



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Autumn 2022
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement.*

Recycling Markets Report Released

A statewide recycling education campaign, new financial incentive programs to promote recycling and the creation of a New Jersey Recycling Markets Center are key recommendations to boost recycling in New Jersey.

These recommendations, plus suggestions on focusing on packaging labels that confuse consumers about recycling and the importance of recycled product procurement, were shared in a report released in September by the state's Recycling Market Development Council.

In the latter part of the previous decade, recycling programs faced difficult times due to weak markets, low recyclable commodity prices and rising program costs. This was due in part to key import policy changes enacted by overseas markets – most notably, the Chinese recycling market - but also was the result of factors such as the market price of oil and increasing contamination in loads of recyclable materials.

The significant slump lingered for several years and was not only felt in New Jersey but throughout the world. With recycling markets still weak at the outset of 2020, legislation was passed in New Jersey establishing the Recycling Market Development Council. The Council's mission was to explore the market challenges facing New Jersey's recycling programs and propose recommendations that would advance recycling in the state.

Check out the Recycling
Market Development Council
report at recycle.nj.gov

DEP Recycling Awards Recognize Top Performers

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic's continued impact, there were still many impressive achievements last year in the field of recycling and waste reduction in New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognizes these achievements through its annual recycling awards program. The 2022 DEP recycling award winners are not only high achievers, but also models for others to emulate. The award winners are as follows:

Business – Nestle Health Science

Nestle Health Science, located in Bridgewater, recycled 47 percent of its traditional waste stream in 2021, which represented a 21 percent increase over the previous year. Upon factoring in food waste that the company sent for anaerobic digestion and coffee pods for composting, Nestle Health Science was able to divert 86 percent of its total waste from disposal.

Government – Village of Ridgewood, Division of Recycling

Ridgewood collects a wide variety of materials at the curb and operates a drop-off recycling center where curbside materials can be dropped off along with textiles, electronics, concrete, printer cartridges, rechargeable batteries, expanded polystyrene packaging, and food scraps. Ridgewood also purchased a polystyrene densifier and is exploring ways to work with neighboring towns that collect polystyrene.

(Continued on Page 2)

Rising Star – Millville Executive Airport

Millville Executive Airport recycles materials from routine operations/offices, Federal Aviation Administration runway projects, special events and all tenant hangar upgrades, improvements and cleanouts. The airport recycles a diverse mix of materials including paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, scrap metal, used oil, concrete and polycarbonate runway signs.

Outstanding Educator/Educational Program – Recycle My Battery

Recycle My Battery is a non-profit organization devoted to educating the public about the importance of battery recycling. The organization uses a variety of strategies to educate the public, including flyers, press releases, articles, videos, webinars, appearances at public events, and more. Recycle My Battery estimates that its educational initiatives have reached more than 4.5 million people.

Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability – Atlantic Health System

Atlantic Health System implemented an innovative program that replaced disposable respirators with powered air purifying respirators during the COVID-19 pandemic. Atlantic Health System saved 2,400 disposable respirators from being used and disposed of each day. Over the course of a year, this initiative resulted in more than 876,000 disposable respirators being kept out of the waste stream.

Volunteer Citizen – Donald Cammus

Donald Cammus volunteered his time to Florence Township when the pandemic and later, a truck driver shortage, impacted recycling collection in his community. Seeing that his neighbors needed help and that the local recycling collection program was adversely impacted by these factors, he loaded his neighbors' recyclables into his own vehicle and brought the materials to the township recycling center. This often resulted in Mr. Cammus making multiple trips every day to the recycling center.

Did You Know...

- Mors Design, based in Cape Town, South Africa, produces purses and backpacks from rubber inner tubes found in scrap tires. To learn more about these sustainable products, visit <https://morsdesign.com/>.
- There are now seven municipal/county locations in New Jersey equipped with Foam Cycle polystyrene recycling systems. They are: Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, Middlesex County, Middletown Township, Woodbridge Township, Ridgewood Village, Passaic County and Long Hill Township. For more information about the Foam Cycle system, visit <https://www.foamcycle.com/>.
- To improve the recyclability of its packaging, Sprite soda is now packaged in clear PET plastic rather than green PET plastic. Coca Cola Co., the producer of Sprite, indicated that one of the goals in making this change is to increase the supply of recycled plastic that can then be used to make future bottles.
- Belgian company PermaFungi harvests about 900 kilos of mushrooms per month from soil enriched with used coffee grounds. The grounds are collected from local coffee shops and packed into bags with straw at a growing facility to create nutritious soil for the mushroom spores.
- GreenDisk, a "technotrash" recycling company recycles CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes, game cartridges, diskettes and much more. For further details, visit <https://www.greendisk.com/gdsite/Default.aspx>.
- The Ocean Cleanup initiative has removed a quarter of a million pounds of plastic from The Great Pacific Garbage Patch and is gearing up for the next phase of its cleanup operation. Visit <https://theoceancleanup.com/> for details.



New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

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