

# taking on TRASH

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Its incinerator is down, undergoing up to \$50 million worth of renovations.

But the trash keeps coming — as much as 600 tons daily from 14 communities including Birmingham, Troy, Berkeley, Beverly Hills and Lathrup Village.

So the Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA) turns to processing trash. SOCRRA, a consortium of 14 communities, is an example of a collective effort to help deal with Oakland County trash generated at the rate of 3,677 tons daily.

Like other collective efforts — including the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest

## Some go their own way

By the end of 1990, several communities in southwest Oakland County are expected to be close to selecting a site for their own materials recovery facility at a cost of nearly \$30 million.

Walled Lake, Wixom, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, South Lyon and Novi have formed the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwestern Oakland County. Lyon Township has been invited to join the consortium.

Officials have a five-member site selection committee that will work with a consultant using specific criteria, said Lenora K. Jadun, secretary of the authority and director of public services in Novi.

"We're looking for a 20- to 25-acre site in a central location," she said. "And it has to have a railroad spur as well as access to major highways."

Like Oakland County, the authority expects to hire a company to build and operate the MRF, as well as locate buyers for recycled materials.

Jadun said the authority may select its operator from the list compiled by Oakland County.

"The county has done a good job of searching and selecting an operator," she said. "Our operations are parallel and there's no sense conducting a nationwide search. We're after the same goal."

Oakland County, made up of seven communities including Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Walled Lake and Wixom — SOCRRA is viewed as a supplement to Oakland County's overall plan to manage solid waste.

So are private initiatives like the proposed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) planned for next year in Springfield Township by Clarkston Disposal Co.

**SOCRRA OPERATES** three facilities:  
• Madison Heights on John R.



JIM RIDER/staff photographer

Troy is one of the Oakland County communities now requiring separation of lawn clippings. Here, John Nolan complies.

north of 12 Mile Road, which is also the site of its incinerator that is being refitted to comply with clean air standards and to generate electricity as it burns to be sold to the Detroit Edison Co.

• Troy on Coolidge north of 14 Mile Road.

• Rochester Hills off School Road, west of Dequindre where yard debris such as yard clippings and leaves are composted into fertilizer.

The composting center handles as much as 50 tons of grass clippings daily during peak summer months, according to Michael A. Czuprenski,

SOCRRA's operations manager.

But that figure will increase drastically next year when more of the consortium's member communities require that clippings, leaves and other yard debris be placed in biode-

gradable bags for curbside pickup.

While SOCRRA's incinerator is down, its facilities in Madison Heights and Troy recycle some materials while turning tons more over to private haulers to be buried in

landfills, said Czuprenski.

"We recycle batteries, some metals (old hot water tanks and some tin cans)," said Czuprenski. "And (at the Troy facility) we bale cardboard into 1,000-pound bales to be resold."

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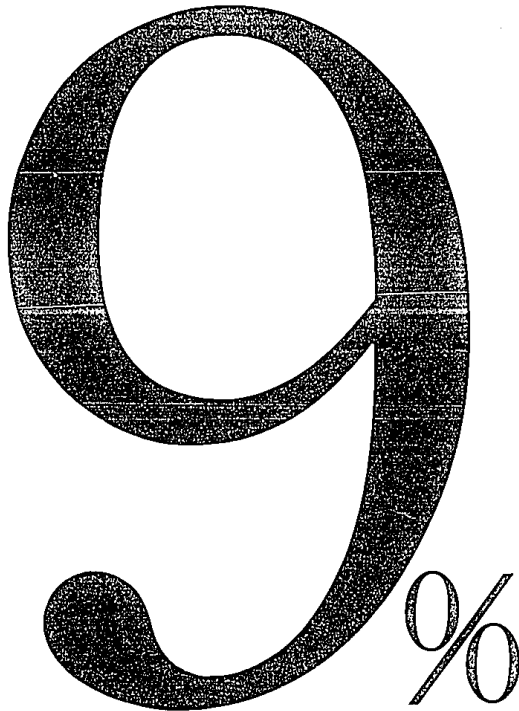
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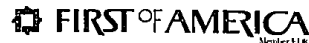
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