



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter, 2014  
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## Disney World's Waste Management System Simply Magical

Disney World is not only known for family fun and good times, but also for its innovative waste management system, which is housed underneath the Magic Kingdom! Over 17.5 million people each year visit the Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Florida, making it the most visited theme park in the world. This also means that the park generates large quantities of trash and recyclables that must be managed. To do this out of guests' sight, Disney uses a system of underground utility tunnels and an Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) system.

Unbeknownst to most visitors to Disney World is the fact that there is a 9-acre network of underground utility corridors or tunnels, called "utilidors", built underneath the resort so that water and sewer pipes and various park operations, such as trash and recycling management, are hidden from view. The utilidors are not actually underground, but rather were built at ground level because of the area's elevated water table. About 5 million square feet of soil excavated from the park's Seven Seas Lagoon was deposited on top of these ground-level passageways to form the Magic Kingdom's surface. Thus, the Magic Kingdom with all of its streets, buildings and rides is in fact elevated one story or more above ground level.

The AVAC system is located in the utilidors and consists of a series of pneumatic tubes that can move trash and recyclables from one end of the park to another at 60 miles per hour. Disney World's AVAC system sucks trash and recyclables from oversized garbage cans that are bolted to the ground

throughout the park. The material then moves through the pneumatic tubes to a central processing area where recyclable materials are sorted and the remaining trash is compacted. The AVAC system is activated every twenty minutes so that trash and recyclables do not sit idle for long in the park.

In addition to the recyclable containers and other recyclables removed from the AVAC system, Disney World also recycles its used cooking oil into biofuel and combines its food scraps, horticultural clippings and animal waste droppings to create compost that is used in local landscaping projects. The company also donates prepared food that was not served in its restaurants and convention centers to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Each month, 50,000 pounds of such food is donated rather than disposed as waste.

Visitors can tour Disney World's underground operations by signing up for the "Keys to the Kingdom" tour. The tour is about five hours long and requires payment of a fee in addition to the normal park entrance fee.

## China's "Green Fence"

While China is better known for its Great Wall, the country's new "Green Fence" has gotten the attention of the recycling community. The "Green Fence" is a quality control initiative aimed at recyclable materials received at Chinese ports. This initiative, which includes random inspections and rejection of incoming loads of material, was begun in March, 2013 as a way of ensuring the quality of recyclable materials entering into China. This initiative has caused U.S. recyclers to take a closer look at quality control. The U.S. sent 16 million tons of recyclable material to China in 2011.

## Did You Know...

- Old sweaters are made into mittens by Second Season Upcycled Mittens. For more information, visit [www.SecondSeasonWear.com](http://www.SecondSeasonWear.com).
- If you would rather not receive telephone directories in print form, you can opt out of receiving them via an online service that can be found at <https://www.yellowpagesoptout.com/homepage>.
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin recently announced that New Jersey's municipalities and counties will receive more than \$18.6 million in state recycling grants to help implement and enhance local recycling efforts!
- AZEK® landscaper pavers are made with 95% recycled content, including recycled scrap tire rubber and recycled plastic. For additional details, visit [www.azek.com/landscape-pavers/](http://www.azek.com/landscape-pavers/).
- In 1938 the Garwood Load Packer revolutionized the garbage collection industry when the notion of including a compactor in the truck was implemented. The first primitive compactor could double a truck's capacity. This was made possible by use of a hydraulic press which compacted the contents of the truck periodically.
- Over 150 maintenance workers using 24 mechanical sweepers, 22 garbage trucks, 75 hand brooms and 37 leaf blowers will be used to clean up the approximate 45 tons of confetti and trash resulting from New York City's Times Square New Year's Eve celebration! While the cleanup is completed quickly enough for roads to be open to traffic by 6:00 a.m., the cleanup effort will go on until early evening on New Year's Day.
- Christmas trees were used to build up dune systems at Island Beach State Park and other Jersey shore locations that were left compromised by Hurricane Sandy.
- Hackensack University Medical Center has doubled its recycling rate and reduced its generation of medical waste by 50%!
- Information on shelf-stable and refrigerated beverage and food carton recycling can be found at [www.CartonOpportunities.org](http://www.CartonOpportunities.org).

## Lake Cleanup Highlights Litter Problem

Every five years, the water level of Lake Hopatcong, located in both Morris and Sussex Counties, is lowered by five feet so that docks can be repaired and the dam can be inspected. This was done once again this past November and also provided a golden opportunity for volunteers to clean up trash and debris from the lake bed.

The November 9th cleanup effort was spearheaded by the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, which organized volunteers at 40 access points around the lake and also arranged for a group of divers to help with the cleanup. Thanks to the hard work of all involved, over 23,000 pounds of debris were removed from Lake Hopatcong, including 13 appliances, 14 batteries, 141 pieces of clothing, 506 plastic bags, 1,100 tires, 1,500 glass bottles and 2,000 beverage cans. Other items pulled from the lake were a lawn mower, a Jet Ski, a shopping cart, political and real estate signs, a trampoline, a couch frame, carpets, lounge chairs, cell phones, a leather jacket and a mannequin.

While the cleanup efforts of the volunteers are to be applauded, it is a real shame that such trash is thrown into the lake and highlights the need for further education on litter prevention and proper waste management at the local level. We can all be part of the solution to this problem as well by picking up litter on our streets or in our neighborhoods. Visit the New Jersey Clean Communities program at [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org) for more information about litter prevention and cleanup programs.

### **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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