

# Closing the Circle News

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News on federal  
acquisition, recycling,  
and waste prevention  
from the Office of the  
Federal Environmental  
Executive

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## The Case for Using Retreaded Tires on Government Fleet Vehicles



**A**lthough the General Services Administration (GSA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the White House itself (President Clinton's Executive Order 12873) strongly endorse retreads as the tire of choice for government vehicles, there still remains some government fleets that resist using retreads.

Why? There is no good reason.

By that, I mean there is a prejudice against retreads based on a very serious misconception that retreads are not as safe as new tires. In fact, retreads are every bit as safe as new tires, and they are a lot friendlier to the environment and cost much less in most cases.

The prejudice stems in large measure from people seeing rubber debris on the road. We all have seen those "ugly alligators" lying along our highways—and sometimes even in the middle of the road. When people see this debris, they assume that it was caused by blown-out retreaded tires. The reality is that rubber on the road is caused by tire abuse, whether the tire is new or a retread.

If a tire is abused (overloaded, underinflated, mismatched to the other tire on a set of duals), or if a vehicle is not stopped when a tire begins to have a

problem, the tire is going to come apart and leave rubber debris all over the highway.

I like to tell this story to illustrate my point:

Suppose you are driving to work and you realize that one of your tires is going flat. Without exception, you will stop the car and change the tire. You may not like it—especially if it is raining or snowing or you are in a hurry—but there is no way you will continue driving with a flat tire.

Now suppose you are driving an 18-wheel tractor-trailer, and you hear or feel a tire beginning to have a problem. Unless it's a front tire (then you have no choice but to stop), you will generally be able to continue driving the vehicle until you get to a truck stop where the tire can be changed much easier than if you had stopped on the highway. After all, you have 17 other tires to keep you going.

Now, suppose the damaged tire is actually a brand new tire that had just been installed the previous week and had never been near a retread factory. This means that it was either defective or it happened to pick up a nail that caused it to go flat. As you drive

*Continued on page 8*

## Never Used Retreads?

### A Special Offer to All Federal Fleets

**T**he Tire Retread Information Bureau will rebate 10 percent from the lowest price federal fleet managers are able to negotiate for their initial retread tire purchase. The offer is good for fleet tires sent for retreading or for "cap & casing" retreads that are purchased.

The rebate will be made by check to the agency, or credited towards the next purchase. This offer ends July 31, 1996. The first purchase must be made by that date. For more details and the name of qualified retreaders in your area, contact: Tire Retread Information Bureau, 900 Weldon Grove, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Phone 408/372-1917. Fax 408/372-9210.

# 1996 White House Closing the Circle Award Winners

## Affirmative Procurement

### Individual

#### **"Green Buying Power"**

U.S.C.G. Support Center,  
Governors Island, NY

CWO Frank E. Libby

### Group

#### **"McChord Affirmative Procurement Program"**

McChord AFB, Tacoma, WA

Mr. Mark A. Gable  
Ms. Alice Hammontree  
Capt. Wade Hader  
Mr. Johnnie Shinn  
TSgt David Schumann

#### **"Affirmative Procurement Program, Paper, and Paper Products"**

USPS Headquarters,  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. David Sherer  
Mr. Pete Steele  
Mr. John Portell  
Mr. Frederick J. Hintenach  
Mr. Bernie Denno

### Facility

#### **"Purchasing Strategies"**

USPS, Dallas Purchasing  
and Materials Service  
Center, TX

## Recycling

### Individual

#### **"National Task Force on Undelivered Bulk Business Mail (UBBM)"**

USPS, Windsor, CT

Mr. Charles Vidich, Chair

#### **"Recycling Operations at the Postal Service Northern Virginia Vehicle Maintenance Facility"**

USPS, Merrifield, VA

Mr. Bill Christenson

### Group

#### **"Recycling at the Denver DVA Medical Center"**

Department of Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center,  
Denver, CO

Mr. Arnold L. Schultz, Ph.D.  
Ms. Noella B. Pregill  
Mr. Kenneth Wederski  
Mr. Robert G. Gibson  
Ms. Sue Lucht

