

## From the Executive Director

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center was created in 2007 to help firms pursue sustainability initiatives that protect their material, human, ecological and fiscal resources. The non-profit organization provides educational forums, collaboration opportunities, and technical assistance to help facilitate the establishment of programs and procedures that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially responsible.

The Center had a busy and productive 2012. New services were launched, numerous waste reduction programs were implemented, 61 tons of unwanted materials were repurposed, and the organization received an award from the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. Those are just some of the highlights! Please read on for more details of the year's accomplishments. Visit [www.ecostardevens.com](http://www.ecostardevens.com) or call 978-772-8831 x3304 to learn how the Eco-Efficiency Center can benefit your facility.

I hope to have the opportunity to work with you in 2013 ~ Dona Neely, Executive Director

## Devens Eco-Efficiency Center Earns Recognition



*Dona Neely, Director, (center) celebrates with Board members, colleagues and family members*

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center was proud to receive “Roy L. Jeannotte Award” for Outstanding Organization from the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce during its 15th Annual Community Service and Leadership Awards (CSLA) event on November 7. This recognition is given to an organization “that has made a substantial contribution to the lasting enhancement of the Nashoba Valley Region by demonstrating exceptional leadership and community involvement.” The Chamber recognizes only three to five individuals or organizations for three CSLA award categories each year, so this was quite an honor!

## Care Products Collected for Homeless

The Eco-Efficiency Center led a collection of first aid and toiletry items for area homeless individuals. Local firms and their employees donated almost 1,800 toiletry items, over 800 bandages and five boxes of first aid supplies. Participants included AMSC, Comrex, Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, Devens Enterprise Commission, Fidelity Bank, Laddawn, Safety Source Northeast, SpringHill Suites Hotel, and SunnyDelight.

The Ayer-Shirley Lions and other area clubs provided gently used eyeglass cases that were converted to 80 first aid kits. This project put cases that are not repurposed with donated eyeglasses to good use. These kits, along with 125 personal care bags and various medical supplies were delivered to ACTION Health Care Services, which provides assistance to homeless in Fitchburg- Gardner area.



*Dona Neely (Eco-Efficiency Center), Kate Clisham (DEC), Stacey Auger (ACTION), Peter Lowitt (DEC), Jenn Cordio (Ayer-Shirley Lions) and her daughter, and Neil Angus (DEC). Holly Colt (AMSC) also volunteered but is not shown.*

# Learning Shared with Local and National Audiences

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center hosted and participated in a variety of educational forums throughout 2012. Upcoming workshops and roundtables are promoted at [www.ecostardevens.com](http://www.ecostardevens.com); many handouts and presentations can also be viewed under the Education section.

## EHS Roundtable

The monthly EHS Roundtable for area professionals with environmental, health and safety responsibilities addressed a mix of topics, from Devens development projects to reuse/recycle strategies to hazardous waste management. The session that featured a review of upcoming hazardous waste regulation changes drew a crowd of 57 attendees.



## Green Building Roundtable

The quarterly Green Building Roundtable shared case study examples, helpful resources, and explanations of new best practices in the industry with session topics like Mastering Healthy Building Materials and Top 10 Energy Efficiency Measures for Demand Reduction. These sessions attract builders, architects, developers and academics, as well as interested citizens.

## Eco-Industrial Development Conference

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center collaborated with the Devens Enterprise Commission to organize a three-day Eco-Industrial Development (EID) Conference to highlight and discuss innovative projects that incorporate economy, environment and equity considerations. EID ventures typically incorporate green infrastructure, tenant collaborations, clean production practices, and resource conservation measures. Devens is internationally recognized as an eco-industrial park! The conference attracted EID practitioners from across the country eager to share their accomplishments and gain ideas and inspirations from others.

## MassAudubon Conference

The Center's Director led a panel presentation titled "Waste – Not, the Power of Partnerships" with employees of Eglomisé Designs and Parker from Devens and the Acton Discovery Museum at MassAudubon's "Working for the Green" event. Panelists shared motivations for participating The Great Exchange (Page 4) to repurpose unwanted materials. Phil Baker stated "It is amazing how everyone here at Parker Aerospace has bought into the recycling (re-purposing) of our packaging items, like the egg crates, bubble wrap and wood skids! It requires so little effort on our part, saves our company disposal fees and also follows our Corporate Policy for Environmental Stewardship." Alisha Morelli-Mulvaney from The Discovery Museum explained "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is a big thing in our museum. With the help from The Great Exchange and the continued commitment from companies like Parker, Cains and Eglomisé, we can teach our visitors that recycling is more than just something we do at home. We all have a commitment to our earth to keep it a clean and happy place."

## Can EcoStar membership benefit your facility?



The EcoStar program was launched in 2005 to promote sustainable development in Devens and help area firms improve their economic, environmental and social performance. Benefits of membership include waived registration fees for unlimited participation in educational forums hosted by the Eco-Efficiency Center, assistance with evaluation and implementation of sustainability initiatives prioritized for efficiency gains, and public recognition of accomplishments. Members typically achieve an immediate return on their investment in this award winning program! Visit the website and contact the Center to learn more.

