



no waste

*network of
waste activists stopping trash exports*

What is NO WASTE?

The Network of Waste Activists Stopping Trash Exports (NO WASTE) is a coalition of environmental activists who see the continued transport of solid wastes across state and international boundaries as a symptom of our society's short-sighted and arrogant attitude toward managing our natural resources. Certain states, such as Michigan, have become targets for solid waste generated in municipalities throughout the United States and Canada. Because landfills in these states have low disposal (tipping) fees, it has become economical for municipalities far and wide to send their garbage across great distances for disposal in these states.

What is the problem?

You may ask, what's the big deal? Over the past few years, many people and municipalities have taken it upon themselves to recycle much of the waste they generate. For example, the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan's recycling rate is currently approaching 50%! Because of this many landfills have not reached capacity as soon as expected. In addition, in many states, landfill-siting requirements have become less stringent, resulting in more landfills. The operators of these landfills, (BFI, City Management, WMX, etc.) have decided to market out this excess space rather than saving it for the future. The end result will be more unnecessary landfills in the future, which will increase the chances of environmental degradation throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Why Toronto and Windsor?

NO WASTE came into existence because of a forthcoming five-year contract between the City of Toronto and BFI, which operates a landfill in Washtenaw County, Michigan. Beginning in early 1998 and lasting over a period of five years, the City of Toronto will be trucking up to 500,000 U.S. tons per year of municipal garbage into Michigan for disposal. BFI stands to make from \$65 to \$100 million on this contract alone. We have chosen this insidious example to highlight the bigger picture problem that exists in Michigan and elsewhere. At the same time, earlier this year, the City of Windsor decided to send **ALL** of its municipal sewage sludge across the border to Washtenaw County, Michigan for disposal. As of July 1997, every flush of Windsor's toilets results in more sludge disposed in Michigan landfills. There are better options!

What needs to be done?

NO WASTE wants:

- a stop to interstate and international export of wastes;
- a moratorium on new landfills in Michigan;
- Toronto to tear up the five year contract with BFI and initiate better waste diversion programs; and
- government officials at local, state/provincial, and federal levels to take a more rationale approach to waste management, including maximizing opportunities for recycling and managing wastes close to the source.

For further information, contact NO WASTE at the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor at (313) 663-2400 or via e-mail at nowaste@yahoo.com

Stop Trash Exports to Michigan

Pass Senate Bill 4

- **Michigan now imports 15% of the trash in its landfills.**

Of the 42 million cubic yards of garbage dumped in Michigan landfills, 5.7 million cubic yards, or 15% of the total, come from outside state borders. Canada accounts for the majority of out-of-state waste, exporting 2.6 million cubic yards per year to our state. Recently, the City of Toronto decided to send its 500,000 annual tons of trash to Michigan starting January 1998. That's an additional 40 trailer truck loads every day!

- **S.B. 4 is an effective way to address the trash import problem.**

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the interstate commerce clause restricted states from cutting off their borders to out-of-state waste, unless Congress were to pass enabling legislation or if the out-of-state waste posed a threat to Michigan's residents health or safety. S.B. 4 would cut off Michigan's borders to out-of-state waste after Congressional authorization, and it cuts off the borders RIGHT NOW to states which don't require residents to keep motor oil, batteries, and other toxic waste out of their trash. The provisions were drafted to comply with the Court ruling.

- **S.B. 4 had bipartisan support in the Senate.**

In March, it was approved unanimously in the Senate. The House of Representatives should now follow suit.

**Senate Bill 4 won't solve all of Michigan's trash imports problem,
but it would make an important start.**