

PREVENTION Quarter



FALL 1998

THE FABRICARE TECHNOLOGY CENTER IS OPEN!

(The FTC is a technology demonstration facility and training center for dry cleaners)



water-based cleaning and humidity-controlled drying

On July 9, 1998 the FabriCare Technology Center (FTC) held its grand opening celebration in Cleveland, Ohio. The FTC is a technology demonstration facility and training center for dry cleaners. Designed by a team of cleaners, regulators, equipment representatives, and educators, the FTC's purpose is simple: to provide the industry with the resources it needs to stay productive and profitable despite growing environmental and regulatory pressures.

The FTC features over 3,000 square feet of instructional and production space. Presently, the

majority of equipment consists of the latest in wetcleaning technology, but the center plans to acquire other fabricare technologies, such as liquid CO₂, in the future. A sample listing of equipment at the FTC includes:

Aqua Clean washer and dryer
Unimac washer and dryer system
Hi-Steam tensioning topper
Hi-Steam up-air finishing board
Hi-Steam tensioning form finisher
Cissell form finisher
Cissell vacuum spotting board
Cissell 3-way puff irons
Unipress utility press

In addition to being a demonstration facility for the latest in wetcleaning and other fabricare technologies, the FTC is an important education center for dry cleaners and their staff. The FTC provides industry orientation and basic training for new employees, and skills expansion and cross training for established employees. Training modules are designed to help professional cleaners with general business issues such as regulatory requirements and customer service, and specific wetcleaning issues such as fabric science in wetcleaning and the basics of spotting and finishing.

All professional cleaners are encouraged to use this wonderful resource to meet the challenges of the future in a safe and profitable manner. The FTC is run by Cuyahoga Community College's Small Business Environmental Assistance Center. For more information on the FTC's resources or to sign up for classes, please contact **Christine Kovach (216) 987-3700**.



Elemental Mercury Collection Program

Following a large spill of elemental mercury during a building renovation project, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) began an elemental mercury collection program. The primary purpose of the program was to eliminate as much of the elemental mercury on campus as possible. All of the mercury collected was moved to the University's hazardous waste where it was consolidated by the University's hazardous waste management company contractor and sent off site for reclamation.

Subsequently, the University began to take in elemental mercury from non-University sources. These sources included area residents, small business and industry, fire departments, and governmental agencies. As a provision of this program, the mercury could not be contaminated. If the mercury was contaminated, BGSU provided them with information on proper disposal methods.

Assisting BGSU in this effort was the University's hazardous waste management contractor. Through normal business activities this company was able to obtain elemental mercury from many non-University sources throughout the state.

In January of 1998, the local newspaper ran a story about a mercury spill involving small children and the major

problems associated with their health effects as well as the contamination of several buildings. Following this report, BGSU, in conjunction with the Ohio EPA Northwest Emergency Response Section, Toledo Environmental Services, the Wood County Emergency Management Agency, and the Wood County Health Department decided to begin a concerted elemental mercury collection program. Representatives of these agencies discussed the procedures that would be used for collecting and transporting the mercury. It was felt that the agency representative would collect the mercury from the residents versus having them move the mercury themselves.

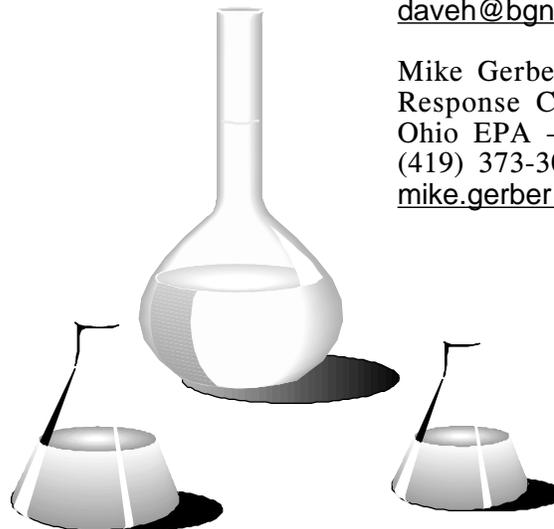
Since that time, the mercury collection program has now expanded to include the Ohio EPA Southwest Emergency Response Section. Several other counties in Northwest Ohio are currently in the process of joining this consolidated effort.

To date, the collection program has brought in approximately 130 pounds of elemental mercury involving more than 70 individual sources. This cooperative program will continue to eliminate sources of elemental mercury and reduce the potential for releases. Hopefully, similar programs throughout the State can expand this important public service program even further.

For additional information about this program, please contact:

Dave Heinlen, Safety and Health Coordinator
Bowling Green State University
(419) 372-2173
daveh@bgnnet.bgsu.edu or

Mike Gerber, Emergency Response Coordinator
Ohio EPA - Northwest District
(419) 373-3031
mike.gerber@epa.state.oh.us



OMEX - Ohio's Materials Exchange is a Success

The Ohio Materials Exchange began operations in November 1997. The first bimonthly publication of the OMEX Newsletter began in March/April, 1998 and is mailed to 9,500 Ohio businesses and industry. The following information is provided on the success of the program.

