



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter, 2016
WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.

Zero Waste Certification Program Gaining Ground

The U.S. Zero Waste Business Council, which was formed in 2011, strives to educate and inform American businesses about waste reduction, recycling and other sustainable strategies that will enable these organizations to achieve a “zero waste” designation. As part of this effort, the Council oversees the first third-party Zero Waste Facility Certification program in the United States. Companies interested in being certified through this program must first meet a variety of requirements, such as documenting that they have achieved over 90% diversion of waste from landfills, incinerators and the environment. This diversion rate is the internationally accepted definition of zero waste as developed by the Zero Waste International Alliance. Those businesses that are certified through this program must get recertified every three years.

Individuals can also get certified as Zero Waste Business Professionals through another program run by the U.S. Zero Waste Business Council. This program is modelled after the U.S. Green Building Council’s professional accreditation program. It is designed to train professionals to help businesses get to Zero Waste, and to help get their facilities certified as Zero Waste operations according to the USZWBC Scorecard Certification System. Certificate holders will gain a practical understanding of the most current Zero Waste business principles and practices, USZWBC policies and processes, and demonstrate a clear commitment to professional growth in advancing Zero Waste.

For information about these programs, visit <http://www.uszwbc.org/>.

Reduce Waste and Save Money Through Purchasing

One of the best ways to prevent waste (and save money) in business operations is through smart purchasing practices, such as the following strategies and policies:

- Perform lifecycle cost analyses that include an assessment of a product’s maintenance, energy and water use, and disposal costs;
- Allow a price preference for durable, reusable, repairable, and recycled products;
- Centralize purchasing;
- Distribute supplies so a cost is associated with them;
- Conduct a pre-purchase review to consider alternatives to disposable and single-use products;
- Re-evaluate items purchased to make sure that they are really necessary;
- Purchase refillable or reusable products;
- Practice “just-in-time supply” to avoid over purchasing and spoilage;
- Purchase products that do not need batteries;
- Select non-toxic or less toxic products;
- Buy concentrated cleaning solutions in bulk form;
- Purchase products without packaging, with less packaging, or that are packed in reusable packaging;
- Ask vendors to take back packaging;
- Purchase copiers and printers that make two-sided copies reliably;
- Purchase rebuilt or refilled toner cartridges;
- Negotiate longer, more comprehensive warranties and service contracts for equipment;
- Educate employees about waste prevention through purchasing;
- Try to repair, refurbish, or rebuild before buying new; and
- Purchase quality used or remanufactured products instead of new ones.

China Revives Quality Control Program for Plastics

Chinese port officials have recently been instructed to increase their inspections of incoming loads of recyclable plastics from the United States and other foreign markets. Chinese officials are conducting spot inspections to ensure that unacceptable amounts of solid waste are not mixed in with recyclable plastics. While recycling center operators must improve quality control at their facilities, additional educational and promotional programs designed to improve the quality of materials collected from residential, commercial and institutional generators are needed.

Carryout Bag Fee Adopted

The Borough of Longport, a coastal municipality in Atlantic County, recently passed an ordinance that requires businesses to charge at least 10 cents for each single use plastic or paper carryout bag. The goal of the ordinance is to encourage customers to use reusable cloth bags at retail stores, which would hopefully lead to a reduction in litter on the town's streets and beaches. This waste reduction measure was passed unanimously and is the first such ordinance in the state.

National 2015 WasteWise Award Winners Speak Out

"Toyota focuses on reducing waste and increasing efficiency in all operations. This achievement means more environmental resources for our future and lower costs for both Toyota and customers today." - Chris Reynolds, Chief Environmental Officer, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

"...we're committed to using resources wisely and continuing to identify strategies that reduce waste throughout our supply chain...While waste reduction initiatives like our recycling program and shipping efficiencies are beneficial for our business, we're inspired by their positive, long-term environmental benefit." - Ken Bonning, Kohl's Executive Vice President of Store Planning and Logistics

(For a complete list of the National 2015 WasteWise Award winners, visit http://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/conservesmm/wastewise/2015_wa_awrds.htm.)

Did You Know...

- The *Waste-Free Kitchen Handbook* by Dana Gunders provides consumers with strategies on how they can waste less food and save money at the same time. An estimated 1.4 million tons of food waste is generated annually in New Jersey! In addition, according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, "An average family of four leaves more than two million calories, worth nearly \$1500, uneaten each year."
- The use of six tons of recycled container glass (rather than virgin raw materials) in the glass production process is equal to a one ton reduction in carbon dioxide/greenhouse gas generation.
- Before purchasing a specialized tool that you might only use once, consider borrowing one from a "tool lending library." Visit www.localtools.org for a list of tool-lending libraries in the U.S. This reuse strategy will reduce packaging waste sent to landfills and save consumers money.
- Numerous free or inexpensive software programs, such as *Stickies* – visit <http://www.zhornsoftware.co.uk/stickies/index.html> - can reduce or eliminate the need for sticky notes and note pads.
- The Closed Loop Fund provides no-interest loans to cities and below-market-rate loans to companies that want to build recycling infrastructure. The \$100 million fund was financed by some of the world's largest companies. For additional information, visit online at <http://www.closedloopfund.com/about/>.
- 43% of the municipal solid waste and 58% of the total solid waste generated in New Jersey in 2013 was recycled!
- Christmas trees made of recycled plastic bottles, beer bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers and more can be yours this holiday season! Check them out online at <https://www.greenmoxie.com/15-alternative-recycled-and-upcycled-christmas-trees/>.
- The *Certified Recycling Professional* program is open to both public and private officials – www.cpe.rutgers.edu.

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

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