One company using paraffin as a binder found another product that worked better. The company was left with over a ton of solid paraffin it could not use. Listing the material through the Michigan Materials Exchange Service resulted in finding a company that could use the paraffin in its candle and furniture wax-producing processes. A trash-to-treasure story come true.

DISCLAIMER

This service is provided to increase the reuse of materials that would otherwise need to be disposed. The Environmental Assistance Division (EAD) is neither liable nor responsible for the character or content of any item listed or for the determination of what may constitute a hazardous material or create a hazardous situation. EAD reserves the right not to list a material and to edit information provided by the listing party. EAD does not take possession of any materials and provides for the exchange of information only. EAD does not warrant or guarantee the quality or safety of any of the listed materials.

A large, light gray recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) serves as a background for the text.

***MICHIGAN
MATERIALS
EXCHANGE
SERVICE***

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the MDEQ Office of Personnel Services, PO Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909.