

Guest Editorial

This special issue of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* is devoted to waste minimization, a common sense alternative to creating wastes, then spending time and effort to destroy them. Papers presented herein cover the topic from several angles, from a compendium of programs practiced by a specific state in the U.S., minimizing waste from production processes, recovering valuable materials for recycling, and making useful products from mixed wastes.

The *Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984* states: "The Congress hereby declares it to be the national policy of the U.S. that, wherever feasible, the generation of hazardous waste is to be reduced or eliminated as expeditiously as possible...". Later legislation, now being developed, which is to be called *The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990*, recognizes that "The opportunities for source reduction are often not realized because existing regulations, and the industrial resources they require for compliance, focus upon treatment and disposal, rather than source reduction..." The proposed legislation goes on to state that the Environmental Protection Agency must establish a source reduction program. This special edition is timely, for its readers may be stimulated to contribute new ideas to source reduction, waste minimization, and recycling to industrial, municipal, and domestic operations.

The editor hopes that the broad spectrum of subjects covered in this edition will provide an up-to-date and accurate summary of activities in waste minimization. We wish to thank each author and reviewer for their contribution to the Journal.

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