

# WASTE NEWS

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## AT DEADLINE

### Los Angeles rail yard invests \$300 million

Union Pacific Railroad is investing \$300 million to upgrade its intermodal container facility in Los Angeles, a move the company said will create the most "environmentally modern" rail port in North America.

The site, over a several-year period, will be completed. See **At Deadline**, Page 21

## IN THIS ISSUE

### SOLID WASTE



Van Eck Global's new exchange traded fund includes holdings from 26 environmental services firms. Page 3



Professor Stanley Shetka creates counter tops, tables and plaques from recycled paper. Page 16

### HAZARDOUS WASTE

Parties in Utah settle out of court in a legal dispute involving radioactive waste. Page 6

### AIR POLLUTION

Climate change is on the minds of many on Capitol Hill. Page 12



## Can these simply be

## thrown away?

### Mercury worries creep into conversation about trendy fluorescent bulbs

By Joe Truini

Most agree more energy-efficient light bulbs can significantly curb air pollution, but fewer people are talking about how to deal with them at the end of their lives.

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs are, no doubt, a bright idea. In fact, companies including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Royal Philips Electronics, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and environmental groups are pushing for compact fluorescent lights to replace less efficient incandescent bulbs.

But there is no plan to address

air and water pollution concerns that could develop if consumers improperly dispose of the mercury-containing devices.

The amount of mercury in a compact fluorescent light bulb is small enough to fit on the tip of a ballpoint pen, said Kim Freeman, a spokeswoman with GE Consumer & Industrial, a division of General Electric Co. But a national policy to properly manage end-of-life compact fluorescent bulbs will be needed.

"As CFLs become more popular, this is something that needs to be addressed," she said. "The benefit of CFLs and the amount of emissions that they take out of

the environment far exceed the implications from the mercury."

### Make the makers pay for it

One recycling coordinator believes manufacturers should bear the burden.

"The ideal solution would be if they sell it, that's where they take it back," said Ann Moore, recycling coordinator for Burlington County, N.J. "If the proper thing to do is to collect these items separately, then the industry that's making them should have a role in crafting col-

See **Bulbs**, Page 14



GOV. JIM DOUGLAS: "[The Green Valley initiative] captures our intellectual wealth and it fits with our environmental ethic."

## Vermont beckons for green businesses

By Elizabeth McGowan

MONTPELIER, Vt. — With maple syrup, cheese and ice cream as the traditional backbone of its economy, it's appropriate that the Roman goddess of agriculture graces the Vermont Capitol's gold dome.

And though state government is now beckoning to companies

specializing in energy technology and pollution cleanup, Gov. Jim

Douglas has no intention of bumping Ceres from her pedestal. For him, it seems logical to embrace both farmers and emerging businesses. Just as California touts its Silicon Valley, he wants Vermont's niche to be what he's

plugging as the Green Valley.

"Marrying these two will help us preserve our traditional way of life," Douglas, who moved to the Green Mountain state from Massachusetts in the late 1960s to attend college, said in an in-

See **Vt.**, Page 23

## Groups: New car report stinks

### Center ranks vehicles by interior chemicals

By Jim Johnson

An environmental group is calling for automobile manufacturers to replace what it alleges to be toxic chemicals used in vehicle interiors.

But representatives of both the automotive and chemical industries blasted the work by the Ecology Center, which

tested more than 200 vehicles from 2006 and 2007.

At issue are chemicals, including bromine, chlorine and lead, that allegedly off-gas from indoor automobile parts, the Ann Arbor, Mich.-based environmental group said.

These releases help constitute what many people find to be an attractive feature — the new car smell.

But the Ecology Center said the chemicals are cause for a variety of acute and long-term

### CHEMICAL CONCERNS?

**Best picks**  
1, Chevy Cobalt  
2, PT Cruiser  
3, Honda Odyssey

**Worst picks**  
1, Nissan Versa  
2, Chevy Aveo  
3, Scion xB

Source: Ecology Center

See **Car**, Page 23

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President Bush and U.S. automakers link alternative fuels to security. Page 13



Passion for late model trash trucks drives Va. man to launch Web site. Page 22

## NEW PRODUCTS &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Minn. prof creates furniture from old paper

By Tracy Hayhurst

Stanley Shetka doesn't put much stock in overnight successes or people and companies promising the latest and greatest technology.

