



2006  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NJR ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMITTEE



## SUMMARY

During 2006, the New Jersey Resources (NJR) Environmental Committee, comprised entirely of employee volunteers, continued to uphold the practices and principles of the company's Environmental Policy and demonstrate our commitment to the environment.

Bi-monthly meetings were held to discuss various environmental health and safety topics and prepare for Committee activities.

Through our Earth Day celebration, Adopt-A-Beach, Adopt-A-Road, America Recycles Day, textile recycling program and other activities, the Committee encouraged employees and their families to preserve our natural resources.

As a testament to NJR's commitment to the environment and outstanding recycling efforts, the company received three prestigious environmental awards in 2006.

The Committee continued to attend meetings and seminars conducted by the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR), an organization comprised of recyclers, businesses and government agencies working to increase recycling throughout the state. In addition, the Committee participated in the NJ WasteWise Business Network again this year, which is a partnership with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Our 2006 Budget of \$10,000 was spent on the various programs and activities listed in this report.

Finally, the Committee upheld NJR's commitment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce waste, increase recycling and purchase remanufactured products by initiating five new programs: DVD, cassette and VHS exchange; cork; packaging; plastic film/bag and textile recycling. The Committee now has over 20 programs that are facilitated solely by volunteers.

*Several members of the NJR Environmental Committee gather in front of NJR headquarters. Pictured are (l-r) Jean Bloise, Patricia Kendall, Patricia Fitzpatrick, Lisa Devine, Patrice Horton, Eunice Taylor, Mariellen Doig, Pat Toey and Shaaronnette Virgo.*



## Environmental Excellence Awards

The positive environmental results produced by our four-year voluntary participation in EPA's WasteWise Program and our many other environmental initiatives, including our Adopt-A-Road program, gave us the opportunity to apply for a number of environmental awards. The Committee prepared four award application packages for NJR this year and won three of the four awards. Some packages took over two weeks to prepare and generally consisted of the Committee's Annual Report, written descriptions of applicable programs such as WasteWise, NJR's energy conservation programs and a Speakers' Bureau presentation focused on the environment. Packages also included several attachments describing aspects of each program.

In 2006, NJR was honored with the following prestigious environmental awards:

- US Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise, Midsize Business, *Honorable Mention Award*
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the Recycling Awards Committee of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, *Outstanding Achievement in Recycling Award*

These prestigious and highly sought after awards confirm our reputation as one of the most respected and environmentally friendly companies in our state and nation.

Of the 16 EPA awards being presented this year, NJR was one of two midsize businesses being honored out of 69 organizations that submitted a total of 141 applications. Committee members traveled to the annual WasteWise Conference in Virginia to accept the EPA award as well as the Annual Symposium in Eatontown, NJ for the NJDEP award.

Our most recent recognition is the ESS Excellence Award in which we were honored for our innovative use of software to generate data for waste tracking, timely regulatory reporting, audit inquiries, statistical and other report writing.

*Christine Carter, Committee member, accepts NJR's award from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.*



*Lisa Devine, Committee chairwoman, accepts NJR's award from the US Environmental Protection Agency.*



## **Promotion of the Environmental Policy, Environmental Logo and Earth Day**

For Earth Day, April 22, all employees and board members received a rain gauge and terra cotta pot with perennial Daisies. In addition, the Committee hosted the following events:

- A lunch seminar, "Making and Using Compost at Your Home"
- Textile recycling program
- Packaging recycling program
- Guess the number of batteries contest
- Earth Day art contest
- Media circulation survey
- Beach cleanup

*A terra cotta pot with Daisy seeds and a rain gauge were given to employees in April.*



*NJR employees attend the "Making and Using Compost at Your Home" Seminar taught by members of the Monmouth County Planning Board.*



