



# Association of NJ RECYCLERS

Spring 2014

## Beyond the Curb...



### A Message From ANJR President

**Dominick D'Altilio**

Dear Members:

Finally the winter is gone! Spring is here as we start ANJR's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lots of things have changed since 1984, but a lot has remained the same. Your support of ANJR and recycling has allowed us to grow and prosper and make New Jersey a leader in recycling – THANKS to you all!

As we look back at 2013, we were successful in becoming only the second State to achieve National Standards Certification Board approval and accreditation of our certified recycling professional program. We worked with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to clarify the rules for the receipt of plastics at Class A facilities. Prior to the NJDEP clarification Class A recycling centers could only accept plastic containers, other plastics having to be sent to Class B facilities. With this clarification, all plastics can now be accepted at Class A facilities.

I would like to report that Senate Bill S2528 (Blanket Source Separation Exemption) did not move forward in the last legislative session and has not been posted by the Senate sponsor this session.

At our annual meeting we announced the release of a White Paper on Food Waste Recycling. A copy of the paper is available on our website. The White Paper addresses Commercial Food Waste Recycling. I urge you to read the White Paper.

We also held out first annual golf outing that was a great success. We look forward to seeing you at our next outing on Tuesday, June 24.

2013 was a busy year and we anticipate 2014 to be as productive. Once again, thank you for your support.

### ANJR Introduces School Recycling Toolkit!

At the March 27th Annual Meeting, Ron Hutchinson, ANJR Vice President of Development, unveiled ANJR's newly developed School Recycling Toolkit.

### ***ANJR School Recycling Toolkit Available***

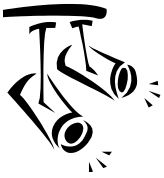
The toolkit guides key school personnel step-by-step through the process of setting up a recycling program. It provides all the necessary tools for designing and implementing a viable and comprehensive program in public, private and parochial schools. For more information regarding the school recycling toolkit please visit [www.anjr.com](http://www.anjr.com) or click on the link below.



### ***The second annual ANJR golf outing is scheduled for June 24, 2014.***

Click here for  
program details





## *Inner Circle Spotlight*



“Recycle Often. Recycle Right<sup>SM</sup>” is Waste Management’s (WM) message to their customers, neighbors, and broader community of stakeholders. And it’s much more than a simple refrain.

Thirty years ago, the recycling challenge was about getting people and businesses at the grassroots level to embrace a new way of discarding waste. We started bundling newspapers, sorting out plastics and glass, and resisting the old habit of throwing everything in the garbage.

That was then. The good news is that they’ve successfully hammered home the “recycle often” half of the equation. Today, many communities have even mandated aggressive, long-term, zero-waste goals to divert their waste from the local landfill.

Having won the public’s support of recycling often, WM must now add a key element: they must recycle right. Recycling is getting more complex with changing material streams. A fundamental requirement for “recyclability” is that a material must have enough value (i.e. a market) and volume to make it worthwhile to invest in the equipment and process of recycling it.

Let’s take plastic PET bottles. They make up a small portion of the overall waste stream but PET has a high value and it is worthwhile for recyclers to invest in technology to separate this material for recycling. Conversely, the cost to recycle glass exceeds its value and increases the overall cost of recycling. Yet, because glass is so heavy, it makes up as much as 25 percent of the material collected for recycling in some communities. Thus, in spite of the upside down economics, WM continues to recycle glass.

The right materials really do matter. Single-stream recycling has increased recycling volume by as much as 40 percent in some communities. That’s great news! It also has allowed recycling of a broader stream of materials, which can be confusing as

customers mix non-recyclable and recyclable items together. This complicates and adds cost to the process. Bowling balls, garden hoses, electronic cables and car parts may be recyclable in some way or another – but not in the recycling cart! It’s easy to imagine how handling these sorts of materials requires extra labor and damages automated equipment, all ultimately leading to increased costs for customers.

WM continues to sound the drumbeat for recycling and they are working to help their customers know how important it is to recycle often – and recycle right. Recycling touches us all, in one way or another, and all of us - producers, recyclers, municipalities and consumers – have a shared responsibility to work together to find solutions so that together, we all ensure the sustainability of recycling.

Waste Management’s local operating division – its Greater Mid-Atlantic Area – is working hard to make NJ, eastern and central PA, New York City, DE and the Delmarva Peninsula cleaner and greener.

The Greater Mid-Atlantic Area is operating almost 150 heavy collection trucks on compressed natural gas (CNG) that burns more cleanly and produces significantly less pollution than diesel. As WM has been building their CNG fleet they’ve also been building public fueling stations to give the operators of private and commercial vehicles the opportunity to switch to cleaner, less expensive and domestically abundant natural gas.