March/April	1998	130 listings
May/June	1998	205 listings
July/August	1998	257 listings

Continued funding for the Newsletter is currently under review by Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management. Participants will not receive a Newsletter until funding issues are resolved. Should funding continue and you want to receive the Newsletter, call 614-644-2928. Currently, OMEX has 313 listings.

Total successful exchanges to date: 212.35 tons (424,700 lbs.)

One successful case study is the disposal savings at \$350 for 400 lbs. of caustic soda with more savings expected during 1998.

A Powerpoint Slide presentation is available (1) on disk; (2) as handouts and/or (3) as photoready copy for overheads. The Powerpoint presentation can be used for business meetings, as a teaching tool for a recycling committee meeting or for any number of applications. A **speaker's bureau** is also available to present detailed presentations on OMEX. Contact Diane Mellinger at 740/397-7652 for more information.

The listings and the OMEX Fact Sheet are on Ohio EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention WEB page. Address: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/recyc/omex.html>

Waste Minimization/P2 Conference Chicago, Illinois December 14-16, 1998

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is sponsoring a Waste Minimization/P2 Conference for Generators of Hazardous Waste. The conference will be held on December 14-16, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Lakefront in downtown Chicago. The conference will include presentations by industry leaders on how to reduce and even eliminate hazardous waste generation, solid waste, wastewater discharges, and air emissions. The benefits from such reductions include cost savings in waste treatment and disposal, compliance with regulatory requirements and, in some cases, exclusion from a regulated status. Sources of free technical assistance and information will be presented. For conference information, e-mail us at wastminconf@techlawinc.com or call (800)844-9049 and leave a message. A U.S. EPA Region 5 representative or contractor will return your call. Potential discussion topics addressed during the conference include:

- Waste minimization/P2 strategies
- Technology innovation
- Packaging
- Pilot Trials
- Air Emissions
- Alternatives to solvents
- Regulatory Reinvention
- Facilities' perspectives on current regulatory projects such as the Common Sense Initiative, Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Information Resources
- Implementing Self-Auditing Protocols
- The Use of Corporate Environmental Reports
- ISO 14000 Certification
- Sustainable Development
- Clean-up and Prevention of Contaminated Sediments

The Ohio Alliance for the Environment Annual Conference *Sustainable Communities . . . Are we doing enough?*

A two day exploration of present indicators, future options and different perspectives.

Keynote Speaker: Martin Spitzer Executive Director of the President's Council on Sustainable Development

Wed & Thurs, November 4 & 5, 1998 Concourse Hotel, Airport Columbus, Ohio

For Further Information Contact: The Ohio Alliance for the Environment, 1500 W. Third Ave., Suite 30, Columbus, Ohio 43212 614-487-9957 (phone & fax)

Comments Requested on Ohio EPA's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program.

Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters has completed its initial draft of Ohio's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program, and will be issuing the final draft for public comment in early October. Public meetings will be held in each of Ohio EPA's Districts (in Twinsburg, Bowling Green, Dayton, Logan, and Columbus) in early November. For more information, visit the Ohio EPA Web site at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/pdu/swap.html>. Or, contact the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters by calling (614) 644-2752.

SMALL BUSINESS BENEFITS FROM CLEAN AIR RESOURCE CENTER

Complying with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 can be costly, especially for a small business. Implementing pollution prevention, purchasing pollution control equipment, hiring engineering consultants and redesigning processes are just a few of the possible costs. To take the sting out of compliance, Ohio's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) offers financial assistance and free technical guidance. "The Center helps you explore alternative solutions," said Executive Director Mark Shanahan. "This program is designed for companies that don't have in-house expertise to figure out the best, most economical way to comply with the clean air standards."

CARC puts businesses in touch with environmental engineers who can give advice on pollution prevention methods, emission measurement and pollution monitoring. They can perform free on-site visits to identify problems and solutions that work for your company. Projects financed through the Center are eligible for substantial tax benefits. Eligible costs and projects are broadly defined to include pollution prevention, process changes and development costs, such as engineering and design. Improvements to facilities and property that are CARC financed are exempt from real property tax assessment for the life of the loan as well as Ohio's tangible property tax and sales and use taxes.

To encourage small businesses to seek assistance, state law requires the Center to protect the confidentiality of all communications and information received from businesses. No information obtained by the Center can be used in an Ohio EPA enforcement action. What's good for the environment can be good for business too. When the Printing Industry of Ohio came under the long reach of the Act, new standards forced printers to pay more attention to pollution caused by inks and solvents. Once the companies started keeping track of the products as required by law, they found they could use them more efficiently, cut costs and, at the same time, prevent pollution. **To receive more information about how CARC can help you, call the Clean Air Resource Center, 1-800-225-5051, or visit its website at <http://www.state.oh.us/carc/>.**

Visit OPP on the Internet: www.epa.state.oh.us/opp



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