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State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF RECYCLING

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A GUIDE TO RECYCLING COMMERCIAL WASTE

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A GUIDE TO RECYCLING COMMERCIAL WASTE

GLASS

WHAT IS IT?

Some examples are:

- beer, wine and liquor bottles
- food and condiment jars
- soft drinks and non-carbonated beverage bottles
- miscellaneous bottles

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Restaurants, nightclubs, bars and taverns, resorts, casinos, and hotels generate large amounts of glass.

HOW TO SEPARATE/COLLECT?

Separate glass from garbage before disposal. It is important to rinse bottles and jars. Glass should be color separated and stored in containers such as bins, barrels, heavy metal boxes or roll-offs. Arrange for municipal or private collection, contract out for pick-up or deliver to market. Contact the Office of Recycling for information regarding an under-the-bar glass recycling program.

WHY SHOULD IT BE RECYCLED?

Glass bottles and jars represent a large per cent of these establishment's waste stream. Recycling the glass reduces disposal costs. Glass is a valuable commodity, vendors pay as much as \$30-\$60 per ton. In addition, recycling glass saves natural resources, energy and disposal costs.

CORRUGATED CONTAINERS

WHAT IS IT?

It is structural material shaped in parallel furrows and ridges for rigidity. It is used to make packing and shipping containers.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Supermarkets are the largest generators of corrugated containers - approximately 56% of their waste stream is corrugated paper. Drugstores, department stores, warehouses and distribution centers are also large generators of waste corrugated containers.

HOW TO SEPARATE?

Corrugated paper should be separated from plastics, wood, metal and food. It should be flattened and baled or compacted. Bales can be stored for pick-up by the market.

WHY SHOULD IT BE RECYCLED?

Approximately 1600 tons of corrugated is generated daily in New Jersey. Corrugated is difficult to dispose of because it is bulky. By recycling it, a company can reduce its disposal costs and preserve landfill space.

HIGH GRADE OFFICE PAPER

WHAT IS IT?

- white typing and ledger paper
- white notepad paper
- copier paper
- carbonless computer printout paper
- manilla tab cards and file folders

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

The average office waste contains 40% high-grade paper. Approximately 70-77% of the waste from banks and insurance companies may be high-grade paper.

HOW TO SEPARATE?

GET MANAGEMENT SUPPORT! EDUCATE YOUR EMPLOYEES!

Employees may place paper in desk-top containers or folders. These are deposited into central collection barrels. Barrels are collected and emptied into large storage containers. This recovered paper is stored until it is picked up by a paper vendor.

WHY SHOULD IT BE RECYCLED?

Paper made from recycled fiber uses 60% less energy than from virgin materials. Office paper is a valuable commodity, many vendors will pay \$60-\$70 per ton. Businesses will save on the costs of disposal.

FOOD WASTE

WHAT IS IT?

It is any edible waste material resulting from the handling, preparation, processing, cooking, or consumption of food.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Discarded fat and bone trimmings, cooking oil and grease, meat scraps and animal carcasses are generated by butcher shops, restaurants, supermarkets and farms.

HOW CAN IT BE RECYCLED?

Food waste may be recycled by renderers. Renderers collect and process these waste materials and produce tallow and semi-liquid fat which are used to make soap, animal feed, paints, shaving creams and cosmetics. The food waste should be kept free of paper or plastic and may be stored in 10-55 gallon drums, or in 64 gallon wheeled containers.

WHY SHOULD IT BE RECYCLED?

Food waste represents approximately 10% of the municipal waste stream. A food waste recycling program is easy to implement. A commercial establishment can usually reduce the number of dumpsters required and compactors can more efficiently handle the waste.

OTHER FOOD WASTE

In central and southern New Jersey, it may also be feasible to recycle food waste, such as spoiled fruits and vegetables, stale baked goods, plate scrapings and food preparation waste from restaurants, hotels, institutions and large commercial establishments such as bakeries.

This type of food waste can be recycled through food waste-fed swine. Farmers will usually pick up food on a daily basis. Food waste is cooked and used as feed for swine. A list of licensed swine farmers is available from the Office of Recycling.

Food waste must be kept free of paper or plastic. Where food waste is collected daily, refrigeration is not necessary.

IN ADDITION:

Many commercial establishments also recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles and newspapers which are generated by their employees.