

**Scrap Tires In Rhode Island**

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Scrap Tires in Rhode Island - Thesis Abstract

This thesis deals with the threefold used tire problem in Rhode Island today. These are the problems of: implementing a reliable collection system of used tires, finding a safe and environmentally and economically sound means of disposing of scrap tires, and the future of Rhode Island's estimated 12 to 30 million stockpiled tires in Smithfield.

The thesis details the obstacles/hazards associated with the three aspects of the Rhode Island tire issue. There is also time spent dealing with the past, present and future tire legislation in R.I. A chapter also deals specifically with the factors that allowed the Smithfield tire stockpile to become as large as it presently is. (It is estimated to be the second largest in the country, a fact complicated by its being located over a Superfund Hazardous waste cleanup site).

Some of the various technological opportunities to recycle tires is also presented. Although, by no means is this a complete listing of recycling options, it does give a useful background to the major technologies presently available.

Throughout the thesis, and especially in the conclusion, suggestions are made on how to make R.I.'s tire policy more effective. The final policy suggestion made is to organize a state run collection system for used tires, shred them and monofill them in Johnston. To alleviate the problems of the Smithfield site I suggest moving or shredding, all the tires not directly involved with the hazardous waste site.