#### **"Parris Island - Where the Difference Begins"**

Marine Corp Recruit Depot,  
Parris Island, SC

Mr. Timothy Harrington  
Mr. Steven Chisholm  
Mr. Thomas B. Woods

### Facility

#### **"Team Grand Forks Air Force Base Recycling Program"**

Department of Defense -  
Grand Forks AFB, ND

#### **"Texas Army National Guard Recycling Program"**

Texas Army National  
Guard, Austin, TX

## Environmental Innovation

### Individual

#### **"Maintenance Free Forklift Batteries at the St. Louis, MO Bulk Mail Center"**

USPS, St. Louis Bulk Mail  
Center

Mr. Kenneth P. Philipak

### Group

#### **"Environmental Innovation for Future Generations at Camp Grayling - MATES"**

Michigan Army National  
Guard - Camp Grayling,  
Grayling, MI

CW4 James Failing  
LTC Keith Bobenmoyer  
SFC David McClain

### Facility

#### **"100% Closed Loop Wood/Fiberboard Recycling"**

Department of Defense -  
Defense Logistics Agency,  
Defense Distribution Depot  
Susquehanna, New  
Cumberland, PA

#### **"Savannah River Site"**

Department of Energy,  
Aiken, SC

## Model Facility Demonstrations

### Group

#### **"Waste Reduction Program"**

Department of Defense -  
Naval Amphibious Base-  
Little Creek, Norfolk, VA

Mr. Willie Barnes  
Mr. Jeff McAdoo  
Ms. Terri Mosteller  
Mr. Martin Costello

#### **"TVA, Facilities Services Environmental Program"**

Tennessee Valley Authority,  
Chattanooga, TN

Mr. David Smith  
Mr. Gary Collins  
Mr. Warren Behlau  
Ms. Darlene Pierce  
Mr. David Zimmerman

### Facility

#### **"Pantex Plant Model Facility"**

Department of Energy,  
Amarillo, TX

## Waste Prevention

### Individual

#### **"Pollution Prevention Program"**

Department of Defense,  
U.S. Army Ordnance  
Center and School, Aber-  
deen Proving Ground, MD

Mr. Keith T. Katz

### Group

#### **"Waste Minimization/ Pollution Prevention Program"**

USPS Northeast Area -  
Processing and Distribution  
Facilities (28 Postal Sites)

## Sowing the Seeds for Change

#### **"U.S. EPA/USPS Recycling Hotline"**

EPA/USPS

#### **"Defense Logistics Agency Environmental Products Catalog"**

Department of Defense -  
Defense Logistics Agency  
Defense Supply Center  
Richmond, VA

Ms. Brenda T. Longest  
Mr. Stephen Perez  
Mr. Clifford A. Myers  
Ms. Susanne Smith

#### **"GSA/EPA Buy Recycled Partnership Campaign"**

Region 4 - Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Sandy Jones, GSA  
Mr. J. C. Meredith, EPA

## A Federal Program at the 1996 National Recycling Coalition Meeting in Pittsburgh

**T**he first annual NRC-FEE Recycling Confluence Program will be held in conjunction with the National Recycling Coalition's (NRC) Annual Congress and Exposition in Pittsburgh, PA on September 17-19, 1996. The program will feature three tracks for federal agency personnel:

Affirmative Procurement (3 workshops); Recycling/Waste Prevention (3 workshops); and Department of Defense (4 workshops).

In addition, Katie McGinty, Chair of the President's Council on Environmental

Quality, and Ms. Sherry W. Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) have been invited to be keynote speakers at the opening session.

A special Federal Government Registration fee of only \$119 has been arranged for federal attendees. In addition, a block of rooms within the per diem hotel allowance (\$69) has been reserved and is available on a first-come basis. Special transportation packages are under consideration including bus transportation from Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA, Chicago, IL and New York, NY.

This is a networking opportunity to learn and share with your peers from other federal agencies and industry. The National Recycling Coalition plans exciting opportunities, exhibits and educational events.

Be part of it! Mark your calendar!

For more information and registration materials contact the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive at (202) 260-1297 or return the coupon below:

## Video Now Available From OFEE

### Roadmap to Buy Recycled Vehicular Products

**A**n informational resource tool for recycled vehicular products produced in partnership by the

U.S. Postal Service and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive has been produced. This educational tool highlights availability, performance, description and warranty issues on Re-refined Oil, Retread Tires and Reclaimed Engine Coolant. Fleet field management personnel from five various federal agencies share purchasing and fleet performance insight from their experiences. The video also features a message from Fran McPoland, the Federal Environmental Executive.