## **2006 Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup Program**



*Volunteers working to make Belmar beach free of litter.*

This event, co-sponsored by the EPA's Adopt-A-Beach program, encourages volunteer stewardship of the state's coastal beaches and reduces the threat of marine debris to fish and wildlife. Last year, 16 people volunteered over 56 hours and collected six bags of trash and three bags of recyclables weighing over 95 pounds. Among the many kinds of trash collected, the most common were food wrappers, of which over 900 were gathered, and cigarette filters, which numbered over 800. Some of the more interesting items found included fireworks, corks, eyeglasses and bandages. All items were catalogued and the statistics were reported to the NJ Department

of Environmental Protection and the International Coastal Cleanup, who compile data from all US cleanups and use it for public education and improvement of solid waste management practices. The Committee and NJR's employee volunteer program,

Volunteers Inspiring Service in our Neighborhoods (VISION), intended to perform the cleanup this year, but unfortunately, the spring beach and Silver Lake cleanup in Belmar, scheduled for Saturday, May 13, as well as the fall cleanup planned for September 16, were both cancelled due to rain.

### **Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Project**



*Pat Kendall and Carmen and John Halpin in front of Wall's commemorative sign.*

On June 6, 11 volunteers participated in the spring Adopt-A-Road project by removing litter and debris along a 1-mile stretch of Wyckoff Road, where NJR's headquarters are located. Local resident, Ed Megill, and Joe Verruni, the Wall Township Administrator, continue to support the Committee and VISION volunteers who participate in this worthwhile annual beautification project. Over 15 pounds of recycling and over 30 pounds of debris, metal, cans, bottles and construction materials were collected. In recognition of our service, the four commemorative signs with the NJR logo are still posted along Wyckoff Road compliments of Wall Township.

### **America Recycles Day**

Since 1997, America Recycles Day has been celebrated throughout the country on November 15 with the goal of increasing recycling and the purchase of recycled content products. The NJR Environmental Committee held several events to celebrate this day, including a luncheon about how to make crafts from greeting cards, a free swap of small household items (unwanted items were donated to the Bricktown Jersey Shore Animal Center Thrift Shop), a new cork recycling program and the expansion of the book exchange program that currently runs at the General Office and in Lakewood to include donated CDs, DVDs, cassettes and VHS tapes.

*Items from the home goods "swap event" held at NJR headquarters.*



*NJR employees (l-r) Patrice Horton, Christine Carter and Carmen Halpin at the "Greeting Cards Craft Luncheon."*



### **Textile Recycling & Benevolence**



The Committee served the community and promoted environmental preservation by collecting and recycling 17,223 pounds of clothing and other textiles in order to create jobs and keep waste out of landfills. The program also raised \$533 for Coastal Habitat for Humanity, which “strives to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by constructing

and building adequate and basic housing.” With the help of volunteers, this organization has been building homes for local families for over 10 years.



In addition to this event, in August, the Committee sold new shirts, office products and other NJR gear adorned with old logos. All items were sold for a suggested donation of \$1 to \$5. Two NJR Waterford crystal items were also raffled at the event. A total of 10 boxes of items were sold and \$426 was also raised for Coastal Habitat.

### **Active Participation in the Association for NJ Recyclers (ANJR)**

Committee members attended several meetings hosted by ANJR, a nonprofit, nonpartisan network that serves as the voice of recycling in New Jersey through education, advocacy and the promotion of professional standards. The meetings provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and obtain valuable information about computer, plastic and other recycling, reuse and environmentally friendly purchasing. On February 15, members attended the regional “Swap & Share Session.” Topics discussed included current recycling vendors, increased state enforcement and the new NJ Solid Waste Management Plan. At March’s Annual Meeting, NJDEP Commissioner, Lisa Jackson, discussed the state’s “Recommitment to Recycling” and the Recycling Enhancement Act. Other topics included corporate environmental responsibility, climate change and global warming.



### **Committee Involvement in the EPA's WasteWise Program**

The Committee continues to support NJR's involvement in the EPA's WasteWise program. The company has many recycling programs for various materials, such as phone books, cell phones, remanufactured printer laser toner cartridges, color printer laser toner cartridges, retread tires, metals, lamps, mercury, reusable bins, pallets, greeting cards, electronics, glass, aluminum, tin, paper, paint, cork, paper, trash, DVD/VHS/cassettes, tapes, books, packaging, recycled content paper, cardboard and dry/wet cell batteries.



