



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2018
WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.

Spotlight on Food Waste Legislation

The vast amount of food waste generated annually in the United States has been in the national and state spotlights more frequently in recent years, due in part to the negative impact of food waste on the environment and the alarming number of people considered “food insecure,” meaning that they do not have a stable and steady source of food. These factors, as well as others, resulted in last year’s passage of P.L. 2017, Chapter 136 and P.L. 2017, Chapter 201, state laws that address food waste in New Jersey.

P.L. 2017, Chapter 136 calls for New Jersey to halve the amount of food waste it generates by 2030. This forward-thinking goal mirrors the national food waste reduction goal established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The law requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to develop and implement a plan in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and with input from other interested parties, that will enable the state to meet its food waste reduction goal. Waste reduction has always been at the top of New Jersey’s solid waste management strategy hierarchy.

P.L. 2017, Chapter 201 addresses food waste in New Jersey’s K-12 schools and colleges and universities. The law requires the state to develop voluntary guidelines that will encourage schools to reduce, recover and recycle food waste. The NJDEP has been developing the new guidelines in conjunction with the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. A series of meetings will be held on both laws to gather input from the public.

Recycling Training Program Open to Business and Industry

It is not uncommon for private sector employees with no experience in recycling to be assigned to manage their company’s recycling program. Understandably, this can seem like a daunting challenge, but thankfully the Rutgers University Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) program is there to help you. For over 25 years, recycling coordinators from both the public and private sectors have been trained in all aspects of recycling through the CRP program. The fact that this program is open to those who work in business and industry (and not just government employees) may come as a surprise to some, but the program is open to all and has had its share of graduates from the private sector over the years.

There are two certification tracks that applicants can follow based upon their level of experience and training. Individuals with extensive training and experience in recycling may qualify for the four-day alternate certification track, while folks new to recycling will learn through the full program, which is a 10-class program. There is currently a waiting list for these classes, but there will be future opportunities to attend the program.

If you would like to learn more about the Certified Recycling Professional program, contact Carol Broccoli of Rutgers University at 849-932-7207 or at carolbr@rutgers.edu. Also, visit the CRP website online at http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/programs/recycling_solid_waste.html.

News Flash: Next New Jersey WasteWise Business Network meeting - 5/10/18!

Did You Know...

- Starbucks recently announced that it will work with the Closed Loop Partnership on an initiative to develop fully recyclable and compostable coffee cups.
- Waste reduction and recycling lead to reductions in greenhouse gas generation since these activities reduce the need for energy-intensive resource extraction.
- The National Football League announced that 91% of the trash generated at this year's Super Bowl in Minnesota was recovered through composting, recycling and reuse.
- Each pair of Cone Denim jeans contains the material equivalent to up to 17 recycled PET plastic bottles. Visit www.conedenim.com for more details.
- In 2015, 43% of the municipal solid waste generated in New Jersey was recycled, while 63% of the total solid waste stream was recycled.
- Rittenhouse Mill was America's first paper mill. The mill, which began operations in 1690 in Philadelphia, made paper from recycled cotton, linen and used paper.
- Homasote (located in Ewing, NJ) makes structural, noise-deadening sub-floor/insulating carpet underlayment and sound protection systems from recycled paper. <http://www.homasote.com/>.
- Most schools are happy to receive donations of used binders from business offices. Contact a nearby school before tossing binders in the trash.
- The European Union recently announced a plan that calls for all plastic packaging in Europe to be recyclable by 2030.

Four Easy Non-Paper Waste Reduction Ideas

#1 - Purchase products with less packaging or with no packaging at all.

#2 - Request that your office deliveries be shipped in returnable containers and return the emptied containers back to the supplier.

#3 - Ask vendors to take packaging back.

#4 - Encourage staff to use reusable plates, silverware, cups and coffee mugs.

Unique Litter Collection Techniques in the News

Litter is a worldwide problem that is being addressed in a variety of innovative ways:

Nepal - Yaks are used to haul litter and trash collected by porters on Mount Everest as part of a major cleanup campaign initiated at this famous site in Nepal. Thus far, 24,000 pounds of trash have been collected and removed from Mount Everest.

Sweden - "Plogging" is a fitness trend that combines jogging with picking up trash. This environmentally friendly form of exercise was begun in Stockholm and is gaining popularity around the world. Ploggers get the benefits of running along with the core-strengthening movements required to bend down and pick up trash as they clean up their running route.

Norway - The Oslo Port Authority will use underwater drones to help pinpoint the location of large trash items, like unwanted cars, submerged in the country's fjords. A ship with a crane will then go to the locations identified by the drones and remove the garbage from the waterways.

Pacific Ocean - The Ocean Cleanup is a non-profit organization about to employ a passive drifting system that utilizes the ocean's currents along with an innovative collection technology to capture plastic trash in the ocean.

Remember to Buy Recycled

It is not only important to recycle paper, but to procure recycled content paper for your office. Without demand for recycled products, the recycling system will falter. Work with your procurement staff to ensure that post-consumer recycled content copier paper, stationery, computer printout, offset paper, note pads, etc. are purchased. Look for 30% or greater postconsumer recycled content paper.

New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

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

www.epa.gov/wastewise

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