

TEAM ELMER'S

focus

Recycler of the Year Award



TRAVERSE CITY, MI ---The Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) unveiled its Recycler of the Year award winners at its Annual Conference & Recycling Business Expo in Traverse City at the Park Place Hotel. This year, the MRC awarded Team Elmer's the MRC 2008 Recycler of the Year Award at the Annual Awards Banquet.

The MRC Recycler of the Year recognizes an individual, community, business, or organization that provides outstanding leadership in waste reduction and recycling in their region or field.

"What an honor," said Troy Broad, President of Elmer's. "It is nice to be recognized for reusing material in the construction industry."

Team Elmer's has been utilizing recycling programs for over a decade as a way to reclaim material removed from existing jobsites, bypassing the landfills, and saving both the customer and the company money. Team Elmer's recycles materials from building deconstruction projects, utilizing the recovered materials to make crushed concrete gravel material which in turn can be used as a gravel

foundation under paved parking lots. Over the past four years, Team Elmer's has recovered and used over 400,000 tons of recycled concrete material—that's a pile of crushed concrete material the size of a football field over 230 ft. high!

"It is time we recognized the efforts of contractors in the Northern Michigan Region," stated Kelly Ignace, Board of Directors member for the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Team Elmer's reclaims Recrushed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) from road work and driveways. Over 100,000 tons of RAP was recovered during the past three years, enough to pave a 12 ft. road lane from Traverse City to Grand Rapids. Team Elmer's also reduces virgin material use by utilizing many waste and industrial byproducts like ash and furnace slag that would otherwise be disposed in landfills. These byproducts are valuable to the concrete making process and reduces the need for new raw materials.

Team Elmer's is the name used to describe several divisions including Elmer's Crane & Dozer, Inc, Elmer's Asphalt, and Elmer's Concrete. Team

Elmer's, a family owned company since 1956, specializes in the site development market, including surveying, engineering, excavation, concrete ready-mix, asphalt installation, and crane/rigging, among other specialties. Elmer's started in 1956 with original founder Elmer Schaub and a handful of dedicated employees. Today, Elmer's has grown to include over 325 skilled personnel. With the help of recycling and reclaiming existing materials, Elmer's plans to continue delivering integrity, quality, and service to their clients, the community, and the environment.

The MRC is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to foster effective resource use in Michigan by developing, supporting and educating a coalition of business, government, non-profit and individual members working toward the common goals of waste reduction, recycling, reuse, composting and recycled-content purchasing. By recognizing and publicizing innovative programs, the MRC hopes to increase the effectiveness and profile of resource recovery efforts throughout the state.



The Importance of Recycling in the Construction Industry.

Recycling has many benefits, but may not be the first action thought of when dealing with the excavation, asphalt, and concrete industry. Team Elmer's has been utilizing recycling programs for over a decade as a way to reclaim material removed from existing job sites, bypassing the landfills, and saving both the customer and the company money.

Team Elmer's is the name used to describe several divisions including Elmer's Crane & Dozer, Inc, Elmer's Asphalt, and Elmer's Concrete. They are a local Traverse City contractor that specialize in site development, concrete ready-mix delivery, demolition, and asphalt paving. The benefits of recycling construction debris became self evident to them with the continuing development of the commercial sector. With older outdated building being removed, recycling became a way to reclaim brick, masonry block, and concrete foundations, removing a sizable amount of material destined to be discarded in the landfill.

The reclaimed material is then crushed in a first stage, with metal rebar or wire extracted from the concrete sections. This metal rebar is recycled to a scrap yard to be reused in manufacturing processes. Then the reclaimed concrete material is sent through a final crushing process to create the correct material size for future use. The material that is produced from this process is a "crushed concrete gravel" material that acts as a road gravel with high compaction due to the large cementitious content compared to a mix design with all raw material inputs. This newly created material can be used as a gravel foundation under a paved parking lot or carpath in commercial development.

Team Elmer's has used 409,420 tons of recycled concrete material over the last 4 years combined. Imagine a pile of recrushed concrete material the

size of a football field approximately 230 ft. high. A twenty-three story building the size of a football field kept out of the landfill! That's a lot of material.

Conserving and recycling resources is becoming more prevalent in the construction industry. Recycling is present from the beginning in the concrete industry. In addition to reusing concrete at the end of its' life cycle. Team Elmer's utilizes many wastes and industrial byproducts like fly ash - a byproduct of coal combustion at electric power utility plants and furnace slag that would otherwise clog landfills. These byproduct materials can be added to concrete



mixes to reduce raw materials.

Another large volume recyclable material for Elmer's is RAP (the material not the music.) Reclaimed or Recrushed Asphalt Pavement (R.A.P.) is the most recycled product in America - more than newspaper, aluminum cans, or glass. According to the US Department of Transportation report the study estimates 80 percent of old asphalt pavement removed each year is re-used.

Elmer's participates in this process whenever possible. Millings from old roadbeds that are removed prior to new road surface installation are brought back to a stockpile. This pile is then recrushed and separated depending on aggregate

size in the material. The aggregate size dictates what mix design the material can be incorporated into. Once a new mix design is created to include these reusable resources, the RAP is treated like any other aggregate. It is combined with sand, stone, and liquid asphalt, and heated through the asphalt plant to make a new hot mix asphalt. Recycling asphalt roads nationwide saves American taxpayers more than \$300 million each year. (beyonroads.com)

Team Elmer's, over the last three years combined, utilized 113,386 ton of reclaimed material. Imagine a two inch thick, 12 ft. wide lane of roadway, 146 miles long, all the way from Traverse City to Grand Rapids. All this material was reused instead of sent to a landfill. There is also a slight bonus of saving liquid asphalt resources because there is some residual bituminous content left on the reclaimed material that can be utilized.

The demolition site may be the end to most buildings but is the starting point in recycling. It is the best opportunity to reuse as many materials as possible before they are hauled to a landfill. Elmer's separates wood that can be reused, and has recycled hundreds of tons of copper, steel, aluminum and tin. With continued effort, economic incentive, and community demand, recycling efforts will increase in Northern Michigan.

Elmer's started in 1956 with original founder Elmer Schaub and a handful of dedicated employees. Today, Elmer's has grown to include over 325 skilled personal specializing in surveying, engineering, excavation, concrete ready-mix and asphalt production, among others. With the help of recycling and reclaiming existing materials, we hope to continue delivering integrity, quality, and service to our clients, our community, and our environment.