

BURNT Joins Nashville Chamber of Commerce

Environmental group BURNT joined the Nashville Chamber of Commerce as part of our efforts toward state solid waste reform and the group's 20th Anniversary Celebration. "BURNT understands that a healthy environment is vital to business. BURNT has had a very positive impact on business and the value of commercial real estate in Nashville", said BURNT president Bruce Wood. Wood cited the closure of chronic polluters such as the downtown incinerator, the Rendering Plant in Germantown, and Laidlaw-OSCO in Cockrill Bend. "If the \$300 million expansion of the downtown incinerator happened in 1990, Rolling Mills Hill would be a \$100 million garbage processor, 200 garbage trucks would come downtown daily, and there would be no downtown Symphony Hall," said Wood. Closing the Rendering Plant was key to further development of Germantown, downtown, and Metro Center, said Wood.

Wood cited Resolutions passed by the Metro Council and the State General Assembly

Joint Senate and House Resolution--BURNT 20th Anniversary

<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/currentga/BILL/HJR1247.pdf>

Metro Council Resolution --BURNT 15th Anniversary

http://www.nashville.gov/mc/resolutions/term_2003_2007/rs2003_90.htm

Furthermore, the pending State Solid Waste reform is a key issue for business which generates 2/3 of solid waste landfilled. "Tennessee is facing an \$800 million deficit and we spend \$250 million to landfill solid waste. However, this waste has a value of \$100 a ton if used as a raw material in business and compost", said Wood, citing studies by Dr. Neil Seldman (www.ilsr.org) Neil Seldman will speak at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of BURNT.

On 4 January 2009 the State Solid Waste Control Board will vote whether to allow proposed regulations for solid waste reform to go out for public comment. BURNT opposes the proposed regulations because continued use of landfills is stressed rather than diversion of waste has a raw material for business and compost. "We believe business, groundwater, and poor and minority inflicted with landfills are the big losers in our present solid waste system. We can reduce landfilling by using solid waste as a raw

material in business and compost” said Wood.

BACKGROUND BURNT formed in December 1988 to stop then seemingly certain expansion of the downtown incinerator which was very popular with decision makers. BURNT formed a coalition of East Nashville, Germantown and small downtown businesses to work with the Metro Health Board to clean up then close the downtown Rendering Plant. Laidlaw-OSCO a liquid hazardous waste plant was closed with BURNT, the Ford Glass Plant Union, and Robert-Orr Sysco acting in concert. BURNT was key in cleaning up Metro School use of pesticides and later “No Spray” to restrict Metro spraying of pesticides to control mosquitoes
