



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Autumn 2023
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement.*

DEP Recycling Award Winners in the Spotlight

There were many impressive achievements in the field of recycling and waste reduction in New Jersey this past year. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognizes these accomplishments through its annual Recycling Awards program. The 2023 DEP recycling award winners are as follows:

Institution – Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, located in Paramus, recognized that food waste is a significant challenge for a facility of its size and implemented food waste reduction measures that prevented 14,562 pounds of food waste from occurring in 2022, which was the equivalent of saving 12,134 meals.

Business - L'Oreal USA

L'Oreal USA, which operates facilities in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties, implemented recycling and waste reduction initiatives that enabled the company to recycle or reuse 56.5% of the waste generated at the company's New Jersey locations in 2022.

Government – Village of Ridgefield Park

Ridgefield Park, in Bergen County, recycles traditional curbside recyclable materials but also recycles a wide variety of nontraditional recyclable materials. In addition, convenient textile and plastic bag recycling drop-off sites have been established throughout the village.

Government – Joseph Slomian

Thanks to the leadership of Joseph Slomian, Recycling Coordinator for Monroe in Middlesex County, the township was able to achieve a 65% recycling rate. The township collects traditional curbside materials, as well as many non-traditional recyclable materials. Under Joe's supervision, various upgrades were made at the township recycling center.

Leadership – Anthony Marrone

Anthony Marrone, district recycling coordinator for Morris County, has implemented numerous successful recycling and waste reduction programs, improved the operations of the county's household hazardous waste program, obtained DEP grants for equipment modernization, and designed recycling educational flyers, decals, signs and more.

Rising Star – Jamie Luppino

Jaime Luppino, Recycling Coordinator in Bergenfield, not only runs the recycling department, but also heads up the borough's Clean Communities initiatives. Jaime has created numerous recycling educational programs for residents and school districts and staffs recycling information tables at special events.

Outstanding Educator/Educational Program – Marci Meixler

Marci Meixler, an Associate Teaching Professor at Rutgers University, teaches a sustainability course designed to encourage her students to live more sustainably. A key component of the course is for students to implement sustainability initiatives in their lives during a three-week sustainability challenge project.

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Recycling Industry – Foam Pack Industries

Foam Pack Industries, in Springfield, has been recycling expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam since 1971. The company recycles 500,000 pounds of EPS foam per year and accepts material from numerous industries, municipalities, and residents.

Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability – Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Recognizing the potential for schools to educate students about waste reduction, Rutgers Cooperative Extension formed a Food Waste Team with a goal of achieving a 50% reduction in food waste in New Jersey by 2030. The organization helps public schools across the state implement programs to reduce, recover, and recycle wasted food.

Commissioner's Award – Marie Kruzan

Marie Kruzan served as Executive Director of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers for more than 34 years before her recent retirement. Marie dedicated her time and talent to championing the cause of recycling and worked closely with officials from municipalities, counties and DEP. Marie coordinated countless meetings, webinars, workshops, and special events.

Waste Composition Study Highlights Food Waste and More

The Rutgers EcoComplex recently conducted a waste characterization study in Burlington, Mercer and Passaic counties for DEP, which showed that food waste comprised approximately 17-19% of the waste being disposed in trash by residents, making it the largest component of the residential waste stream. The study also found that various paper grades comprised 10% to 11% of the residential waste disposed, while plastic film accounted for 9.5%. An analysis of the commercial sector was also conducted as part of this study. The report is available at recycle.nj.gov.

Did You Know...

- NJDEP has been awarded a grant from the USEPA that will be used to develop food waste management planning guidance and a toolkit for local governments. The grant will also fund the development of a New Jersey-specific food waste estimation tool that allows businesses to accurately report how much food waste they are generating.
- Ocean County received a grant from the USEPA that to make major equipment upgrades at the county recycling center - including the installation of a plastic film air conveyance system - to help reduce contamination and improve the marketability of its recyclable materials.
- The Plastics Industry Association recently launched a "Recycling is Real" campaign to tout the benefits of plastic recycling. The campaign is meant to show that plastic recycling is a key aspect of the circular economy.
- Cigarette butts account for 88% of litter that is 4 inches or smaller.
- Recycle Balls, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recycling tennis balls, has kept almost 12 million old tennis balls out of landfills through its reuse and recycling program. Learn more at www.recycleballs.org.
- Monroe Township recently purchased a Foam Cycle densifier, which will enable the township to recycle greater quantities of polystyrene plastic. The polystyrene ingots produced by the equipment are used by industry to make picture frames and crown molding.
- The Armstrong Ceilings Recycling Program has diverted more than 200 million square feet of old ceiling tiles from landfills. For details, visit <https://www.armstrongceilings.com/commercial/en/performance/sustainable-building-design/ceiling-recycling-program.html>.



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