

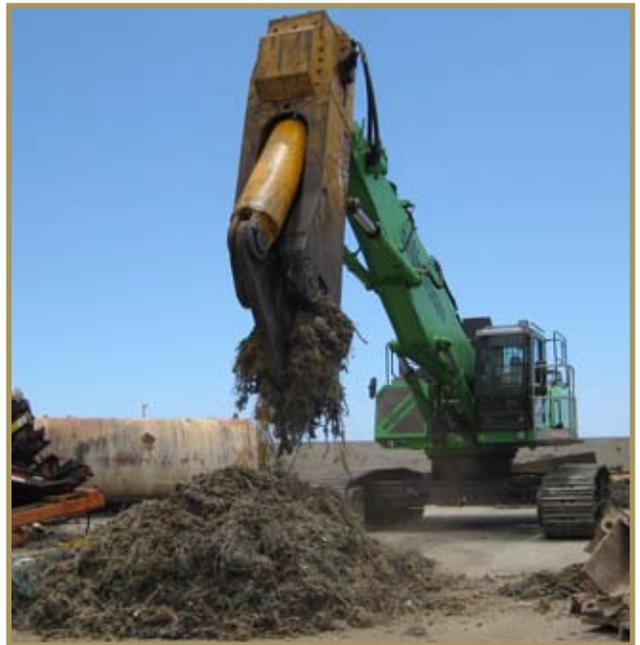
Marine Debris

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION • NOAA'S NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Hawaii's Nets to Energy Program and Partnership



Marine debris of all types accumulates in and around the islands of Hawai'i due to oceanic currents and winds in the North Pacific. Much of the debris is made up of derelict fishing nets. Large conglomerations of these nets, sometimes weighing thousands of pounds, are removed from Hawaii's reefs and shores each year. Instead of adding these nets to already congested landfills, in 2002, Hawaii's multi-partner marine debris group devised a unique program to recycle this marine debris into usable electricity.



The nets are transported to the facility of Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation, a mainland-based scrap metal recycler. There the nets are chopped into small pieces suitable for combustion at the City and County of Honolulu's H-Power energy from waste facility run by Covanta Energy. Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation transports the chopped net pieces to the H-Power facility. There the nets

are burned, producing steam which drives a turbine that creates usable electricity. All services (transport included) are donated free of charge.

This Nets-To-Energy program is possible only through the partnership and support of Hawaii's multi-organizational marine debris group including the businesses listed above, as well as Matson Navigation Company and Alliance Trucking.

Today, all NOAA-funded marine debris removal projects in Hawai'i incorporate this recycling as a component for success.

Since 2002, over 597 metric tons of derelict nets have been used to create electricity -- enough to power 283 homes for a year each!

**1 metric ton = ~2,205 pounds*

Hawaii's Nets to Energy



Derelict
nets & line

Transported to facility of Schnitzer
Steel Hawaii Corporation where nets
are chopped into small pieces.



100 tons of net =
enough energy to power
43 homes for a year!



Combusted to create electricity
at City & County of Honolulu's
HPower facility run by Covanta
Energy.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Minimizes government cost through significant industry involvement
- Minimizes impacts on already stressed Hawai'i landfills
- Produces oil-independent electricity through downcycling of derelict nets

For more information visit
[http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/
projects/netstoenergy.html](http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/netstoenergy.html) or
contact
Carey.Morishige@noaa.gov.

Marine debris is
a problem we can solve
and by working together
we can make a difference.