Help get your agency started or improve your agency's procurement of these recycled vehicular products. Order your copy today!

### Postal Service Adds Price Preference for Paper Products

**T**he U.S. Postal Service revised its purchasing policies and specifications for paper and paper products so that a price preference, when desirable, is given for paper and paper products containing recycled content material. A premium of up to 10 percent may be paid.



**Please send me registration materials on the NRC-FEE Confluence Program.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in taking bus transportation from

(List one of the 3 cities above or other interested city)

# Re-Refined Oil Available From DLA

In the first issue of *Closing the Circle News*, the Federal Environmental Executive announced that the Defense Logistic Agency (DLA) had published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for re-refined lubrication oil. As a result of the RFP, DLA awarded a contract on December 4, 1995, allowing the agency to offer re-refined oil to its Federal customers. Interested parties should call 1-800-352-2852 to obtain purchasing information from DLA's customer service office at the Defense Supply Center,

Richmond (formerly known as the Defense General Supply Center).

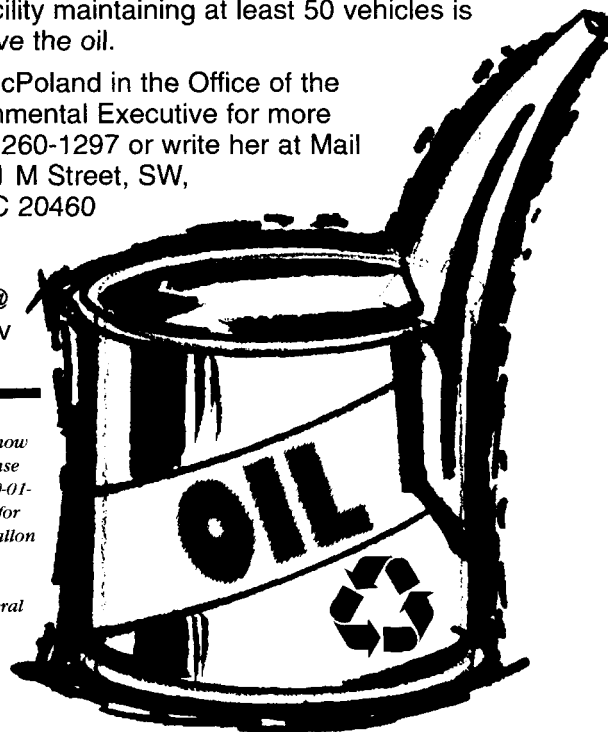
NSN	Unit of Measure	Viscosity
9150-01-413-6897	Box of 12	
	1-Quart Bottles	.10w30
9150-01-413-6892	5-Gallon Container	.10w30
9150-01-413-6990	55-Gallon Drum	.10w30

## Free Oil Giveaway!

*Now that we've got your attention, here are the details:*

- Two of the major manufacturers of re-refined lubricating oil are willing to give away one case of 10w30 oil to each eligible fleet facility.
- Any Federal facility maintaining at least 50 vehicles is eligible to receive the oil.
- Contact Fran McPoland in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive for more details at (202) 260-1297 or write her at Mail Code 1600, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 or better yet E-mail her at [mcpoland.fran@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:mcpoland.fran@epamail.epa.gov)

*Note: Re-refined lube oil is now available through the Defense Logistics Agency, NSNs 9150-01-413-6897, 6892, and 6990 for 10w30 quart bottles, five gallon containers and 55 gallon drums respectively. These appear in the Defense General Supply Center, Richmond products catalog. Call 1-800-352-2852.*



## Did You Know?

- The Postal Service purchased two million pallets in 1994. These longer-life plastic trays and pallets will replace limited-use cardboard trays and wooden pallets. New hampers and mail containers contain 50 percent recycled material.
- It is estimated that more than 400,000 tons of wastepaper, cardboard, plastics, cans, and other material were recycled last year. Recycling activities generated about \$6.4 million in revenue in fiscal year 1995.
- The Postal Service purchased nearly \$75 million in products with recycled content in 1994.
- Mail is mixed paper waste that can be recycled.