*NJR is a partner in EPA's nationwide WasteWise program that promotes recycling, reduction, reuse of materials and purchase of environmentally friendly products.*

The Committee was instrumental in adding the mandatory reporting of WasteWise statistics to NJR Management Plan's Commitment to Stakeholders. This will allow the Environmental Department to evaluate WasteWise opportunities in each business unit and collect better statistics for annual reporting to the EPA.

One of the most successful WasteWise programs to date has been the Committee-operated Reuse Center. Open since December 8, 2004, the Center is available to all employees and contains over 2,350 items, valued at \$18,495, that otherwise would have been discarded in a landfill. More than 2,290 items were taken for reuse this year. This resulted in savings of over \$21,633 which represents a 53 percent increase over 2005, totaling \$4,422. In addition, over 60 three-ring binders, 230 report covers, 6 in-bins, notebook paper reinforcements, "support our troops" magnets, day planners, pocket folders, flags and a dictionary from the Center were donated to the United Way and middle schools in Asbury Park and Lakewood.

### **Active Participation in the NJ WasteWise Business Network**

As EPA WasteWise participants, the Committee regularly attended meetings to exchange information regarding common issues, promotion and suggested improvements to current WasteWise programs. Vendors who specialize in recycling, reuse or remanufacturing also occasionally attend the meetings. This year, the Committee participated in a teleconference about purchasing computers from environmentally and socially responsible vendors. Other meeting topics included scrap tires, carpet recycling, economic benefits of construction and demolition debris recycling, lighting and electronics recycling, food waste recycling, paper, bottle and can recycling, the EPA's "Resource Conservation Challenge," "green" cleaning your facilities, domestic and international recyclable paper markets and the NJDEP's "enforcement sweeps" of businesses and schools. The Committee also continued to receive the quarterly WasteWise Bulletin which contains useful program information.

*Crafts made from greeting cards include a picture frame, magnet, gift tags, bookmarks, sachets, place tags, napkin rings, a money holder and gift boxes.*



### **Used and New Greeting Card Collection Program**

Formerly, NJR recycled used and unused greeting cards via St. Jude's Ranch for Children but this program has been discontinued. In its place, the Committee decided to continue collecting cards and use them to make various crafts including gift tags, magnets, sachets, money holders and bookmarks. Unused cards are also always available at the Reuse Center.

### **Plastic Recycling Program**

As a result of the information shared at an ANJR meeting, the Committee initiated a new plastic bag and film recycling program at our Wall Headquarters. Over 210 pounds of plastic was sent to the recycler in 2006 for densifying, pellet making and ultimate extrusion into all types of recycled plastic products.

### **Packaging Recycling Program**

A new packaging reuse and recycling program was implemented in which all packaging materials (i.e., Styrofoam™ peanuts, foam and bubble wrap, etc.) are made available at our Reuse Center. Approximately 130 pounds of packaging material has been reused by our employees and about 18 pounds of excess packing material was donated to other companies for reuse.

### **Phone Book Recycling Program**

In 2005, the Committee discovered that company phone books were being discarded as trash so they began a phone book recycling program. Since the inception of the program, over 50 phone books, weighing over 200 pounds were recycled in 2005 and 84 phone books, weighing a total of 336 pounds, were recycled in 2006.

## Recycled Content Paper

The Environmental Committee completed a successful three-month pilot program to test 30 percent recycled content paper in company printers and copiers. In 2006, over 800,000 sheets of recycled content paper were used company wide which saved 68 trees.

## Annual Report of Committee Activities on NJR Web site

To advocate the Committee's efforts, the Committee's Annual Reports have been posted on NJR's Web site, *njliving.com*, since June 8, 2005.

## Recycling for Breast Cancer

The Committee encouraged employees to collect phones, pagers, personal data assistants, inkjet and toner cartridges, storage media, laptops, digital cameras and surplus supplies for "Recycle for Breast Cancer." This is a no-cost, national recycling program that helps protect the environment and aids in the fight against breast cancer.



