



ARIC

appliance recycling
information center

Refrigerators Ranges Ovens Freezers Clothes Washers Clothes Dryers Dish Washers Disposers Compactors Room Air Conditioners Dehumidifiers Microwaves Refrigerators Ranges Ovens Freezers Clothes Washers

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INFOBulletin #6

MARMA CHARACTERIZATION STUDY OF APPLIANCE RECYCLING

The Appliance Recycling Information Center (ARIC) and the Major Appliance Resource Management Alliance (MARMA), have conducted an appliance recycling characterization study project through Franklin Associates, Ltd., a well-known environmental consulting agency. This research project has collated and assessed existing literature in the area of appliance recycling. The resulting report is intended to provide a baseline for discussion of existing research on the management of appliances that have reached the end of their useful life.

Content: The January, 1996 characterization study report discusses such points as:

- The basic infrastructure for appliance recycling
- Materials found in appliances
- New technologies in appliance dismantlement and separation
- Legislation/Regulation and its impact on recycling of appliances
- Life Cycle Assessment
- Barriers to increased appliance recycling
- Rates of recycling of major appliances
- Residue management alternatives
- The reduction of problem materials

For the first time, a comprehensive characterization study has been conducted of all relevant research studies and articles on the subject of appliance recycling. This report details the known body of literature on recycling of major appliances, its existing infrastructure and challenges for the future. In addition, it forms the platform for current knowledge and the basis for avenues of future research endeavors.

A total of 163 books, reports, periodicals, presentations and other materials were reviewed and characterized, over 40% of which were published in 1994 or 1995. In addition to the synopsis of each article or publication, the report discusses each of the major topic points and summarizes research available on these items. The full report comprises over 220 pages of discussion and document review.

MARMA: The purpose of MARMA is to actively promote environmentally sound and sustainable management of material streams from the final disposition of major home appliances. The objectives of MARMA are threefold:

1. Promote the effective collaboration of organizations engaged in material supply, appliance design/manufacturing and resource management (including recycling).
2. Identify and implement projects that will: (a) achieve short- and long-term improvements in the management of materials generated by the disposition of appliances, and (b) assure long-term viability of existing and evolving appliance recycling infrastructures.
3. Develop a system so that Alliance members can effectively collect and communicate critical information needed to: (a) efficiently manage the materials available in major appliances, and (b) serve as a basis for sustainable appliance material resource conservation policies, laws, and regulations.

The Appliance Recycling Information Center of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers is a participating member of the Major Appliance Resource Management Alliance. This alliance was formed in 1994 between the American Plastics Council (APC), the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI).

Availability of the Research Study:

The report is available by contacting The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, 1111 19th St. NW Suite 402, Washington, DC 20036. Attn: Publications Department. Requests may be telefaxed to: (202) 872-9354. Cost: \$200.00 (Shipping costs will be added for locations outside of the United States.)