That's why the artist has spent more than 20 years thinking about and perfecting a process that can turn recycled paper and other fibrous material into a strong, attractive and 100 percent renewable material used for countertops, furniture, doors, decorative frames, even walls and roofs, he said.

Shetka, a professor of art at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., also is the founder of All Paper Recycling Inc. in Le Center, Minn., about 60 miles southwest of Minneapolis. ShetkaWorks, which operates at All Paper's plant, has been producing ShetkaStone from recycled paper, cloth and other fibers on a limited basis for several years and is preparing to take the process to the next level — one that will make the marble-like surface accessible and affordable for all kinds of applications.

It was after an art paper show in 1980 that Shetka started the research and development process that ultimately led to his stonelike product, which can be cut, sanded, and otherwise used like wood. Growing up on a farm, he got a close-up view of fibers and their many qualities, including their strength.

When a professor assigned a paper in college, Shetka the art student took his art history book, demolished it and converted it into a fibrous board. He presented the fuzzy block of paper to his instructor, he recalled, stating that the book "was the past and now it's the future." He got an A.

Shetka says he is a community artist — one who finds purpose

in the community. His goal now is the same as it has been for decades: to create an aesthetic environment, not just an object, and do so on a larger scale.

"Once we're automated, we can do solid materials cheaper than laminate," he said. "We did our homework. We're in the step-up phase and trying to bring in new money. Once we're making boards, we will undersell everyone."

"There's not a product out there that's fibrous that we can't recycle. We take newsprint, cardboard, money from the government, old wood pallets, debris from a house — any combination or one at a time," he said. "It goes through the process of pulping it or breaking it down to particle size, where you get it to a consistent size, and it goes into a machine. We use existing power sources and hydraulics, and retrofit them to our technology, which is a cold process and hot process. It doesn't have big power demands, and we process tons per day. We take a ton of paper and turn it into 400 square feet at an inch-and-a-half thick."

The ShetkaStone slurry process uses a hydrogen bonding process that does not require the use of formaldehyde or toxic glues.

"There is a series of natural bonds that takes place with natural, green materials. It's durable and recyclable, but green is not the selling card; the function and the beauty is," he said.

Surface color is usually dependent on the paper used to make it, but Shetka said he is working with some other new technology that may give him access to thousands of colors for his product.

ShetkaStone has been used commercially, from a soap dish for Aveda salons and spas to tabletops at the recreation center



**PAPER TABLE:** Stanley Shetka, a professor of art at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., fashions countertops, doors, decorative frames, even walls and roofs from ShetkaStone, the material he makes from recycled paper.

at Sonoma State University in northern California.

"Herman Miller and other companies have come in to do abrasive testing, and we have passed those tests. In the next three months we will have a lot of documentation. We ran the product through a Class A fire [flame spread] rating, and we scored a 7 and 5 on flame and smoke. Wood is rated at 100, and concrete is zero. Some schools are doing oxyacetylene welding on ShetkaStone instead of firebricks. We put some in the college science labs and they're still there, so why buy the bricks, which cost more?"

In addition to countertops and other work surfaces, Shetka said anything made of wood can be made from his product.

"We're talking about flooring, pallets and more. There is no shortage of feedstock, and it's

cost-effective."

Financial support has come in bits and pieces from several sources over the years, including a grant in 1993 from the Minnesota-based Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation. More recently, in the fall of 2005, he applied for and received a loan through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, which works closely with banks and other lenders to support small businesses and start-ups.

But Shetka is quick to say that he hasn't been subsidized and he doesn't want to be known as just another firm trying to capitalize on the "green" trend.

"We have proven products in homes and schools, and we have patents. We're moving forward and trying to make it real in the right way. We have to compete on price and have an aesthetic look that no one else has.