<http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.com>

## Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day

The Committee participated in this year's event by educating youth about environmental preservation with "101 Ways to Care for the Earth" activity book, "Too Cool to Litter" pencils and "Celebrate Earth Day Everyday" bracelets.

## Committee Partnering with Company Business Units

*The new Environmental Committee banner boards.*



To help promote the Environmental Policy and Committee programs, the Committee worked closely with Corporate Communications. One of the projects was the creation of "banner boards" which are used at various Committee and company sponsored events.

Also, to improve environmental awareness in our communities, the Committee continues to work with the Community Relations Department on their Speakers' Bureau presentation "NJR and the Environment." This presentation highlights the company's activities and programs that promote environmental awareness, preservation and energy conservation. In 2006, it was presented to 275 people at seven locations.

The Committee worked with the Purchasing Department to create an environmentally preferred purchasing stamp for use on appropriate documents, including requests for proposal. It states, "NJR and affiliate companies strive to recycle, prevent waste and buy environmentally friendly, recycled-content and or remanufactured products. Please provide NJR with written details if your company offers any of these benefits."

### **Promote Reuse, Waste Reduction and Recycling in Cafeteria**

The Committee discussed several environmentally friendly changes with the cafeteria manager. Some of the suggestions were to discontinue use of Styrofoam™ trays and replace them with reusable trays, reduce the number of single serve and disposable items, subsidize the purchase of a dishwasher, donate food scraps, recycle wax coated food boxes, recycle used cooking oil, promote the use of reusable mugs for a discounted beverage, purchase items made from recycled content and purchase larger napkins (to decrease number used). The Committee was successful in eliminating the use of Styrofoam™ trays and small napkins, commencing a cooking oil recycling program and promoting reusable mug use.

### **Pedals for Progress**

The Committee continues to support Pedals for Progress, a bicycle-recycling organization that collects over 11,000 bicycles annually, refurbishes them and ships them to developing countries for distribution to those who need reliable transportation to work and school. In the past, the Committee has organized, promoted and implemented several bicycle collections and donated over 100 bicycles and over \$1,000. Volunteer activities included intra-company transport of bicycles, dismantling and loading bicycles for transport. This year, the Committee donated \$250 to this organization.



*Environmental Committee members prepare donated bikes for shipment to developing countries.*

### **Presentation of Committee's Annual Report**

On July 12, the Environmental Committee presented a slide show to the NJR Board of Directors about our annual report.

## **Tour of Recycled Content Paper Product Facility**

In order to learn more about recycled content paper products, on January 13, Committee members toured a large NJ paper factory. The visit featured a discussion about the history of the company and a tour of the paper acceptance, sorting and drying processes, packaging and the consolidation areas.

## **2007 GOALS & ACTIVITIES**

Below are some of the initiatives that the Committee is considering implementing in 2007.

- Apply for annual awards
- Support WasteWise initiatives by assisting the Environmental Department
- "Home Goods Swap" event
- Animal shelter drive
- Promote conservation and environmental preservation in memorabilia area at Wall headquarters
- Monmouth County Earth Day Fair
- Adopt-A-Park
- Purchase recycled materials cluster bins for our Atlantic Highlands facility
- Have Committee member(s) attend recycling series seminars
- Subsidize purchase of new cafeteria service bar to reduce use of single service items and other cafeteria initiatives

In addition, the Committee intends to continue the following activities that were previously implemented:

- ◆ Support WasteWise programs
- ◆ Earth Day activities
- ◆ Adopt-A-Beach cleanup program (spring only)
- ◆ Adopt-A-Road (spring only)
- ◆ Reuse Center at Wall Headquarters
- ◆ Active participation in ANJR and NJ WasteWise Business Network
- ◆ Prepare articles distributed by Corporate Communications
- ◆ Environmental health and safety updates
- ◆ Annual Report of Committee Activities
- ◆ Pedals for Progress bicycle recycling and or monetary donation (annually or biennially)
- ◆ Present the Committee's Annual Report to Board of Directors

Submitted by:  
The NJR Environmental Committee  
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