

Dollars and \$ense

The Supply and Demand of Recycling

One of the educational offerings of the Resourceful Schools Project explores how the economy and the environment work together. Through a game activity, learners model two scenarios, one that includes manufacturing from raw materials and one where the manufacturers use recycled content. Our game is constructed as an ideal situation where by using recycled content everybody wins. Most manufacturers' of recycled content goods would tell you that working with fluctuating markets and ever changing supply and demand can be complex and challenging. As a part of our student packet we include some local examples of successful business enterprises that strive to "Close the Loop".

Abitibi-Consolidated Recycling Division

Paper Retriever Program

You may have seen the large green and yellow paper recycling containers in the parking lot of your school or somewhere in your community. Organizations are earning money for waste paper. Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office paper, even your old homework is collected and used to manufacture newsprint in Texas. 100% of the newsprint content is recycled paper from schools and communities just like yours. Several hundred tons of paper are diverted from landfills everyday! It is economically sound for Abitibi to ensure a constant supply of recycled materials for their newsprint in this way. They are less affected by fluctuations of supply and demand in the paper market.

EnviroPAK - New Company in a New Era

EnviroPAK Corporation of St. Louis manufactures molded paper pulp packaging. Their process is a completely closed manufacturing system, which means that all water and materials used are re-circulated and re-processed into product. The only discharge from their manufacturing plant is clean water and water vapor. EnviroPAK even re-circulates the waste heat from their dryers. The products are made from 100% post consumer newspaper, are 100% recyclable and are biodegradable. Their packaging is competitively priced and ideal for the specialty markets.