



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 23 2005

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ATTN: Chuck Stertz

Dear Senator Feingold:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2005 regarding your constituent's concern about use of recycled material in home construction.

The Environmental Protection Agency does not have the statutory authority to require industry to use recovered materials in its manufacture of house siding and other construction materials or to require recycling of these materials. Instead, we work with states, communities, and industry on voluntary approaches to encourage businesses to reduce, and recycle construction materials.

State and local authorities have the primary responsibility for waste management. Consequently, the way waste is managed varies from state to state. Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources helps businesses and communities develop innovative, flexible programs that prevent pollution and minimize waste. To learn about waste management in Wisconsin communities, your constituent may want to contact Wisconsin's Cooperative Environment Assistance Bureau at P.O. Box 7921, Madison Wisconsin 53707, 608-267-3125, 608-267-9305 (fax), CEA@dnr.state.wi.us, and/or <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/>.

Nevertheless, construction and demolition debris is one of the areas we have put special emphasis on in terms of recycling and reuse. In particular, we are actively looking for ways to foster increased recycling of these types of materials, such as siding. While there are many factors that determine the degree of recycling, market factors are very significant. Aluminum siding, like most metals in the construction and demolition debris stream is readily recycled. As an example, we have partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory to investigate the viability of reclaiming wood siding from Army buildings slated for removal. It is possible that the manufacturer of your constituent's siding already incorporates recycled content into their products, but has not yet adopted a marketing approach that heralds this attribute. The American Plastics Council's website has a discussion of recycling vinyl siding, see www.plasticsresource.com.

I appreciate your inquiry on this topic. I hope you find this information useful. If you have any further questions, please contact Holly Smithson of my staff at (202) 566-1609.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Dunne".

Thomas P. Dunne

Deputy Assistant Administrator

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>