In Northeast Philadelphia, WM’s brand new SpecFUEL<sup>TM</sup> plant is turning household waste into an energy pellet that can replace coal in industrial boilers and kilns. The plant is already doing great things for Philadelphia: it has created jobs, increased city tax revenues and the city’s recycling rate, and is saving Philadelphia taxpayers millions of dollars a year on the cost of waste disposal.

Additionally, WM operates a solar farm at their landfill complex in Bucks County, Pa., and they operate systems that collect the gas naturally produced in their landfills. This gas is used to create enough renewable electricity to power several thousand homes each and every day.

### The Roots of Recycling in New Jersey

After being mandated in New Jersey and ingrained in our lifestyles for more than 25 years, it's hard to remember when recycling wasn't "the norm". Jean Clark could tell you otherwise. In fact she can spin such a story about the challenges and characters involved, that it may take a moment to realize that it was her passion and persistence that literally got the can kicking down the road over 40 years ago!

"The Roots of Recycling in New Jersey, Reminiscing with Jean Clark, the Grand Dame of Recycling" debuted at the ANJR Annual Meeting on March 27th before an audience of over 190. It was such a delight to see the sparkle in Jean's eyes as she retraced how New Jersey became the first in the nation to enact a mandatory source separation and recycling law. Her laughter was infectious as she recalled in the early 1970's the pleasure of residents breaking the bottles against the barriers at the Montclair Recycling Center. Jean also wanted to make sure it was understood that there were many others who were equally committed to finding ways to keep recyclables out of the trash, and capitalize on the inherent value of recycling.

The idea of a documentary was a team effort of Penny Jones (Morris County MUA), Reenee Casapulla (Sussex County MUA), Gray Russell, (Township of Montclair), and Michael O'Hagan (County College of Morris). For years, Penny would tease Jean that she wanted to interview her to document the history of recycling in New Jersey, and

Jean would joke back that she better hurry up because she wasn't getting any younger. So in 2010 Reenee compiled a list of questions that were collectively brainstormed by all, Gray facilitated the interview, and Michael provided the location and filmed the raw footage. Like all works of art, there were a number of edits and additions. Pictures of noted people and places were researched and discovered; sections of the two-hour interview had to be left on the cutting room floor, and a soundtrack was created.

The result is a 15-minute synopsis of Jean Clark's heartfelt passion and desire to help others see our world as a fragile and beautiful finite resource. With a wink and a nod, Jean lets us know that future generations have the power to make earth a better place by realizing the efforts of those who laid those cornerstones of sustainability. As she put it so beautifully: "It's the only planet we got and we've got to take care of it!"

Future plans for the video may include: an historical reference for recycling certification courses, partnering with other documentaries, and developing video archives for recycling in New Jersey. Information about viewing the video will be posted on the ANJR website [www.anjr.com](http://www.anjr.com).

*Submitted by Reenee Casapulla, Penny Jones and Gray Russell*



Jean Clark (l.) and Mary Sheil, another NJ recycling pioneer, pose at the 2006 ANJR Symposium.

(photo by Kate Coronari)

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### A little HHW Humor...

It was a beautiful day in August and the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event was going well so far. All of a sudden a woman in a car drives up and stops in front of the signs that indicate that HHW is to the right and regular trash is to the left.

I looked at her and held up my hands as if to say "which do you have?". She paused and then slowly moved into my HHW lane. I approached the car slowly as she was rolling down her window and I greeted her with "Hello, how are you today. Do you have Household Hazardous Waste?"

(Continued on page 5)



**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - - Retire**

**Nancy Paquette addresses the Township at her retirement.**

Nancy Paquette, the South Brunswick Recycling Coordinator, retired in June 2013 after 30 years of service.

Nancy has been an active ANJR member since 1990. She served on the ANJR Board of Directors from 1991 to 1998, and served as Vice President of Administration from 1995 -

1998. Nancy returned to the Board in 2004 and has remained on the Board since her retirement.

A REX Award recipient in 1995, Nancy has served on many committees. Nancy is the chairperson of the Website Committee; she has spearheaded ANJR's successful 2013 Golf Outing and chairs the 2014 Golf Outing committee. She has also volunteered to head the newly formed "Welcome Committee". Always willing to help, Nancy played Dorothy in the 1999 ANJR Symposium production of the Wizard of Oz.

Nancy has been successful in developing a program for South Brunswick Township that is convenient and cost effective. As an instructor in the Alternate Recycling Certification Series, she shares her ideas with the students and provides them with workable solutions to their challenges.

Nancy was presented with a Resolution from the South Brunswick Mayor and Council that stated, in part, "Nancy deserves credit for running the Recycling Program in a highly professional manner yet with enough flexibility to accommodate special needs. Nancy is honored for her years of service, dedication, leadership, and her positive spirit."

In a letter to the Editor on her retirement she summed up her 30 year career with a simple and sincere statement "Since 1983 I have had the honor and privilege to be involved in an industry that went from its infancy to where it is today."