# OFEE JumpStarts the Performance Improvement Campaign

**T**he Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) has launched the Performance Improvement Campaign (PIC) to increase the acquisition and use of EPA-designated products by Federal Agencies.

The PIC consists of initiatives focused on EPA-designated products by category (e.g., vehicular products, construction products, transportation\* products, etc.), each comprised of one or more functionally related products. Within the Vehicular Products category, Re-refined Oil and Retread Tires are two of the original five products EPA that designated between 1983-1989. In 1995, EPA added Engine Coolant to the Vehicular Products category.

Data on purchases of Re-refined Oil and Retread Tires indicate that federal agencies

are not taking full advantage of the opportunities available. In an effort to maximize acquisition and use of vehicular products made from recovered materials (i.e., retread tires, re-refined oil, and reclaimed engine coolant), the OFEE has put the JumpStart initiative into gear. It is the first such effort under the Performance Improvement umbrella intended to help agencies get started purchasing EPA-designated products.

The JumpStart team has distributed three questionnaires to different audiences: Federal agency headquarters, selected Federal fleet managers, and a sampling of manufacturers and distributors of vehicular products made from recovered materials. These questionnaires are designed to provide the JumpStart team with a better

understanding of why

Federal purchases of EPA-designated items are below expectations. Once received back, the JumpStart team will review and analyze the results to determine how better to assist agencies and fleet managers increase vehicular product acquisition and use.

The JumpStart team has developed a workshop designed to explain the purpose of this initiative. This workshop has already been conducted for 54 DOE employees. More workshops are planned shortly for the Department of Justice and NASA. These workshops:

- Educate the acquisition community about the quality and availability of vehicular products made from recovered materials;

**I**n 1976, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) directed Federal agencies to purchase "items composed of the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable" and to establish preference programs to purchase those products. RCRA also directed EPA to designate items that are produced, or can be produced, with recovered materials and to recommend practices for agencies to procure those items.

- Advocate the use of these products;
- Facilitate the acquisition process;
- Eliminate the barriers; and
- Congratulate successful users.

The workshop will bring together representatives from OFEE, industry, EPA, successful users, and the Federal acquisition community. In addition, an OFEE video on Vehicular Products is planned to be released in May, 1996.

If you would like to find out more about the workshop or video, contact the JumpStart team at (202) 260-1297.

Take the first step by completing the Crossword Jumpstart Initiative Challenge in this issue (page 7).

## Remember GSA's Solvent Recycling Service With Safety-Kleen?

**W**ell, It's Back!

The Solvent Recycling Service begins with a setup of parts cleaning equipment. Then, after specific intervals, it covers removal of contaminated solvent, cleaning the parts washer system of sludge and residue, replenishing the parts washer with recycled solvent, replacing filters, and performing all repairs necessary to ensure that the cleaning equipment is maintained in proper operational condition. The recycling process uses a closed loop system, and the solvent is recycled to

the maximum extent possible. The transport, disposal, and recycling are performed by the contractor's employees in contractor facilities.

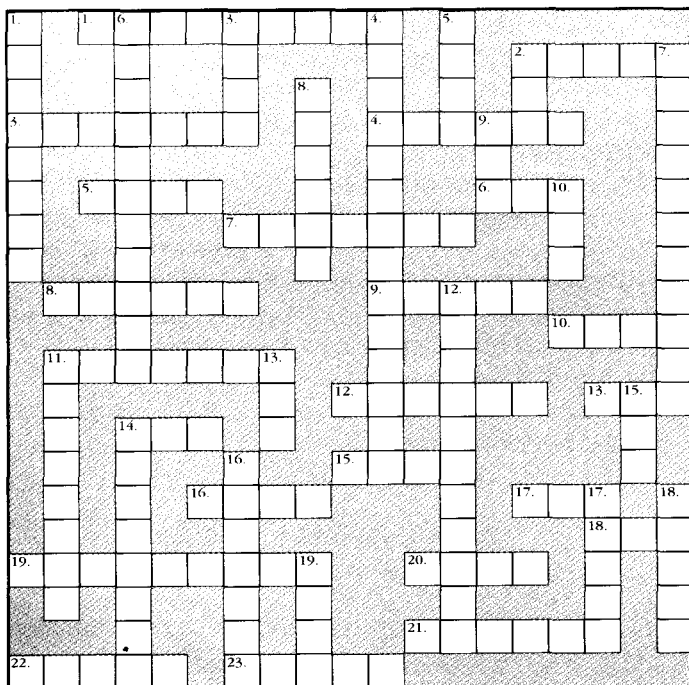
Under the contract (Single Award Federal Supply Schedule), you have the following choices:

