



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring 2021
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

Interesting Shift in Recyclable Paper Export Markets

As a result of the numerous import restrictions that it has enacted, China is no longer the dominant player in the worldwide recyclable paper market. Nevertheless, export markets are still critical components of the global recycling system. Recyclable paper grades are now finding their way to other international end markets which are now filling the void left by China's exit from the recovered paper market.

India and Vietnam are among the countries now receiving significantly more tons of recyclable paper from the United States as compared to early last year. In fact, India received 58 percent more tons of recyclable paper in January 2021 than it did a year ago while Vietnam increased its import tonnage of recovered paper by 68 percent. Other major end markets for the recyclable paper generated in the United States are Mexico, Thailand, Taiwan, Canada, Malaysia, South Korea and Indonesia.

Batteries Not Included

Batteries should never be put in your recycling cart, bucket or bin, not only because they are contaminants in the recycling process, but because certain rechargeable batteries - lithium batteries, in particular - may combust if damaged and so pose a threat to recycling facilities and staff. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at one of the 30,000 public and private Call2Recycle collection sites located throughout the United States and Canada. Learn more about battery recycling options at <https://www.call2recycle.org/>.

Food Recovery Cooking Challenge Coming Soon

Move over Bobby Flay, there are some new chefs in town! The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's first ever Food Recovery Cooking Challenge will highlight the creativity and cooking skills of students from various New Jersey culinary schools. The student competitors will use a variety of foods that are typically wasted to create delicious culinary treats and will submit a video of themselves preparing their unique creations.

The top four scorers in the competition will be featured in a free webinar to be held in April. Viewers of the webinar will vote for their favorite video, and the chef/creator of the winning dish/video will be awarded a certificate from the DEP. The recipes and videos with the highest scores will be published on the DEP's food waste reduction website found at recycle.nj.gov. For more information, contact Emily DeMaio of at Emily.DeMaio@dep.nj.gov.

Skype A Scientist Today

Skype A Scientist is a nonprofit organization created in 2017 that enables scientists to video conference with students in classrooms on a wide variety of scientific topics. This program hopes to bridge the gap between classrooms and scientists and build trust between the science community and the public. Within its first eight months of operation, the nonprofit expanded across all 50 states and into 17 countries, with nearly 2,000 scientists volunteering their time and expertise. The 2020 pandemic only furthered the demand for this program as schools went virtual. For more information, visit <https://www.skypeascientist.com/>.

Food Waste Finds a Home at Trenton Renewables Facility

Helping to advance food waste recycling in New Jersey is Trenton Renewables, a food waste recycling and renewable energy company located in Trenton, NJ. The company's Trenton Biogas facility utilizes an anaerobic digestion process to produce compost, organic fertilizer and renewable gas from food waste. The biogas generated from the process is used to power the plant and contributes renewable gas to the electric grid as needed. The facility has the capacity to accept 110,000 tons of food waste per year from restaurants, grocery stores, businesses, municipal programs and other food waste generators and is located along the Delaware River in Trenton. For details, visit <https://trentonrenewables.com/>.

Infographic Resources

Remember to take advantage of the free infographics (like the one below) available online from the NJDEP. For more, visit www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

- Recycle as much yard waste as possible when doing your springtime yard cleanup! Check with your local recycling coordinator about your town's yard waste recycling program.
- Recycle your used motor oil when changing your car's motor oil. Find dropoff sites at http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/classd/used_oil_dropoff.pdf.
- Donate unwanted, but still usable items that you find when doing the spring cleaning of your house.
- Bring hazardous products (e.g., pesticides, paint thinner and driveway sealer) that you no longer want or need to your county household hazardous waste collection program.

Did You Know...

- The famous mittens that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders wore at the inauguration of President Joe Biden were sewn from repurposed sweaters and fleece made from recycled plastic soda bottles. The mittens were made by a Vermont school teacher and are now available through the Vermont Teddy Bear company.
- Unilever, one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, recently announced that it intends to cut its food waste generation (from factory to shelf) in half by 2025.
- The Atlantic County Utilities Authority provides free weekly recycling collection services to businesses in most Atlantic County municipalities. The county also provides free waste audits to businesses. For further details, visit <http://www.acua.com/disposal-recycling/business/>.
- Recycled content carpet tiles are extremely durable and their modularity results in less waste during installation.
- The DEP's "Frequently Asked Questions" recycling webpage contains the answers to many of the recycling questions that are commonly raised by the public. Visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/faq.html> for this helpful resource.
- Recycled content jigsaw puzzles are available online for those who enjoy this challenging activity. Simply search for "recycled content jigsaw puzzles" and you will find many eco-friendly options.
- You can save money, avoid extra trips to the supermarket and reduce food waste by keeping track of what and how much you throw away after each meal.
- Toner cartridges can be refurbished and then reused. Contact local companies that sell toner cartridges about reuse opportunities.



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