

*Technology, Renewable Resources, and
American Crafts*

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**Technology, Renewable Resources,
and American Crafts**

Background Paper

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Preface

This background paper is part of the Office of Technology Assessment's (OTA's) ongoing monitoring of renewable resource/technology issues for Congress. It was stimulated by discussions with Congressman Sidney R. Yates' staff. Mr. Yates chairs the Interior Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee, the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Endowment for the Arts, which is the major U.S. fine and folk arts agency, and the Department of the Interior, which is the major U.S. natural resource management agency.

The paper summarizes technology's effects on crafts (some of which are folk and fine art) that use renewable resources as raw materials. Technology's effects on other types of art, such as the performing arts, and on other types of crafts, such as ceramics, also are significant. They are not discussed here, however, because nonrenewable resource supplies are outside the purview of the OTA Food and Renewable Resources Program.

The OTA exploratory work included staff research and extensive conversations with more than 50 craft and renewable resource specialists. A half-day workshop involving six Washington experts provided important additional information; its results are summarized separately in appendix A.

This paper was prepared by OTA Project Director Phyllis Windle. OTA wishes to acknowledge the workshop participants, reviewers, and others who provided generous assistance.

Techology, Renewable Resources, and American crafts OTA Workshop, July 12, 1983

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