

December 17, 1999

Mr. Arjan J. Kouijzer
7947 Landmark Circle
Tampa, Florida 33615

Dear Mr. Kouijzer:

Thank you for your electronic mail of October 12, 1999 to President Clinton requesting information on rockwool recycling, and informing us of your company's interest in recycling rockwool. The White House forwarded your message to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

EPA does not have figures on the exact amount of rockwool generated or recycled in the United States each year. This type of information may be available from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), which can be contacted by calling (202) 737-1770. We do, however, have a study, *Characterization of Building-Related Construction and Demolition Debris in the United States*, which you might find helpful. This is enclosed. You may also find the guidebook, *Residential Construction Waste Management: A Builder's Field Guide*, helpful. Finally, for information on construction material reuse centers, view the Used Building Materials Association website at <<http://ubma.pangea.ca>>.

Because you are interested in recycling, I thought you might also be interested in our efforts to promote markets for products made with recycled (or recovered) materials. Under section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the President's Executive Order described below, the EPA issues guidelines for the Federal procurement of products containing recovered materials. These guidelines identify and designate recycled products and provide recommendations to procuring agencies for purchasing these items. Once designated, procuring agencies are obliged to buy the items with the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable. EPA has designated rockwool insulation as a recycled product for government purchase and we promote its use through our procurement guidelines program. More information on EPA's guidelines program is available on our website at www.epa.gov/cpg.

The Federal government is committed to purchasing recycled-content products

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in order to promote end-use markets for recovered materials. On September 14, 1998, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13101, **Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition**. This Order reaffirms the government's commitment to purchase recycled and other environmentally-preferable products and elevates implementation of waste prevention and recycling to a new, White House-level Steering Committee that is chaired by a Federal Environmental Executive. The Federal Environmental Executive oversees government actions taken to comply with the order. The Order directs Federal agencies to set goals for buying products made with recovered materials in order to maximize the number of recycled products purchased. More information on Federal agencies' activities in this regard can be obtained from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive at (202) 564-1297, or you can access their website at www.ofee.gov.

In addition to Federal efforts to buy recycled products, many States have affirmative procurement policies or laws to promote the purchase of recycled-content products. For more information about state efforts to buy recycled-content products, I suggest you access the website established by the National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) at www.naspo.org. This website includes a list of state Purchasing directors and a vendor's guide to doing business with state organizations.

I appreciate your interest in recycled products and I hope this information is helpful to you in marketing your products.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosures