



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Summer, 2012  
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## Summertime Fun Should Always Include Recycling

With summer upon us and vacations and family day trips soon getting underway, it is good to know that recycling, waste reduction and environmental stewardship do not need to be put on hold when traveling to some of the region's most popular summertime destinations. Thankfully, more and more entertainment venues and locales are realizing the importance and benefits associated with such environmental programs.

While a visit to Yankee Stadium for a ballgame had in the past been frustrating to those looking to recycle waste generated from the ballpark's various vendors, that is no longer the case. Fans can now find various recycling containers throughout the stadium, including containers for plastic bottles and food waste. Used cooking oil is also recycled from the stadium's food vending operations and is processed into biodiesel fuel. In addition, 100% recycled content paper products are used throughout the stadium. Other environmental initiatives include energy efficient stadium lighting and the use of natural cooling, instead of air conditioning, to cool the Great Hall.

Six Flags amusement parks have also implemented a variety of environmental initiatives to help improve the environment and their bottom line. The company has ramped up its recycling programs, and has teamed up with Coca-Cola to add more than 3,000 recycling bins in its amusement parks. Furthermore, all vehicles and trains that currently run on diesel fuel will be switched over to run on biodiesel generated from used cooking oil generated by the parks' food courts. Six Flags is also implementing

various programs to save water and reduce energy consumption.

For those interested in a trip to one of Atlantic City's casinos, it is good to know that the four casinos operated by Caesar's Entertainment – Harrah's Resort, Caesar's Atlantic City Hotel & Casino, Showboat Atlantic City Hotel & Casino and Bally's Atlantic City – are all implementing a variety of environmental programs as part of the company's "Code Green" initiative. In addition to recycling corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans, etc., food and cooking oil waste is separated and transported to a local farm for use as feed for pigs. Trees and plants that are no longer viable are recycled or composted. Furthermore, lightly used soaps and shampoos are sterilized and donated for reuse to a global nonprofit called Clean the World. The Code Green initiative also features strategies to reduce energy consumption, water use and minimize the company's carbon footprint.

## Focus on Recycling in Urban Communities

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Solid Waste Advisory Council will be hosting a workshop on June 28, 2012 that will focus on the unique challenges that urban areas face in regard to maximizing their recycling programs while keeping associated costs down. The goals of the workshop are to identify these challenges, exchange experiences in implementing urban recycling programs and to develop best practices in recycling designed specifically for urban areas. This program is intended for mayors, recycling coordinators and public works managers. For further information, contact Sondra Flite at [Sondra.Flite@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Sondra.Flite@dep.state.nj.us).

## Did You Know...

- Harvard bioengineer David Edwards has created a way to convert foods into biodegradable and edible shell-like containers and films that can be used as food packaging. The use of these "Wikicells" will result in less trash being generated since the user can eat the packaging after finishing the product. While still in the experimental phase, Wikicells have been used thus far to package ice cream and yogurt. The use of this material to package juices, teas and other products is expected within the next few years.
- The Ford Motor Company is experimenting with a way to use worn out paper money that is taken out of circulation as a raw material in the production of trays and bins used in its cars.
- A Starbucks coffee outlet in Tukwila, WA was recently constructed out of four modified shipping containers, including one 20-foot container and three 40-foot containers. In addition to promoting the reuse of old shipping containers, the coffee shop also boasts a rainwater collection system to reduce water consumption.
- The Lite2go Lamp by Knoend is an innovative lamp that eliminates packaging. When the lamp is assembled, the packaging itself becomes the shade for the light bulb and fixture contained within. It is designed to be versatile in use as either a pendant or a table lamp. For more information, visit [www.knoend.com](http://www.knoend.com).
- Recycling rates in New Jersey increased from 2009 to 2010 (the most recent year for which data has been finalized) with the municipal solid waste recycling rate increasing from 37.1% to 40% and the total recycling rate rising from 56.9% to 60.5%.
- Speaker Powerpoint presentations and the Minutes from past New Jersey WasteWise Business Network meetings are now available on the website of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers at <http://www.anjr.com/njwastewise/nj-wastewise.html>.
- Old corrugated cardboard is currently valued at \$120-\$130/ton in this region.

## Get Recognized For Your Recycling Efforts!!

The NJDEP's annual recycling award program is a great way for companies and organizations with successful recycling programs to get well deserved recognition for their efforts. In addition to getting honored for having a top program, the winning programs serve as models for others looking to start or improve their own recycling program. So, please share your success story and submit an application as soon as possible. The award categories are as follows: Institution, Business, Retail Merchant, Government, Leadership, Rising Star, Outstanding Educator/Educational Program, Recycling Industry and Source Reduction and Resource Management. Award nominations are due by July 16, 2012 and should be submitted to Vicki Kerekes at [Victoria.kerekes@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Victoria.kerekes@dep.state.nj.us).

## Repair Café Open to Public

In response to the throwaway society that has taken hold throughout the world, a new type of café has opened up in Amsterdam, the capital city of the Netherlands. It is a café devoted to the repair of broken appliances, torn or hole-filled clothing and a variety of other broken items. Anyone can bring such an item to the Repair Café, which is open a few days each month, and get it fixed or mended at no cost. The café is staffed by volunteers who enjoy fixing, repairing and mending things. The Repair Café is supported by a government grant, support from foundations and by private donors and was started as a way to reduce the amount of waste that is thrown out as garbage. The vast majority of the items brought to the café are easily repaired and still retain value, so it makes sense to keep these items out of the waste stream. This concept has been so well received that an additional thirty other repair cafes have sprung up across the Netherlands.

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