

FROM: Housewives Involved in Pollution
Solutions (HIPS)

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Dear Eco-Activist:

We were very pleased to hear of your interest in Housewives Involved in Pollution Solutions (HIPS). Our group was founded in March of 1970 and has grown rapidly ever since. Our membership includes housewives, husbands, college students, and all sorts of citizens. We issue a monthly bulletin (12 issues - mimeographed) for which we charge \$2.00 per year. Dues also includes membership in HIPS. Our subscription list totals about 500 at this time (February, 1972). We have been involved in many local projects, most of which were instigated by HIPS. Following are brief descriptions of some of our past efforts.

COMMUNITY BIKEWAYS COMMITTEE-- HIPS originated this group which involves HIPS members, non-HIPS citizens, and park district people. They have been working to promote and institute a community-wide network of bicycle paths. A recently passed Illinois law will provide funds for state bike routes, so their work should move more rapidly now. HIPS kicked off accounts at two local banks (one in Urbana and one in Champaign) so that citizens could contribute to bikeways. Money will go for signs indicating bike routes and maps. As of now, the best we can hope for is certain streets designated as bike routes. There will be no separation between cars and bikes, but it's a beginning. The Committee is working with PTAs and other groups to promote bicycle safety. The Champaign Park District is including funds in a bond referendum for a network of paths through the park system. Our University of Illinois has an excellent network of bikepaths on the campus and we hope to hook into these from both cities. The Committee is also promoting more bike racks at shopping centers, etc.

CHRISTMAS TREE CHIP -- This project has been carried out in 1971 and 1972. A wood chipper was made available from the State Department of Conservation in 1971 and by 1972, the City of Urbana had purchased their own. Permission was secured to use a local park, the local news media were asked to spread the word, and citizens brought their defunct Christmas trees to be chipped up into mulch material. Burlap sacks were donated by a wholesale grocery distributor (J.M.Jones-IGA) and HIPS members were on hand to fill bags and hand them out to interested folks. The 1972 Tree Chip kept about 7000 trees out of our sanitary landfill! State ordinance prohibits open burning, consequently city officials were pleased to cooperate in helping us keep this burden out of the solid waste stream. Trees may be biodegradable, but it takes many years for whole trees to decompose and in the interim, they create a tremendous problem. Not all communities will have this sort of equipment, but for those who do, it's a worthwhile project to suggest to your city officials.

EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES -- Earth Week of 1971 saw HIPS planning a number of project. Organic garden open houses at HIPS members homes were well attended. An Open Forum on Bikeways (which resulted in the Comm. Bikeways Comm.) was well received. The panel included city officials, a police captain, a member of the League of American Wheelmen, and a representative from the U of I. We rented a bus and sponsored tours of the Urbana sanitary landfill.



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More people should have come out to see the tremendous amount of solid waste pollution that is generated daily! The Sierra Club chapter (Prairie) held a paper drive and Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) (U of I) held a glass drive. HIPS held a can drive as a grand finale to Earth Week and this event was by far the best attended.

RECYCLING -- It would be impossible here to tell you all we have done in this area. Recycling emerged very early in the game as a major area of interest. We have a letter prepared telling in detail about a garbage-recycling route that we helped to set up. Write for this if you're interested (free). HIPS held the first local glass drive in November of 1970 and shortly after, a soon-to-retire Air Force major indicated an interest in opening up a paper baling operation. He opened for business in June of 1971, and his volume has increased tenfold. We also have an article available called "Resource Recycling in 1971" which spells out in considerable detail our experiences with paper, glass, and can drives. It also tells the story of the beginning of the Twin City Reclamation Center. The article is available for 75¢ (postpaid). We currently have recycle centers set up at three local IGA stores, with the firm commitment to add four more stores. Another shopping center is considering a similar center.

LEGISLATION -- HIPS proposed a beverage container ordinance in Urbana, but the wheels of government grind slowly and nothing definite has happened yet. The Illinois Pollution Control Board recently scheduled hearings on container laws, but a group of glass unions, retailers, and trade groups were granted a temporary injunction to halt the hearings. The case is being appealed and hopefully, concerned environmentalists will soon have an opportunity to offer testimony regarding the detrimental environmental effects of one-way beverage bottles and cans. HIPS is working actively to promote interest around the State of Illinois on this issue and will gather their armies when the hearings are rescheduled. We have done our homework very thoroughly on this subject and a recent study of a U of I engineer confirms what we have always suspected. The energy required to produce throw-away beverage containers far outweighs the energy required to manufacture returnable beverage bottles. More information on that subject can be obtained from Dr. Bruce Hannon, Center for Advanced Computation, University of Illinois, Urbana, Il. 61801.

SPEAKERS BUREAU -- We maintain a group of members who are available to give environmental talks to local clubs and organizations. We charge no set fee, but have literature available to pass out for a nominal cost. HIPS members have talked to about 75 groups over the past 2 years.

HIPS LIBRARY -- Our library is growing -- books, pamphlets, clippings, any and all relevant literature. We have had a problem here with encouraging people to use the material and are working on possible methods of better distribution and availability.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES -- Various fund raising events have been held to publicize our efforts and raise money for the treasury. Rummage sales (Recycle Sales), bake sales, and collection drives have all been profitable. Our expenses grow monthly. We own our mimeograph machine, but paper and postage is a continuing expense. We feel that our Bulletin alone is worthwhile and serves a great need. We are in the process now of trying to encourage other



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