



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Autumn 2020  
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## DEP Recognizes Recycling All-Stars

While 2020 has been a year unlike any other, thankfully there are still plenty of great things happening in recycling and waste reduction in New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognizes these achievements through its annual recycling awards program. This year's winners are as follows:

### **Institution – Princeton University**

Princeton University recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, paper, corrugated cardboard, metal, food waste, wooden pallets, mattresses, textiles, tires, construction and demolition debris and more. The university purchased a composter which led to an additional 62 tons of food scraps being recycled from campus cafes. Princeton University also has a comprehensive reuse program for items left behind by students at the end of the school year.

### **Business – Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G)**

PSE&G's company-wide commitment to recycling resulted in a 93 percent recycling rate in 2019. PSE&G recycles paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastic, and metal containers, but also the unique waste materials generated by a utility. PSE&G is not only focused on educating its employees about recycling, but also organizations and customers that interact with the company.

### **Retail Merchant – Burlington Stores, Inc.**

Burlington Stores, Inc. recycled 8,200 tons of corrugated cardboard, 3,000 tons of wooden pallets, 630 tons of single stream

recyclables and 70 tons of scrap metal and electronics from its New Jersey operations.

### **Government - Township of Middletown Department of Public Works and Engineering**

Thanks to a comprehensive recycling program, which includes a curbside collection program, two recycling drop-off centers and a polystyrene recycling system, the township increased its recycling rate from 65 percent to 75 percent. Middletown conducted a waste audit of its curbside mix and subsequently launched an enforcement and education program to help residents better understand how to recycle properly.

### **Leadership – Long Beach Township**

Long Beach Township implemented the first municipally-based food waste diversion program for oyster and clam shells in New Jersey. Diverted oyster and clam shells from restaurants are beneficially reused for establishing an oyster reef in Little Egg Harbor Bay. Thus far, the program has kept 90 tons of shells out of the landfill.

### **Rising Star – Lisamarie Schieli**

Lisamarie Schieli, the Borough of Maywood's Recycling Coordinator, not only oversees and educates residents about the borough's curbside collection program, but has also implemented recycling and reuse programs for items such as books, sports equipment, prom dresses, jeans and more.

### **Outstanding Educator/Educational Program – Toms River Public Works Department**

The Toms River recycling education program features a puppet show and related coloring book that educates over 1,000 students

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each year about recycling and litter prevention. The township's program also features Rocky the Robot, who educates residents about recycling at public events.

### **Recycling Industry – Foam Cycle LLC**

Foam Cycle, LLC's recycling system for expanded polystyrene packaging was successfully incorporated into the operations at both county and municipal recycling centers and kept almost 29,000 pounds of this material out of landfills in 2019.

### **Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability – Merck & Co., Inc.**

Merck & Co., Inc., a pharmaceutical company with its largest New Jersey sites located in Rahway and Kenilworth, has a comprehensive waste reduction, recycling and sustainability program. The company recycles food waste through two on-site food waste composters, recycles difficult-to-recycle lab plastics, implemented a reusable coffee mug program and strives for zero waste in all its in-house events.

### **Volunteer Citizen – Sri Nihal Tammana**

Sri Nihal Tammana is an 11 year-old from Edison, New Jersey whose passion for the environment led him to start a non-profit organization dedicated to recycling batteries. Thus far, Sri's "Recycle My Battery" program has resulted in the recycling of over 35,000 batteries.

## **Did You Know...**

- The closed Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island will open up in 2021 as Freshkills Park. Visit <https://freshkillspark.org/> to learn about this amazing transformation.
- 8 million tons of waste solar photovoltaic panels are expected to be generated by the end of this decade.
- Dole Food Company Inc. is working to produce compostable packaging from unused parts of banana plants.
- Old carpet is recycled into composite lumber, roofing shingles, railroad ties, auto parts, carpet cushion and more.
- Reusable masks made with recycled content are available from Looptworks. Visit [www.looptworks.com](http://www.looptworks.com) for details.

## **NJ Bag Law Passes**

Governor Murphy enacted a law earlier this month that prohibits the provision or sale of single-use plastic and paper carryout bags, and polystyrene foam food service products. It also limits the provision of single-use plastic straws. These measures will take effect in 2022.

## **Recycling Center News**

Mazza Recycling recently celebrated the grand opening of its new single stream recycling center in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. The facility handles commingled bottles, cans and paper and features positive sorting technology, which is a processing system that focuses on first removing paper from the operation using state-of-the-art sizing and optical sorting equipment. Visit [mazzarecycling.com](http://mazzarecycling.com) for more details.

## **Recycling Grants Update**

The Recycling Enhancement Act provides for recycling research grants to colleges and universities. The following are the 2019 grant projects approved by the DEP:

**Rowan University** - Enhancing Markets for Post-Consumer Materials Through Development of Exchange-Traded Derivatives

**Rutgers University** – Municipal Solid Waste Composition Audit in Burlington, Mercer and Union Counties

**Kean University** - An Institutional Wide Educational Campaign and Research to Promote Food Waste Recycling and Composting

**The College of New Jersey** - Sustainable and Scalable Food Waste Solutions for Schools

**Raritan Valley Community College** - Composting Implementation and Education



### **New Jersey WasteWise**

#### **Business Network**

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

[www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise)

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