

Pollution 'bank' can aid development

Is there really a pollution banking system used by industry? Please tell me we don't actually reward companies for causing pollution.

The ERC, Emission Reduction Credit banking system, now under consideration for southeast Michigan does in a sense reward these industries that cause pollution problems. But pollution first must be reduced for this program to work.

Initiated by the state of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a "trade-off" policy in response to the clean air vs. economic development dilemma, ERCs are designed to eliminate potential obstacles to economic development in older industrialized areas failing to meet the Clean Air Act's federal air-quality standards.

An ERC is created when a pollution source (like a factory) reduces pollutant emissions by an amount greater than the law requires.

For example, the XYZ Co. emits 100 tons of a certain regulated pollutant each year. The law requires that XYZ reduce that amount by 25 tons per year. But, through the introduction of advanced pollution-control equipment, the company cuts its annual pollution

consumer mailbag

Jeff M., Detroit

by 50 tons. The 25 tons, above and beyond the required reduction, becomes an ERC.

"Banking" these credits would allow older industrialized areas such as

southeast Michigan to "draw" on them as needed, thus encouraging expansion of existing industry and allowing new industry to locate in these areas that would otherwise not be available.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has created a task force to investigate the possibilities of establishing an ERC registering system. For more information, contact the air-quality staff at 961-4265.

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions on consumer and environmental topics. Address mail to Grace R. Gluskin, Concern, Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

Salaries up for college graduates

Statistics compiled by Wayne State University's Placement Office show that starting salaries offered to this year's college graduates have been only mildly affected by the current sluggish economy.

John A. Cruse, director of the office, said almost all of the fields surveyed at the bachelor degree level offered starting increases in salaries over last year.

Highest pay offers went to engineering graduates with typical salaries: metallurgical, \$27,108; chemical, \$22,632; industrial, \$22,356; mechanical, \$21,836; electrical, \$20,828; and civil, \$19,140.

According to the WSU survey, salary

offers to mechanical engineers rebounded by more than 20 percent from last year as students sought and found employment opportunities in non-automotive related areas. Overall, engineering salary offers increased 9 percent over last year.

Results of the survey showed that business bachelor degree level graduates did not fare as well as the engineers. Marketing graduates started at \$16,704, management, \$16,548 and accounting/finance, \$15,468.

Accounting graduates appeared to have faced a good market nationally but saw a declining demand for their degree in the Detroit area. Overall, business salary offers gained 1.1 percent over last year.

Other typical bachelor level salary offers received by WSU graduates included: pharmacy, \$22,932; sciences, \$19,620; computer science, \$19,416; nursing, \$16,788, medical technology, \$16,632; social sciences, \$14,496; and humanities, \$12,492.

Women's festival May 16

Esther Shapiro, director of Detroit's Consumer Affairs Department, will deliver a keynote speech at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's 1981 Women's Festival, Saturday, May 16.

Ms. Shapiro's topic will be "Be Your Own Protector." Her talk will highlight a day-long series of workshops sponsored by UM-D's Women's Center and Women's Commission.

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volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

Daughters of GAMA, a self-help community improvement organization, is recruiting volunteer secretaries for its office in Detroit. Light typing skills and a commitment of one afternoon per week for three months is needed for this position, which involves typing, filing and answering the telephone.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS - Teens are needed to work this summer with the American Red Cross. Assignments in a wide variety of jobs are available.

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