

# County eyes state fund for cleanup

By Penny Wright  
special writer



our land  
**Penny Wright**

The state Department of Natural Resources last week unveiled for Wayne County officials a \$10 million "consolation" prize. It's called the Clean Michigan Fund Program.

"The program is a good first step," said Fred Clinton of the DNR. "It's the start of a trend toward looking seriously at the state's garbage disposal problems."

Clinton, supervisor of DNR's recycling and recovery unit, met with members of the Wayne County Solid Waste Implementation Committee to describe the funding program. "It will be the most comprehensive program of any state in the nation," he predicted.

ESTABLISHED BY the Michigan Legislature in July, the fund's aim is to lessen state-wide dependence on landfills. The program will provide direct and matching grants to public, private and non-profit organizations for projects that emphasize resource recovery and de-emphasize landfill usage.

"The bottom line is a safe-useful end for a variety of materials," said Clinton.

The new program became a "consolation" prize because it was born when a multi-million dollar incinerator-recycling bonding proposal failed to reach last November's ballot.

At the time a \$350 million bond proposal was scrapped by a legislative committee.

Gov. James Blanchard, along with several special-interest groups, was said to favor spending a smaller sum — \$10 million to \$15 million — on resource recovery and associated solid waste projects.

"I FELT the way to go back then was the bond proposal," said Solid Waste Implementation Committee Chairman Milton Mack. "The issue was dropped because the legislature feared voter reprisal."

"They didn't give enough credit to the vot-

ers. The voters will support tax increases if they feel there is a genuine need," said Mack, a county commissioner from Wayne whose district includes Canton Township.

According to Mack, the need to solve the state's solid waste problems is urgent because "we are losing valuable time."

Current estimates are that Wayne County will run out of landfill capacity in about seven years despite the planned construction of an incinerator in Detroit and the re-opening of the Central Wayne Sanitation Authority's (CWCSA) incinerator, Mack said.

The five CWCSA communities — Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and Westland along with Detroit — will be in good

shape. Everywhere else will be in trouble," he said. "Where will these other people take their garbage?"

Mack echoed DNR supervisor Clinton's words about the Clean Michigan Fund. "This is the first time the state is going to do something substantive about the solid waste problem," he said the action will be felt at the local level and will demonstrate the interest of the public in safe garbage disposal.

THE \$10 MILLION dollar fund will be allocated to a variety of projects:

- Waste stream assessments.
- Recycling and composting feasibility studies.

- Waste-to-energy feasibility studies.
- Recycling/composting capital and operations.
- Market development, education and publicity.
- Closure of municipal landfills and dumps.
- Transfer station construction.
- Household hazardous waste collection.

APPLICANTS for the grants must meet two main requirements:

1. The proposed site or activity must be in a county with an approved solid waste management plan. (Wayne and Oakland counties both have DNR approved plans.)
2. The project must have a show of commitment from the local unit of government.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for completed applications. Requests for appropriate application materials should be addressed to: Department of Natural Resources, Community Assistance Division, Resource Recovery Section, PO Box 30028, Lansing 48909.

## Audio cassette aids airborne smokers

Restrictions that airlines place on smokers during flights has led a national health institute to produce an audio cassette tape.

The American Institute for Preventive Medicine, a Southfield organization that trains hospitals and HMOs to conduct health-promotion programs, has developed a cassette tape titled "Smoke-Free Flying."

It helps a passenger overcome the urge and desire to light up. This is particularly important for smokers who are unable to sit

in the smoking section due to the limited number of seats that airlines set aside for smoking.

"A smoker doesn't need willpower to overcome the desire to smoke. They can eliminate cigarette urges by applying the techniques that are taught in the 'Smoke-Free Flying' cassette tape," said Dr. Don R. Powell, executive director of the American Institute for Preventive Medicine.

It is also useful for smokers who are traveling with a non-smoking companion who doesn't want to sit in the smoking section.

It is marketed to airlines for their in-flight stereo programs and directly to smokers for use in a portable cassette recorder.

Powell thinks it will become even more popular if the Civil Aeronautics Board places a total ban on in-flight smoking. At present, smoking is prohibited on all airlines with fewer than 30 seats.

Powell thinks that a total ban on in-flight smoking is inevitable. "There are fewer and fewer people who smoke and non-smokers have become increasingly outspoken about tobacco smoke."

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