



# **NJDEP RECYCLING AWARDS 2019**



# Institution Award Monmouth University

Monmouth University, located in West Long Branch, recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, paper, corrugated cardboard, metal, tires, yard waste, concrete, light bulbs, batteries, used oil and antifreeze, electronic waste, toner cartridges and more. The university donates old electronic equipment, clothes and books to charitable organizations and installed water hydration stations to encourage the use of reusable containers. As a result of their many waste reduction and recycling initiatives, the university was able to recycle 46% of the waste generated on campus in 2018. Monmouth University's recycling program is supported by a comprehensive education and outreach program that is aided by the school's Sustainability Advisory Council.



Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Thomas Herrington



# Business Award IKEA Distribution Services North America



IKEA Distribution Services North America, located in Westampton, recycles a variety of materials, including bottles and cans, paper, corrugated cardboard, metal, plastics, shrink wrap, strapping, mattresses and wooden pallets. Food waste from the facility's staff café is also collected and composted off-site. In addition, damaged glass, candles and ceramics are sent to a facility that pulverizes the materials into a powder that is used to reinforce concrete. As a result of these efforts, IKEA was able to recycle 77.5% of its waste. IKEA has a comprehensive recycling and sustainability educational program for staff and conducts bi-weekly audits to ensure that their environmental programs are working well.

Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Stephen Katz



# Government Award Maurice River Township

Maurice River Township embarked on a successful campaign to keep single-use plastic bags out of curbside recycling bins. The program, which was coordinated with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority, provided residents with red buckets with the slogan "No Bags in Your Bin!" imprinted on them, which were to be used to transport recyclables from residents' kitchens to their curbside recycling bins. Many residents had previously put plastic bags full of recyclables in their bin. The township promoted the program and worked with their vendor to enforce the program at the curb. Within a short period of time, the township's recyclables were found to be significantly cleaner when inspected at the recycling center.



Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Louann Karrer



# Leadership Award Carolyn Brown-Dancy

Carolyn Brown-Dancy is the Director of Environmental Health Safety and Sustainability for Atlantic Health System, which is comprised of over 400 sites of care, including six hospitals. Thanks to Carolyn's leadership, Atlantic Health System recycles a wide variety of materials, including plastics, glass, paper, cardboard, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, items containing lead, food waste, cooking oils, mercury waste, electronics and chemicals. Carolyn was also instrumental in establishing recycling programs in all offices and waiting rooms in Atlantic Health System hospitals. In addition, Carolyn led her team on a variety of waste reduction initiatives, such as the organization's furniture repurpose and donation program, plastic waste reduction program and paper reduction program.



Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Carolyn Brown-Dancy



# Rising Star Award Kellie Ann Keyes

Kellie Ann Keyes is the municipal recycling coordinator for Roxbury Township. Along with her many other duties at the Department of Public Works, including running the recycling depot, she has implemented recycling programs at schools, conducted recycling inspections at businesses, and organized volunteers for litter cleanups. Kellie Ann has concentrated on improving recycling and reducing contamination of the recycling stream at multifamily complexes. Her efforts have paid off with increased compliance and communication between the town and the property managers. Thanks to Kellie Ann, recycling in multifamily complexes in Roxbury is now a reality and helping to keep many tons of recyclable material from being disposed as trash.



Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Kellie Ann Keyes



# Outstanding Educator/ Educational Program Award Raritan Valley Community College



In order to improve office recycling compliance, Raritan Valley Community College, located in Branchburg, implemented a major change to their recycling program that features new bagless office recycling bins with small “buddy” bins for waste. Employees now sort their recyclables and waste at hallway sorting stations. Such a major change in the office recycling program required extensive outreach and education to ensure that the new program would succeed. Among the strategies used to promote the new program were face-to-face meetings with staff, explanatory emails, informative flyers, new hallway bin signs and campus posters. A follow-up analysis of the school’s hallway bins showed that 80-95% of the recyclables generated are now being recycled.

Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Sue Dorward



# Recycling Industry Award Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc.



Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., located in Elizabeth, is being recognized for its patented CORE® food waste recycling system. The CORE system is an innovative process that recycles pre- and post-consumer food waste into an engineered bioslurry organic feedstock, which is then introduced into an anaerobic digester at the nearby Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority to increase the facility's production of biogas. The CORE® facility is capable of producing a high-quality bioslurry from a wide range of organic material, varying from clean organics to packaged food materials. Through this program, Waste Management of New Jersey has recycled 13,567 tons of food waste from March 2018 through July 2019.

Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Jim VanWoert





# Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability Award Second Chance Toys



Second Chance Toys is a non-profit organization that keeps rigid plastic toys out of landfills by promoting their collection and then arranging for the toys to be donated to local organizations that serve disadvantaged children. In 2018, Second Chance Toys collected 13,520 plastic toys in New Jersey. This program has not only saved participating communities on solid waste disposal tipping costs, but it has been able to keep over 140,000 pounds of plastic toys from being disposed in landfills since 2017. The organization's New Jersey Green Team and Recycling Center programs provide for even larger scale collections that are helping to increase the amount of rigid plastic toys collected.

Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Bronna Lipton



# Commissioner's Award Mary Ellen Gilpin



Mary Ellen Gilpin is the Director of Environmental Programs for the Hudson County Improvement Authority and will be retiring in the spring of 2020. During her 30-year tenure, she has served as the Solid Waste Coordinator, County Recycling Coordinator, County Clean Communities Coordinator and Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator. Mary Ellen was a graduate of the first-ever Certified Recycling Professional series in 1993. Over the years she has led the way in many first-of-their-kind recycling programs and has coordinated numerous recycling events, including household hazardous waste events, mobile paper shredding events, Earth Day events, and recycling education programs in schools. Most importantly, she is a friend and mentor to her fellow recycling coordinators.

Featured in photo from left: Gina Gambacorto (NJDEP) and Mary Ellen Gilpin