



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

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

Barnegat Bay Cleanup “Blitz” a Great Start

Over 2,400 volunteers braved a cold, rainy and windy day this past October 19 to help clean up trash that littered marshlands, creeks, marinas and Barnegat Bay itself as part of what was dubbed the “Barnegat Bay Blitz.”

This massive cleanup effort encompassed all 37 of the municipalities that make up the Barnegat Bay watershed. Volunteers included student groups, senior citizens, military personnel, environmentalists, business representatives and local government leaders, among others. Despite the bad weather, volunteers managed to gather 739 bags of trash, plus 578 bags of recyclables. In addition, three 30-yard dumpsters and three dump trucks were filled.

The cleanup, which was coordinated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, is just one component of a bigger effort that is underway to help restore the bay. A second Barnegat Bay cleanup blitz is already scheduled for May 9, 2012. Those interested in participating in the spring cleanup event, or learning more about the Department’s efforts to restore the bay, can sign up to receive e-notices about these initiatives by visiting <http://www.nj.gov/dep/barnegatbay/>.

Market Prices for Recyclables

(average prices as of December 12, 2011)

Sorted Office Paper - \$155.00/ton
Sorted Mixed Paper - \$80.00/ton
Corrugated Containers - \$137.50/ton
(mill prices, f.o.b.)

Aluminum cans (baled and delivered) - 81¢/lb
PET plastic (baled, picked up) – 25¢/lb

Did You Know...

- An estimated 5 to 20 million tons of debris that got sucked into the Pacific Ocean in the wake of Japan’s March 11 earthquake and tsunami is moving rapidly across the ocean and is expected to reach Hawaii by 2014.
- Valerie Montecalvo of Bayshore Recycling in Keasby was the recipient of a 2011 Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award in the Environmental Leadership category. Under her leadership, Bayshore operates an array of recycling facilities with a combined capacity of 10,000 tons per day.
- Recycling professionals can find plenty of information on plastics recycling, including best practices and case studies, at www.recycleyourplastics.org.
- Artist Mary Ellen Croteau created an 8 foot by 7 foot self-portrait made entirely of used plastic bottle caps! To view this amazing piece of recycled artwork, visit www.maryellencroteau.net.
- Green iPhone will buy your old iPhone, whether it is working or broken, erase all data from it, refurbish it and finally resell it. The company will even provide a pre-paid mailer for those interested in their services. For further details, visit www.greeniphone.com.
- The USEPA launched a Green Products Web Portal designed to help businesses and others find information on products that can save money, prevent pollution and protect the environment and people’s health. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/greenerproducts.
- Earlier this year, the city of San Francisco joined Seattle and other cities in banning the delivering of telephone directories unless requested by consumers. The city believes that this law promotes resource conservation, waste prevention and will reduce waste management costs for the city.

New Jersey Colleges and Universities See Food Waste Recycling as New Frontier

In light of the fact that the tonnage of food waste generated per year in New Jersey is greater than the combined tonnage of old newspapers, glass containers and aluminum cans, food waste recycling represents a great opportunity for achieving recycling gains in this state.

Recognizing this, Bergen Community College, Burlington County College, Kean University, Montclair State University, Ramapo College and Rutgers University have developed food waste recycling plans and have been approved by the NJDEP for a food waste recycling grant. Through this matching grant program, these forward-thinking schools will be purchasing the following on-site food waste recycling equipment:

Bergen Community College – in-vessel aerobic composter;

Burlington County Community College – in-vessel aerobic composter and waste cooking oil cogeneration system;

Kean University - food waste shredder to compliment existing in-vessel aerobic composter;

Montclair State University – in-vessel aerobic composter;

Ramapo College - – in-vessel aerobic composter and waste cooking oil cogeneration system; and

Rutgers University – waste cooking oil cogeneration system.

Single Stream Soars!

It was not that long ago when the concept of “single stream” recycling was considered a new and unproven approach to recycling collection and processing. In single stream recycling source separated recyclable materials – recyclable paper, bottles and cans – are mixed together by the generator in one container, collected as such and sent to a recycling center that is specially designed to separate this mixed stream of materials into their constituent parts so that they can be recycled.

While there have been some questions raised about contamination levels resulting from single stream processing, this issue has not slowed the growth or success of single stream recycling in New Jersey. In fact, single stream programs, which were originally developed for residential recycling programs, are increasingly also found in commercial settings. To meet the demand for such programs, there are now 14 recycling centers in New Jersey that are capable of processing single stream loads of recyclables. For further details about these recycling centers, visit the NJDEP website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/ipf/ipf.pdf>.

Memorable Quote – *“I always make the business case for sustainability. It’s so compelling. Our costs are down, not up. Our products are the best they have ever been. Our people are motivated by a shared higher purpose – esprit de corps to die for. And the goodwill in the marketplace – it’s just been astonishing.”*

Ray Anderson, Interface, Inc.

The Green Bay Packagers?

Krueger International, Inc. of Green Bay, Wisconsin may not be as well known as the town’s beloved Packers football team, but they are champions at reducing packaging and using recyclable and recycled content packaging in their business operations. In fact, the company has done such a great job in this regard that they won the USEPA’s 2011 WasteWise Gold Achievement Award for Packaging Reduction. Krueger, a furniture manufacturer, uses several strategies to reduce packaging waste when shipping and receiving products, such as the reuse of wooden pallets, and the use of plastic totes, shrink-wrapping, and blanket wrapping. The racking of products is also used to reduce the amount of packaging materials used in the shipping process. By carrying out its packaging goals, the company has prevented over 1,000 tons of waste that would have been landfilled and has recycled more than 3,000 tons of materials. For details on the company’s award winning strategies, visit www.ki.com.

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