

Scrap Tire NEWS

Covering The News And Developments In The Scrap Tire Recycling Industry

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CA Lawmakers Say No To RAC

The California Senate Transportation and Housing Committee failed to pass a bill that would have extended a provision for the California Department of Transportation to have its total annual paving material tonnage be at least 50-percent rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC), the California Tire Bulletin reported.

Assembly Bill 2658 would have extended the 50-percent RAC requirement from 2015 until 2020. According to the CA Tire Bulletin, the measure had broad support from the asphalt rubber industry and its associations, as well as environmental groups and at least one labor group.

However, manufacturers and supporters of "terminal blend" rubberized asphalt-blends that use a fine-mesh rubber powder and generally are mixed in asphalt facilities--opposed the bill.

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Massachusetts Mosquito Program Eliminating Tire Piles

Waste tire removal project seeks to thwart disease-carrying mosquitoes

By Tim Deschamps

Tire casings in the outdoor environment can provide an excellent habitat for mosquito larvae to develop in from egg to adult. Because of their shape and permanent nature, tires may hold water for long periods of time even during periods of drought, providing a consistent habitat for larval mosquito development. A single tire can produce hundreds or even thousands of mosquitoes each year. Some of the mosquitoes that develop in tires in the Northeast such as *Culex pipiens* and *Ochlerotatus japonicus* can transmit West Nile Virus to humans.



The CMMCP crew poses with the 10,000th tire cleaned up.

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Michigan DEQ Awards Grants For Scrap Tire Reuse

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is awarding \$2.5 million dollars in grant money to University and local government recipients for road projects that reuse scrap tires.

The largest grants -- \$1.2-million dollars to Michigan Technological University (MTU) and \$500,000 to Michigan State University (MSU) are for research projects that will study specific uses and characteristics of rubber modified asphalt.

MTU will in one project produce low emission crumb rubber modified asphalt and warm mix asphalt in a wet and dry process. MTU researchers will evaluate the performance of the material to determine any differences between production methods.

In a second project they will collect and analyze emissions from the production process and analyze those, DEQ's Mike Marshall said.

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Work to suppress mosquitoes from tires may consist of weekly visits by technicians to apply larval control pesticides (larvicides) and/or wide scale applications of airborne pesticides to control the adult mosquitoes (adulticiding) that have emerged from these habitats.

Elimination of tires by recycling cleans the environment from this blight, permanently eliminates larval habitat and the need for repeated inspections and pesticide applications. In mosquito control this is known as "source reduction"; removing or reducing the source of possible larval mosquito habitat.

Earth Day 2010 marked the official start of the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) waste tire removal program, but work had already begun in late 2009 thanks to a grant we received from the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association. The program initially consisted of three components: clean-up of large waste tire dumping sites that we have databased; residential waste tire removal (curb-side); and removal of waste tires discarded on the side of the road. A fourth component was added after this program became popular. this involved coordination with communities during recycle events, hazardous waste collections, river cleanups, etc.

Tire recycler is key player in program's success
Tires collected in this program are brought to the Liberty Tire Recycling facility located in Littleton, MA. The Littleton tire recycling facility is one of 27 tire collection and processing facilities in Liberty's network of plants across the country. Collectively, these facilities recycle about a third of the nation's scrap tires, saving more than 140 million tires from the waste stream each year.

Liberty processes the majority of the tires collected under CMMCP's waste tire removal program into tire derived material for reuse and recycling in energy and recycled product applications. They've been a key player in the program since we began. Through their services we've been able to assure all the communities we work with safe and secure tire removal.

Our first large scale project was in the town of Ashland, MA in early 2010. We worked with the local Board of Health and Conservation Commission and removed a tire pile that consisted of over 1,200 tires. This pile has been an area of concern for us for over 30 years. A press release generated on Earth Day 2010, and picked up by many media outlets brought a real sense of pride and relief to all the agencies that had worked to get these tires cleaned up over the years.

We worked with the town of Tewksbury during their "Zero Waste Day" event the past few years collecting over 325 tires from residents. In 2013 we worked with the city of Lowell during the Merrimack River cleanup and brought 113 tires to the recycling center.

