

## 2007 RECYCLING AWARD WINNERS

AWARD CATEGORY: VOLUNTEER CITIZEN

AWARD WINNER: Claire Harrison

ACCEPTING AWARD: Claire Harrison

Claire recently entered middle school and is the youngest member of the Summit Recycling Task Force, which is charged with increasing the city's recycling rate from its present 35% to 50% of the waste stream. Claire educated herself and others to the dangers and ecological concerns associated with the personal use of polystyrene products. She worked diligently to convince the Summit public school system to work with its lunchroom provider to stop using polystyrene lunch trays and other food-related products in all seven of the public schools in the system. As of this past September, because of her commitment and determination, the lunchroom provider began using more ecologically friendly trays and stopped the use of polystyrene in the schools.

AWARD CATEGORY: RETAIL MERCHANT

AWARD WINNER: Burlington Coat Factory – Burlington Township and Edgewater Park Facilities

ACCEPTING AWARD: Nancy Dennion

In 2006, Burlington Coat Factory took significant steps to improve recycling at its corporate headquarters/warehouse in Burlington Township and its office/warehouse facility in Edgewater Park. They revamped recycling at the Burlington location, adding commingled recycling, and in 2006, paper and commingled recycling programs were established at the Edgewater Park site for the first time. The Burlington Coat Factory diversion rate in 2005 was 84.49%. In 2006, they increased recycling and reduced the amount disposed to achieve a diversion rate of 92.10%. They also placed notices over trash containers and in prominent locations within their offices advising staff to keep recyclables out of the trash. Recycling containers for paper were placed at all desks and copy locations, and containers and signage for commingled bottles and cans were set up at strategic locations as well.

AWARD CATEGORY: GOVERNMENT

AWARD WINNER: Lafayette Township

ACCEPTING AWARD: Nancy Podkowka

Lafayette Township has developed an impressive recycling program for residents, schools and businesses. The Township's recycling program consists of a curbside recycling program with once a month pickup (twice a month for the township's one school), and a county depot located within the town. Last year, the township developed an annual newsletter, which contains solid waste information, recycling articles, and Clean Communities news. Program enforcement is handled by the township road department via violation logs. The MSW recycling rate in 2005 was approximately 65%. In 2006, they were asked by the county to participate in a pilot project to include flat cardboard in the curbside pickup program.

AWARD CATEGORY: BUSINESS

AWARD WINNER: Johnson Farms

ACCEPTING AWARD: Keith MacIndoe

Johnson Farms is a 2000 acre nursery and sod farm located in Deerfield, Cumberland County. From 2001 until 2003, Johnson Farms recycled their nursery film through the Cumberland County Improvement Authority's nursery and greenhouse film recycling program. In 2004, Johnson Farms purchased a Tiger baler, which has significantly reduced their labor costs and allowed the farm to bale and direct market the material to a plastic recycling vendor. From 2004 to 2006, 50 tons of LDPE were baled and direct marketed. In 2006, Johnson Farms initiated a program to recycle 20 tons of nursery pots (HDPE) and 4 tons of plastic netting used in the production of sod and direct marketed the material to a plastics recycling vendor. In 2007, Johnson Farms recycling program will be expanded to include HDPE triple rinsed pesticide containers. Johnson Farms also recycles 3 tons of designated recyclable material such as mixed paper, office paper, aluminum and cardboard. Working with the NJ Dept. of Agriculture and the NJ Nursery and Landscape Association, Johnson Farms helps to promote recycling opportunities to other agriculture industry members.

AWARD CATEGORY: BUSINESS

AWARD WINNER Novartis Pharmaceuticals

ACCEPTING AWARD: Kevin Reade

Novartis operates a research and development facility in East Hanover, Morris County. The site employs over 5000 people on 181 acres and is one of Morris County's largest recyclers. An impressive component of their program is the East Village project, a demolition and construction project involving 2 office buildings and a parking garage. The buildings in the project were targeted to be USGBC, LEED certified. It was determined that any material generated as waste should be recycled or reused if possible. Materials targeted were wood, asphalt, concrete, metals, soil, cardboard and paper products. Following discussions with the Armstrong Corporation, ceiling tile scraps and partial tiles became a new material to be recycled. To date, over 53,000 square feet of ceiling tiles have been recycled since the beginning of 2006. Overall, the recycling LEED guidelines have been met and surpassed, as the recycling rate for the entire project is 98% and the overall recycling figure for that particular location is 85%. During the erection process of this project from December 2005 through March 2007, a 98.2 % recycling rate by weight was achieved, and over 10,000 tons of waste material was reused or recycled.

AWARD CATEGORY: INSTITUTION

AWARD WINNER: East Brunswick S.A.V.E. Club (students against violating the environment)

ACCEPTING AWARD: Hannah Moskowitz and Jason Rappaport

This club is part of the Hammarskjold Middle School in East Brunswick and is run by one of the school's science teachers. For the past two years, the club has chosen to recycle batteries as its environmental service project. Every two months, a recycling center employee goes to the school to remove the batteries collected for recycling. The batteries are taken to the East Brunswick Recycling Center and recycled properly. This project has created an easy way for students and their families to properly recycle their batteries. To encourage participation amongst the students, an awards program was developed and implemented. In only two years, the club has collected over 6000 batteries.

AWARD CATEGORY: INSTITUTION

AWARD WINNER: Sussex- Wantage Regional School District

ACCEPTING AWARD:

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District is located in Sussex and Wantage Townships, in rural Sussex County, NJ. The district is unique in that it provides elementary through middle school services for two townships. The Sussex-Wantage School District consists of three schools ranging from kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with approx. 1720 total student population. From an initial meeting in September 2005, a pilot program was developed to promote, implement and maintain a comprehensive, successful recycling program. America Recycles Day, November 15, was chosen as the day to kick off the program. The program includes the collection of a variety of materials including mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, glass bottles, and tin and aluminum cans. Recycling numbers have increased from 6460 lbs. of commingled and 37,440 lbs. of mixed paper in 2005 to 10,800 lbs. of commingled and 42,060 lbs. of mixed paper in 2006.

AWARD CATEGORY: EDUCATOR/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

AWARD WINNER: Hudson County Improvement Authority

AACCEPTING AWARD: Mary-Ellen Gilpin

The HCIA works consistently to educate both residents and businesses alike on the benefits of recycling. Through the county's Environmental Education Partnership Program, the HCIA's recycling division has offered 45-minute audience participation presentations to the majority of the county's schools. They also publish a bi-annual newsletter and a 16-month calendar, which identifies holidays important to many different ethnic and religious groups present in the county, and sponsor both a Crayon Recycling Contest and an Earth Day celebration. These elements of the Partnership Program have been very successful and together serve as a yearlong interactive way for the county's children to stay focused on environmental stewardship. The HCIA poster contest, another successful event associated with the Earth Day celebration, is one of the unique ways that the county has been able to strengthen its partnerships with educators. The bi-annual children's newsletter educates students about the importance of recycling, the dangers of household hazardous waste and other environmental issues.