



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

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

New Waste Tracking System Developed

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has made it easier for building managers to track their recycling progress by adding in a waste tracking feature into its *Energy Star Portfolio Manager*, which is a free benchmarking and tracking tool for commercial building owners and managers. By incorporating this new feature into the Portfolio Manager, building managers will now be able to track energy, water, greenhouse gas emissions and recycling together in one tracking system.

The waste tracking feature allows building managers to track the recycling of 29 types of waste materials, such as glass, paper, plastics, metals and building materials, as well as trash. The program is part of the USEPA's efforts to promote sustainable materials management. Free webinars about the program are available at www.energystar.gov/trackwaste. This program will help facilities managers reduce their building's environmental footprint and cut operating costs. To learn more about this free resource and to register, visit online at <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager>.

Recycled Content and Recyclable Chairs for the Sustainable Office!

It is important to provide office staff with ergonomically correct desk chairs for both health and productivity reasons. Such chairs can make a big difference in the workplace and are now available with many "green" features. For example, many office chairs are made with a high percentage of recycled content, are readily recyclable and promote good indoor air quality. For more information, visit <http://www.treehugger.com/green-home/buygreen-office-desk-chairs.html>.

U.S. Glass Recycling Coalition Gets Underway

A new coalition was recently created in response to challenges that have made glass recycling less attractive to some in the recycling field, and has even led to a few municipalities across the United States deciding to no longer collect glass in their curbside recycling programs. This new collaboration, called the U.S. Glass Recycling Coalition, encompasses the entire glass industry supply chain. The organization intends to promote best practices to the glass recycling supply chain. Among other initiatives, the Coalition will develop strategies to assist municipalities with glass recycling decisions, and establish a network of glass recycling resources and champions. For additional information, visit online at [http://www.gpi.org/sites/default/files/Glass%20Recycling%20Coalition%20\(GRC\)%20Press%20Release,%20May%2010,%202016.pdf](http://www.gpi.org/sites/default/files/Glass%20Recycling%20Coalition%20(GRC)%20Press%20Release,%20May%2010,%202016.pdf).

Recycling and Pokémon!

The Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association recently launched a new app called "*Recycling Starts Here*" that allows users to win prizes by participating in an augmented-reality program aimed at making recycling more rewarding and enjoyable. Similar to the concept behind the wildly popular Pokémon Go, participants have to download the application onto their phones or tablets and then search for four special *Recycle Everywhere* bins in public locations in Winnipeg. Once users have found and interacted with the four bins, they are automatically entered to win the grand prize. For tagging other unmarked recycling bins through the app, users can also win instant prizes. The goal of the program is to increase empty beverage container recycling through a fun and interactive approach.

Did You Know...

- Tethers Unlimited of Bothell, WA has been awarded a contract to develop and deliver a plastics recycling system to be used on the International Space Station. As proposed, plastic waste (utensils, trays, etc.) generated by the astronauts will be recycled into high-quality 3D filament by a Positrusion Recycler that will be installed in the space station. The filament will then be used in an on-board 3D printer to make plastic items needed for space station operations.
- Office Depot recently announced the launch of its Binder Recycling Program. The program will be run in conjunction with TerraCycle, Inc. For details, visit <http://www.officedepot.com/cm/office-supplies/recycle-binders>.
- U.K. environmental charity Hubbub launched its "Neat Streets" program with the goal of helping anti-litter campaigns learn best practices from each other rather than having to start from scratch. One strategy being used in London features receptacles where pedestrian smokers vote on a question – such as their favorite movie character – using cigarette butts. For details, visit <http://www.hubbub.org.uk/neat-streets>.
- Misfit Juicery takes fruits and vegetables that are the wrong size, shape and color to be commercially sold and turns them into cold-pressed juice. The company's social mission is to reduce food waste. Misfit Juicery juices are available in stores in D.C., NJ, NY and CT.
- Baltimore's "Mr. Trash Wheel" is a solar powered water wheel that uses river currents to remove trash from Inner Harbor waterways. Over 350 tons of trash and debris have been removed from the harbor since the start of the program in 2014. Check it out at <http://baltimorewaterfront.com/healthy-harbor/water-wheel/>.
- Western News: Oregon is doubling its redemption value on bottles and cans next April from 5¢ to 10¢ per container. San Francisco will be expanding its ban on polystyrene foam in 2017 to cover many polystyrene foam products.
- *Chic Made Consciously* produces fashions and accessories from repurposed rubber inner tubes. Visit <https://www.chicmadeconsciously.com/>.

RECYCLING TIP:

QUESTION: WHAT DO THESE FOUR ITEMS HAVE IN COMMON?



Plastic Bag



Bowling Ball



Styrofoam Cup



Garden Hose

ANSWER: NONE OF THEM BELONG IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN.

THESE ITEMS CLOG THE RECYCLING SYSTEM AND MAKE YOUR PROGRAM LESS EFFECTIVE.
CHECK WITH YOUR MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR TO FIND OUT
WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT RECYCLE IN YOUR PROGRAM.
www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/recycling_coordinators.pdf

**nj.gov/dep**

Recycling 101: Education, Promotion and Awareness

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has developed a number of promotional messages (including the one found above) that can be used to promote recycling, as well as highlight the importance of only placing the accepted recyclable materials in recycling containers. Undoubtedly, continuous multi-faceted educational and promotional initiatives (including use of social media) are needed so that program participants better understand the importance of recycling and recycling program requirements. The promotional graphics are available online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/ages/images/RecyclingAds.pdf> and at www.anjr.com.

Slogan of the Day:

Think outside the trash...Recycle!

New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

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

www.epa.gov/wastewise

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