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Green Times

PARE CORPORATION

"The Sustainable Design Committee is looking for your input! Tell us what green design you have incorporated into a recent project; your response could be featured in an upcoming newsletter!"

Green Lingo: Walkshed

Walkshed: The area that can be conveniently reached on foot from a geographic point. If you were to draw a circle about a mile in diameter around your home, it would represent the approximate area of your local walkshed. A high-quality walkshed contains most of your local amenities, such as schools, parks, stores, restaurants, and public transit access.

The quality of a walkshed is also affected by the area's walkability (clear and clean sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting).

Developing high-quality local walksheds is a priority of green transportation and city planning. Beyond the obvious benefits of better health, convenience, and reducing environmental impacts, increasing foot traffic within an area can also increase property values, decrease crime rates, and benefit local business.

Avencia, a Philadelphia-based GIS software development firm, has recently created online Walkshed mapping application for New York City and Philadelphia that can be seen here: http://walkshed.org/

Green at PARE:

PARE and several staff members continue to show the collective commitment to Sustainable Design. Ken DeCosta was nominated (last fall) and approved as one of five new board members to the Rhode Island Green Building Council (RIGBC). There are nine board members collectively with a diverse range of backgrounds including educators, engineers, businessmen, architects, contractors, and construction managers. The RIGBC's Mission is to transform the way buildings are designed, built, and operated in the state of Rhode Island in order to promote environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, aesthetically pleasing, and durable communities that protect the state's cultural heritage and natural environment, and improve the quality of life. PARE has committed to the RIGBC as a sponsor for the year. With the sponsorship PARE will be able to take advantage of access benefits to the programs offered by the RIGBC.

As some of you are aware, Scott Lindgren facilitated an educational seminar on February 23, 2011, for the RIGBC on LEED for New Construction Credit by Review - Sustainable Sites. The seminar attracted over 25 individuals in several industries looking to become educated on the LEED Sustainable Sites topics and credits and earn CEUs for their LEED Accredited Professional maintenance.

Green Product of the Month: Vegetated Retaining Wall Systems

Vegetated retaining wall systems are an aesthetically pleasing choice for typical site retaining wall installations. Vegetated retaining walls transform hardscape into landscape while providing for storm water retention, heat island mitigation and erosion control. Vegetated retaining wall systems require less concrete and labor, and can offer greater cost savings depending upon project conditions.

If you would like more information, see the below product links.

http://www.versa-lok.com/products/plantable-wall-systems/versa-green
http://www.smartslope.com/

D·E·M

Green Current Events: Critical Deadline Nears for RI Cesspool Owners

The "Rhode Island Cesspool Act of 2007" was enacted to phase-out cesspools located near environmentally sensitive areas. Cesspools are typically perforated buried vaults, chambers, or pits that receive wastewater from a home or business without any additional form of treatment. They are considered antiquated systems that generally provide an inadequate level of treatment for today's standards.

The Cesspool Act aims to preserve water quality by removing cesspools from service in sensitive areas, since failing cesspools are among the highest contributors of pathogens and nutrients to surface water and groundwater resources. Properties impacted by the Cesspool Act are those that are located within 200 feet of a coastal feature, public drinking water well, or drinking water surface reservoir. Cesspools within these areas must be inspected within 6 months of receiving notice from RIDEM, and no later than January 1, 2012. Cesspools must then be taken out of service and hooked up to a new septic system or to a municipal sewer, where available, within one year of the date of the inspection and no later than January 1, 2013.

The RIDEM has already issued the first wave of notices to cesspool owners in Jamestown and North Kingstown and notices will be sent to other towns in the coming weeks. If you would like more information on the Cesspool Act and how it may affect your property, contact Brandon Blanchard or visit the following RIDEM webpage:

http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/isds/cessfaze.htm

Single-Stream Recycling

By Tom Perry

Single stream (also known as “fully commingled” or "single-sort") recycling refers to a system in which all recyclable commodities (newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, etc.) are mixed together in a single collection bin, instead of being sorted into separate commodities by the resident and handled separately throughout the collection process. In single stream, both the collection and processing systems are designed to handle this fully commingled mixture of recyclables.

There are many advantages for both residents and collection agencies: reduced effort by residents promotes participation, greater participation leads to greater recycled volume, cheaper fleet operating costs for collection agencies, and less collection time to load trucks are just a few of the benefits.

Many communities across the country have switched to single-stream recycling; Boston was one of the first major communities to implement single stream recycling and many more have employed single stream or plan to switch in the near future. Of the 600 residential recycling facilities across the country 200 have switched to single stream. The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) administration plans to switch to single stream recycling state wide by 2012.

Visit this website for more information: http://www.ecocycle.org/singlestream

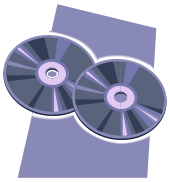
***We Asked and You Responded*:**

In our last issue we asked, “Tell us all the *Green* things you do both at home and at PARE.”

Jay Gaudette says, “I pdf all my confirmation screens when I pay my bills online instead of printing them out, and use paperless statements whenever possible. I also make sure I unplug charging cords (for my phone, etc) when they are not in use.”

Andrea Judge adds, “At Home: I make liquid laundry detergent at home (saves packaging waste, and emissions associated with manufacturing and shipping), I gear my shopping towards products that have the least packaging or recyclable packaging. I garden organically. I compost kitchen waste. At work: I don’t use disposable cups, bring my lunch from home (saves packaging), and I try to only use reusable food containers.”

David Matheson says, “At home, we use the backside of old school handouts and old 1-sided sheets for grocery lists, scrap paper or phone messages.”



Allen Orsi says, “At work, to reduce paper usage, I have been making an effort to incorporate digital files in lieu of hard copies. This includes a CD with output files (either pdf or actual output) included within report submissions instead of hundreds of sheets of data that are unlikely to be looked at anyhow. We’ve also been making an effort to distribute contract documents in PDF format on CD instead of a 300 page specification package. This reduces in house paper usage, eliminates wastes of paper for copies that are not distributed, and probably reduces shipping costs/weights.”

Many of us recycle plastic bags at home, but thanks to Trish Teeter, we now can recycle them at PARE too!

Keep your green actions coming!