We're running out of landfills

URRENT figures indicate that available landfill space (where 85 percent of our solid waste is burled each year) in Wayne County will be filled in three years. Oakland and Macomb Counties are not far behind. With that time rapidly approaching, decisions and alternatives must

Macomb Counties are not far behind. With that time rapidly approaching, decisions and alternatives must be sought now or we will face a solid waste crisis. The Consumer Mailbag will produce six articles on our solid waste problems.

We hope you will use the information in developing your own personal plan to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" your trash.

Q. What is solid waste?

A. Solid waste is anything that gets put in a garbage can, such as potato peels, paper, rags, cans, bottes and grass ellippings.

It includes items too big for a trash can: discarded furniture, worn out appliances and tires. Solid waste includes all residential, commercial and Industrial wastes.

Solid waste DOES NOT include hazardous wastes, or waste such as fly sah, foundary ash, agricultural or demolition wastes.

The composition of solid waste

Ily ash, foundary ash, agricultural or demolition wastes.

The composition of solid waste varies from city to city, but typical accumulation includes:

• 43 percent paper.
• 10 percent metals,
• 8 percent plastics.
• 6 percent glass.
• 16 percent lawns and yard (seasonal).

- o 9 percent food wastes.

 6 percent clothes, rags and rub-
- 2 percent other.

IN MICHIGAN, 26,000 tons of solid waste are generated every day — or enough to fill the Pontiae Silver-dome every day and a half. Current-ly, 80-85 percent of this waste is dis-posed of in landfilts.



Terry Glbb

The average Michigan household pays \$78 a year to have its 2.5 tons of treats hault and have its 2.5 tons of treats hault are not aware of this charge because it's hidden among their tares. In a recent survey, 48 percent of those surveyed had no dea where their trash went after it left the curb. We are rapidly discovering, however, that there is no "away" to our trash problem. Packaging and containers make up 33 percent of the total waste generated. Currently, 50 percent of the nation's paper, 75 percent of the nation's paper, 75 percent of its glass, 40 percent of its duminum, and 30 percent of the total plastice are used solely to pack and decorate consumer goods.

Overpackaged goods are expensive, For each \$11 spent on grocerise, \$11 is spent on packaging — or approximately \$400 a year for a family of four. Add one-third of your collection bill or \$28 for a total of \$428 a year just to throw away.

ECO-TIP: Concern Detroit Inc.

ECO-TIF: Concern Detroit Inc. through a grant from the Clean Michigan Fund has school and com-munity programs on solid waste and recycling available. These programs are free to schools. For more information, call con-cern at 953-5082.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, One Kennedy Square, 4th Floor, Detroit 48226.

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Mrs. Wood's Daughter KAY MATTHES MADELINE WOOD Goderich, ONT. **OUR NEW RESIDENTS**



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