



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2014  
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

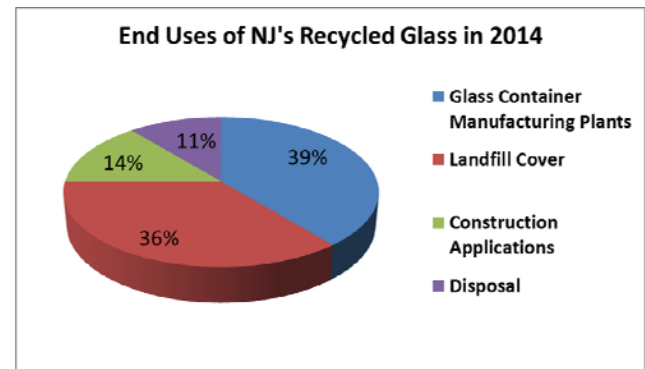
## Glass Recycling Trail Takes Twists and Turns

While glass packaging lost a considerable portion of its market share with the advent of plastic packaging in the 20th century, it is still an important packaging material today. It also continues to be a common material collected in New Jersey's many municipal recycling programs. In fact, over 289,000 tons of glass containers were collected for recycling in New Jersey in 2012. But, what happens to the glass once it is collected from the curb? Where does it eventually go?

In general, today's recycling collection programs are either dual stream or single stream programs. The dual stream recycling system entails two recycling containers – one for all bottles and cans and one for all grades of paper – while the single stream system calls for all recyclable materials to be mixed in one container. Once collected, the materials are then taken to an intermediate processing facility that uses both manual labor and mechanical means to separate the materials so that they can be recycled. There are 15 intermediate processing facilities in New Jersey handling these commingled streams of recyclable materials. Presently, only two of these facilities do any color separation of glass at their facilities. The remainder keep the clear, brown and green glass all mixed together. Many of these facilities then send their mixed color glass to another type of processing facility that utilizes optical sorting technology to color separate the mixed color glass. There are two optical sorting plants in the region that handle glass generated in New Jersey. Ultimately, the end uses for recycled glass depend upon whether the glass is color separated or mixed together.

Color sorted glass can be incorporated back into the glass manufacturing process, which

results in energy savings and air emissions reductions for the glass plant. At this time, there are only two glass container manufacturing plants (not counting specialty glass manufacturers) remaining in New Jersey, both of which utilize clear glass in their production process. Mixed color glass can be incorporated into hot mix asphalt to produce what is known as "glassphalt." It is also used in the production of fiberglass, ceramic products, reflective paint, frictionators (the part of the match that ignites), abrasive blasting grit and in other innovative end uses. In addition, mixed color glass is used extensively as landfill cover material, and also as subsoil drainage material and clean fill.



The glass generated in New Jersey is not typically utilized in all of the above end markets, but does go for a variety of uses. More specifically, 39% is sent to glass manufacturing plants to be made into new glass containers, 36% is used as landfill cover, and 14% is used in various construction applications. Unfortunately, the remaining 11% of the glass is disposed due to the material being too fine to recover and/or having too much trash mixed in with it. Greater attention to educating residents about what can and cannot be placed in their recycling buckets, as well as greater attention to sorting contaminants out of mixed glass loads at processing centers will help reduce the amount of glass that is ultimately disposed as trash.

## Did You Know...

- Many helpful resources regarding waste prevention, recycling and recycled product procurement, including industry-sector information, can be found on the USEPA's national WasteWise program website at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservewmm/wastewise/wrr/index.htm>.
- Abandoned flip flops that wash up on the beaches and coast of Kenya every year are transformed into toys and other creative products by local artisans. Visit Ocean Sole at <http://www.ocean-sole.com/> for more information.
- A recent report by the Worldwatch Institute, which addressed the amount of food wasted in the U.S. and its impact on the waste stream and environment, found that the average American wasted almost 10% of the amount spent on his or her food each year! For further information, visit <http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/putting-a-dollar-value-on-food-waste-estimates/>.
- 36 municipalities and 3 counties will receive grants from the NJDEP ranging from \$31,000 to \$300,000 to help finance cleanup projects to keep waterways in the Passaic River Basin clear of snags, debris and shoals that can cause clogs and lead to flooding.
- Rubbercycle, Inc. of Lakewood, New Jersey produces a variety of rubber products from scrap tires, including EverScape™ Rubber Mulch. Visit <http://www.rubbercycle.com/everscape.php> for more details.
- April 22, 2014 is Earth Day! Please consider planning an Earth Day event at your business or organization and be sure to highlight your waste reduction and recycling efforts at the event.

## Ag Recycling Expert Set to Retire!!

After many years of developing and implementing numerous recycling programs for New Jersey's agricultural community, Karen Kritz - a longtime and active member of the New Jersey WasteWise Business

Network and key staff member of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture - will be retiring on July 1st of this year. As a result of Karen's leadership, recycling programs are now in place for nursery and greenhouse film, pesticide containers, mulch film and drip irrigation tape, and plastic pots, plug trays and flats, among other things. Karen is also well known for finding recycling solutions for unique waste products, such as cranberry pits, that are generated by New Jersey's food processing industry. To learn more about the programs that Karen has implemented, visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/recycling.html>. Congratulations on your upcoming retirement, Karen!

## WasteWise – New Jersey Logo Now Downloadable

Members of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network are urged to proudly include the **WasteWise – New Jersey** logo found below on their company or organization's official correspondence. The logo can now be downloaded from the NJ WasteWise Business Network website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/wastewise/brbn03.htm>.



**Quotable Quote:** "If you're not buying recycled products, you're not really recycling." – Ed Begley, Jr.

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