



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

May 14, 2019

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

From: Steven Rinaldi, Chair
New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
NJDEP, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability

Subject: Minutes from the Network meeting of May 9, 2019

Minutes:

Special Note: Thank you again to all who donated breakfast foods/coffee for the meeting! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! SR

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network will take place on **Wednesday, November 13, 2019** in Hamilton, NJ.

Welcome –Network Chair Steve Rinaldi (Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov) welcomed everyone and explained that the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is the DEP’s free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn more about waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement. Steve highlighted three positive recycling news stories – the increase in exports in iron and steel from the U.S.; Norway’s successful plastic bottle recycling program; and the fact that more and more businesses are adopting sustainable practices.

Toy Donation and Reuse – Bronna Lipton, Executive Director, Second Chance Toys, bronna@secondchancetoys.org – Second Chance Toys is a non-profit organization that collects used plastic toys, sanitizes them and then donates them to children in need. There is a huge demand for used toys. Ms. Lipton indicated that her organization receives requests for 70,000+ toys per year. Ms. Lipton discussed the growing problem of plastic in the environment and the fact that Second Chance Toys keeps many plastic toys out of the landfill. Second Chance Toys works with schools, municipal green teams, recycling centers, businesses and other organizations to promote and run toy collection events. An impact report is provided to those organizations that participate in a collection program. In addition, a municipality can earn points in the Sustainable Jersey program by running a toy collection program. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Organics Recycling Technology That Turns Food Waste into Green Energy – Arielle Bernard, CORE Sales Support Manager, Waste Management, abernar5@wm.com – Ms. Bernard discussed the USEPA's food recovery hierarchy and how her company's Centralized Organic Recycling (CORE) food waste energy recovery process fits into that framework. Waste Management has four CORE facilities in the United States, including one in Elizabeth, New Jersey. These facilities receive and process food waste through a system that produces an engineered bioslurry. The bioslurry is then shipped to the nearby Rahway Valley Sewage Authority where it is fed into the plant's digesters. The bioslurry helps boost the methane production at the sewage plant. Waste Management is permitted to receive up to 500 tons per day of food waste. The company is currently receiving 100 tons per day. Ms. Bernard mentioned that packaged food can also be accepted at the facility, which is equipped with machinery that can separate the food from the packaging. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Recycling Markets- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – John Stanton and Fred Petrone, Atlantic Coast Fibers, john@jjstanton.com and fred.petrone@atlanticcoastfibers.com – Mr. Stanton discussed changes in the Chinese recyclable materials market, including the country's Green Fence, National Sword and Blue Sky quality control initiatives. Ultimately, China set a 0.5% contamination level for incoming recyclables and banned the import of several recyclable materials due to contamination problems. This market disruption has had a major negative impact on recyclable commodity prices and recycling program costs around the world. Mr. Stanton noted that single stream pricing has dropped 47% from 2017 to 2018. Processors have slowed their conveyor belts and hired more sorters to help improve the quality of the material sorted, but slower production leads to higher costs per ton. Contamination and wet paper are key issues that must continue to be addressed. Mr. Petrone showed photos of some of the contaminants that Atlantic Coast Fibers receives daily in loads of recyclables and indicated that cleaning up the recycling stream is imperative. Education and curbside inspections of material were strategies promoted by Mr. Petrone as part of the solution. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Closed Loop Partners: Advancing Recycling Technologies in North America – Ron Gonen, CEO, Closed Loop Partners – Closed Loop Partners invests in sustainable consumer goods, advanced recycling technologies and the development of the circular economy. Mr. Gonen indicated that circular supply chains reduce costs, increase efficiency and create a sustainable

form of capitalism that aligns the interests of industry, consumers and government. Closed Loop Partners has made over 40 investments since 2015 in consumer products, collection, processing and design/manufacturing. Mr. Gonen highlighted several recycling companies that Closed Loop Partners has worked with including a company that has developed robotics for sorting recyclable materials on a conveyor and a company that manufactures modular material recovery facilities for smaller communities. He also highlighted Curb My Clutter, a New Jersey based company that enables haulers and municipalities to conveniently communicate via text to collect and recycle clothing and electronics. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

The ABCs of Plastics and Plastics Recycling – Wayne DeFeo, Essex County Recycling Coordinator and Principal/Founder, DeFeo Associates, wdefeo@defeoassociates.com – Mr. DeFeo stated that plastics recycling is understandably confusing. More specifically, he noted that the plastic resin code in the triangle on the bottom of containers is a continual source of confusion for consumers as it gives the impression that a container is recyclable when in fact it may not be collected in local recycling programs. Mr. DeFeo brought in a bag of various plastic packaging materials and discussed the recyclability of each and some of the broader environmental concerns associated with each material. Mr. DeFeo suggested that consumers bring reusable glass containers to supermarkets for use when shopping for certain foods. He indicated that Whole Foods allows consumers to use such containers. He also suggested that consumers write to manufacturers about the plastic packaging they use for their products. Lastly, he suggested that consumers simplify their approach and only buy plastics that are easily recyclable. (No PowerPoint used in this presentation.)

The following is the registration list for the 5/9/19 meeting:

Speakers:

Steve Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov
Bronna Lipton, Second Chance Toys, bronna@secondchancetoys.org
Arielle Bernard, Waste Management, abernar5@wm.com
John Stanton, Atlantic Coast Fibers LLC, john@jjstanton.com
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Ron Gonen, Closed Loop Partners, ron@closedlooppartners.com
Wayne DeFeo, Essex County Recycling and DeFeo Associates, wdefeo@defeoassociates.com

Attendees:

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