

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

November 9, 2016

To: Members and Prospective Members of the
New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

From: Steven Rinaldi, Chair
New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
NJDEP, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability

Subject: Minutes from the Network meeting of November 2, 2016

Minutes:

Welcome –Network Chair Steve Rinaldi (Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov) welcomed everyone and explained that the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is the New Jersey chapter of the USEPA’s national WasteWise program, which is a program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line. Steve’s opening comments addressed the environmental benefits of recycling, which tend to get ignored to some extent or forgotten after all these years. Steve mentioned that recycling reduces the need for landfills and incinerators; conserves natural resources; conserves energy; results in significant reductions in air and water pollution; and leads to reductions in greenhouse gas generation.

Green Building Design for the Workplace: A Look at Material Selections and Design Strategies – Brooke Altidor, Allied ASID, LEED AP ID+C/Architectural Specifications Manager, CertainTeed Ceilings/Interior Designer, Beaux Art Green LLC, brooke@beauxartgreen.com – Ms. Altidor explained that surveys have shown that workplace quality affects the attitude of employees and their productivity. Physical aspects of employee comfort include daylighting and access to outdoor views; indoor air quality; thermal comfort and controllability of HVAC systems; acoustics; and ergonomics. In addition to these factors, the materials used in office design are important to employees and are key aspects of green design. Recycled content office products, including countertops, insulation, ceiling tiles, carpeting and furniture are readily available. Recyclability of products is another key factor discussed by Ms. Altidor. In particular, she discussed take back programs for acoustic ceiling tiles and carpeting/carpet tiles. Ms. Altidor also mentioned that the use of green building products can also be used to earn points in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) green building program. Those interested in incorporating green design and green products into their next project need to be proactive and ask their contractors and suppliers for such measures/products. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Food Waste Recycling: From Collection to the Development of a New Food Waste Recycling Facility in New Jersey! – Rocco D’Antonio, Managing Member, Organic Diversion, rocco@organicdiversion.com – Organic Diversion is a vertically integrated organic waste recycling company. The company collects food waste from food processors, supermarkets, restaurants, hospitals, corporate cafeterias, school districts and other large generators and transports it to existing out-of-state recycling/composting facilities, as well as to in-state pig farms. Organic Diversion is in the process of building its own food waste recycling facility in Gloucester City, (Camden County) New Jersey. The facility will utilize both anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting and will be a completely indoor facility with state of the art odor control equipment. This latter point is key since odor issues have been problems at past food waste facilities in the region and the ultimate reason for their closure. The Gloucester City facility is on a former brownfields site and has faced many development hurdles along the way, but now is ready for construction and is expected to open in the fall of 2017. The facility will produce energy, as well as a compost product. The “tipping” fee charged at the facility will be determined by the type, quantity and quality of material received. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory’s Award Winning Green Purchasing Program: Office, Cafeteria and Electronics Products Focus – Margaret Kevin-King, Building and Grounds Supervisor, Leanna Meyer, Environmental Scientist, and Kyron Jones, Excess Property Coordinator, U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory- mking@pppl.gov, lmeyer@pppl.gov and kjones@pppl.gov – The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) is part of the U.S. Department of Energy and is located in Plainsboro, NJ. PPPL has won the following recent awards for its various environmental initiatives: Federal USEPA 2012 Waste Wise Award, 2013 NJ Stewardship Award, 2015 USDOE Gold Green Buy, and 2016 EPEAT Purchaser Gold. Federal Executive Order #13693 requires federal agencies to promote environmental stewardship through purchasing, develop sustainability plans, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet waste reduction and recycling goals. In regard to purchasing, it is important to note that PPPL has an Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy in place to guide its procurement officials. Ms. Meyer indicated that 85% of the paper purchased by PPPL has 30% recycled content. In addition, the carpet tiles purchased by PPPL have a minimum of 55% recycled content. The purchase of office furniture that is made from recycled materials and is recyclable was also discussed. The purchase of electronic products was also highlighted. PPPL has attained a 98.8% compliance rate using the EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) program. Furthermore, PPPL’s green purchasing practices extend to its cafeteria products and janitorial supplies. In regard to recycling, PPPL has achieved a 69% recycling rate for its office waste and a total recycling rate of 98% (includes construction materials). PPPL uses various working groups to tackle different environmental initiatives and to integrate sustainability into its operations. Promotion and outreach are essential aspects of PPPL’s various green programs. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Hackensack University Medical Center - a National Leader for Environmental Excellence – Kyle Tafuri, Senior Sustainability Advisor, Hackensack University Medical Center - Kyle.Tafuri@hackensackmeridian.org – Mr. Tafuri began by stating that sustainability is a strategic priority for his company and that Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) was named one of the “Top 25 Green Hospitals” three years in a row. HUMC has proven that green

initiatives do not cost more and can in fact save money. Waste reduction and recycling are two of the key areas where the hospital has seen cost savings. In fact, the hospital's recycling efforts have resulted in \$250,000 in savings. HUMC has implemented numerous green programs in addition to those regarding waste management, but in all cases, it is important to remember that the adoption of green strategies does not happen overnight. Moreover, a culture change is needed within an organization to make such substantive changes to operations. HUMC initially focused on reducing medical waste and instituting various recycling initiatives, such as their program to recycle polypropylene Blue Sterile Wrap, (which is a protective wrapping for surgical tools and other items in the hospitals). In addition, HUMC recycles more traditional materials, such as paper, bottles and cans, and corrugated cardboard, as well as batteries, light bulbs, and food waste. Mr. Tafuri noted that program obstacles include contamination of recyclables with trash and the current low market prices for recyclable materials, but that with enhanced communication, flexibility and collaboration, it is more than possible to run an efficient, economical and successful recycling/sustainability program at any facility. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

The following is the registration list for the 11/2/16 meeting:

Speakers:

Steve Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov
Brooke Altidor, Beaux Art Green, LLC and DeFeo Associates, brooke@beauxartgreen.com
Rocco D'Antonio, Organic Diversion, rocco@organicdiversion.com
Margaret Kevin-King, U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, mking@pppl.gov
Leanna Meyer, U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, lmeyer@pppl.gov
Kyron Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, kjones@pppl.gov
Kyle Tafuri, Hackensack University Medical Center, Kyle.Tafuri@hackensackmeridian.org

Attendees:

Ali Baranowski, Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management, ABaranowski@co.ocean.nj.us
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SR: Minutes November 2, 2016