

ECC NEWSLETTER

- Martin Edelson

ECC Starting up

What's going on with the ASME Environmental Communications Committee?

First, those of you who belong to ASME should pay particular attention to the **ASME NEWS** insert that will appear in the September 2001 issue of "Mechanical Engineering."

It serves as our official introduction to ASME and will encourage broad participation from the entire organization.

We also will be broadly surveying the public and the engineering profession during the summer to help focus our future activities.

ECC MISSION

The mission of the **Environmental Communication Committee (ECC)** is to provide the engineering community and the general public with the best available technical information on the environmental impact of engineering operations.

Advancements in technology are largely responsible for the high living standard of the US and other industrialized countries. However, despite the undisputed contribution of technology to human advancement, the public has little appreciation of the true environmental impact of engineering operations. The problem is not limited to the public. Many engineers rely upon the public media for their non-specialist information and, therefore, many engineers share the public's perceptions of technologies in which they do not directly participate. Furthermore, traditional engineering education does not focus on the societal responsibilities of the practicing engineer. The powerful impact of engineering on society requires a commensurate acceptance of a

Current Membership

ECC Members :

Judith Bradbury
PNNL

Martin Edelson
Ames Lab and ISU

Nancy Lane
LEI

Larry Lapachin
DOE

Margaret MacDonell
ANL and Northwestern Univ.

Lou Middleman
WPI

Merv Tano
IIRRM

Melanie Torrie
PWISE Summer Intern

responsibility to serve the larger interests of society.

We envision the ECC as being a forum for a dialog between the interested public and the engineering community that discusses concerns about the actual and potential impacts of technology on people and their natural and built environments. As a result of the ECC, both engineering professionals and the public will better understand the impact of technology on the environment. The engineer will better understand how to responsibly practice the engineering discipline in today's world and the public will have sufficient information to make independent and reasoned judgements on how technology affects their lives.

**PLEASE ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO JOIN BY CONTACTING MARTIN EDELSON AT:
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