

To a large extent, the book is a compilation of material from previously published sources, gathered, shuffled, and repackaged. Much space is given to U.S. EPA forms, such as Toxic Chemical Inventory Report forms including six pages of SIC numbers and eight pages listing chemicals covered in the U.S. EPA's 313 Toxic Chemical Logs.

The chapter of Corrective Action Technologies was rather pedestrian also. Well-known processes (and diagrams) dealing with cyanide oxidation, free oil removal, pH adjustment to remove metals and trickling filters are shown. Not much new here. One other not particularly useful section had over 50 pages listing hazardous substances by DOT and CAS Numbers.

The only chapter that contained anything new (to this reviewer) was the fifth, entitled "Computer Systems for Chemical Emergency Planning." The first part of this section is an edited version of a U.S. EPA publication entitled, "Evaluating Guide for Available Computer Applications Addressing Emergency Response Plans." The second section of this chapter contains a list of computer programs applicable to local planning. Vendor names, addresses and telephone numbers have been supplied for each listing.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Germany, Garbage, and the Green Dot: Challenging the Throwaway Society*, B.K. Fishbein, Inform, Inc., New York, NY, 1994, \$28.00, 257 pp., ISBN: 0-018780-61-6

*Germany, Garbage and the Green Dot* is a comprehensive study of German solid waste policy as well as the difficulties they are confronting and the impacts to date of these policies.

"Why Look at Germany?" is the title of the first chapter. And the answer is given in the first two sentences: "The Federal Republic of Germany has initiated the world's most ambitious national solid waste policy. Aimed at promoting source reduction, reuse, and recycling, Germany's new legislation is having international repercussions." The book describes Germany's approach to solid waste and discusses the potential impact of the US adoption of the same policy.

On June 12, 1991, the German Packaging Ordinance requiring industry to take back, reuse and/or recycle packaging materials went into effect, thus shifting the burden of managing packaging waste from municipal authorities to manufacturers, distributors and retailers. The author describes the policy as the "world's most ambitious national solid waste policy that is now having" international repercussions.

Given the impact (or import) to solid waste reduction, Inform has "offered a detailed description of Germany's new approach — not to advocate adoption of the same policies here (in the United States) but rather to increase our understanding of the German experience" with a view to judging whether they could or should be adopted in the US.

The author appears to have thoroughly examined, interviewed (Germans) and dissected the German Solid Waste Policy, providing the following 13 chapters:

1. Why Look at Germany?
2. Putting Germany in Perspective

3. German Ordinance on the Avoidance of Packaging Waste
4. Transport Packaging
5. Secondary Packaging
6. Primary Packaging and the Dual System
7. Maintaining the Refillable Beverage Container System
8. Plastics and the Packaging Ordinance
9. Criticisms of the Packaging Ordinance and the Dual System
10. Proposed Waste Avoidance and Recycling Legislation for Products
11. Local Waste Management Initiatives
12. The German Packaging Ordinance and the European Community
13. Implications of the German Approach for US Waste Policy

That the author finds the German system acceptable for adoption in the US is found in her final paragraph:

“Our ability to learn from the German experience is not contingent upon the Dual System’s success. The problems it has faced relate primarily to implementation strategies — the high mandated recycling quotas and the speed at which they must be attained — not to the basic concepts. By understanding what strategies have failed and why, the United States can avoid making similar mistakes. Germany has raised the critical issue of manufacturers’ responsibility, and this concept is sweeping the industrial world. Future US policies can be developed within the framework of resource management, taking a broad view of our use of materials and other resources to develop policies that will permit us to live within our environmental means, as well as within our economic means.”

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