



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring 2025
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

Plastics Advisory Council Second-Year Report Released

New Jersey's "Get Past Plastic Law" (P.L. 2020, c. 117), which prohibits establishments from dispensing single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam food service products and limits the distribution of single-use plastic straws, also called for the creation of a Plastics Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC was tasked with investigating and reporting on the effectiveness of the single-use bag prohibition and other issues pertaining to plastic waste reduction and recycling. The PAC's first-year report, released in May 2023, listed 20 recommendations and opportunities for action. The PAC's second-year report - available online at <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/get-past-plastic/docs/pac-second-year-report.pdf> - follows up on these recommendations and opportunities for action. Some key issues addressed in the report are:

- The need for more reusable bag collection programs;
- The need for Department of Health rules that would enable health officials to enforce the straw provisions in the law;
- The importance of public education regarding plastic waste reduction and recycling, and potential funding mechanisms for an ongoing statewide public education and outreach program;
- The significant impact from washing clothes on the discharge of microplastics into the environment and the future role of microfiber filtration systems in new washers;
- The regulatory implications of chemical recycling technologies as

they pertain to recycling and the recycled content law;

- A bottle redemption law and its potential impact on the Clean Communities program, the state recycling tonnage grant program, the economic viability of curbside collection programs and environmental justice communities;
- The advantages of adopting a uniform list of mandatory curbside recyclable materials to make things simpler for residents and businesses, which would in turn reduce recycling contamination; and
- The need for a measured approach to potential Truth in Labeling legislation, in light of other adopted or proposed legislative initiatives.

Mazza Recycling Adds AI Robot to Sorting Operation

Mazza Recycling has fully embraced the latest in recycling processing technology with its recent addition of a Glacier industrial sorting robot at its commingled processing facility in Tinton Falls. The Glacier robot uses a combination of artificial intelligence (AI), vision system and mechanical components (including 2 robotic arms with suction grippers) to identify, pick and place various materials like plastics, paper, aluminum and more. AI-enabled robots continuously collect data on the materials they sort, providing real-time insights into material composition. According to Brynn Mosello, Sustainability & Communications Director for Mazza Recycling, the sorting robot was installed in September 2024 and has been utilized on its "last chance" line to collect any missed recyclables, primarily PET. Mosello further stated that "we are excited to be among the first to utilize this technology to recover more recyclable materials." For more information, visit <https://www.mazzarecycling.com/>.

Simple Ways to Reduce Paper and Ink Usage

There are numerous approaches to reduce paper and printer ink usage, some of which are so simple that they are easy to overlook. The following strategies will help you save money and conserve resources:

- Reduce the default margins on your documents from the 1" on all sides to 0.75" or 0.5". This will save a significant amount of paper since it will increase the print area of the document.
- Change the default line spacing from 1.0 to 0.95 and gain an extra line every 20 lines, which will make your document 5% shorter.
- Reduce the default font size of the document from 12 point to 11.5 and shrink your document by 5%.
- Use specialty fonts that are designed to use less ink. For example, *Ecofont* includes very small, blank holes in the font that are not visible when documents are printed with typical font sizes. Another example is *Ryman Eco* font, an environmentally sustainable typeface that uses an average of 33% less ink than standard fonts.

Linden Renewable Energy Project Set to Transform Food Waste

A recent waste composition study found that food waste remains the largest component of the solid waste disposed in New Jersey. Looking to help address this situation is the Linden Renewable Energy project, which is under construction in Linden. The facility will convert food waste into renewable natural gas, utilizing anaerobic digestion technology. The gas will be upgraded to pipeline quality standards for injection into the Elizabethtown Gas system. The project will also produce 200 to 300 cubic yards per day of digested solids that can be used as a soil amendment and alternative to chemical fertilizers. The facility is expected to open in the last quarter of 2025.

DEP Earth Day Celebration

Liberty State Park

April 26, 2025

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

<https://dep.nj.gov/earthday/>

Did You Know...

- Material made from ocean-sourced recycled plastic is used in the Jeep Renegade 4xe SUV's seats, headliner, and floor mats. Plastics that were once used in headlights are reused to create door panels, side panels and more.
- Trans-Americas Trading Company, a textile recycler located in Clifton, separates "one-of-a-kind" antique clothing items, classic vintage pieces from designers and other retro clothes from incoming loads of donated clothing. The vintage items are made available to boutiques, vintage and retro stores and the film industry in the U.S. and abroad. For more information, visit <https://tranclo.com/vintage/>.
- Bendheim LLC's EcoGlass™ is a line of textured glass containing approximately 60% recycled material. EcoGlass is well-suited for home and office projects, including kitchen cabinet inserts, glass shelving and decorative door inserts. The company is based in Wayne and can be reached online at <https://www.bendheimcabinetglass.com/eco-glass.cfm>.
- Rutgers University's *New Jersey Green Building Manual* provides economic and environmental best practices across the spectrum of green building categories, including energy, emissions, water, waste, siting, transportation and human health. For more information, visit <https://greenmanual.rutgers.edu/>.



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<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/wastewise/brbn03.htm>