

2016 NJDEP Recycling Award Winners

AWARD CATEGORY: BUSINESS

AWARD WINNER: Cox Printers (Linden, NJ)

Cox Printers has embraced recycling, recycled product procurement and a number of other sustainable practices. The company recycles paper, printing plates, cleaning rags, toner cartridges, batteries, plastic bottles and glass bottles, among other materials. In addition, the company offers its customers a wide variety of recycled content papers for print jobs, as well as non-petroleum inks for these jobs. Other sustainable strategies employed by the company include the installation of a 36kW solar system and two wind turbines on the roof of their building. A partial roof garden, which reduces rainwater runoff, has also been installed on the roof of Cox Printers, as well as a number of honey bee hives. Cox Printers has also embraced carbon neutral shipment of goods via UPS.

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AWARD WINNER: Earth Friendly Products (Parsippany, NJ)

Earth Friendly Products is a company that manufactures “green” (environmentally-friendly) cleaning products at its five U.S. plants, including a facility in Parsippany, New Jersey. The company recycles a variety of materials, readily promotes waste reduction and established “zero waste” as a company-wide goal. The company has integrated sustainability into all business operations and views waste as a resource to be harnessed. The company is open to all ideas that can reduce waste and encourages employees to offer suggestions in this regard. Earth Friendly Products has conducted waste audits at its sites, which have led to changes that reduced waste generation at the company. These efforts and others helped the company reduce its trash stream significantly. In addition, the company’s recycling efforts since 2010 have resulted in recycling revenue totaling over \$180,000! Earth Friendly Products also uses solar power and has achieved carbon neutrality since 2013.

AWARD CATEGORY: BUSINESS

AWARD WINNER: Benjamin Moore and Company - Clifton Distribution Center (Clifton, NJ)

Benjamin Moore’s Clifton Distribution Center has recycled hundreds of tons of wooden pallets and unwanted paint over the years. The company also recycles corrugated cardboard and shrink wrap, but is most excited about its new paint can crusher which will enable the company to recycle these valuable steel cans. Benjamin Moore also educates its employees on the importance of these environmental programs and the key part they play in terms of waste stream segregation, labeling and safe material handling.

AWARD CATEGORY: LEADERSHIP

AWARD WINNER: Learn Your ABC's BYOBag

The Learn Your ABCs BYOBag Campaign is a coordinated and collaborative effort to systematically address single use bags as well as plastic packaging films. It is a partnership of the Municipality of Princeton, the Princeton Merchant's Association, McCaffrey's Grocery Store, and Sustainable Princeton, and follows the widely accepted waste reduction hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse Recycle. The campaign shows leadership in that it is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort between a municipality, a recycling coordinator, businesses and a non-profit. It also has expanded existing programs and provides a solution for recycling non-mandated materials including plastic packaging films which are difficult to recycle.

AWARD CATEGORY: RISING STAR

AWARD WINNER: Patricia Totaro, (Brick Township Public Works Department)

Since becoming the Brick Township recycling coordinator in 2012, Patricia's efforts have resulted in many positive developments and improvements to the township's recycling program. Changing the culture of her own department, the Township employees, Township residents and businesses has taken several years of consistent, diligent effort, but has paid off as the township is now recycling more material than ever. The township's recycling program accepts aluminum cans, glass, tin cans, newspaper, junk mail, magazines, corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles and rigid plastics. Patricia was also instrumental in convincing the governing body to invest in new recycling equipment to improve the program and marketability of the materials collected.

AWARD CATEGORY: INSTITUTION

AWARD WINNER: The Valley Hospital (Ridgewood, NJ)

The Valley Hospital collects and recycles many different materials including batteries, light bulbs, electronic waste, scrap metal, food waste, toner cartridges, carpeting, yellow grease and commingled paper, plastic, glass bottles and corrugated cardboard. For some recyclable items, such as certain paper grades, scrap metal, textiles and yellow grease, the hospital receives revenue back from its recycling end-markets. The Valley Hospital continues to add new materials to its recycling program, including a new textile recycling program, as well as a Blue Sterile Wrap recycling program. (Blue Sterile Wrap is made of polypropylene, a polymer with good resistance to chemicals and wear and is used in all hospitals to protect patient gowns and toiletries, medical devices, and surgical instruments from contamination.) The Valley Hospital also uses eco-friendly building products whenever possible, and even installed rooftop beehives.

AWARD CATEGORY: INSTITUTION

AWARD WINNER: Chairville Elementary School (Medford, NJ)

Chairville Elementary School serves approximately 400 students from the community. Paper, bottles, cans and even shoes are recycled at the school. In addition, the school boasts composting containers for food waste. Teachers and staff do their utmost to teach students about the school's recycling program, and even give out a variety of recycling awards each year. Chairville's student "green" team also helps promote the school's various environmental programs. Chairville Elementary School also promotes waste reduction and is in the process of constructing an Outdoor Classroom, which will be used to support and extend the school's environmental curriculum with outdoor hands-on learning activities for students.