State recognizes solid waste efforts

taking on TRASH

James W. Henderson, permit coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is among those who believes public attitude must change if communities are to deal effectively with solid waste.

As with so many other things, attitude is the key, he said.

If residents and businesses in Oakland County and elsewhere view recycling as a civic responsibility — rather than a personal chore — chances of success are that much greater, said Henderson, who also works as local government liaison for the DNR in Lansing.

The state of Michigan is trying to help develop positive attitudes toward solid waste management, Henderson said, as illustrated by the DNR's Environmental Excellence Awards.

The awards are designed to recognize companies for accomplishments in environmental protection and stewardship and to promote innovative problem solving, according to Gov. James Blanchard, who announced the winners for 1987 and 1989.

SEVERAL OAKLAND County companies have received the award:

- The Michigan Bell Telephone Co. in Southfield was honored for an innovative underground storage tank management program that protects against leakage and ground water contamination.
- The Herkules Co. in Walled Lake received an environmental excellence award this year for developing a paint gun washing and recycling system.
- The only landfill in Michigan thus far to receive a DNR environmental excellence award is the Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility at 600 W. Silver Bell Road in Orion Township.

In April, the Eagle Valley facility received a Community Citizenship award for being a good corporate neighbor by contributing to nine local organizations, sponsoring a girls softball league and supporting local paper drives and recycling efforts.

Local leaders on child care panel

One suburban lawmaker and five area business leaders will meet with Gov. James Blanchard and his wife, Janet, to study child care alternatives for Michigan workers.

The 25-member group will meet over the next 90 days. Blanchard is looking for a plan the state, as an employer, can adopt and that private employers can use voluntarily — not a government-mandated system.

One vice-chair is Robert Naftaly of West Bloomfield, Blanchard's former budget director and now a vice president and chief financial officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Inc.

State Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, is one of two lawmakers on the panel. Bankes has been active in promoting employer interest in providing child care alternatives.

Others are Denise Ilitch-Lites, a corporate executive from Little Caesar Pizza, headquartered in Farmington Hills; Pearl Lipner, chief financial officer of Image Express, Southfield; Walter J. McCarthy Jr., of Birmingham, board chairman of Detroit Edison Co.; and Leslie A. Murphy, partner in Plante Moran, Southfield.

Another member is Elizabeth Howe, former Rochester area resident and now director of the state Department of Labor.

"Between now and the year 2000," Mrs. Blanchard said, "65 percent of new entrants into the work force will be women in every type of profession and career. Mothers with young children are the single fastest growing segment of the work force. Increasingly, these parents will place child care, parental leave and maternal leave high on their list of employment benefits and priorities."

The state already has a program allowing 60,000 employees to set aside up to $5,000 in wages each year to pay for child care. That sum would not be subject to income taxes.

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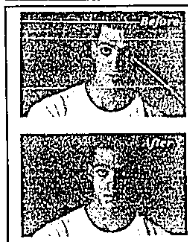

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