

FOIA MARKER

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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2893
FolderID:

Folder Title:
White House Recycling

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February 2, 1993

To: Vice-President Gore

From: Ricki Seidman

RE: White House Recycling

Attached please find the memo with regard to White House recycling we discussed at Camp David on Sunday.

All -- my suggestion here is that a memo be sent to all staff that builds on this one -- challenge all staff to find ways to reduce waste. We can then have them analyzed by an expert & compiled into a package -- recycling & waste reduction initiative. Whoddyshunk? R. Seidman
2.8.93.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Janet Green
FROM: Amanda Crumley
RE: Environment

Since coming in to the White House two weeks ago, the lack of a recycling program and the use of non-recycable products within the White House have become of great concern to me and many of my co-workers.

Throughout the Clinton-Gore campaign, and on through the transition, there was always special attention given to making our offices environmentally sound. We had stations where white paper, newspaper, and aluminum cans could be disposed of. Also, Vice President Gore had specific instructions that no colored message slips or styrofoam products were allowed in the building. Taking in to consideration that both President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to improving our environment, we should set a standard by making sure both the White House and the OEOB have very effective recycling programs.

Implementing a rudimentary recycling program would not be difficult, & I would be willing to assist in any way that I am able.

Following are some of the things that I have noticed that could use some improvement:

1.) Every day the schedules for President Clinton & Mrs. Clinton are delivered in brown envelopes. I understand this is standard procedure for security purposes; however, the waste could be **reduced** by making it mandatory that these envelopes are sent back to the scheduling departments to be **re-used**.

* The same rule as above should apply to the Government messenger envelopes which are supposed to be **re-used** regardless.

2.) For some reason, there are wire machines in the basement of the White House that have apparently been there since the Stone Age. They are not on real-time and they constantly produce endless amounts of useless papers that are then distributed throughout the White House. From there, people have no option but to place them in "burn bags" because there are no collection sites for white paper to be **recycled**. I am not alone in my feeling that these machines should be turned off. I have worked in news analysis, and understand the importance of the wire service; however, Keith Boykin & his team have a system of compiling & distributing the relevant wire stories. Hopefully in

the near future we will be able to cut out paper waste all together by acquiring the same sophisticated computer wire services we had on the campaign and transition.

3.) It is amazing the amount of styrofoam that the White House mess & the OEOB cafeteria put out every day. Plenty of paper products are available on the market and are biodegradable. Also, the many coffee drinkers in the White House and OEOB should be kind to our environment & bring their own mug as opposed to going through so many styrofoam cups.

4.) Back to the "burn bags", only SENSITIVE papers should be placed in these bags. All non-sensitive documents such as press releases, call-sheets, etc., should be **recycled**.

5.) All wire reports, press releases, transcripts, etc. should be copied double-sided to **reduce** waste.

6.) On the 28th a memo was distributed throughout the building on BLUE paper. Although colored paper may be aesthetically pleasing, it is not at all environmentally pleasing-- it is **not** recyclable.

7.) I understand recycled paper may be more expensive than regular white paper; however, it would be great if all of our documents could be produced on recycled paper.

Numerous cans, white paper, & newspapers pass through the White House & OEOB on a daily basis- without a recycling program, the waste is treated like any other trash. We need a recycling program soon. I know that due to security restrictions, recycling bins could be placed in certain areas only. However, we need recycling bins placed as conveniently as possible throughout the White House & the OEOB. As we wait to start a recycling program, more and more **waste** is being produced by the White House and its employees. The White House should be a model for others to follow by having a very strict recycling program.



BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES

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Feb. 2, 1993

Dear Katie —

The Bush White House went back and forth on whether it was or was not recycling the solid waste it generated. Some security concerns were raised at one point.

I know you have more sweeping issues to address, but if you determine that the White House's solid waste is not being recycled, let me know.

BFI has the most extensive waste collection and recycling operation in D.C., and we can handle it if anyone can.

Good luck.

Rich Goodstein