

FMC Environmental News



Spring 2000

Established in 1971, the Filter Manufacturers Council (FMC) represents manufacturers of vehicular and industrial filtration products. Initially developed to monitor regulatory and technological developments affecting the industry, the Council has expanded its activities substantially.

The Council has undertaken several environmental initiatives, including the most comprehensive study of used oil filters to date. The study served as the impetus for the easing of regulatory requirements issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Council continues to undertake activities which encourage the proper management of used filters, such as operation of its used filter hotline and Web site. The Council is administered by the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA).

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Used Oil Filters: Are You Recycling Them?

By now you are probably aware that used oil filters are recyclable waste consisting of valuable resources. But, armed with this information, what are you doing about it? While used oil filter recycling rates have continued to climb over the past five years, many worry that the trend is starting to slow. If the filter recycling numbers remain stagnant for long, state legislators will be forced to step in and more strictly regulate the disposal of used oil filters, resulting in higher costs for generators.



140 million recycled oil filters in 1999 alone," commented Brent Hazelett, executive director of the Filter Manufacturers Council and director of Environmental Affairs for the MEMA Environmental Institute. "While a 30% recycling rate seems impressive, particularly when compared to where the industry was ten years ago, there is still a great deal of individuals and companies that need to be educated."

A typical large quantity generator of used oil filters can easily begin a recycling program in its facility. The FMC maintains a database of filter management companies in every state, which is accessible online at www.filtercouncil.org or by calling the hotline at 800/993-4583. This information will allow the generator to locate a company that can transport the filters for recycling. The benefits of recycling compared to

In an effort to alleviate the need for such regulatory burdens and keep recycling costs low, the Filter Manufacturers Council has been actively promoting the recyclability of the products they manufacture for the past nine years. "The Council has helped lead the filter recycling industry out of anonymity, surpassing

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FMC Web site Activity Increasing

The success of the FMC Web site over the past year is evident by a consistent increase in traffic to the site. The site has continued to improve since its inception in July 1998. To date the site has received more than 300,000 hits from people all over the world seeking to learn more about environmental issues and technical details, as well as access other information provided on the site.

For those who have not visited the site, it provides valuable information to industry insiders, technicians, and the public at a keystroke or click of the mouse. In addition to used filter recycling information, the site features access to more than 40 technical service bulletins (TSB), environmental information, and member and related association links.

The Web site also provides access to each state's used oil filter recycling regulations and to used filter collectors, transporters, processors, and recyclers, which are conveniently listed by state. Its news page posts the most recent FMC news releases, as well as archived past releases.



The Web site provides information to an average of more than 23,000 Web users each month, a number that continues to rise as its content is expanded. The FMC Web site is an evolving resource, and we welcome your feedback or suggestions for improvement. ■

Are You Recycling?

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landfill disposal are numerous. The greatest benefit may be a competitive advantage over other businesses. In the current age of environmental awareness, often the most environmentally friendly business gains the customers. Advertising yourself as an oil filter recycler, or even better, an oil filter drop-off location for do-it-yourselfers (a large potential customer base) will gain market share.

For the typical do-it-yourselfer (DIY), finding a drop-off location for used oil filters may be more difficult. Many states simply do not yet have the infrastructure available to handle the DIY used oil filters. However, DIYers can call around to locate a private business or municipal location that will accept used oil filters from DIYers. If no such facilities are available and disposal is the only option, be sure to follow the federal guidelines for filter disposal (refer to your state guidelines for states that are more stringent). The minimum federal guidelines require the generator to hot drain the filter for 12 hours at 60 degrees Fahrenheit or above and puncture the dome end or antidrain back valve. This essentially means you have to poke a hole in the filter and drain it for 12 hours to remove most of the used oil before throwing it away.

If you would like to learn more about the environmental benefits of used filter recycling or how to recycle your filters, please visit our Web site at www.filtercouncil.org. Established in 1971, the Filter Manufacturers Council's membership includes 23 manufacturers of vehicular and industrial filtration products in North America. The organization has undertaken several environmental initiatives over the past decade and continues to encourage the recycling of used oil filters. The Council is administered by the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA). ■

FMC Develops Model Legislation

Many states continue to study and discuss the various possibilities available to increase used filter recycling. In response the Filter Manufacturers Council has developed model legislation for states facing this issue. The legislation addresses funding, education initiatives, and administration of a used filter recycling fund. Please contact the Council if your state would like additional information or a free copy of the model legislation.

In addition, the Filter Manufacturers Council, with assistance from member company Caterpillar Inc., has developed a television public service announcement (PSA) featuring NASCAR driver Ward Burton. Burton encourages DIYers to recycle their oil and oil filter after every oil change. For a free copy of the PSA, please contact the Council. ■

For more information on FMC Environmental News, contact

Brent Hazelett, FMC executive director, or Robin Peloquin, project administrator, at 919/549-4800, 800/993-4583 (Filter Recycling Hotline), 919/549-4824 (fax), or www.filtercouncil.org (Web site).



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Oil Filter Topics Popular Across the Country

As more and more states begin to recognize the importance and viability of used oil filter recycling, the FMC continues to be active at all levels of government, from local and state environmental organizations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This past year has proven to be no exception, as the FMC has been active in states such as Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin (see related article on p. 4).

Over the past year the FMC has been active promoting used filter recycling. FMC also actively participates in educating individual states on important national trends and statistics in legislating the disposal and recycling of used oil filters. These efforts have led to smarter regulations, resulting in cheaper means of used filter recycling and ensuring that more and more filters are recycled each year.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation agreed with EPA findings that spent metal

fuel filters are exempt from hazardous waste regulations when recycled. In addition, Tennessee currently exempts properly drained used oil filters, destined for recycling, from regulation as a hazardous waste as long as the free flowing oil has been removed and the oil is collected for recycling.