- Contractor-Furnished Equipment Solvent Recycling Service
- Government-Owned Equipment/Solvent Recycling Service
- Waste-Minimization Parts Cleaners/Solvent Recycling Service (new), which extends the usable service life of solvent by enhanced filtra-

tion methods. This results in twice the normal service life of solvent, thereby reducing by 50 percent the number of annual services required and the amount of waste generated. Service is available at 4-, 8-, and 16-week intervals. For additional information, call these numbers:

- For copies of the schedule—(817) 334-5215
- For schedule information—(206) 931-7062
- Safety-Kleen Corporation—(800) 669-5740

## JumpStart Initiative Challenge



### ACROSS

1. Conserve our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ certification assures the quality of retreader's process.
3. Main component of a vehicle that requires use of 2 designated products to operate (plural).
4. Buying the products manufactured from raw materials it recovers is a full \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A closed-\_\_\_\_\_ system can be the most cost-effective method.
6. Agency responsible for Federal Tire Program.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the Circle News.
8. A Federal Government \_\_\_\_\_ must buy designated products containing recovered materials.
9. The best innovative Federal programs that implement the objectives of E.O. 12873 will win an \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Office where individual appointed by President to implement E.O. 12873 and staff are.
11. New recycled content product made by mold cure or preure process.
12. Each agency needs to change its \_\_\_\_\_ to enable fleet managers to purchase designated products.
13. This agency is responsible for tire standards.
14. In essence, each agency should have a \_\_\_\_\_-Recycled Campaign.
15. This recycled vehicle product must meet \_\_\_\_\_ performance specifications as well as those of engine manufacturers.
16. Each agency shall establish a \_\_\_\_\_ for procurement of each recycled product.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the primary regulation used by Executive agencies in their acquisition of Supplies and Services.
18. Agency which designates products and product categories.
19. One of the seven product categories.
20. Use a \_\_\_\_\_ pressure gauge regularly to assure proper inflation and extend life of casing.
21. Increasing the use of re-refined oil will \_\_\_\_\_ our dependence on foreign oil.

22. All tires are regulated by the NHTSA through the \_\_\_\_\_.
23. In order to be successful in recycling, we must \_\_\_\_\_ our people.

### DOWN

1. Companies can \_\_\_\_\_ oil into a designated product.
2. Tires that can pass the Federal Tire Program tests are placed on a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This agency's vehicle maintenance facilities won a group CTC award in the waste prevention category.
4. Agencies must revise their contract \_\_\_\_\_ to assure the use of recovered materials.
5. Retreading a passenger tire saves about \_\_\_\_\_ gallons of oil compared to a new tire.
6. We should all protect our \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Comprehensive \_\_\_\_\_ Guideline.
8. Ethylene and propylene have this chemical family in common.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ designates 24 recycled-content products into product categories.
10. This designated item can be used in a Federal vehicle when it carries the \_\_\_\_\_ starburst symbol/seal.
11. Use of \_\_\_\_\_ content products can spur development of new technologies and use of such products.
12. Each agency must develop an \_\_\_\_\_ Procurement Program.
13. This agency is a major supplier of lubricating oils to Federal organizations.
14. Removing the \_\_\_\_\_ in your agency increases use of recycled content products.
15. One of the designated vehicle products used in your vehicle (last word).
16. One of the designated vehicle products used in your vehicle (last word).
17. Key word in waste prevention.
18. Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and \_\_\_\_\_ Prevention.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ requires government agencies to purchase EPA- designated items containing recovered materials.

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) In-House Recycling Program

**T**VA is becoming an environmental leader among Federal agencies, demonstrating its commitment to comply with environmental laws, solid waste minimization, energy reduction, sustained architecture, affirmative procurement, as well as other activities.

