



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2012  
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## Landmark Recycling Law...25 Years and Going Strong!

For those who have been involved in recycling for many years, it is almost hard to believe that New Jersey is soon to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the "New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act." This landmark piece of legislation was signed into law by Governor Tom Kean on April 21, 1987, firmly establishing New Jersey as one of the country's leaders in recycling and waste management. At that time, it was the first recycling law in the nation to require every state resident to recycle. The law required businesses and institutions, such as schools and hospitals, to recycle as well.

New Jersey faced many significant waste management challenges in the late 1980s. Landfill capacity was dwindling, siting new disposal facilities was very difficult due to local opposition and disposal costs were rising dramatically. Part of the answer to these challenges was the establishment of a mandatory, comprehensive recycling program that would reduce the amount of waste in need of disposal while returning what would otherwise have become solid waste to the economic mainstream as raw materials or products. While mandatory recycling is accepted today as the norm, it was a somewhat radical policy shift at the time and was not initially welcomed by all. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which oversaw the implementation of the law at the state level, received many phone calls and letters from irate residents who opposed the law. Over time, the number of complaints diminished as residents and businesses got accustomed to the new source separation and recycling requirements.

While there have been many bumps along the road over the last 25 years, there is no denying that New Jersey's mandatory recycling law has been an unqualified success. Millions and millions of tons of waste material have been removed from the waste stream and recycled during these years. The environmental benefits resulting from this activity - natural resource and energy conservation, reduction in emissions of air and water pollutants and reductions in greenhouse gas generation – are well known, but mandatory recycling has also resulted in the creation of almost 27,000 jobs in New Jersey, as well as other economic benefits for the state's economy.

As the 25th anniversary of this important environmental law nears, it is clear that recycling continues to be a key element of New Jersey's solid waste management strategy and an important part of the state's economy. As per 2009 data, 37% of the municipal solid waste and 57% of the total solid waste generated in New Jersey was recycled. While it is hoped that these recycling rates will rise to even greater heights in the future, they are not only above the national average, but also a testament to the hard work and dedication of our state's recycling community.

### ACUA 25th Anniversary of Recycling Celebration

Date: April 24, 2012, 1 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Richard Stockton College of  
New Jersey in Galloway, NJ

Special Guests:

Former Governor Thomas Kean and  
Jerry Powell, Executive Editor of  
Resource Recycling

For further information visit

<http://www.acua.com/acua/content.aspx?id=4128>

## Did You Know...

- Bergen Community College offers a course called "Waste Management and Reduction" that is approved for 10 classroom recertification hours for Certified Recycling Professionals. Visit <http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/493.aspx> for further details.
- PaperKarma is a new phone app that helps people get rid of unwanted junk mail. The PaperKarma app enables you to simply snap a picture of your unwanted junk mail, press Send, and get unsubscribed. In about 24 hours you'll receive a notification that you've been unsubscribed. You can also use the app to check on the status of your unsubscribe requests.
- The handle of the Schick Xtreme3 Eco razor is made with 100% post-consumer recycled plastic while the razor's packaging is made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper!
- "Zabaleen" is a film documentary that focuses on garbage collection and recycling in Cairo, Egypt. The Zabaleen, which means "garbage people" in Arabic, are a minority group of about 60,000 people that collect garbage and then bring it into their homes and yards for sorting and recycling. The Zabaleen are able to recycle or reuse 80% of what they collect. Look for this eye opening documentary to be released sometime this upcoming summer.
- Create a recycling poster for your office paper recycling program by visiting <http://stats.paperrecycles.org/dynamicposter/>. This free service is provided by the American Forest & Paper Association.
- RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. There are 605 colleges and universities competing in this year's RecycleMania competition. The final results for the 2012 competition will be released on April 13. Visit <http://recyclemaniacs.org/> for all the details.
- Fluorescent light bulbs are recyclable and can be recycled at those facilities listed on the NJDEP's website at [http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/uw\\_lamp1st.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/uw_lamp1st.htm).

## Recycling Containers for All Tastes

An integral part of any office recycling program is the type of recycling container chosen. They come in many different shapes, sizes and styles, so make sure to do your homework before purchasing containers for your program.

A first step to consider is providing desktop or desk side recycling containers for each employee. This will provide your staff with an easy to use and easy to remember recycling system at their work station. It will also provide uniformity to your program and will make it simpler for the janitorial staff to differentiate between the trash container and the recycling container.

The placement of centralized recycling containers around the office is another key step to consider. These containers can be simple drums with a label on them or they can be containers with elaborate graphics, custom imprinting, custom colors and unique shapes. They come with a variety of lids that can include a paper slot, bottle/can opening, dome top with door, open top or swing door, as well as lockable versions.

All of these containers and more can be easily found on the Internet, so check them out and get the perfect containers for your program. Finally, remember to look for recycled content recycling containers whenever possible to help close the recycling loop.

## Paper Calculator Tool

The Paper Calculator is an innovative design-for-environment tool that allows users to calculate and compare the environmental impacts of different paper choices. For details, visit <http://calculator.environmentalpaper.org/home>.

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