



Greetings,

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center helps local establishments gain cost saving operational efficiencies, reduce demand on natural and material resources, and improve quality of life for their community. In 2013 this six-year-old non-profit hosted ten educational forums, supported a major energy audit at a manufacturing firm, facilitated the evaluation of 18 new waste reduction programs and the implementation of 12 of these, and enabled the repurposing of 72 tons of materials that otherwise would have been treated as trash. These initiatives benefited 58 establishments from Devens and nine surrounding towns. This Annual Report provides highlights of how the Center promotes sustainable business and development practices and the benefits of its programs and services.

As the Eco-Efficiency Center enters its seventh year we will be making big plans to grow! I encourage you to contact me at 978-772-8831 x3304 or donaneely@ecostardevens.com to share ideas on how the Center can help your facility incorporate sustainability measures and to take advantage of upcoming opportunities to learn about and shape new program offerings.

Be green and prosper,

Dona Neely, Executive Director

Did You Know that Devens is internationally recognized as an “eco-industrial park” (EIP)?

Wikipedia defines this as “An industrial park in which businesses cooperate with each other and with the local community in an attempt to reduce waste and pollution, efficiently share resources...and help achieve sustainable development, with the intention of increasing economic gains and improving environmental quality.” The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center’s activities facilitate these types of collaborations and advances for local institutions, as this report demonstrates.



In 2013 the Center provided an overview of how it serves and benefits the local businesses and organizations to a group of students from Yale University and a delegation from China interested in promoting EIP practices. It also assisted the Devens Enterprise Commission with the updating of the Devens Sustainability Indicators Survey. This initiative tracks progress made and opportunities to fulfill the goal of the Devens Reuse Plan to redevelop the former military base in a sustainable manner. **Contact the Center to learn how your facility can benefit from being located in or near an EIP!**

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72 Tons Repurposed Via The Great Exchange

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Thank You, Supporters

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

143,459 Pounds of Material Saved From the Landfill

The Great Exchange benefited 50 businesses, non-profits and municipal offices by identifying reuse opportunities for nearly 72 tons of material in 2013! This program enables firms to strengthen their bottom line and service organizations to invest more in program delivery by reducing purchase and disposal costs, plus it helps us make better use of resources. The exchanges are estimated to have saved nearly \$30,000.

The Eco-Efficiency Center is proud to share that The Great Exchange earned Runner Up status, Institution Reuse category, at the prestigious annual Recycling Awards event hosted by [MassRecycle](#), a statewide coalition that promotes waste reduction.

Visit The [Great Exchange's webpage](#) at www.ecostardevens.com to see what treasures are available today. Call 978-772-8831 x3304 or email donaneely@ecostardevens.com to participate.



Photos l-r: 3Rivers Arts converted AMSC's trash to art; Shriver Job Corps gets cleaning supplies from Johnson Matthey.

2013 EXCHANGES

- **50 entities** - 17 firms, 11 non-profits, 9 schools, 13 town offices
- 22 in Devens, 11 in nearby towns, 16 across state, 1 out of state
- **~116,599 pounds of miscellaneous items** - barrels, glasses, lumber, pallets, plywood, plastic tubing
- **~16,904 pounds of craft supplies** - spiral rings, plastic caps, egg filler flats, foam core strips, cable reels
- **~3,843 pounds of packing materials** - shipping tubes, bags, bubble wrap, foam sheets, peanuts
- **~3,195 pounds of office furniture** - conference table, file cabinets, chairs, desks, cubicles, bookcase
- **~2,918 pounds of office supplies** - recycle bins, overhead projector, typewriter, binders, calculators, coffee, envelopes, cleaners

The Partner for Profit event attracted 39 attendees from 22 area establishments who, in less than two hours, repurposed more than 7,800 pounds of unneeded material on the spot! The free “treasures” included adding machines, bubble wrap, craft materials, office furniture and supplies, wood, and [much more!](#)



Photos, l-r: Johnson Matthey shares free furniture specs with Guild of Saint Agnes; free office supplies were a big hit; Comrex, Response Microwave and Eglomisé Designs talk treasures.

