<u>Waste Generation and Pollution Prevention Progress</u> <u>Fact Sheet</u>



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# Oak Ridge National Laboratory



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## **Facility Mission**

The mission of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory is to conduct basic and applied research and development to advance the nation's energy resources, environmental quality, scientific knowledge, educational foundations, and economic competitiveness. The Laboratory collaborates with Federal agencies, industry, and universities.

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(continued from page 1)

### **1994** Pollution Prevention and Recycling Accomplishments

- The use of non-ozone depleting refrigerants in heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment, and a reduction in leakage eliminated 1.5 metric tons of waste.
- The High Flux Isotope Reactor was fitted with new prefilter units to eliminate backwashing with caustic solutions, which eliminated the generation of large volumes of low-level radioactive waste.
- An operational change reduced the exhaust filter system wastestream by approximately 80 percent, and also decreased electricity usage.
- An old deionizer was replaced by a new unit, eliminating 18.9 cubic meters of process wastewater.
- Hazardous oils were replaced by non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulated hazardous waste substitutes in precision optics manufacturing processes.
- Trinitrotoluene-contaminated soil was bioremediated for reuse as compost and fill dirt, eliminating approximately 4,500 pounds of soil from landfill disposal.
- Single-use plastic bags were replaced by reusable nylon bags.
- Coal ash was reburned for reuse in cement.
- Retread tires and lead-acid batteries were recycled, eliminating nearly 40,000 pounds of waste.

#### Materials Recycled by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1994

Recycled Material	Oak Ridge National Laboratory <i>(in Metric Tons)</i>	DOE Complex (in Metric Tons)
Automotive	18	1,420
Metals	27	21,797
Paper	310	14,486
Other Materials*	1,812	18,574
GRAND TOTAL	2,167	56,277

Other materials may include toner cartridges, food/garden waste, plastic, styrofoam, glass, concrete, wood, fluorescent light tubes, coolant, filters, solvents, photographic materials, ground circuit boards, chemicals, small animal exposure tubes, paint, adhesives, brick, non-process wastewater, furniture/office equipment, fly ash, and high explosives.

The Waste Generation and Pollution Prevention Progress Fact Sheet is published by the Office of Pollution Prevention, Office of Environmental Management, EM-77. Additional information on the Pollution Prevention Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory may be obtained by contacting:

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