

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

May 12, 2021

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

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

Subject: Minutes from the Network webinar/meeting of May 6, 2021

Minutes:

Next Meeting: The next webinar/meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network will take place in November, 2021 (date to be determined).

Welcome –Network Chair Steve Rinaldi (Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov) welcomed everyone and explained that the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is the New Jersey chapter of the USEPA’s national WasteWise program, which is a program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line. Steve also discussed some new and innovative trends and developments in recycling.

New Jersey’s Upcoming Ban on Single Use Bags – JoAnn Gemenden, Executive Director, New Jersey Clean Communities – Ms. Gemenden provided a historical overview of the Clean Communities litter prevention and litter cleanup program. The Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Highway litter cleanup programs were also discussed. Businesses are welcome to join these programs. Ms. Gemenden next discussed the recently enacted law that bans single use carryout plastic and paper bags, polystyrene foam food service products and also addresses single use straws. The law will take effect in May of 2022. The Clean Communities program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Business Action Center are working together to implement the law. Ms. Gemenden mentioned that the DEP just recently unveiled a new webpage devoted to this law - <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/plastic-ban-law/>. In addition, the Clean Communities program also just launched its “Bag Up NJ” public education campaign - <https://bagupnj.com/> . jgemenden@njclean.org (PowerPoint available at <https://anjr.com/new-jersey-wastewise>)

The U.S. Plastics Pact...Rethinking the Way We Design, Use and Reuse Plastics – Emily Tipaldo, Executive Director, U.S. Plastics Pact – Ms. Tipaldo explained that the mission of the U.S. Plastics Pact is to bring together businesses, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, researchers and other stakeholders who will work together toward a common

vision of a circular economy for plastics. The goal is to ensure that plastics never become waste by eliminating plastics that are not needed, innovating to ensure that the plastics that are needed are reusable, recyclable or compostable and circulating all the plastic items that are used to keep them in the economy and out of the environment. Ms. Tiplado mentioned that the program will utilize the World Wildlife Fund's Resource Plastic Footprint Tracker, which is a tool that will enable companies to measure and track their global plastic footprint. The organization will be publishing its "roadmap" in June of 2021. The roadmap will lay out the goals, outcomes and next steps for the program. etipaldo@USPLASTICSPACT.org (PowerPoint available at <https://anjr.com/new-jersey-wastewise/>)

The Environmental and Economic Benefits of Reusable Transport Packaging – Tim Debus, President and CEO, Reusable Packaging Association – Reusable packaging generally includes pallets, bins, tanks, intermediate bulk containers, reusable plastic containers and other hand-held containers and totes, trays and dunnage that move products efficiently and safely through supply chains. These packaging products are designed for lasting use in a system that ensures their effective recovery and return for continuous purpose. Mr. Debus also discussed the environmental benefits of reusable transport packaging, which not only include waste reduction, but also reductions in greenhouse gas generation. Mr. Debus explained how reuse and reusable transport packaging is part of the circular economy and generates significant economic benefits. tdebus@reusables.org (PowerPoint available at <https://anjr.com/new-jersey-wastewise/>)

Case Study: Merck & Co., Inc.'s Award Winning Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives – Angie Morales, Senior Specialist, Energy & Sustainability, Merck & Co., Inc. - Merck is a large pharmaceutical company with its two main sites in Rahway and Kenilworth. The company has established several environmental sustainability goals, including sending less than 20 percent of its global operational waste to landfills or incinerators and having at least 50 percent of its locations send zero-waste-to-landfill by 2025. Ms. Morales mentioned that her company won a 2020 DEP Recycling Award for its programs, which include on-site food waste composting operations, a laboratory plastics recycling initiative and a reusable coffee mug program. Merck also strives for zero waste at its on-site events and conferences. Ms. Morales explained the strategies used by Merck to promote its various environmental programs to staff and visitors. These strategies include the use of educational posters and outreach events, such as Earth Day and America Recycles Day events. Angie.morales1@merck.com (PowerPoint available at <https://anjr.com/new-jersey-wastewise/>)

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