"We want to develop materials; that's what I do best. And now, my brain is 15 years in the future, thinking ahead about what can be real and be done," Shetka said.

He wants to expand his plant in Minnesota and operate on the East and West Coasts to minimize shipping costs of his material, whether it's old newsprint or cardboard. He also is working to incorporate different fibers, such as canary grass from swamps or corn fiber, into his boards. Shetka even envisions couples being able to send in the wrapping paper from their wedding gifts and turn it into a memento of their special day.

"There are 100 companies within this one company of mine."

For more information, contact ShetkaWorks at (507) 357-4177 or visit [www.shetkastone.com](http://www.shetkastone.com). ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**McCROMETER** has introduced the Ultra Mag Wastewater Flow Meter. The meter operates in treated water, sludge or slurries with noninvasive, no-moving-parts flow sensing technology and delivers exceptional flow measurement accuracy, according to the manufacturer.

For more information, visit [www.mccrometer.com](http://www.mccrometer.com) or call (800) 220-2279.

**SPARTAN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC** has introduced improved ozone generators for industrial and municipal water treatment applications. Spartan distributes the MCP and TPF series generators in the United States and Canada. The generators are manufactured by Ozono Elettronica Internazionale of Milan, Italy.

For more information, visit [www.spartanwatertreatment.com](http://www.spartanwatertreatment.com) or call (440) 368-3563.

**OIL EATER** has introduced an all-in-one commercial emergency spill kit designed to clean up hazardous material spills. The kit



**THAT COVERS IT:** Oil Eater's commercial emergency spill kit includes a cleaner-degreaser, absorbent pads, universal snakes, gloves, disposal bags and an instruction guide.

includes a one-gallon bottle of Oil Eater Cleaner-Degreaser to clean surfaces after absorption of a spill. It also contains 15 absorbent pads, four universal snakes, an oil-only boom, six pro-

tection gloves, five oil-resistant high-temperature disposal bags, and an emergency response instruction guide.

For more information, visit [www.oileater.com](http://www.oileater.com) or call (800) 528-0334.

**VECOPLAN LLC** has introduced a new control panel system for improved communication and control of various shredder features. The system, known as Revision 9A with Human-Machine Interface, provides customizable program settings, enabling the operator to tailor program settings to specific applications, according to the manufacturer.

For more information, visit [www.vecoplanllc.com](http://www.vecoplanllc.com) or call (336) 861-6070.

**HEIL ENVIRONMENTAL** has updated its 7000 automated arm to increase the lift's durability and extend its life cycle. Also, Heil is

making its enclosed oil bath gearbox, which is standard on its Python automated arm, available as an option for the 7000 arm to reduce maintenance. Heil has augmented the 7000 arm's joint configurations by bolstering the weld penetration in critical areas, and it has made minor modifications to specific arm components to reduce stress at key locations.

For more information, visit [www.heil.com](http://www.heil.com) or call (800) 251-7258.

**EXAIR CORP.** has introduced the Model 9061 Ultrasonic Leak Detector, a hand-held instrument that locates compressed air system leaks. Leaks can account for as much as 30 percent of the compressed air consumed in an industrial plant. The Model 9061 detector comes with a hard-shell plastic case, headphones, a parabola attachment, a tubular

adaptor, a tubular extension and a 9-volt battery.

For more information, visit [www.exair.com](http://www.exair.com) or call (800) 903-9247.

**EAST MANUFACTURING CORP.** has improved the subframe on its tipper and live-floor transfer trailers. The new subframe is made using 11-inch-high extruded aluminum I-beams. The new I-beams are inherently strong, and they replace the use of steel I-beam subframes in live-floor trailers, the company said.

For more information, visit [www.eastmfg.com](http://www.eastmfg.com) or call (888) 405-3278.

Send information about new product releases and photos by e-mail to [blafferty@crain.com](mailto:blafferty@crain.com); by fax at (330) 836-1692 or by mail to Waste News New Products, 1785 Merriman Rd., Akron OH 44313.

