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In this issue...

**Bigelow Tea's
Louisville Plant
Nears Zero-Waste-to-
Landfill**

**Get Recognized
for your Facility's
or Organization's
Pollution
Prevention Efforts**

**New Data Tool
Illustrates Global to
Community-Scale
Energy Trends**

Newsbits

- Kroger to Power Distribution Center with Spoiled Food
- Up to \$9 Million Available from EPA for 2013 Diesel Emission Reduction Grants

**Upcoming
Training, Events
and Conferences**

- The Changing Role of Technology in Building Efficiency - A User's Perspective, Webinar: June

Bigelow Tea's Louisville Plant Nears Zero-Waste-to-Landfill

Since December of 2008, the Bigelow Tea Company's Louisville plant has worked diligently to improve its manufacturing process and daily operations to reach zero-waste-to-landfill status. A dedicated Green Team (which includes members from departments throughout the facility), has led the plant to success.

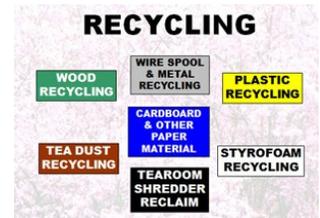
The Louisville plant now diverts 97.8% of its waste materials through composting and recycling.

Starting out by implementing small-scale projects and using the revenue generated to purchase new recycling equipment and broaden their efforts, the Green Team:

- improved labels/identification for all recycling bins/containers throughout the plant
- added collection stations
- removed styrofoam from inbound tea paper containers
- developed an auditing process to ensure that all employees comply with green goals and use correct bins

Plant representatives are willing to discuss their activities and experience with other companies interested in implementing zero waste programs. Contact Mark Adcock, Warehouse Supervisor, for information (madcock@rcbigelow.com).

Bigelow Tea Company, a leading specialty tea manufacturer - with headquarters in Fairfield, Connecticut, and plants in Louisville, Kentucky, and Boise, Idaho - has a corporate culture of sustainability that dates back three generations, and recently achieved "Zero Waste to Landfill" certification.



Recycling signs and composting container at the Bigelow Tea Louisville plant.



[back to top](#)

Get Recognized for your Facility's or Organization's Pollution Prevention Efforts

Apply now for a 2013 Most Valuable Pollution Prevention (MVP2) Award. The awards, presented annually since 2005 by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, are designed to recognize outstanding and innovative pollution prevention activities in four categories:

- MVP2 Project/Program Award
- Best Multimedia Award
- P2 Champion
- P2 Volunteer of the Year Award

The MVP2 Project/Program Awards, P2 Champion, and Best P2 Multimedia Awards are open to all stakeholders (all levels of government, industry, non-profits, etc.). Applications are judged on the following criteria: innovation, measurable results, transferability, commitment and optimization of available project resources.



Applications are due Monday, July 1, 2013. Winners will be notified in August and the awards will be presented in Washington, DC during P2 week, the third week of September. [Guidelines and criteria](#) can be found on the NPPR website.

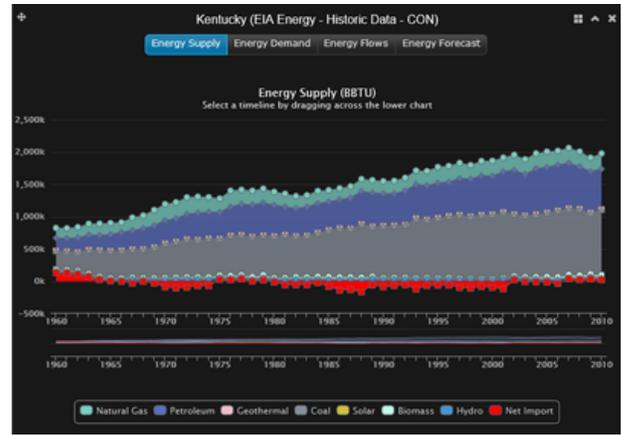
[back to top](#)

New Data Tool Illustrates Global to Community-Scale Energy Trends

As part of the Energy Data Initiative, the Energy Department, its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the Planetary Skin Institute released a new open tool to better visualize energy data and make this information more available and useful for state and local governments, private industry, and other energy researchers.

The [Free Energy Data platform](#)

([FRED](#)) builds on the broader Energy Data Initiative—making energy usage and generation data more transparent, while accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. Open energy data and analytics can play a pivotal role in developing cost-effective, long-term energy solutions that save money and help protect the environment. Based on data from the Energy Information Administration, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Solar Energy Industries Association, FRED offers a common format for diverse inputs and allows users to adjust their focus from global to city-level scales.



FRED also allows users to enter their own data and compare their performance with other jurisdictions and institutions, or track performance over time. Data can also be viewed in graphical formats showing present and past energy demand by fuel and sector; this data can be compared across jurisdictions as well as through flow diagrams that visualize how multiple sectors use different energy sources.

[back to top](#)

Newsbits

■ Kroger to Power Distribution Center with Spoiled Food

From Sustainable Business News. Kroger has come up with a solution that will put a dent in the food waste generated by the supermarket chain -- it will turn it into biogas energy that powers a distribution center. Kroger is the biggest supermarket chain in the U.S. with 2,400 supermarkets in 31 states. Any food that can't be sold or donated will help power its 650,000-square-foot Ralphs/Food 4 Less distribution center in Compton, California.



An anaerobic digester will process more than 55,000 tons of food waste a year, about 150 tons a day, providing 20 percent of the facility's energy. And it will use 150 zero emission fuel cell forklifts to do the job. Pretty amazing how much food waste is generated by supermarkets, isn't it? If you've been reading our articles on the growing use of biodigesters, you know that besides producing energy they also generate organic fertilizer as a byproduct.

Importantly, the system also will reduce truck trips by more than 500,000 miles each year. Rather than making special trips to haul food waste to landfills or waste-to-energy plants, the biodigester will be on-site. The same trucks that deliver food to supermarkets from the distribution center will make their return trip with food waste from supermarkets.

- **Up to \$9 Million Available from EPA for 2013 Diesel Emission Reduction Grants**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of up to \$9 million through the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program (DERA) for Fiscal Year 2013 for new projects to reduce emissions from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines.

States, tribes, local governments, and non-profits are eligible to apply for DERA grants. Projects can reduce air pollution from older school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and other diesel engines. The projects will help achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution reduced and reductions in diesel emissions exposure, particularly from fleets operating in poor air quality areas. The closing date for receipt of proposals is June 25, 2013. [Details are available on the EPA website.](#)

[back to top](#)

Upcoming Training, Events and Conferences

- **The Changing Role of Technology in Building Efficiency - A User's Perspective**

Webinar: June 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m. ET

From sensors to applications, there is a wide range of technology available to help users be more effective and achieve more than ever before. But where to begin? In this session, Johnson Controls VP Building Technology & Services, Laura Farnham, will lead an animated discussion and moderate a user panel on the ever-changing role of technology in buildings. Topics include energy efficiency and performance optimization through building wide systems integration, analytics and data management.

[This free webinar](#) is presented by *GreenBiz.com* and sponsored by Johnson Controls.