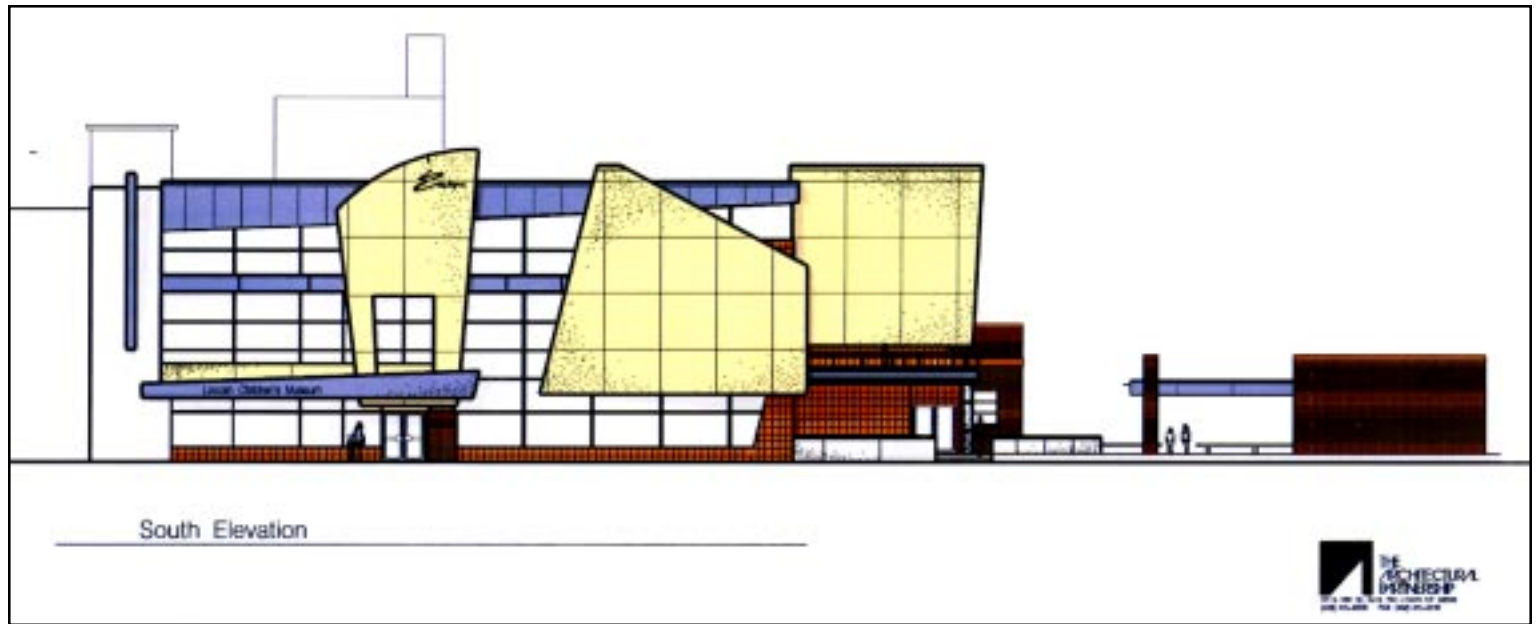


Green buildings: construction uses recycled products

There is something new going on in Lincoln in the world of recycling. The construction of the first "green building" in the city is underway. The Lincoln Children's Museum, located at 1420 'P' Street will be designed by the Architectural Partnership of Lincoln with environmental criteria and performance parameters as objectives.

There are several goals of green buildings. Some of the goals include: appropriate use of land, existing buildings and materials; use water, energy and natural resources efficiently; use and enhance the market for recycled materials wherever possible; conserve and protect resources and habitats; and strengthen the local economy and the community. By using an existing building that has a central location and is served by mass transit, the Lincoln Children's Museum is consistent with the overall sustainable design of the area. This project will take a three-year period with four phases; demolition, design, construction, exhibition and public education.

The predominant waste from commercial new construction are wood, 20-30%; concrete



and block, 10-20%; drywall, 5-10%; and cardboard, 5-10%.

This project will sort and recycle some or all of these waste materials during the demolition and construction phases. The hope is to divert 40-70% of the waste materials from the sanitary landfill.

The use of recycled content products, when economically feasible, will also be undertaken. The city has developed a directory of recycled content products that are available

locally. For example, drywall can contain recycled gypsum and newspaper, ceiling tile can be made of recycled paper, and carpets can be made of #1 plastic bottles.

The museum, in its new design, will provide an area for collection of recyclables, use an efficient multiple heating system, use compact fluorescent fixtures in place of tube fluorescent fixtures, incorporate daylight sensors to adjust light levels, use low voltage lights in

select exhibit areas, utilize low flow toilets, use motion light sensors in classrooms, utilize electronic sensors at sinks in restrooms, and use shading devices to reduce summer sun and enhance winter sun and heat gain.

Lincoln is a growing community, over 40% of the total waste generated locally is construction and demolition

waste. This project will allow the city to demonstrate new strategies to separate demolition and construction waste and divert it from the landfill. The project will serve as a model and may lead to new services for the construction trades in Lincoln, as well as, the use of recycled content products in commercial construction. (GB)

Buying recycled content products at work

Because of the tremendous buying power of businesses, institutions and government agencies, these organizations send a powerful message to manufacturers by the products they choose. When businesses buy recycled, they assure manufacturers that a consistent, long-term demand exists for recycled products. Commitment from agencies and management is needed to make a buy recycled program a success.

