

PAPER

Continued from Page 4

However, the magazine says that no existing legislation would force companies to produce unbleached recycled paper products, although the technology exists.

The extra cost of processing used materials into recycled products may cause "industrial inertia," Sugarman said.

But warehouses and landfills around the county contain enough paper, glass and plastic to fill the resource demands of U.S. corporations, she said.

"Supply of reusable materials is not the problem," Sugarman said. "We know how to provide collection systems, but processing the materials is what industry has to do because they own the plants."

The Eugene Mission, one example of a local collection system, collects more than 400 tons of used paper a month, selling the paper to large collection agencies, who then sell the material to large corporations, said Ron Metcalf, Eugene Mission Organizer.

After the paper is sold, Metcalf said, the Eugene Mission has little knowledge of how much paper is stored in warehouses or reused.

One Pacific Northwest corporation, the Norpac Paper Company in Longview, Washington, jumped on increased demand for recycled newsprint by

retooling one of three paper lines to manufacture "100 percent post-consumer waste unbleached newsprint," said Jerry Speaks, de-inking manager.

Dwindling old growth reserves, the rise in wood chip prices, and the spotted owl controversy led Norpac to change its manufacturing habits, Speaks said. The plant will be in operation by April, 1991, he said.

Ken Sandusky, recycling coordinator for Lane County's Waste Management, wanted to jolt the marketplace into action by requiring the county to purchase high-quality, recycled paper products, preferably unbleached. The purchasing strategy would stimulate demand and convince manufacturers to supply recycled paper, he said.

"Lane County needs to set its own definitions of what a reasonable standard of recycled paper is," he said.

Sandusky thought finding a supplier of recycled paper would be easy but found the industry to be a confusing and sometimes contradictory place, he said.

He found that recycled paper means one of three things: post-consumer waste, a product made from paper diverted from landfills; secondary waste, paper made from obsolete stocks of paper or mill waste, which is scraps of paper found around the mill from the manufacturing process; and mill broke paper, made from excess wood scraps and chips from process-



Photo by Sean Poston

Kinko's Copies is one local copy shop that is beginning to use 100 percent unbleached recycled paper. Unbleached paper has been found to be more environmentally safe because it doesn't produce as much dioxin as regular bleached paper does.

ing other products.

Most of these products are bleached, he said.

Also, Sandusky said that no concrete standards exist to determine what percentage of used material constitutes a recycled product.

"We've used a fair amount of recycled paper so far," he said. "The quality was fine, but sometimes we never knew what kind of recycled paper it was.

Ultimately, it comes down to trusting the people we buy it from."

Merritt also ran into problems with unclear labels on recycled paper and said government officials should charge corporations with labeling their product.

"Let's get some regulation on labeling," he said. "Everyone does not need to be a Dick Tracy, doing hours of research to

find out what they just bought."

The Atlantic Recycled Paper Company in Baltimore supplied the first shipment of paper for the University printing plant on May 4, Merritt said. The company imported the paper from the Steinbeiss Paper Company in Germany.

"I would rather have a 100

Turn to PAPER, Page 20

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