

Blanchard unveils new waste plan

Gov. James J. Blanchard announced a plan to work cooperatively with business to protect the public from hazardous wastes.

The strategy relies on sharply reducing reliance on landfills, strengthening enforcement of environmental laws and working with the nearly 15,000 Michigan businesses that are being brought under federal regulations for the first time.

The governor spoke at the 15th annual meeting of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.

Blanchard was honored by the group, which was instrumental in passage of the state's original hazardous waste law, for "outstanding environmental protection and preservation in Michigan."

"DESPITE THE passage of our Hazardous Waste Act in 1979, public confidence in the safety of hazardous waste management in Michigan is still lacking," the governor said.

"Michigan, always an environmental leader, will — and must — lead again. This time, we must work with business and industry to take the next critical steps toward a better environmental future."

Blanchard's plan is designed to reduce the risks from the more than 530,000 tons of hazardous waste generated in Michigan each year. Its four goals:

- Reduce the percentage of hazardous waste placed in landfills by more than 25 percent in the next four years.

'Our strategy is part of a nationwide effort to move away from the landfill mistakes of the past and into a promising new future of recycling, reclamation and other alternatives.'

— Gov. Blanchard

- Work with the nearly 15,000 businesses which produce small quantities of hazardous wastes, which together amount to about 15 percent of Michigan's wastes.
- Provide certainty of enforcement to all those who generate, transport, store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste.
- Provide for the siting of at least one environmentally sound hazardous waste facility by 1990.

TO DISCOURAGE landfilling and promote alternatives, the strategy calls for:

Expansion of the sales and use tax exemption for hazardous waste control equipment; grants to demonstrate innovative waste management technology;

gies; a fee for most landfilled wastes; increased regulation of landfill sites; and a credit on the fee for firms which switch to landfill alternatives.

To assist the 15,000 businesses that generate small quantities of wastes, a coordinated program of notification, education and inspection, together with establishment of a Hazardous Waste Information Center, would be put in place.

"Our strategy is part of a nationwide effort to move away from the landfill mistakes of the past and into a promising new future of recycling, reclamation and other alternatives," Blanchard said.

State Rep. John Cherry, D-Clu, said he will sponsor key legislation implementing the governor's plan.

State Sen. Kirby Holmes, R-Utica, said he believes that finding an answer to the state's hazardous waste facility siting problem is the top priority in this area, and he will propose legislation toward that end.



Gov. Blanchard must lead again



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DOWNTOWN WINDSOR WEEKEND

Design 'dialogue' at LIT

Lawrence Institute of Technology will host "Dialogue '85," a program of interaction among building design professionals Tuesday afternoon.

It will begin at 4:30 p.m. on LIT's campus at 2100 W. 10 Mile, Southfield. Registration is \$7.50. It is open to the public.

A computer caucus on computer theory, applications and history will begin at 4:30 followed by a 5:30 reception. Representatives from local and state government and industry will speak.

Co-sponsoring organizations are the Michigan Society of Architects, the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan and the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.

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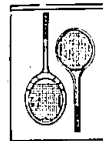
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