



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

November 15, 2022

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 11/3/22 New Jersey WasteWise Business Network webinar

Minutes:

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 also briefly discussed the recently released Recycling Market Development Council report and its recommendations, which include a call for a statewide recycling education campaign and new financial incentive programs for recycling. In addition, the 2022 DEP recycling awards were mentioned. Three of the awards went to members of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – the Village of Ridgewood, Division of Recycling in the Government category; the Millville Executive Airport (which is part of the Delaware River & Bay Authority) in the Rising Star category and Atlantic Health System in the Source Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability category. Steve also mentioned the upcoming 11/9 Sustainability Speaker Series meeting and 11/15 America Recycles Day program.

The Societal Benefits of Reuse: Habitat for Humanity ReStores – Blair Schleicher Wilson, CEO and Ben Roberts, Chief Retail Officer, Morris Habitat for Humanity, blair.wilson@morrishabitat.org, Ben.Roberts@morrishabitat.org – Ms. Wilson discussed the importance of reuse programs, which keep materials out of the waste stream and improve our communities in many ways. Habitat for Humanity’s housing solutions programs are funded in part by the organization’s ReStores, which are stores that accept and sell donations of salvaged building supplies, appliances, and gently used home furnishings. There are 17 ReStores in New Jersey and 885 in the United States. Since 2012 U.S. ReStores have diverted 2.1 million tons of material from landfill disposal. Businesses that donate excess inventory to a ReStore will reduce their own waste disposal costs, earn a tax deduction, help a non-profit organization and ReStore shoppers in need of low-cost home products. Municipalities, recyclers, haulers, and individuals are also encouraged to donate to a ReStore. ReStores will even pick up materials in many instances. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Plastic Film Pelletizing and Recycling – Sunil Bagaria, President, GDB International, Inc., sunil@gdbinternational.com – GDB International, Inc., based in New Brunswick, NJ, had shipped bales of recyclable plastic film to overseas markets, but when the recycling market in China banned the receipt of many recyclable materials, Mr. Bagaria knew it was time to start processing this material into pellets in the United States. Thus, in 2018 GDB purchased pelletizing equipment and began processing this material in New Brunswick. GDB accepts plastic film (e.g., garment bags, LDPE/LLDPE stretch/shrink wrap, mattress wrap, boat wrap and retail bags) from households, commercial warehouses and retail stores and produces recycled plastic pellets that are used to make various “green” plastic bags. The company currently has three production lines operating at its New Brunswick site but is in the process of opening a new site in Branchburg that will house another three processing machines. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

Design for Recycling® – David L. Waggoner, Ph.D., Chief Scientist/Director of Environmental Management, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc., dwaggoner@isri.org – The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) represents manufacturers, processors, industrial consumers, brokers and traders, and the equipment/service sector. Mr. Waggoner characterized ISRI as the voice of the recycling industry and stated that manufacturers should consider end of use and recycling when designing and manufacturing products, consistent with ISRI’s Design for Recycling® principles. These principles seek to increase the sustainability of consumer durables by: eliminating or reducing the use of hazardous substances and material impediments to the recycling process; maximizing the use of recycled materials; and maximizing the yield of recycled materials at their end of life. Mr. Waggoner next discussed the design and recycling challenges seen in some of today’s consumer products, with an example being a product container made with steel, fiber, and plastic. A key design for recycling opportunity that was noted is the REMADE Institute (Reduced Embodied Energy and Decreased Emissions Institute for Sustainable Materials Manufacturing), a public-private partnership funded by the Department of Energy. Mr. Waggoner also mentioned that ISRI recognizes achievements in design for recycling through its annual awards program. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com.)

Nestle Health Science's Award-Winning Recycling and Waste Reduction Program – Meghna Dhawan, Safety Health and Environmental Manager, Nestle Health Science - Meghna.Dhawan@rd.nestle.com – Nestle Health Science, located in Bridgewater, recycled 47 percent of its traditional waste stream in 2021, which represented a 21 percent increase over the previous year. Upon factoring in the tonnage of food waste the company sent for anaerobic digestion and coffee pods sent for composting, Nestle Health Science was able to divert 86 percent of its total waste from disposal. Nestle recycles traditional recyclable materials but also batteries, plastic film, wooden pallets, metal and plastic drums, personal protective equipment, coffee pods, and food waste from its onsite kitchens and pilot plant. The company also implemented numerous waste reduction and reuse programs at its site. Ms. Dhawan discussed how all these efforts tie into the company's zero waste goal and their involvement with the TRUE Waste Certification program. Ms. Dhawan stressed the importance of conducting a waste audit and gap analysis to first determine what types of waste materials are being generated. In regard to education, Nestle uses a multifaceted approach to educating employees and visitors about the facility's recycling requirements, including a new hire recycling training program, virtual chat sessions, signage, and waste audits. (PowerPoint to be available at www.anjr.com)

SR: Minutes November 3 2022