Less Waste at *Taste*

The Eco-Efficiency Center partnered with the [Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce](#) to implement procedures that would minimize the amount of waste generated at its [Taste of Nashoba](#) event. The Center's guidance to the Chamber and participating restaurants and other food vendors on eco-friendly supplies led to the elimination of Styrofoam products and the use of recyclable cups. With the aid of teammates from the Devens Enterprise Commission, an estimated 1,200 pounds of materials were diverted to recycle and 100 pounds of food was saved for donation or compost! The Center also proposed additional action steps to further reduce waste at the 2014 event.



Did You Know that Massachusetts has [Waste Bans](#) that prohibit the disposal of recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal containers, and electronics? In 2013 the Eco-Efficiency Center assisted with the evaluation and development of 18 recycle and compost programs. Diversion programs can decrease waste management costs by 30-50%! Recently the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) announced that it plans to increase compliance and enforcement actions against institutions found to be disposing a significant amount of recoverable materials. The State has also formally announced a new ban on the disposal of commercial food waste will go into effect October 1, 2014. The new regulation will apply to food service providers that generate a ton or more of organic waste per week. Contact the Center for assistance with waste reduction initiatives in your facility at 978-772-8831 or donaneely@ecostardevens.com.

Devens Employees Celebrate Earth Day



Seventy-five volunteers from eight entities participated in nine community betterment projects and made the annual Earth Day Celebration another great success.

Activities included picking up trash, clearing hiking trails, removing invasive plants at the US Fish + Wildlife Visitor Contact Station, cleaning out and



planting gardens, and making 16 turtle crossing signs that were strategically placed throughout Devens. A good time was had by all! *Thank you BMS, Devens DPW, Devens Enterprise Commission, Friends of the Oxbow, Johnson Matthey, Parker Charter, Saint-Gobain, and AOA Xinetics.*



Photos l-r, t-b: Volunteer teams from Johnson Matthey, AOA Xinetics and Saint-Gobain show their accomplishments.

Learning How to Protect Resources

The Eco-Efficiency Center hosted 10 educational forums in 2013 to help local professionals learn new strategies to minimize environmental impacts, keep workers safe, and reduce operating costs in their facility. Presentations from several of these events can be viewed from the Education page at www.ecostardevens.com.

The monthly [EHS Roundtable](#) continued to be a valuable forum for those with environmental, health and safety (EHS) responsibilities. The Roundtable provides opportunities to network with peers, collaborate on opportunities, and build proficiencies. 2013 topics included Emergency Response Procedures, Lock Out Tag Out, Confined Spaces, and Effective Safety Training Strategies. Additionally, guest speakers from OSHA, the Devens Fire Dept. and the Devens Enterprise Commission provided informative updates.



Two [Green Building Roundtables](#) enabled architects, builders and other construction professionals to learn more about designing for improved indoor air quality and passive energy for commercial and residential structures. Thanks to Devens Enterprise Commission's environmental planner Neil Angus for facilitating this forum.

The Center also hosted a workshop that helped facility managers learn about [water efficiency technologies](#) that can be deployed in various industry settings. Attendees gained insight to several strategies to decrease water consumption with systems that could provide a return on investment in two years or less.



A tour of the [Citizens Energy EBZ Solar Field in Devens](#) provided attendees with an opportunity learn how renewable energy is generated and distributed. Over 12,000 ground-mounted panels on 28 acres have the capability to generate three megawatts of renewable energy for Devens consumers!

The Eco-Efficiency Center also participated in the environmental, health and safety fair Saint-Gobain held for employees. The Center hosted a table with a display and take-away materials that provided tips on how individuals can decrease waste and increase recycling. **Check out the [Reduce Waste at Home PDF](#) on the [Services](#) page at www.ecostardevens.com to learn new strategies you can practice!**



A sincere thank you to the Devens Enterprise Commission, whose continued support ensures the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center is able to provide value to the community. Also, special recognition goes to the EcoStar members, who demonstrate a commitment to the mission of the Center. In 2013 these were:



Francis W. Parker
Charter Essential School



JM
Johnson Matthey

