

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

May 16, 2013

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

From: Steven Rinaldi, Co-Chair
New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning

Subject: Minutes from the Network meeting of May 9, 2013

Minutes:

Welcome – Network Co-Chair Al Fralinger, (albert.fralinger@pseg.com) welcomed attendees to the meeting and congratulated the U.S. Department of Energy’s Princeton Plasma Physics Lab on winning the 2012 Federal Government WasteWise Partner of the Year award and The Willow School of Gladstone, NJ for being named a 2012 Honorable Mention WasteWise Partner of the Year for schools. Network Co-Chair Steve Rinaldi (Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us) discussed meeting logistics, the two ways to join the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – through the national USEPA WasteWise program or directly through the New Jersey chapter – and the recently produced WasteWise Case Studies report. In regard to the latter, Steve indicated that he considers the report to be a work in progress, meaning that he hopes to add more case studies to the document over time. Those with outstanding recycling and waste reduction programs that have proven to not only benefit the environment, but also the “bottom line” are asked to share their story with the WasteWise Network for a future update of the report. It was also reported that the 121 people registered for the meeting - an all-time high.

1. **Textile Recycling Update** – Eric Stubin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Trans-Americas Textile Recycling Inc. and Chairman, Council for Textile Recycling (e.stubin@tranclo.com) discussed the need for increased reuse and recycling of textiles, which includes old clothing, footwear, household textiles such as hats, gloves, scarves, as well as carpeting. (Note: carpeting was not one of the focuses of this presentation.) Mr. Stubin indicated that only 15% of the old clothing generated in this country is donated for reuse and recycling. Regrettably, the remaining 85% of this material is disposed as trash. In fact, the average U.S. citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing and other textiles annually! In New Jersey, 5% of our disposed municipal solid waste is post-consumer textile waste, which cost \$18 million in tipping fees to dispose. Mr. Stubin stated that this makes no sense for many reasons, including the fact that this material is a valuable commodity that can generate revenue for a municipality or other entity collecting this material. The textile recycling industry has been in existence for over 70 years, provides many jobs since it very labor intensive and provides usable

clothing for export to poor, developing countries. Those items that are not usable again as clothing are recycled into wiping rags or fiber for various products. Mr. Stubin indicated that the textile trade association is doing whatever it can to promote textile recycling since education and awareness are the keys to increasing the recycling of this material in the United States. While there are only a few mandatory recycling programs for textile recycling in the United States, Mr. Stubin sees this approach as the next step to take to advance textile recycling. Visit the industry's website at www.wearonaterecycle.org. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

2. **USEPA's Food Recovery Challenge** – Steve Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning spoke on behalf of Lorraine Graves, USEPA Region 2 - The USEPA has been making a big push into food recovery and food waste recycling as it is one of the largest untapped sources of waste in the municipal waste stream. The Food Recovery Challenge is described as an initiative where participants commit to reducing food waste reaching landfills through prevention, donation and composting. The program's set-up is very similar to the approach taken for the broader WasteWise program. After signing up through the national WasteWise site, participants conduct a food waste assessment, set goals, undertake the program and then track their results. Besides the environmental benefits associated with the program, participants should see cost savings from reduced purchasing and waste fees. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge> for more details.

3. **Rock and Wrap It Up! – Food Donation to Fight Hunger (and Reduce Waste at the Same time!)** - Syd Mandelbaum, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Rock and Wrap It Up, Inc., (sydmandelbaum@att.net) - Rock and Wrap it Up! is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1994. The independent anti-poverty think tank is based in New York, but works with partners across the country to develop solutions that address the issues of hunger and poverty in America. Mr. Mandelbaum indicated that the poverty rate in the United States was an astounding 15% in 2010! The organization works by increasing financial assets available to fight poverty by identifying new revenue streams through food and other basic assets obtained without cost. The organization's roots are in rock 'n' roll music, which is where they got the name Rock and Wrap it Up! The group started by recovering food that was prepared, but not served from venues like Nikon at Jones Beach Theater. Next, the organization started working directly with bands to see that surplus food would be donated instead of being thrown out. Rock and Wrap it Up! works with bands to show them how they can use their contracts as a harvesting tool for food and other assets. Rock and Wrap it Up! has expanded its work to include partnerships with sports franchises across America (including all sports team in the NY/NJ/PA area) as well as schools and hotels. The organization is also working with television and film production crews to see that surplus food and other assets are not wasted at the end of shooting. Mr. Mandelbaum explained that another source of food that can and should be recovered is “short-dated” items from food companies. Mr. Mandelbaum also explained the importance of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects all donors of food and other items from