In fiscal year (FY) 1994, to ensure Environmental Law Compliance, TVA initiated a Facilities Services' Environmental Program, detailing its comprehensive Environmental Management Program. The Program defines environmental regulations applicable to the various TVA facilities and activities, allowing managers to see what needs to be done, where, and when. It also (1) provides guidance to managers for compliance in the areas of Clean Air, Clean Water, Hazardous Materials/Waste, Training, and Emergency Response; (2) identifies individuals as points of contact in business units and workgroups to increase employee awareness; and (3) establishes a self-audit process.

For Solid Waste Minimization, the program includes centrally located collection centers for recyclable materials (paper, glass, aluminum, magazines, cardboard, and plastic), replacing workspace wastebaskets with "ReBox" containers at each employee's desk, using reusable coffee mugs at vending machines and water fountains, and using hand dryers for paper towels.

In the interest of Energy Reduction, TVA exceeded DOE's goals for government buildings and experienced a decline of 6.2 percent in FY 1994. Various means were used to achieve this goal, including high-efficiency lamps and electronic ballasts, lighting timer control devices, and programmable thermostats. An energy awareness campaign also helped by raising employee consciousness.

Sustainable or "Green" Architecture means designing buildings that fit with the natural environment, making use of natural, non-toxic, low-maintenance materials requiring less energy to create and operate. In FY 1994, the TVA Sustainable Architecture team analyzed 30 building materials, allowing those managing renovation projects to choose appropriate materials.

Affirmative Procurement efforts have been successful. TVA, with over 600 companies, joined the National Recycling Coalition's Buy Recycled Business Alliance. Also, TVA exceeded its FY 1994 Affirmative Procurement goals by \$2.3 million.

TVA has also supported Partners-In-Education, donating carpet, telephone books, topsoil, furniture, typewriters, calculators, light bulbs, etc. The program has made a commitment to local communities at several locations to be responsible neighbors and reduce hazardous waste generation and use of non-ozone-depleting refrigerants. This is a model environmental program, and it puts TVA in a leadership position.



## **RETREAD from page 1**

your 18-wheeler to the truck stop, the damaged tire will continue to lose air and overheat. If you drive long enough, the tire will finally disintegrate and blow rubber pieces all over the highway.

Now remember, we said the tire that came apart was a new tire that had never been near a retread factory. But you can be certain that the person driving behind your truck will say, "Look at that! Another retread! There ought to be law against those things!"

So you see, the retread industry takes the blame for much of the rubber on the road, although a large percentage of the "ugly alligators" comes from new tires that have never been retreaded.

Do retreaded tires ever come apart? Of course they do; but new tires fail at about the same rate as retreads. And the safety record for retreads is the same as it is for new tires. This is why retreads are routinely and safely used on school buses, fire engines, and other emergency vehicles; commercial and military airlines; and millions of passenger cars and trucks. The U.S.

Postal Service, Federal Express, and United Parcel Service—like thousands of other organizations—routinely use retreads on their fleet vehicles. These three organizations absolutely depend on their vehicles being on time, and you can be certain that they would not use retreads if they had not proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that retreads perform exactly the same as new tires, and at a far lower cost.

Retreads can do the same for your fleets.

The Tire Retread Information Bureau would like to send you a copy of an information packet and a series of videos about retread tires at no charge. We can also help you set up a tour of a retread factory in your area and assist you in arranging for a set of test tires at no cost, in most cases. Please contact us at:

Tire Retread Information Bureau  
900 Weldon Grove  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
408/372-1917 Fax 408/372-9210

**By Harvey Brodsky**, Managing Director,  
Tire Retread Information Bureau

### **Would You Like To Receive Closing the Circle News in the Mail?**

If so, fill out and send the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Closing the Circle  
401 M Street, SW  
(Mail Code 1600)  
Washington, DC 20460

Fax: 202-401-9503

Or save paper by using E-mail. Our E-mail address is: [mcpoland.fran@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:mcpoland.fran@epamail.epa.gov).

### **Office of the Federal Environmental Executive**

Fran McPoland . . . . . Federal Environmental Executive

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Federal Supply Service

Dorothy Little . . . . . AARP, Environmental Protection Agency

Eydie Pines . . . . . Environmental Protection Agency,  
Office of Solid Waste

Marialane Schultz . . . . . Department of Defense,  
Defense Logistics Agency

Debra Yap . . . . . General Services Administration,  
Public Buildings Service

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