



Newsletter

Volume 1 - Issue 3 - 1997

What We've been Up To...



A Note From The Principal

The world is changing and so is KC! Our team is growing to provide our clients with specialized services in composting, Ecologo services to help you grow your green business, and environmental management systems for industry and municipalities and as always we continue to expand our contaminated sites sector.

This KC newsletter is our way of letting you know about our strengths so that we can better serve you. We want to work with you to improve both your business and the environment.

Kirstin Castro-Wunsch, P.Eng.

A Little Bit About Us

We are an Alberta based consulting firm which provides comprehensive integrated environmental and engineering services. Together, we can help your company formulate balanced business, regulatory, compliance and technological practices. And we have grown over the past year! We welcome three new faces to our team. Kurtis Averill as Land Remediation Specialist working primarily in our composting area and specifically on the Cleanit Greenit project. Sandra Nydokus, project manager, specializes in EMS systems (including ISO 14000), municipal environmental strategies, as well as promoting the Environmental Choice Program to businesses across Western Canada. Moremi Omotoso is an Environmental Consultant and articling Agrologist. She has been very busy assessing the environmental impacts of several sites including the Lac La Biche Airport, several commercial sites in High Prairie, Innisfail, and a land claims area in Loon River since joining the company in July. Welcome aboard everyone! Congratulations go out to Stacey Schaub on receiving her Masters of Science degree in Bioresource and Food Engineering in September of 1997, specializing in composting! And she has been putting her new skills to good use on the TransAlta Edmonton Co-composter Project.

Cleanit Greenit Compost Project

KC Environmental Group Ltd. has expanded our composting services to include a Compost Laboratory and Test Facility. This facility is equipped to conduct analysis and mini trials to determine what types of material are suitable for composting. We invite you to bring your waste to us - Challenge us! Compost is a cost effective and environmentally sound alternative to landfilling, land application, and/or incineration. Initiating a composting system to deal with waste material will set your company apart, as a leader in promoting environmentally responsible waste disposal solutions.

The benefits of operating a composting system extend far beyond a cost effective disposal option for your company. Our quality finished compost is a slow release, nutrient rich material, which when added to soil will improve soil structure, texture, aeration, and water retention capabilities. When mixed with compost, clay soils are lightened, and sandy soils retain water better. Mixing the compost produced with soil will also contribute to erosion control, increased soil fertility, proper pH balance, and healthy root development in plants. Compost can control soil born disease and insects. In fact the composting process reaches the same temperatures as milk when it is pasteurized.



What types of materials are compostable? Industrial sludges, food-processing residuals, hydrocarbon contaminated soils, manure and other agriculture residuals, wood and forest product residuals, etc.

Environmental Choice Program

KC Environmental Group Ltd. is pleased to announce its designation as the official representative of the EcoLogo[™] and Environmental Choice[™] Program (ECP) in Western Canada. The Environmental Choice[™] Program (ECP) is an eco-labeling program that ensures consumers can identify products and services which:

- use recycled materials
- improve energy efficiency
- reduce hazardous by-products
- can be re-used
- are otherwise environmentally responsible

Companies can certify products and services by meeting existing guidelines or through a panel review process. New guidelines under review include fine paper and newspaper from recycled paper, water-borne surface coatings and dry-cleaning services. Environmentally responsible events like the Winnipeg Folk Fest can even become certified!

For more information on ECP or etv (environmental technologies verification program), please call Sandra Nydokus, Program Manager at (403) 488-7926.

Integrated Waste Management

KC is also pleased to have won contracts this past year in the area of integrated waste management. Examples include: for Leduc, a review of their solid waste management system based on technical data and public input. For Strathcona County, the KC team, together with partner WEP is designing a computerized environmental management and audit program primarily to manage environmental risk.

Last issue we shared how much KC staff loves to get down and dirty, so we thought we'd prove it once again. This year we found ourselves sorting Environment Canada's

What We've been Up To...



waste not only at the Twin Atria Building, but also at three other Environment Canada locations; one in Yellowknife and two in Calgary. Environment Canada wanted to know if they were meeting the national Environment Canada target to reduce their waste sent to landfill by 80%. In addition, KC provided innovative and practical recommendations to further reduce waste going to landfill.

Get the biggest bang for your buck, take extra time to separate recycled paper into different categories to generate revenue for your office. Paper prices are on the rise!

If you don't use it, you lose it! Offices have many items that can be reused before recycling or being thrown into the garbage, such as folders, cirlox coils, and the second sides of paper. If you have any cool maps or charts that were going into the recycle bin, why not use them as gift wrapping?

Education Initiatives

KC is proud to once again support the National Youth Internship Program (3rd year) by employing Janis Pirie for her final work term. Students from this program will receive national certification as Health, Safety and Environmental Technologists in January of 1998.

Also, starting last January, Stacey Aidun from our office, has been instructing both environmental reporting and organization behavior for the Applied Environmental Management Degree program at Lakeland College. Other courses we have been teaching this year include Solid Waste Management, EMS, composting, environmental audits, and environmental site assessments (Phase I, II, and III). KC can tailor environmental courses to meet the needs of your organization.

What's New in Business and the Environment?

Our staff at KC are always looking to build their strengths in our core service areas. In November, Moremi Omotoso and Kirstin Castro-Wunsch attended the "Waste Facility Operations" course offered by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension. This course is also part of the Environmental Management certificate offered through the Faculty of Extension where Kirstin teaches the Environmental Auditing course (next session January of 1998). In July, four KC staff members had the opportunity to take the Compost Facility Operators Course offered by the US Composting Council, offered for the first time in Canada. This was in conjunction with KC's role in the design and building of TransAlta's Edmonton Co-composter. Congratulations to everyone on their excellent grades!

Did You Know?

Do you ever wonder what some of those recyclable materials are being turned into? For example many items that you wear or use contain recycled materials? That polar fleece jacket you got from Mountain Equipment Co-Op may be partly made from plastic pop bottles and some shoe soles are made from recycled tire treads.

Frequently Asked Questions...

What is a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment?

The Phase I ESA is often referred to by several different names such as: Phase I, real estate assessment, property transaction audit, preacquisition audit, etc. Specifically, it is a systematic process by which the assessor attempts to determine if a specific property is,

or may be, subject to contamination, from past or present land uses and from adjacent land uses. Information collected should be confirmed. A Phase I ESA involves no testing. A Phase I ESA is not an environmental audit, however an environmental audit may include the review of a Phase I ESA and conversely a Phase I ESA may include a review of previously performed environmental audits.



KC staff out of the office and on-site working hard for you!



**SOLUTIONS FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS**

Compost • Audits/Assessments • Engineering • ISO 14000 (EMS) • Integrated Waste Management • Reporting/Education

KC ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP LTD.

Volume 1 - Issue 3 - 1997

15619-112 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2V8

Phone: (780) 488-7926 Fax: (780) 452-8284