Other states have been looking more closely at the used filter disposal issue and are trying to determine if legislation is necessary to expedite the process. Several states have even had legislation proposed year after year, going back as far as 1990. The states with legislation currently pending are Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and Wisconsin. While the substance of each differs, the goal is the same: to increase the collection and recycling of used filters in the state and prevent them from landfill disposal.

The FMC will continue to be active over the next year, promoting used filter recycling across the entire country and working with states to develop efficient and effective solu-

tions to this national issue. With the ongoing support of the FMC, the used oil filter recycling rate has climbed from near zero to approximately 35% in just ten years. With a growing consumer awareness and an expanding filter recycling infrastructure, the prognosis for filter recycling is excellent.

For more information, please call the Filter Manufacturers Council at 919/549-4800 or visit our Web site at www.filtercouncil.org. ■

FMC Members

- Allomatic Inc.
- Baldwin Filters
- Carfel Inc.
- Caterpillar Inc.
- Central Illinois Manufacturing
- Champion Laboratories Inc.
- Delphi Automotive Systems
- Denso Sales California Inc.
- Donaldson Company Inc.
- Farr Company
- FilterTek Inc.
- Fleetguard-Nelson Inc.
- Gonher de Mexico
- Honeywell Consumer Products Group
- Kaydon Corp.
- Mann + Hummel Automotive
- Parker Hannifin Corp. — Filtration Group
- Purolator-Arvin Replacement Products
- SPX Filtran
- Stanadyne Automotive Corp.
- Tomi Industries Inc.
- Walmi Transforma
- Wix Filtration Products Division — Dana Corp.

About the Associations —

Filter Manufacturers Council (FMC)

Established in 1971, the Filter Manufacturers Council (FMC) represents manufacturers of vehicular and industrial filtration products. Initially developed to monitor regulatory and technological developments affecting the industry, the Council has expanded its activities substantially. The Council has undertaken several environmental initiatives, including the most comprehensive study of used oil filters to date. The study served as the impetus for the easing of regulatory requirements issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Council continues to undertake activities which encourage the proper management of used filters, such as operation of its used filter hotline. The Council is administered by the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA).

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)

Founded in 1904, MEMA is the only association which exclusively represents North American manufacturers of automotive original equipment and replacement parts, service tools and equipment, and automotive chemicals. With supporting offices in Washington, D.C.; Detroit; Brussels, Belgium; Mexico City, Mexico; São Paulo, Brazil; and Yokohama, Japan, MEMA is headquartered in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

The MEMA Environmental Institute is the environmental education and awareness arm of MEMA. The Institute was established to facilitate the proper disposal of used vehicle parts. The Institute administers the Filter Recycling Hotline and Database on behalf of the Filter Manufacturers Council.

FMC Participates in Wisconsin Council on Recycling Subcommittee

During 1999 the Filter Manufacturers Council continued to participate actively in states across the nation. This was particularly apparent in Wisconsin, a state currently wrestling with the used oil filter issue. In response to the 1997 Wisconsin Act 243, the Wisconsin Council on Recycling created the Used Oil Filter Subcommittee to determine the effectiveness of voluntary efforts to recycle used oil filters in the state. In addition, the subcommittee is to develop recommendations to increase recycling of used oil filters in the state.

The FMC actively participated on the subcommittee, which met ten times in 1999. The FMC was instrumental in providing a history of filter recycling across the country, as well as important statistical data used during committee discussions. The subcommittee ultimately submitted a report, which included recommendations, to the Wisconsin Council on Recycling. The Council then offered its recommendations to the legislature based on the findings of the report.

The Wisconsin Council on Recycling recommended three key initiatives.

The first recommendation is to establish by legislation a task force, or similar body, attached to the Department of Commerce that would, within a year of being formed:

- 1) Develop baseline information as to the status of used oil filter recycling in Wisconsin;
- 2) Use that baseline information to establish goals for used oil filter recycling;
- 3) Establish a public/private partnership to develop and execute a plan of action, using a mixture of public and private funding;
- 4) Set a deadline of two years after establishment of the public/private partnership for meeting the goals;
- 5) Institute a statewide ban on the disposal of used oil filters by the generators if the goals are not met by the deadline; and
- 6) Require quarterly updates by the public/private partnership to the Council on Recycling.

The second recommendation offered to the legislature is to establish an indemnification fund to repay the cost of disposal for a used oil filter

that is contaminated in such a way as to make the used oil filter unfit for recycling. The fund shall repay any used oil filter collector who unintentionally receives contaminated filters.

Lastly, the Council on Recycling recommends a public/private partnership be given a charge to develop, plan, and execute an educational program aimed at all generators of used oil filters.

As an organization devoted to the proper disposal and recycling of our products, the Filter Manufacturers Council has already expressed a willingness to work with the state of Wisconsin to formulate such a partnership.

Because these are merely recommendations, it is possible that the legislators will choose a completely different course of action. A final decision should be made during the 2000 session. While the work has only begun in Wisconsin, the FMC believes the state is on the right track. With an effective public education campaign coupled with a public/private partnership, the used filter recycling infrastructure in Wisconsin can only improve. ■

National Oil Filter Recycling Rate Continues to Climb

Data collected by the FMC indicates that used oil filter recycling continues to be on the rise nationally. Latest findings show that roughly one-third of used oil filters are recycled, the majority by large quantity generators, as opposed to do-it-yourself mechanics.

The latest numbers, using data from 1998, indicate that approximately 143 million of the 430 million oil filters sold in the United States were recycled in 1998. Data from 1999 should be available midsummer 2000. For more information about trends in oil filter recycling, please contact the Filter Manufacturers Council. ■