For Earth Day 2013 we announced our 10,000th tire recycled. In the 3-plus years we've worked in this program, we've performed over 150 curbside pickups, dozens of roadside pickups, collaborated in over 50 community events, and coordinated over two dozen large scale tire cleanups. Of the more than 565 tires piles we've mapped through our GIS program over half have already been removed. CMMCP staff is continually on the lookout for new piles to be databased and removed at a future date. Several Boards of Health and/or Highway Departments now collaborate with us. They depend on this program, and will call when they have collected 50-100 tires.



Tires pulled from the Merrimack River.

Since 2009 we have partnered with the EPA's WasteWise program, and report our data through their Re-TRAC system. In 2011 we received a Bronze certificate in the Institution & Non-Profit category from MassRecycle. This is a statewide coalition of individuals, governments, businesses, institutions and non-profit organizations dedicated to reducing, reusing, and recycling waste materials and the increased use of recycled products. Their recognition of CMMCP's tire removal initiative helped expand and garner support for our cleanup efforts throughout the state.

In 2014 we were awarded an Environmental Merit Award from the EPA's Northeast office. They recognized our efforts in not only recycling tires, but the reduction in pesticides from this program. As part of the award announcement, they noted; "Through this project, the organization has recycled 11,500 tires, which saved 192 staff hours in monitoring larval habitats, and resulted in usage of 720 pounds less of pesticides."

As of August 2014 we have recycled over 12,600 tires from most of our 40 member cities and towns. We are averaging just over 2,700 tires a year in four full years, with a high of 3,263 in 2012. Our success has generated interest and creation of similar programs in other mosquito control districts in Massachusetts. We've have reported our accomplishments at several conferences

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and public meetings and continue to be encouraged by public and private tire industry stakeholders to continue our work to remove tires and reduce mosquito habitats.

CMMCP was created by the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1973, and currently consists of 40 cities and towns in Central Massachusetts in both Worcester and Middlesex Counties covering over 725 square miles. Mosquito control districts in Massachusetts are state agencies with unique funding structures; towns vote into the program at annual or special town meeting and cities vote in by City Council vote. ♦



Illegally dumped tires had been a problem in the Town of Ashland, MA for thirty years.



Ashland after the cleanup

About the author:

Tim Deschamps is the Executive Director for the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, responsible for the planning and operations of a full time, year round program of mosquito control covering 40 cities and towns in both Middlesex and Worcester counties. Tim has worked in mosquito control since 1983. More information on the CMMCP program is at www.cmmcp.org/tires.htm.

CalRecycle Creates Purchasing Tool For Recycled Rubber Products

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) released and posted the California Tire Derived Product Catalog (TDP Catalog) on its website last month.

The TDP Catalog is designed to raise awareness about the large range of products made from recycled tires and their benefits.

CalRecycle prepared the Catalog as part of its broader tire recycling market development program aimed at expanding and diversifying markets for discarded tires generated in California. The agency believes that strong recycling markets will help ensure that the State's waste tire management infrastructure thrives.

A strong market base also helps maintain recycling industry employment, keep tires out of landfill and helps the state achieve its 75 percent recycling goal, the agency said.

The catalog is for purchasing and using high-quality tire-derived products. For example, architects, owners and contractors working on green building construction projects can easily source products and "green" services.

School playground or park managers looking for safe and proven surfacing and landscaping products as well as facility managers or individuals looking for innovative recycled content products in California will be able to shorten their search through the TDP Catalog.

One key purpose of the Catalog is to support the marketing activities of California firms involved in recycling tires. Thus, the primary source of information and content for the catalog is the companies themselves. The product "sell sheets" included in the Catalog were gathered directly from these firms, the agency said.

Nineteen product categories are covered in the Catalog. Recycled rubber products for applications ranging from animal care to roofing, flooring accessibility products, automotive, building and constructions, cleaning tools, civil engineering, coating, sealants and paints, flooring, landscape, sports and playground surfaces, paths, walkways, sidewalks, bike trails, synthetic turf, mats, pavers and tiles, pavements and traffic related products.

The Catalog also offers resources for retread tires and tire-derived material/feedstock providers. To be included in the Catalog, companies must be California-based firms producing products from California waste tires.

An added benefit of the Catalog is its comprehensive Appendices that include a company directory, applicable certification programs, case studies, LEED benefits and contributions, the California Market Report and other resources. ♦