



CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A GUIDE FOR DEVELOPERS AND COMMUNITIES

WASTE MANAGEMENT - RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Recycling and composting are not only integral to New Jersey's solid waste management system, but they are also sustainable strategies that should not be overlooked by municipalities. While county recycling plans designate those recyclable materials that must be recycled within each county, as well as the collection strategy to be used therein, municipalities are free to establish enhanced recycling and composting programs that go beyond the requirements set forth in county recycling plans. Clearly, municipalities that establish such a comprehensive recycling and composting program are doing their utmost to promote sustainability within their community.

Developers can also have a major impact on the amount of solid waste generated, recycled and disposed within a municipality. By incorporating recycling into their construction and demolition plans, developers will save money and improve their bottom line while supporting the environmental goals of the state and local jurisdiction.

APPLICABLE NEW JERSEY GOALS AND TARGETS

The New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.11 et seq., calls for the recycling of 50% of the municipal solid waste stream and 60% of the overall waste stream by the end of 1995.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS AND STRATEGIES

The following strategies are ways by which **municipalities** can enhance their recycling and composting programs:

- Ensure that a recycling program is in place in all municipal offices and facilities.
- Adopt a recycling ordinance that goes beyond the requirements set forth in the county recycling plan by designating additional recyclable materials as mandatory recyclable materials for the residential, commercial and institutional sectors. Such an initiative is dependent upon the existence of an end market(s) for the newly designated recyclable materials and a collection strategy for same. Examples are as follows:
 - "Other paper," i.e., paper other than newspaper, corrugated and office paper – Municipalities should consider mandating the recycling of "other paper" in the residential sector in those instances where this material is not mandated for recycling in the county recycling plan and where municipalities are responsible for recycling collection service.
 - Corrugated cardboard - Municipalities should consider mandating the recycling of corrugated cardboard in the residential sector in those instances where this material is not mandated for recycling in the county recycling plan and where municipalities are responsible for recycling collection service.
 - Residential carpeting - Municipalities should consider mandating the recycling of residential carpeting in the residential sector in those instances where this material is not mandated for recycling in the county recycling plan.
 - Food waste – Municipalities should consider mandating the recycling of food waste from supermarkets and similar commercial establishments, as well as institutions such as colleges and hospitals in those instances where this material is not mandated for recycling in the county recycling plan.



- Offer curbside recycling collection service to the business sector in those counties where municipalities are responsible for recycling collection service.
- Establish a recycling depot – A recycling depot provides residents and businesses with a convenient location to drop off recyclable materials that may not be collected curbside or have accumulated to the point where they cannot be stored any longer at the residence or place of business.
- Establish a municipal compost facility for yard trimmings as per the exemption set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.4(a)13. This provision even allows the receipt of a small percentage of grass clippings at such facilities.
- Ensure that the municipal master plan has been revised as per N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.16c to include provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of designated recyclable materials within any development proposal for the construction of 50 or more units of single-family residential housing, 25 or more units of multi-family residential housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land.
- Adopt a construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling ordinance. Such an ordinance would require that a certain percentage of the C&D debris generated from projects be diverted from landfill disposal and instead managed through reuse and recycling options. Integral to such an ordinance would be the requirement that all applicants for a building permit or demolition/removal permit first submit information on the anticipated amount of debris to be generated and recycled by the project. Those that do not comply with this pre-construction requirement would not be issued a building or demolition/removal permit. Applicants would also be required to submit information at the conclusion of their project that documents the actual amount of waste disposed and recycled. The ordinance should include fines and penalties for non-compliance. (The Township of Woolwich adopted such an ordinance in April, 2007.)
- Go beyond the statutory requirements (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.16) that require municipalities to publicize the provisions of the local recycling program at least once every six months.
- Establish a municipal recycling enforcement program that focuses on compliance with the source separation and recycling requirements in multi-family residential settings, the commercial sector and at academic institutions (schools, colleges and universities).
- Initiate a targeted education and enforcement campaign designed to make convenience stores aware of their obligation to provide containers for recyclable materials that are generated by purchases made within these stores. Institute a policy that requires no less than 50% of the municipality's tonnage grant funds to be used for recycling program purposes.

The following strategies are ways by which **developers** can support state and local recycling and composting goals:

- Develop a comprehensive recycling plan for the materials anticipated to be generated from construction and demolition activities prior to the start of the project.
- Develop an education program for employees so that they are aware of the company's construction and demolition waste recycling plan.
- Work with subcontractors to ensure that they are familiar with the recycling plan for the project.
- Track the tonnage of materials recycled and disposed and provide recycling documentation to the applicable municipality for its recycling tonnage grant application.



STATE TECHNICAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The **NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning - www.state.nj.us/recyclenj** - is part of the Department of Environmental Protection's Solid and Hazardous Waste Program. It is comprised of three units – the Recycling and Market Development unit, the Grants, Loans and Data unit and the Planning unit.

The Recycling and Market Development Unit addresses a wide variety of issues pertaining to recycling, waste reduction and recycled product procurement. Among other activities, the unit helps create and expand end markets for recyclable materials, promotes source reduction (also referred to as waste reduction) and product stewardship, coordinates the activities of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network, develops educational and promotional initiatives on behalf of recycling and supports the purchase of recycled products.

The Grants, Loan and Data Unit administers the recycling tonnage grant and reporting program, the local tire management fund and the Solid Waste Services Tax grant program. In addition, the unit manages the solid waste facility disposal tonnage data system. Using this information, the unit generates useful statistics pertaining to recycling and solid waste management in New Jersey.

The Planning Unit oversees the county and state solid waste management planning processes. County solid waste and recycling plans and amendments are reviewed by the Planning unit, which also circulates these plans to a number of state level review agencies. The unit also coordinates the activities of the State Solid Waste Advisory Council and oversees the development and updating of the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Association of New Jersey Recyclers – www.anjr.com

National Recycling Coalition – www.nrc-recycle.org

Northeast Recycling Council – www.nerc.org

Rutgers University Office of Continuing Professional Education – www.cookce.rutgers.edu/programs/recycling.html

United States Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov

Author: Steven Rinaldi
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