



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2015
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

The Third Arrow in the Recycling Loop – Recycled Product Procurement

While successful waste reduction and recycling initiatives tend to receive more publicity than successful recycled product procurement programs, the latter are crucial to the success of recycling since they help create long-term stable markets for the recyclable materials that are collected from New Jersey homes, businesses and institutions. In fact, the third arrow in the famous recycling logo (the Mobius loop of three chasing arrows) represents the actual purchase and use of products made from recycled materials. As such, businesses and other organizations that not only recycle, but also “Buy Recycled” and thus “close the loop” will make the biggest positive impact on the environment and the economy.

Virtually every office product that is made from virgin material has a recycled content counterpart. These recycled products meet the highest quality standards, are readily available and affordable. Since paper is probably the most ubiquitous office product, it serves as a good example to consider in regard to the environmental and economic benefits associated with recycled products.

The environmental benefits associated with the procurement of recycled content paper are many and include the following:

- Saves trees, energy, water, and landfill space compared to virgin paper.
- Protects forests, watersheds, ecosystems.
- Produces less pollution than virgin paper production.
- Offers environmental savings many times over, since fibers can be recycled repeatedly.

- Needs less bleaching than virgin papers; reduces use of toxic chemicals.
- Incorporates full-cycle production costs, unlike virgin paper which includes no responsibility for its eventual disposal costs (Source: Conservatree).

In regard to the economic benefits associated with the purchase of recycled content paper, one must consider both the impact on the consumer and on the economy, in general. Paper products include copy paper, letterhead, matching envelopes, business cards, brochures and many coated papers. Many of these recycled content paper products are less expensive than their virgin counterparts or are evenly priced. Even in those instances where recycled content paper products cost more, the price differential is usually quite small. Buying in larger quantities is one way to reduce or eliminate price premiums on recycled content paper. It is also important to remember that buying recycled products helps support the recycling industry, which in New Jersey employs over 27,000 people and adds almost \$6 billion in annual receipts to the state’s economy.

Drew University Food Waste Compost Tumblers Win Gold Medal

Drew University in Madison, New Jersey implemented an innovative food waste composting program in the fall of 2013 wherein compost “tumblers” were situated outside of three student residence halls in which there is a great amount of food preparation. The three 71-gallon compost tumblers were purchased by the university through a grant provided by the New Jersey

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Department of Environmental Protection and are not only easy to use, but educational, as well. Students simply put their food waste into the compost bin/tumbler, close it up and periodically push the top of the unit, thereby causing it to tumble over, which in turns aids the composting process. The program teaches students about environmentally-friendly waste management and sustainability, but also generates nutrient-rich compost that is used in on-campus landscaping projects. Composting workshops are held each semester for all of the students participating in the program.

By capturing the food waste from these residence hall kitchens, Drew University has reduced the amount of waste in need of disposal, as well as its disposal costs. The program is going so well that Drew University hopes to purchase additional compost tumblers in the future. For more on this program, contact Tina Notas, Drew University's Campus Sustainability Coordinator at ctnotas@drew.edu.



Compost Tumbler at Drew University

Scrap Tire Management Update: Progress and Grant Opportunity

In the "Good News" department, the problem of huge illegal scrap tire dump sites in New Jersey may soon be a thing of the past. An update on the status of the known illegal scrap tire dump sites conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in 2014 found that all but one of the major sites had been cleaned up. This achievement is the result of the cooperative efforts of local, county and state officials. At one time, there were

28 such sites identified by the NJDEP. Some of these illegal operations accumulated hundreds of thousands, and even millions of scrap tires on site until being discovered by local officials.

Unfortunately, the illegal dumping of scrap tires continues to occur in the Garden State, but it would appear to be on a smaller scale. Local and county officials indicate that small stockpiles between 100 - 5,000 scrap tires are periodically discovered in rural areas, as well as in abandoned urban lots and along roadsides. To combat this problem, the NJDEP has set aside \$400,000 from the 2014 Recycling Tonnage grant program for municipal and county grants for food waste recycling projects, scrap tire cleanup and public space recycling initiatives. For details on this grant opportunity, contact Joe Davis of the NJDEP at Joseph.Davis@dep.nj.gov.

Did You Know...

- Energizer® EcoAdvanced™ AA and AAA batteries are made with 4% recycled content of a key active ingredient derived from the recycling of batteries.
- The Northeast Recycling Council's (NERC) recycling blog touches upon a wide variety of recycling and materials management issues. The NERC Blog is open to all and free. Sign up at <http://nerc.org/news-and-updates/blog/welcome>.
- Learn many "Tips to Reduce Food Waste" from the experts online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/04/dining/tips-to-reduce-food-waste.html>.
- Designer chandeliers made from pieces of recycled wine bottles suspended from a metal frame are available for \$5,600 through Artecnic, Inc. For details, visit http://www.artecnicinc.com/Products/Lighting/tranSglass%C2%AE_Chandelier/tranSglass%C2%AE_Chandelier.
- Spent cooking fats and oils (yellow grease) generated by cafeterias and restaurants are readily recyclable and valuable! For a list of recyclers, visit http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/renderers_list.htm.

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