



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Summer, 2018
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

DEP Recycling Awards Recognize Excellence

While the past year has been a trying one for recyclers throughout the world, there are still plenty of great things happening in recycling and waste reduction in New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognizes these achievements through its annual recycling awards program and honors the award winners each October at an awards luncheon held in conjunction with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers recycling symposium.

The award categories are as follows: Institution, Business, Retail Merchant, Government, Leadership, Rising Star, Outstanding Educator/Educational Program, Recycling Industry, Volunteer Citizen, and Source Reduction/Resource Management/Sustainability. The award application is available on the DEP's recycling webpage at http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/2018%20Recycling%20Award%20Packet_Final.pdf. Nominations are due by July 27, 2018.

New Glass Recycling Facility Breaks Ground

Pace Glass of Jersey City recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new glass recycling facility in Andover, NJ. The facility will use 27 optical sorters to separate recyclable mixed color glass. Pace plans on shipping the resulting color separated glass by rail to glass bottle manufacturers in the central region of the United States. The new facility will also feature sortation technology to capture fine grind, which can be sold to fiberglass manufacturers. The facility is expected to open in early 2019.

Changes in Worldwide Recycling Markets Create New Challenges

Recycling programs worldwide continue to feel the impact of China's new recyclable materials import policies, which have left recyclers scrambling for alternate end markets and have led to a significant drop in recyclable commodity prices. This in turn has had a negative economic impact on recycling processing operations and ultimately on local recycling programs.

While there have been several new recyclable material import policies put into place by China this year, the stringent 0.5% contamination limit for incoming recyclable materials that was adopted in January is very difficult for recycling program operators to meet. This new standard has made it very clear to the worldwide recycling community that quality control must be their top priority. These new policy initiatives have by and large closed off the China recycling market to recyclers in the United States and elsewhere. China had accepted more than half of the recovered paper and plastic scrap generated worldwide in 2016. Thus, the loss of this recycling end market has had a huge impact on recycling programs throughout the world.

Improving the quality of the materials collected at the curb and in office programs must continue to be the focus of all local and business recycling education programs.

Yard Waste Reduction 101

Leave the grass clippings on your lawn when you mow! Save time and money! Learn more about "Cut It and Leave It" at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/Grass%20Cut%20It%20and%20Leave%20It.pdf>

Did You Know...

- The original Tappan Zee Bridge in New York, which has been replaced by two new spans, will be dismantled this summer and reused to construct new artificial reefs off Long Island.
- Fashion designer Stella McCartney makes shoes from recycled water bottles, backpacks from old fishing nets, and sweaters from textile waste.
- IKEA, the furniture and home goods company, announced that it hopes to use solely renewable and recycled materials in its products by 2030.
- Monofilament fishing line can be recycled! Learn more online at http://www.nj.gov/dep/njcleanmarina/fishing_line_recycling.html.
- The NJDEP recently announced that it is awarding \$19.4 million in annual Clean Communities grants to assist municipalities and counties with litter cleanup activities.
- The United States Green Building Council's *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) green building rating system awards points for the use of recycled content building products and furnishings. For details, visit <https://new.usgbc.org/leed>.
- More than 5 million graduation gowns wind up in landfills every year, adding to the plastic waste stream. Discover reuse ideas for graduation gown at <https://earth911.com/living-well-being/style/graduation-gowns/>.

New Recycling Partnership Grant Program Coming

The Recycling Partnership, a national non-profit organization, will be kicking off a new recycling grant program in July for coastal and waterway communities. The grants will be for the purchase of recycling carts with lids. The goal of this grant program is to reduce the amount of recyclable materials that make their way into oceans, rivers and lakes. The Coca Cola Foundation is contributing \$1 million to The Recycling Partnership for this grant program. Look for the grant announcement next month at <https://recyclingpartnership.org/>.

Monmouth Beach Bans Plastic Straws and More

Monmouth Beach officials voted unanimously last month to ban the use of single-use plastic bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene foam containers by businesses located in the borough. This is the first ordinance in New Jersey to address all three of these items. The ordinance states that the purpose of the ban is to promote "the use of reusable bags at businesses, and, ultimately, to protect the environment, wildlife, and the public health, welfare and safety." The ordinance took effect on June 1 and includes fines for non-compliance.

NJDEP Environmental Infographics Available

The NJDEP has been making available a monthly infographic on various environmental topics since 2017. The infographics can be used on your company or organization website, Facebook page, social media accounts or in other applications. The recycling and waste reduction infographics can be found at www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html.



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

www.epa.gov/wastewise

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