

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District: Utilization of Donated Clothing

The staff of the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) (composed of Executive Director Aaron Bell, Assistant Director/Controller Christy Duvall, Public Outreach/Education Coordinator Kendall Jackson, and Process Center Supervisor Rick Hubbard) has developed a creative and excellent way to



reuse an overabundance of donated clothing. In 2012 they developed a program for the SEIRD utilizing 2HB Trade, Inc., an organization based in Ontario, Canada that ships donated clothing to third-world countries. The clothing is first sorted at the SEIRD reuse facility. Clothing deemed unfit to display within SEIRD reuse stores (i.e., ripped, stained, etc.) is brought back to the SEIRD and baled for 2HB Trade, Inc. Useable clothing is sorted, cleaned, disinfected, and shipped to India as well as various third-world countries in Africa. Unusable clothing is sorted and shipped overseas where it is broken down and re-manufactured as towels, etc. Further waste is cut into pieces and used in the automotive industry primarily in garage servicing stations and car washes as rags.

In 2012 2HB Trade, Inc. purchased two (2) loads of clothing material from SEIRD. The first shipment of clothing weighed 28,983 lbs. and brought in \$0.14 per lb., as the material was of good quality. The second shipment of clothing weighed 41,000 lbs. and was worth \$0.05 per lb. This material was of lesser quality and was recycled to be used as rags. Another shipment of belts and shoes weighing 377 lbs. brought in \$0.55 per lb. Total, the SEIRD sold \$6,314.97 of clothing. In 2012 2HB Trade, Inc. was able to keep 84 million lbs. of textile waste out of landfills (seven (7) million lbs. per month). In this way, clothing donations can turn a profit while simultaneously contributing to a social service.