



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

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

Municipalities Mulling Return to Dual Stream System

With global recycling markets - especially the Chinese recycling market - demanding cleaner recyclable materials, some municipal recycling programs around the country are considering a return to a dual stream recycling collection system or have already done so. In dual stream systems, bottles, cans and containers are collected in one curbside recycling bin, while paper and corrugated are collected in another bin. This contrasts with single stream systems, which allow users to mix all recyclable materials in one container. Dual stream systems typically result in less contamination and thus cleaner, more marketable recyclable materials. This in turn, can lead to more favorable pricing for the recyclable materials collected.

While no one views a return to dual stream collection as a panacea to the current challenging worldwide recycling market, this change in collection strategy continues to be a hot topic in the recycling community. In New Jersey, the Borough of Oakland made the switch back to dual stream in February of this year. The borough is able to send its dual stream recyclables to the same recycling facility that was handling its single stream recyclables, so the major issue facing the borough is re-educating its residents about the new recycling set-out requirements.

There are numerous factors that would make a return to a dual stream collection system difficult or impractical for many municipal and county programs, but regardless, this idea continues to be explored and appears to be gaining momentum around the country.

Adopt-A-Highway for a Cleaner New Jersey

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council and the New Jersey Department of Transportation are looking for businesses, community groups and individuals interested in "adopting" a highway, which entails conducting a quarterly litter cleanup of a selected state highway. Trash and recyclables that are removed during the cleanups are to be managed separately and will be picked up by the DOT. The DOT will install a Recognition Sign on each side of the highway chosen that identifies the name of the business, community organization or individual cleaning that section of highway. Visit www.njclean.org for more information.

Big Business Changing Direction on Plastic Bags and Plastic Straws

With the environmental impact of disposable plastic items, such as single-use plastic bags and plastic straws, in the news ever more frequently, major companies have begun to take notice. McDonald's, Kroger, Starbucks and Disney all recently announced new policies that move their company operations away from plastic bags or plastic straws. McDonald's will start testing alternatives to plastic straws at select locations in the United States later this year. Starbucks will stop using disposable plastic straws by 2020, eliminating more than one billion straws a year. Kroger, America's largest supermarket chain, announced that it will phase out single-use plastic bags by 2025. In addition, Disney will stop using single-use straws and plastic stirrers at all their theme parks by mid-2019.

Did You Know...

- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that the number of photovoltaic panels in need of end-of-life management will begin to rise dramatically around 2030 and could account for over 10% of global electronic waste generation by 2050.
- *HAY! Straws* are single-use straws made from wheat stems and are 100% biodegradable. See www.haystraws.com.
- The USEPA awarded a \$50,000 grant to Rutgers University to assist the Paterson school district reduce food waste.
- Jenga® Ocean™ is the first board game made from 100% recycled fishing nets.
- The Recycled Products Cooperative leverages the purchasing power of its members to reduce pricing of recycled paper and other recycled products. Visit <https://recycled-products.myshopify.com/>.
- Second Chance Toys is a nonprofit organization that rescues “good as new” plastic toys for children in need by donating them to community organizations. Learn more at <http://www.secondchancetoys.org/>.
- In 2019, the International Space Station will get a new piece of equipment that recycles plastic and creates new products from this feedstock via a 3D printing process.

Subaru Takes Waste Reduction to New Level

Subaru’s auto manufacturing plant in Lafayette, Indiana has not sent trash to the landfill in over fourteen years thanks in part to waste reduction initiatives that have reduced the plant’s waste generation by 52%. All the waste that is produced at the plant is either reused, recycled or sent to a waste-to-energy plant. Currently, less than 5% of the plant’s waste is disposed at a waste-to-energy facility. Over the past 15 years, Subaru of Indiana has realized a net \$13 million benefit thanks to its waste reduction and recycling program.

To reach this level of materials management success, the company has embraced a wide variety of waste reduction, reuse and recycling strategies, including:

- Setting up specific labeled recycling bins for a wide variety of materials;
- No longer providing or using plastic cutlery in the cafeteria;
- Maintaining a compost program for food waste generated on-site; and
- Working with suppliers to eliminate redundant packaging or to return the packaging for reuse.

Plastic Film Pelletizing Operation Opens in NJ

GDB International, a plastic film recycling business located in New Brunswick, New Jersey recently announced that it has begun pelletizing material in the hopes of providing closed-loop recycling solutions to plastic scrap generators in the United States. The company, which was founded in 1993, had previously focused its recycling operation on collecting, sorting and trading plastic film generated by post-commercial and post-industrial sources. With China changing its recyclable materials import policies and no longer welcoming plastic scrap, the company decided that the time had come to move in this new direction.

GDB International opened the first of four planned pelletizing lines earlier this year and has now started producing recycled plastic pellets that will be used by manufacturers to produce garbage bags, pipes and irrigation products. Visit www.gdbinternational.com for more details.

Recycling Fact: Americans throw away nearly \$1 billion worth of aluminum cans every year. (*The Aluminum Association*)

Save the Dates: 10/17/18 ANJR Recycling Symposium/NJDEP Recycling Awards; and 11/1/18 New Jersey WasteWise Business Network meeting.



New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

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