State and local governments, as well as businesses, have adopted policies to buy recycled content products when economically feasible. In 1997, govern-

ment in Lincoln and Lancaster County purchased over \$900,000 worth of products that contained recycled content. Most of the photocopy paper used by local government contains 20% post-consumer recycled paper.

All print cartridges ordered through the purchasing department in the local government must be remanufactured. Remanufacturing is the repairing or restoring of used products to "like new" condition. Remanufactured cartridges meet standards for new cartridges and are about half the price.

Many office products contain recycled content. These

items can include, but are not limited to: pencils, rulers, diskette mailers, padded envelopes, tape dispensers, organizer trays, calendars, binders, computer disks, furniture, carpet, janitorial supplies and construction materials. WasteCap of Lincoln, with the Chamber of Commerce, has prepared a catalog of over 200 recycled content products available to businesses, institutions and governmental agencies in Lincoln. For more information on the buy recycled catalog for businesses, contact WasteCap of Lincoln at 472-0888 or <http://www.wastecaplnk.org>.

Shopper's guide to reducing waste

Completing the Loop

The recycling market is more dependent on demand rather than supply. As consumers buy recycled products, demand for recycling increases. That completes the loop of recycling from production, consumption to recycling. Here are some ideas to reduce waste before you buy and on re-using products.

Shop Smart

About one of every ten dollars Americans spend on food and beverages, pays for packaging. Product wrapping and decoration comprise about half of the nation's paper, 90% of the glass, 75% of the aluminum and 40% of the plastic. Packaging makes up about a third of the weight and half the volume of household waste. Here are tips to reduce waste from the start:

- When possible, buy food and personal products in reusable, refillable or recyclable containers. For example, food products can be purchased in glass or tin instead of non-recyclable plastic.
- Purchase products in bulk.
- Bring your own boxes or sacks with you for groceries.

Some stores offer cash credits if you use your own paper sacks.

- With small purchases, just say "I don't need a sack."
- Buy greeting cards, stationary, toilet paper and other products made of recycled or recyclable paper.

Helpful Home and Office Tips

- Reuse old clothing for rags.
- Minimize use of disposable items, such as eating utensils, pens, lighters, even cameras!
- Donate clothes, furniture and appliances to thrift stores and charities.
- Use shaving soap instead of aerosol cream.
- Use cloth napkins and hand towels.
- Reuse empty plastic containers for travel items, nails, bolts, etc.
- Compost and mulch grass clippings and leaves.
- Use a mug instead of styrofoam/paper cups. Ask your office or church to do the same.
- Write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Associates, P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY, 10163-3861. Request that your name be removed from mailing lists.

• Reuse old file folders and use two-sided copies.

- Pass along used magazines to a friend, school, nursing home, etc. Consider sharing a subscription with someone.

• Give excess paint and building materials to a neighbor, community agency, school or theater. **Note:** Keep hazardous products in original containers.

More Reducing Ideas

Check with the library and/or cooperative extension office for more suggestions on how to reduce waste. Many time and money-saving ideas indirectly involve recycling or reusing items around the home.

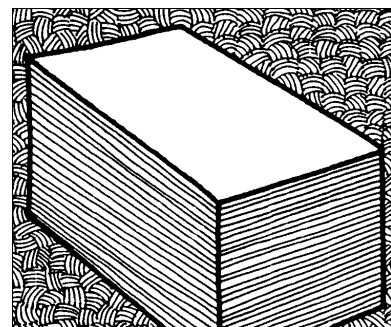
The Lincoln Recycling Office has brochures regarding recycling, including a commercial waste reduction handbook for business and industry.

Reducing is a good habit

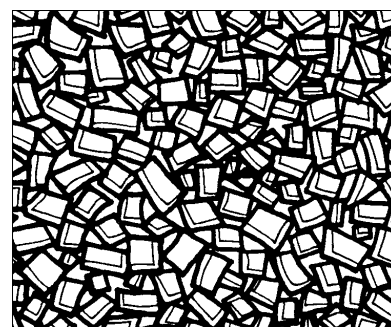
If you follow some of these tips, they will become habit when you head to the store or clean the garage.

For information on waste reduction, contact the: Recycling Division of the Mayor's Office; 555 S. 10th Street; Lincoln, NE 68508; (402) 471-821.

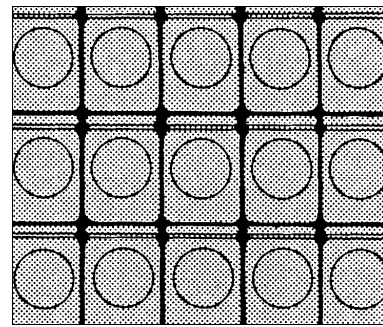
Examples of Recycling



Recycling is turning used paper back into pulp and then making new paper from that pulp. The *Lincoln Journal Star* is made out of 25-40% recycled newsprint.



Recycling is crushing used glass bottles into small pieces and melting them down to make new glass. Each new food and beverage container made out of glass has 50% recycled glass in it.



Recycling is melting aluminum cans, pressing the molten metal into sheets as it cools and shaping these sheets into new cans. Each new aluminum can has 54% recycled aluminum in it.



Recycling is chopping up grass cuttings and producing compost. Lincoln receives 14,000 tons of grass and leaves each year to produce compost.