

# Yokosuka Increases Solid Waste Diversion

## Local Leadership Greatly Contributes to Overall Navy Goals

**THE RECYCLING PROGRAM** at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has contributed greatly to increases to the Navy's overall solid waste diversion rates.

The Navy is committed to supporting Department of Defense (DoD) and Executive Order (EO) 13514 goals to reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills. This can be accomplished in

Navy's ability to achieve diversion goals set by DoD and EO 13514. CFAY leadership in this area has greatly increased recycling efforts and has contributed significantly to the Navy's overall diversion rate.

With limited capabilities for solid waste disposal in Japan, finding ways to divert solid waste away from landfills and incinerators has become crit-

ical materials and debris. CFAY's Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) provides the foundation for such effective solid waste diversion efforts. Not only is CFAY supporting the Japanese community with its solid waste management challenges, they are also supporting the Navy's goals in meeting EO 13514 diversion requirements.

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a number of ways such as green procurement (e.g. reduced packaging), reusing items that have remaining service life, and donating items (via the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services) to charitable organizations. However, there are always items and materials that simply cannot be eliminated from the waste stream and/or have no further value beyond the inherent scrap value of their wood, metal, paper, or plastic content. These items and materials end up in the waste stream destined for landfills unless action is taken to divert them. Increased recycling will be key to the

ical for Japanese communities and a key challenge for CFAY. In Yokosuka, the Japanese have established and implemented effective solid waste management programs that leverage reuse and recycling as their primary focus. As an integral part of the Japanese community in the cities of Yokosuka, Ikego, and Yokohama, CFAY is committed to pursuing every opportunity to divert solid waste. This commitment to solid waste diversion has resulted in diversion rates of 68 percent for non-hazardous solid waste (up from 24 percent in 2007) and 97 percent of all construction and demo-

When CFAY integrated the QRP into its solid waste management program in 2006, responsibility for the QRP passed from Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) to the Public Works Department (PWD). This allowed the QRP to expand its recycling efforts to new commodities. By maximizing the removal of all types of recyclable materials from the solid waste stream, not just profitable commodities, the QRP reduced overall disposal costs while at the same time generating profits. Since 2006, the QRP has expanded the program to support the following items:



The CFAY QRP yard is located in the north end of Yokosuka's main base.  
*Norio Yanagawa*



Roy Ito is the QRP Program Manager at Yokosuka.  
*Charles Schulz*

- Plastics (i.e., Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles, hard plastics, and soft plastics)
- Additional paper-based products (books, magazines, catalogues, mixed paper, and shredded paper)
- Textiles
- Cooking oil
- Rechargeable batteries
- Wood pallets and clean crating material
- Used tires

The QRP also upgraded support services for CFAY tenants through implementation of curb-side collections, call-in services, and direct on-site support for construction and demolition projects. Supporting construction

and demolition projects has resulted in reducing contractors' disposal costs and thereby increasing the savings passed on to PWD customers.

Recognizing the need to incorporate base residents into its recycling program, CFAY initiated a pilot program in March 2008 to collect waste paper from six townhouse units and one apartment tower on Yokosuka Navy Base, supported by volunteers at

each unit. Every Tuesday morning, residents deliver their recyclable waste to a contractor's collection vehicle. The contractor monitors for proper segregation. CFAY now collects books, magazines, catalogues, brochures, regular bond paper, newspaper and corrugated cardboard from these base residents and is set to expand curb-side collections for other base residents with the inclusion of solid waste and recycling as an expressed objective in

their Environmental Management Systems (EMS) program.

The Navy Family Housing Office has also established a "Solid Waste Semi-Source Segregation Program" for single family homes and multiplexes. This encourages personnel living in military family housing to properly segregate "combustible" from "non-combustible" and recyclable solid waste. "Combustible" non-recyclable items are placed in grey containers, while "non-combustible" and recyclable items are placed in blue containers. Contractors take both waste streams to the CFAY Solid Waste Incinerator Plant where the combustible materials are incinerated on site and the non-combustible materials are segregated with recyclable materials delivered to the QRP. Even the ash from the incinerator is recycled at a local cement factory, much of which is reused for the construction of roadways.

Increased diversion rates were also made possible by an aggressive

campaign to improve local processes. This effort included improved data collection through the development of a CFAY Solid Waste Tonnage Report, formatted to support an annual data call from Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC) and helps identify new recycling opportunities. The QRP also developed a database for

## All About Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan

CFAY IS A 560-acre forward deployed naval base located on Tokyo Bay in the Kanto Plain region of Japan, hosting more than 24,000 active-duty military, Department of Defense civilians and family members. CFAY also has two housing detachments—one at Ikego in nearby Zushi City and another in Negishi, Yokohama. Thanks to a diverse and dedicated workforce, CFAY set the standard in "Service to the Fleet." As the Navy's largest, most strategically important overseas installation, CFAY hosts 82 tenant commands that support operating forces through the Western Pacific, from Hawaii to the Arabian Gulf. The base's primary mission is to support the 11 high operational tempo warships forward deployed to Yokosuka and the Seventh Fleet flagship—the USS BLUE RIDGE. Through open base events, tours and off-base community relations projects, the CFAY community has a strong relationship with its host nation.



The Seventh Fleet command ship USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19).  
*Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brian A. Stone*



A new truck scale was procured in 2010 to alleviate the requirement to use a third party scale. This saved employee oversight requirements as well as costs for using the private scale.

*Charles Schulz*

tracking categories of recyclable commodities—both their respective quantities and affiliated revenues. A Statement of Work template was developed and integrated into all new contracts that obligate local contractors to participate in CFAY recycling efforts. In addition, CFAY Instructions were updated to reflect commitment to proper waste disposal and recycling, and solid waste/recycling objectives have been incorporated into the EMS program to pave the way for even more diversion from base residents in the coming months.

Recently, the QRP has seen a substantial amount of solid waste disposal cost savings and revenues

from directly selling its recyclable material. The direct sales generated approximately \$380,000 for the QRP in FY09, and \$568,000 in FY10, despite markets being depressed and still recovering from their collapse in July 2008. These revenues funded a variety of projects benefitting pollution prevention efforts, including a project to reduce hazardous waste by recycling aerosol cans using a depressurizing system. CFAY will save over \$13,000 in annual disposal with more than 10,000 aerosol cans diverted from local landfills. Funding from the QRP also supported a pilot program to evaluate a new technology for bilge water treatment, procurement of spill prevention equipment and safety gear, and

funds for the CFAY 2009 Energy Conservation Awareness Fair. In total, the QRP has provided more than \$500,000 in MWR and operational support over the last two years.

At CFAY, recycling is an “all-hands” effort. It reduces waste, prevents pollution, and conserves natural resources. Like CFAY’s host nation counterparts, everyone is committed to recycling and reusing materials as much as possible. 📍

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