



# Celebrate Earth Day!

## Tips for going green...

*Article by Lisa Lazlo- Concrete Dispatch New Britain & Fran Kaschak in Newington*

According to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, on average, each one of us (at home, at work, and at play) produces over five pounds of solid waste each day—just over one pound of that gets recycled, and the rest, about four pounds, gets disposed.

In Connecticut, it is the law to recycle! Help us to create less waste and therefore less landfill by doing just a few simple things.

At Home:

- ◆ Leaves and grass clippings can be composted
- ◆ Newspapers can be recycled—or donate them to an animal shelter! They will use them to line the cages for the animals.
- ◆ Contact your town for details on items they may require you to recycle, such as:
  - Plastic containers with the numbers 1 & 2
  - Glass and metal food/beverage containers (remember to bring those cans and bottles to a recycling center for your 5¢ refund!)
  - Corrugated cardboard
  - Other items such as scrap metal, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and used motor oil must also be recycled—contact your town for locations that accept these items.
  - For bulk waste, contact your town on days/times/locations

Here at Tilcon, help us to do our part in helping the environment. Talk to your supervisor and start a recycling program at your location!

- ◆ Cans and plastic bottles can be recycled, with the money from the deposits being used for an activity of your choice.
- ◆ Any office paperwork you would like to dispose of can be collected and sent to Fran Kaschak in Newington to be recycled.
- ◆ Old newspapers can be sent to Lauri Buccieri in New Britain Sales or Fran Kaschak in Newington where they will take them to either the local animal shelter or the CT. Humane Society (they will also take clean blankets and sheets).
- ◆ Old computer equipment is gathered in Newington and recycled when the bin is full.

Finally, look into the purchases of recycled products. Green is in and many companies have developed items such as environmentally friendly cleaning products and recycled paper products. You can also help by doing something as simple as bringing your own bags to the grocery store instead of asking for paper or plastic and drinking from a reusable beverage container instead of the disposable water bottles.



## The Spring 2009 Paving Season has finally started.....

*Article by Roger Simoes, Hot Mix Asphalt Area Superintendent*

All the snow has finally thawed and Tilcon's asphalt plants are roaring to life. Most of the plants have been in hibernation for the past 4-5 months. Eight of our plants have been worked on during the winter season, rebuilding and replacing worn out parts in preparation for the new season, and the rest of the plants are being worked on now and for the next several weeks.

The asphalt division had to take on a new way of repairing this year as did the rest of the company by going by Oldcastle Performance System (OPS) standards, a standard most of us are familiar with this year. It was a challenge at first to step back and look at the plants in a different way, picking away at jobs that can be done throughout the year and not necessarily during our shut down winter season. It was a lesson in prioritizing tasks and understanding our business a little better. We also went to a new work week during the winter season, 4 10-hour work days. This initiative had several advantages, the first being a longer, more productive work day. The second advantage was a four-day work week so that our employees would only travel four times a week rather than driving five times a week and hopefully had kept everyone away from the gas pumps a little more during these tough economic times. The third advantage was to enable us to eliminate going to work in snowy weather. If the forecast was threatening bad weather on a Wednesday, for example, work for that day would be canceled and we would come in on Friday, which was the normal day off. By doing this we allowed our employees to work a full week and avoid driving and working in poor conditions. This initiative was a success only because we worked as a *team* and had complete cooperation from all sides of our work crew. On behalf of the asphalt division management; I sincerely thank everyone who made this effort a success.

The New Britain and Newington asphalt plants are responsible for making all of the hot mix asphalt for the Bradley airport runway project. Both plants have made mix for the test strips and successfully passed all of the FAA specs and standards. The crew at the plants and in our labs are diligently working together to make this project go as smooth and successful as possible. From our plant operators who are running the plants and the ground technicians who keep the plants operating, your efforts and sacrifices do not go unnoticed, Thank You. The project will begin the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> and possibly encompassing weekends and night work and wrapping up sometime mid May.

The asphalt plant division is making great strides in "going green". We recently purchased our first green asphalt system for our New Britain asphalt plant. After seeing the successes in several other states with "green asphalt", Tilcon has purchased the system and installed it on our newest plant. The system allows the plant to produce asphalt at a lower temperature, reducing emissions, and increase our use of recycled asphalt. We hope to be trying the system late this spring or early summer.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the asphalt plant division conducted our annual safety training that took place in the New Britain safety training room. The session had several speakers and presenters from our own management team and speakers from some of our equipment vendors. Everyone was very informative and as usual our employees had great suggestions and ideas that were shared with the entire department. We would like to thank everyone who attended and presented.