



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Autumn 2019
WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.

Recycling Award Winners Share Center Stage

While the past year was a trying one for the recycling community, there are still plenty of great things happening in recycling and waste reduction in New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognizes these achievements through its annual recycling awards program. The 2019 recycling award winners are not only high achievers, but also models for others to emulate. The award winners are as follows:

Institution – Monmouth University

Monmouth University recycled 46 percent of the waste generated on campus in 2018.

Business - IKEA Distribution Services North America

IKEA Distribution Services North America recycled 77.5 percent of its waste.

Government - Maurice River Township

Maurice River Township embarked on a successful campaign to keep single-use plastic bags out of curbside recycling bins.

Leadership - Carolyn Brown-Dancy

Thanks to Carolyn Brown-Dancy's leadership, Atlantic Health System now recycles a wide variety of materials and has embarked on several successful waste reduction initiatives.

Congratulations!

Rising Star – Kellie Ann Keyes

Kellie Ann Keyes, the Roxbury Township recycling coordinator, has helped to make recycling a reality in multifamily complexes in her municipality.

Outstanding Educator/Educational Program - Raritan Valley Community College

Raritan Valley Community College employed a highly successful education campaign in support of the school's newly redesigned office recycling program.

Recycling Industry - Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc.

Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc. implemented an innovative food waste recycling system that enabled the company to recycle over 13,500 tons of food waste.

Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability - Second Chance Toys

Second Chance Toys 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.

Commissioner's Award - Mary Ellen Gilpin

Mary Ellen Gilpin, the Director of Environmental Programs for the Hudson County Improvement Authority, has been a leader in recycling in New Jersey for over 30 years.

November 13, 2019 – Next meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – For further information visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/wastewise/wwevents.htm>.

Did You Know...

- Marriott, which operates more than 7,000 hotels worldwide, plans to replace all its single-use plastic bottles of shampoo, conditioner and bath gel with larger pump bottles in hotel rooms by December 2020. The company estimates it will save 1.7 million pounds of plastic from entering the waste stream through this initiative.
- U.S manufacturers used 2.2 billion pounds of recycled glass in the production of thermal and acoustical insulation in 2018.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation that encourages – but does not mandate – municipalities to switch from single stream recycling collection systems to dual stream recycling collection systems.
- Long Beach Township, New Jersey operates the state's first municipally based food waste diversion program for oyster and clam shells. This innovative recycling project is a partnership with the Jetty Rock Foundation, Stockton University and the Parsons Mariculture Center. The diverted shell is beneficially reused for establishing a research oyster reef in Little Egg Harbor Bay.
- When food waste is buried in landfills, it decomposes and generates methane gas, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The large quantity of food being wasted and disposed in this manner needlessly fills up landfills, making these sites the third largest source of methane in the United States.
- To cut back on your carbon footprint this Halloween, check out local thrift stores to build your costume or swap costumes with a friend.
- Canada was the second largest foreign market for U.S. recycled scrap materials in 2018 (by dollar value).
- Municipalities can earn 10 points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program by implementing a materials reuse program that brings together residents who would like to discard any unnecessary or unwanted items with residents who are looking for used items in good condition.
- Suga, LLC makes yoga mats in the USA from 100 percent recycled wetsuits. Visit <https://www.sugamats.com/home1>.

Creative Green Ideas for Blue Wrap Plastic

"Blue wrap," a common name for sterilization wrap, plays a critical role in maintaining the sterility of surgical instruments prior to use in the operating room. It is made of polypropylene plastic and accounts for 19 percent of all operating room waste according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Although the material is recyclable, shipping it long distances for this purpose is a costly challenge because it takes up a lot of space and is low in weight.

The Hackensack University Medical Center's Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center rose to the challenge and developed several creative uses for blue wrap, which have kept many tons of this material out of the waste stream. The wrap is now crafted into usable items such as tote bags, pillows, stuffed animals, sleeping bags, umbrellas and more.

Economic Clout of Recycling Impressive

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) recently released the results of its national study on the economic impact of the recycling industry and once again the findings are impressive. The study found that the industry directly and indirectly supports nearly 532,000 jobs, over \$33 billion in wages, and nearly \$110 billion in total economic impacts. The industry's economic impact puts it on par with radio and TV broadcasting, building services, and warehousing and storage industries. The study includes companies that handle scrap metal, plastics, rubber, paper, textiles, glass and electronics.



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Steven Rinaldi, Chair
DEP, Bureau of Sustainability
Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/wastewise/brbn03.htm>
www.epa.gov/wastewise