*Good Luck, Nancy, in your retirement!*

Some of you may remember one of her alter-egos Glinda Garbaj, others may have experienced the wrath of her red pen as the Grammar Queen or you may have even seen her photo captions in ANJR's Beyond the Curb newsletter, under the pseudonym Kate Coronari, ...but most of us know her as Penny Jones. After working 29 years with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) as Recycling Education Specialist, Penny will retire in June.

Penny has been very active preaching and teaching the recycling gospel over the years. Some ANJR members may have had Penny as a teacher in the Communications Skills class of the Recycling Certification Series. Many have experienced Penny's numerous presentations at ANJR gatherings. If you've been to the Northern Swap N Share, you've witnessed Penny as the facilitator. If you've been around for while, you'll remember Penny dressed up as Glinda, the Good Witch, wrapped in bubble wrap, amongst the Oz characters played by other ANJR members.

Penny has been a strong advocate and supporter of ANJR. Penny joined ANJR in 1988 and served on the ANJR Board for a total of 14 years, working on the Program Committee (including serving as VP of Programs) to help plan ANJR's events, the Membership Committee recruiting new members, and helping to publish the newsletter, (including serving as Editor) among other things. In response to her dedication, Penny was awarded ANJR's prestigious REX Award in 1997.



**Don Madden's illustration of Penny Jones as Glinda Garbaj modeling various reused items.**

(Continued on page 5)

**Penny Jones Cont'd**

Penny has been a central driving force behind recycling in Morris County and New Jersey, and her talents and enthusiasm for keeping material out of the landfill will be greatly missed. We wish you well, Pea Jay, and hope you enjoy your retirement and come back to visit often.

Penny's last day with the MCMUA will be June 30, 2014. She can be reached at [pjones@mcmua.com](mailto:pjones@mcmua.com).



**Dominick D'Altilio presenting Penny Jones with the 1997 REX Award.**

*Submitted by Penny's friends at the MCMUA*

**HHW Humor Cont'd**

She proceeded to literally "jump" out of the car all the while answering with "I've never been here before and I'm kind of in a hurry" as she bolted back to open her trunk. I took a step back at the same time to get out of her way while I told her that she didn't have to get out of the car. She stopped right at the

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***All I could say was "OH MY"....***

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open trunk and looked at me with the strangest face and said "OH, REALLY?". And I said "yes ma'am, go straight down there". As I said this, I was "OBSERVING" her trunk where I noticed a crock pot along with a multitude of some HHW items loose, in cans and bags along with what looked like clothes, shoes and trash. I couldn't help myself and before I knew it, out of my mouth came "What do you have in that crock pot???".

She proceeded to smile and said, "Well, that's soup. You see I'm late for a lunch and I'm taking the soup for lunch with my friends".

*All I could say was "OH MY"....*

As she got back in her car and drove in the direction I pointed to, I thought to myself, Oh good heavens; she has that crockpot in the trunk with her HHW, trash, dirty clothes and shoes and I'm glad I'm not at the lunch and then thought about her FRIENDS. Why would she not put the crockpot in her back seat in a box on the floor????

Like many of you, I've been coordinating HHW events for years and I've seen a lot of stuff, but that was a first for me. It actually made me lose my appetite for the rest of the event.

***Submitted by Melinda Williams/Salem County  
HHW Coordinator***



**Penny Jones (right) dressed up as Glinda, the Good Witch and Nancy Paquette (front) dressed as Dorothy. Joining them in the photo are (l to r) Scarecrow (Dom D'Altilio), Wicked Witch (Judy Murphy), Tin Man (Dinah Rush), Cowardly Lion (Ann Moore) and Toto (Halsey).**

**ANJR Annual Meeting A Huge Success!**

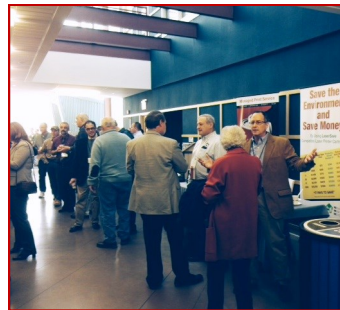
On March 27th, 191 people and 12 exhibitors attended the ANJR 2014 Annual Meeting and Membership Meeting. ANJR President Dominick D'Altilio presented the membership with an overview of ANJR's 2013 activities and a state of the association address. The topics presented at the membership meeting included: Recycling Market initiatives for Food Waste, E-waste, Paint and Glass; National Resource Management Certification program; Legislative Update and NJDEP Update.



**Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President of Operations, Bayshore Recycling Corp., addresses the crowd at the 2014 Annual Meeting.**



**Alison Keane, Vice President - Government Affairs for the American Coatings Association addresses the crowd at the 2014 Annual Meeting.**



**Some of the participants visiting the exhibitors at the 2014 Annual Meeting.**

**Association of  
NJ RECYCLERS**

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