liability. The Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 was also mentioned as a positive development since it encourages food donation from government buildings and events. By redirecting surplus food to those who need it, Rock and Wrap it Up! helps keep tons of material out of U.S. landfills. The organization also provides donors with information pertaining to greenhouse gas reductions resulting from their donations. In addition, Mr. Mandelbaum mentioned a very useful online tool called Hungerpedia, which is an encyclopedia of vetted anti-poverty agencies in the U.S. and Canada. This resource is available through the Rock and Wrap it Up! website found at <http://rockandwrapitup.org/>. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

4. **Food Waste Composting** – Nelson Widell, Co-Founder, Peninsula Compost Group, nelson.widell@peninsula-compost.com – Peninsula Compost, located in South Wilmington, Delaware is the largest food waste recycler on the east coast of the United States. The company services customers from Washington, D.C. to New York City. The facility is located in an industrial area near the Port of Wilmington. The company hires local residents and has neighborhood support through a Community Benefits Agreement. The facility receives floral waste, bakery waste, grocery items, frozen food, yard waste, meats, fish, paper and other vegetative wastes from a wide variety of sources, including supermarkets, colleges, hotels and the Princeton food waste recycling pilot program. The incoming materials are first blended together in order to get the proper carbon to nitrogen mix and then encapsulated in an in-vessel windrow system that uses polymer sheet fabrics to encapsulate the materials being composted. There are 64 of these encapsulated windrow systems at Peninsula Compost, each of which is monitored closely in regard to temperature and oxygen levels so as to provide the proper environment for microbial breakdown of the material. It should be noted that the polymer sheet fabrics that encapsulate the pile do not allow rainwater to infiltrate the piles, thereby eliminating leachate runoff problems. The piles are turned in a three-stage process that runs for a total of eight weeks. Air is pumped into the piles from underneath as needed throughout the process. After the composting process is completed, the material is then screened and marketed to landscapers, garden centers and nurseries as compost (humus). The Peninsula Compost facility is registered on the Climate Action Reserve for the greenhouse gas reductions resulting from the operation. The company website is <http://peninsula-compost.com/>. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)
5. **Princeton University's Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling Program** – Kristi Wiedemann, Assistant Manager, Princeton University Office of Sustainability, kristiw@Princeton.EDU – In 2008, Princeton University adopted its Strategic Sustainability Plan, which called for the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction and resource conservation measures, among other things. In regard to resource conservation, the school hopes to reduce its waste stream by 40% and recycle at least 50% of its waste stream. Thus far, Princeton University has been able to reduce its waste stream by 20% and is now recycling 42% of its total waste. Among other recycling strategies utilized at the university, the 3-in-1 containers that are used throughout the campus, including in dormitories, have proven successful. These containers include compartments for garbage, paper recycling and bottle/can recycling.

The university is currently studying the single stream recycling approach and how it might be implemented on campus. Princeton also has entered into a recycling partnership with TerraCycle of Trenton, so that pens, sharpies and markers can now be recycled through this campus program. In addition, the school has a toner printer cartridge recycling program in conjunction with Office Max. The university's food waste is recycled as pig feed at a southern New Jersey pig farm. In addition, a "Move Out" day at the end of the spring semester is an annual event designed to collect reusable items no longer wanted by departing students. Princeton University has reduced its waste stream by using proportioning paper towel dispensers and by having "tray free" dining, which reduces the amount of food taken (and wasted) by students. The university utilizes student green leaders to help educate others about campus-related environmental issues. In addition, recycling guidelines are disseminated to all students. Visit <https://www.princeton.edu/sustainability/> more information about the Princeton University sustainability program. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

The following is the list of attendees for the 5/9/13 meeting;

Speakers:

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SR: Minutes May 9, 2013