



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter, 2019
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

New Domestic Paper Mill Capacity on the Horizon

Major changes in the international recycling market made 2018 a trying year for the worldwide recycling community, but thankfully there is a silver lining to this story as this market disruption has resulted in investment in new, domestic recycled paper mills that are expected to be operational sometime in the near future.

Pratt Industries, the biggest consumer of residential mixed paper in the United States, will be opening a new paper mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio, in late 2019 that will use 100 percent recovered paper to produce lightweight and high-performance linerboard and corrugated medium. In its first year of operation, the mill is expected to consume about 231,000 tons of mixed paper, old corrugated cardboard and double-lined Kraft paper. At full capacity, which is expected to take place in its tenth year of operation, the mill will consume nearly 466,000 tons per year of recovered paper.

Green Bay Packaging, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, also announced that it will be replacing its current 71-year old mill with a new, larger state-of-the-art mill that will use residential mixed paper and cardboard to produce recycled containerboard. The company's new mill will have an estimated annual capacity of 685,000 tons, over double that of the current operation. The new mill is expected to be fully operational in the spring of 2021. The current mill will continue to operate at full capacity throughout the entire construction process.

Mark Your Calendars... **Springtime Recycling Meetings**

April 3, 2019 – Association of New Jersey Recyclers Annual Meeting

May 9, 2019 – New Jersey WasteWise Business Network Biannual Meeting

Right to Repair in National Spotlight

Whether you prefer to shop in person at stores or online, shopping for new consumer products has never been easier. What is not so easy, however, is repairing those same consumer products when they malfunction. In fact, some electronic product and appliance manufacturers make it very difficult or nearly impossible to repair their products. By refusing to make parts, manuals or repair software available to independent repair providers or users, companies are in effect actively blocking the repair of their products. Furthermore, some products require specialized tools simply to open the device.

Repair and reuse of electronic products and other consumer products could dramatically reduce the amount of material needing management through recycling or disposal systems. This would not only be good for the environment in terms of resource conservation, but it would also save money for consumers.

In response to this situation, 19 states, including New Jersey, have introduced "Right to Repair" legislation. These bills call for manufacturers of phones, appliances, tablets, tractors and other products to provide independent repair shops and consumers with replacement parts, technical manuals, repair software and special tools at reasonable terms. While none of the bills introduced have met with success, this issue is gaining traction throughout the country.

Check out the DEP's
Environmental New Year's
Resolutions Infographic at
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/ei/Environmental%20New%20Year's%20Resolutions.jpg>

Did You Know...

- PepsiCo announced that it intends to use 25 percent recycled content in its plastics packaging by 2025.
- CVS customers can sign up to receive paperless, digital receipts via email instead of receiving the very long paper receipts typically issued by the store.
- Amazon recently announced that it will be investing \$10 million in the Closed Loop Fund to support recycling infrastructure in the United States.
- Zwolle, a city in the northeastern Netherlands, recently installed a bike path made almost entirely out of recycled plastics.
- A new law in California that went into effect in January, 2019 bars full-service restaurants from providing plastic straws, unless a customer requests one.
- SnowCel is an eco-friendly artificial snow made from recycled paper that is used to create winter scenes for Hollywood movies. It can be safely sprayed on trees, or the ground, and settles into a natural "just fallen" effect.

Recycled Plastics Markets Rebounding

Thankfully, not all current recycling market news is gloomy as average selling prices for several grades of recycled plastic resins have been on the rise over the past six months. The price paid for post-consumer, natural-color high-density polyethylene pellets has increased by 10 cents per pound since last summer. Prices for clear, post-consumer polyethylene terephthalate pellets and for recycled polypropylene flakes are also up an average of 5 cents per pound.

Other positive developments in the plastics recycling world are the planned construction of new plastics recycling plants in the United States. Millville Plastics announced earlier this year that it will open a facility in Millville, New Jersey to process recyclable plastics. The company will sell material to manufacturers of sheet and fiber-grade polyethylene terephthalate. Other major plastics processing operations are also planned for South Carolina and Alabama.

2018 DEP Recycling Award Winners Saluted

Business: *New Jersey Resources*

Education: *Atlantic County Utilities Authority*

Institution: *Stockton University*

Leadership: *Sustainable Jersey*

Source Reduction, Resource Management and Sustainability: *Pioneers, Chapter 99 and Ericsson*

Rising Star: *Delaware River and Bay Authority - Cape May Ferry Terminal*

Government: *Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders*

Recycling Industry: *Thanks for Being Green, LLC*

Retail Merchant: *Hipcycle*

Volunteer Citizen: *Linzy Rosen*

New York City's Amazing New Year's Eve Cleanup

The cleanup of Times Square in New York City begins almost immediately after the famous New Year's ball drops to welcome the new year. The city's Sanitation Department uses a variety of mechanical equipment, lots of old-fashioned brooms and almost 300 workers to clean up the one-square mile party zone. The cleanup is usually completed in about 12-16 hours and generates about 50 tons of trash.

NJ Recycling Rate Update

The DEP recently announced that the state achieved a 44 percent municipal solid waste recycling rate and a 61 percent total solid waste recycling rate in 2016.



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