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Jobs and recycling

Recycling creates 2-10 times more jobs than disposal; these are jobs on all skill levels from collection to processing to manufacturing to management.

In 2004, Massachusetts's municipal and commercial recycling programs collected and supplied close to 7 million tons of paper, glass, metals, plastics, textiles, electronics, and organic materials to manufacturers throughout the world who turned them into new products.

4 million tons of those recyclables (over half of the amount recycled by the state) were used by Massachusetts manufacturers, providing a good example of other ways discards can be managed in state than disposal or incineration.

Recycling the 7 million tons reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2 million metric tons of carbon equivalents (MTCE)³ in a one year period, and saved enough energy to power 820,292 homes for one year *- 40 times more than Ze-gen's facility will generate. (*source, Northeast Recycling Council environmental benefits calculator)

Haverhill Paper, a Massachusetts mill that employed 150 people to make 100% recycled paper, recently closed; they aren't the first. The state should revive efforts to assist recycled product manufacturers rather than creating more competition for materials through incineration.

According to the Recycling Economic Information Study (REI) by the Northeast Recycling Council in 2000, Massachusetts hosted 1400 recycling businesses that *directly* employed close to 20,000 people- that is larger than the number of people employed in clean energy (14,400).

Companies covered in the Massachusetts REI study had combined annual sales of over \$3.5 billion

The indirect and induced effects associated with this recycling activity include support of over 20,000 additional jobs, and \$142 million in revenues.

When taking into account the direct as well as indirect and induced impacts of recycling, the REI study found the amount of taxes, fees and other revenues brought into the state annually by recycling was over \$200 million.

These figures did not include researchers working on innovations in recycling plastics, textiles, tires, green building materials, and other materials, or any economic benefits from resulting patents and licenses.

A similar national study showed Massachusetts outranked California in recycling jobs.

The REI study is currently being updated and is expected to be complete in early 2009.

A study conducted by the former Chelsea Center for Recycling and Economic development in early 2000 looked solely at the manufacturing sector and found that the manufacturers in Massachusetts that used secondary feedstock employed 12,000 people.