

SMSBF June 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Technical Presentation: Recycling Latex Paint, by Jim Crosby of ePaint Recycling, LLC

The meeting started with a welcome to participants by Dan Jacobs, President of the SMSBF, and self-introductions by the attendees. General announcement given about upcoming Sustainability Awards dinner. Introduction of new Administrative Assistant, Cristy Starkweather.

Presenters: Jim Crosby, ePaint Recycling LLC.

Presentation:

Jim started off the presentation discussing the impact of latex paint dumped into the landfill. According to the EPA, over 69 million gallons enter landfill each year.

Current Disposal Methods and Impacts:

In Canada, latex paint can purchases are accompanied by a “refundable deposit” very similar to the US-based system in use for soda cans.

Many municipalities do not offer latex paint recycling, but instead recommend that paint be dried using cat litter products or through a chemical paint hardening product available for purchase at a local hardware store. Aside from the added space used in the landfill by unused latex paint, the purchase of cat litter contains clay from the earth that costs resources to extract and then process into a finished product. Throwing litter into latex paint is an especially wasteful use of natural resources, and when the costs of production, transportation and processing are added together, probably far outweighs the approximate \$8 / gallon that it costs a municipality to recycle.

Still, many municipalities choose not to offer latex paint recycling services to their communities. Wayne and Oakland Counties are among the exceptions, and it is hoped that other municipalities will begin to follow their lead. Recycling latex paint is a better solution that uses fewer resources and leaves the landfill lighter.

Energy Efficiency Comparison Between Virgin and Recycled Paint:

Typical “virgin” (never been used) latex paint contains ingredients sourced from around the country and worldwide. These ingredients must be extracted, transported, processed, to create virgin paint. This uses resources. ePaint doesn’t have to process all these ingredients because ingredients are already contained in the paint that is recycled. This significant energy savings is reflected in the ‘e’ of ePaint, which stands for “economical, earth, excellence.” In a pound-for-pound comparison, recycled latex paint is the largest energy saver of all recycled building products!

Both recycled paint and virgin paint can 'do the job' equally well.

ePaint can mix to order and create custom paints for larger jobs, can offer a unique array of colors. Additionally, ePaint is developing unique products such as a paint/glass mixture that is virtually indestructible.

Currently, latex paint recycled through ePaint is sold under the brand name "Everybody's Paint" and retailed through Habitat for Humanity stores. Recycled latex paint is a great energy saver, and is the 'greenest' paint available!

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.