



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter, 2008
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

Recycling Enhancement Act Becomes Law!

Governor Corzine Signs Historic Recycling Legislation And Other Environmental Measures

Undoubtedly, January 14, 2008 will long be remembered as one of the most important days in New Jersey's recycling history for it was on this date that Governor Jon S. Corzine signed into law the *Recycling Enhancement Act*. This landmark piece of legislation reestablishes a source of funding for recycling in New Jersey through a \$3.00 per ton tax on solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at in-state solid waste facilities. Solid waste being transported out of state, either directly or by railroad, is also subject to the new recycling tax. In such cases, the solid waste collector is responsible for paying the tax. The reestablishment of a funding source for recycling is especially significant, as inadequate funding has been considered one of the key reasons behind New Jersey's declining recycling rates, which have dropped precipitously over the past decade. The New Jersey recycling community has looked forward to this day ever since the expiration of the recycling tax in 1996 and views the signing of this legislation as a watershed moment in our state's recycling history.

The Recycling Enhancement Act calls for 60% of the recycling tax fund to be used for recycling tonnage grants to municipalities and counties. An interesting new feature of the law is the provision that requires municipalities to expend its recycling grant funds only for its recycling program. One-fourth of the recycling fund will go to counties for preparing and implementing solid waste management plans, including the implementation of the goals of the State Recycling Plan. Among other things, these funds can be used to pay for household hazardous waste collection events. Counties will also receive 5% of the recycling fund for public information and education programs

concerning recycling. Another 5% of the fund shall be used by the NJDEP to provide grants to institutions of higher education to conduct research in recycling. The final 5% of the recycling fund will be used by the Department for recycling program planning and administrative expenses associated with the program.

Other important aspects of the new law include the expiration of the Solid Waste Services Tax (which stands at \$1.65 per ton) that has been levied on solid waste disposed at landfills and the requirement that municipal and county recycling coordinators become certified through a formal course of instruction. In addition, the Recycling Enhancement Act calls for an \$8,000,000 appropriation from the General Fund to the Recycling Fund for recycling grants to counties and municipalities. The Department must issue these grants within the next twelve months. While recycling funds collected in the upcoming years will be used to repay this amount to the General Fund, this monetary infusion made available by the Act will help reinvigorate New Jersey's programs over the short term.

More Environmental Laws - See Page 2

Did You Know...

- The United States House of Representatives is now using 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
- MCC Services, Inc. accepts both shrinkwrap and stretchwrap for recycling at its Cranbury, New Jersey facility. Contact the company at 732-605-0002.

(Continued on Page 2)

Did You Know (Continued)...

- The American National Standards Institute recently adopted a "Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard" that will help purchasers determine the environmental attributes of carpeting, including use of recycled materials, reuse and disposal. For details visit <http://www.nsf.org/business/newsroom/pdf/Sustainability2.pdf>.
- Steelcase Inc.'s new Pathways Privacy Wall is a reconfigurable office wall that is made with 30% recycled content. Visit www.steelcase.com for more.
- The word "recycling" was the number one environmental search on Yahoo's search engine for 2007, even ahead of "global warming."

NJ Nets Score for the Environment

The New Jersey Nets not only hope to win the NBA Championship, but also strive to become champions of the environment. To this end, the organization has begun a "greening" program that addresses recycling, energy efficiency, environmentally friendly purchasing and other "green" strategies. The Nets even hope to become the NBA's first carbon neutral team. Visit www.netsgogreen.com for more details.

Proposed Rules Target Generators of Recyclables

While the Department's newly proposed recycling rules could easily be overlooked amidst the excitement surrounding the signing of the Recycling Enhancement Act and the Electronics Waste Recycling Act, they are newsworthy on their own for numerous reasons. Of particular interest is a new provision that clearly states and codifies the source separation and recycling obligations of residential, commercial and institutional generators of recyclable materials. The proposal also establishes a penalty schedule for those not complying with these requirements. A base penalty of \$3,000.00 is proposed for such violations. This rule is important because it provides the NJDEP with explicit regulatory authority

to enforce recycling at the generator level. The Department believes that this will in turn lead to greater compliance with recycling requirements and an increase in recycling tonnage, especially in the commercial and institutional sectors.

The newly proposed rules address can be viewed online at the following site – <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/010708a.html>.

New Environmental Laws Hit the Books!

The *Electronic Waste Recycling Act* establishes a recycling system for the safe and environmentally sound management of end-of-life electronic devices and components. More specifically, the law requires original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to pay a registration fee to the NJDEP and establish a collection, transportation and recycling system, either independently or jointly, for the recovery of computers and televisions. Fees generated will be used to fund the program and issue payments to authorized processors for the recycling of used electronic devices. The act also establishes a disposal ban that is scheduled to start in 2010.

(Note: Governor Corzine also asked the bill's sponsors and the NJDEP to work together in order "to further craft and refine this measure" to address technical concerns.)

Other noteworthy environmental laws recently passed include the following:

- A law that requires governmental purchasing agents to complete a course in green product purchasing and requires the Department of Treasury to compile and maintain a list of green product purchasing sources; and
- A law that requires certain State buildings to be designed and managed to meet high performance green building standards.

New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
Albert Fralinger, Public Service Enterprise Group - Co-Chair,
856-224-1638 or Albert.Fralinger@pseg.com
Steven Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning –
Co-Chair, 609-984-3438 or Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us
Editor: Steven Rinaldi - Printed on Recycled Paper
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/brbn03.htm>
www.epa.gov/wastewise