# New Initiatives Prevent 500,000 Pounds of Waste

New and expanded services delivered by the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, with the support of a grant awarded by the USDA, significantly reduced the amount of waste generated by facilities located in and near Devens in 2012. Highlights of accomplishments and how these free offerings reduce operating costs are featured below. Can they benefit your firm?

## New Recycle Programs Divert Over 252,000 Pounds

Consultations with thirty-six commercial, industrial and service institutions raised awareness of opportunities to make operations more sustainable. To date recycling programs have been created or strengthened in half of these facilities. [New programs captured 126 tons of recyclable material and decreased waste management costs by as much as 40% for participating organizations.](#)



The Center also worked with the Devens Enterprise Commission to update the permitting process to better inform new and existing park tenants of recycling expectations, logistical services available, and the State's Waste Bans. Updated forms, outreach materials and website communications will ensure that new development projects incorporate the necessary logistics to accommodate recycling (e.g., container space) prior to project permitting.

## 82,000 Pounds of Food Scraps – the New “Recyclable”

The Eco-Efficiency Center now offers assistance to food service providers that want to “recycle” their organics, thanks in part to the support of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Waste from preparation activities, uneaten and un-served dishes can be converted into valuable resources for agriculture, pig farmers, landscaping, and soon a feedstock for renewable energy. The Center provides assistance with haulers, logistics, signage and training. This support will help restaurants and institutions prepare for the State's new proposed Waste Ban that, beginning in 2014, will require those that create more than one ton of organics per week to divert the material from solid waste.

[In the first year composting programs diverted 41 tons of organics and reduced disposal costs by 20%.](#) The first program was implemented at the Hilton Garden Inn, which now captures an estimated 40,000 pounds of organics annually and has reduced their total disposal cost. Be sure to thank them for their efforts next time you eat at the Great American Grill (their chef is pictured to the right).



An organics program was also established at the Gardner Ale House, which now diverts more than 800 pounds of food scraps per week. Additionally, the Center partnered with the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce to reduce waste generated by the popular Taste of Nashoba event. Approximately 100 pounds of food was diverted; some treats were given to venue and security staff, the remainder was composted.

## Pallet Collection – 800 Recycled in 4 Months



The Eco-Efficiency Center also organized a free monthly community-wide pallet collection service for Devens firms. [This program eliminates the costly disposal of the bulky items and the unwanted pallets are repaired and resold or used as a feedstock for a renewable energy generator instead of sent to the landfill.](#) In the first month over 100 pallets were collected from 11 manufacturing firms! This service was especially beneficial to a contractor working for Citizens Energy that accumulated over 500 pallets while developing the Devens solar field and was able to avoid a significant removal fee.



# 123,000 Pounds of Unwanted Materials Repurposed

The Great Exchange, an award-winning program hosted by the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, continues to provide value to the community. Since the first Exchange took place five years ago, the program has partnered over 100 global firms, small businesses, service providers, daycare facilities, non-profits, and municipalities and repurposed 500 tons of furniture, equipment, unusable inventory, and manufacturing by-products. Additionally, participants avoided over \$200,000 in purchase and disposal costs.

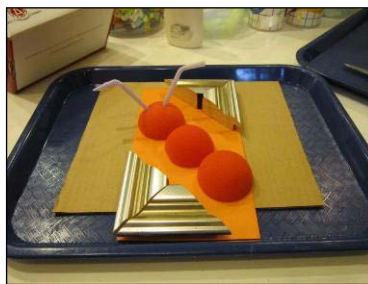
A note-worthy exchange was the donation of 174 mattresses that SpringHill Suites replaced as part of a routine upgrade. The beds were distributed to shelters and agencies that provide services to individuals and families in need across the state. This partnership saved the hotel \$1,500 in avoided disposal fees, prevented more than 42,000 pounds of material from going to the landfill and made life a lot more comfortable for many people. Other significant exchange partnerships include:



Eglomisé Designs uses packing materials from Johnson Matthey and Parker. They also donated 1,100 pounds of production by-products to art groups.



Parker Hannifin provided 300 cubic feet of bubble wrap to other firms and 3,350 egg crates that RI Resources for Education and art groups treasured.



The Discovery Museum in Acton uses all kinds of donated treasures in their Inventors Workshop. Challenge their creativity!



Over 30,500 bags from Cains Foods were used for trash and storage by lots of firms and non-profits.

## THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Check out the new webpage at [www.ecostardevens.com](http://www.ecostardevens.com) under “Services” that highlights the free materials available through The Great Exchange, including packing materials, art project supplies, office supplies and furniture, and more. Learn more about the establishments that participated and the materials (treasures!) that were repurposed in 2012 by clicking on the TGE Results link in the left column menu. Contact the Eco-Efficiency Center if your organization has something to offer, is interested in a treasure promoted, or would like to find a particular resource or partner for cost-saving collaboration.



Sustainability initiatives deliver “triple bottom line” benefits to people, the planet and profits. To learn more about how the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center helps area establishments reduce costs by using resources more efficiently visit [www.ecostardevens.com](http://www.ecostardevens.com). Contact the Center’s Executive Director at 978-772-8831 x3304 or [donaneely@ecostardevens.com](mailto:donaneely@ecostardevens.com) to learn how it can help your facility pursue opportunities to protect material, human, ecological and fiscal resources.