



NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

Ten states united for environmentally sustainable materials management



NERC Email Bulletin – November 2007

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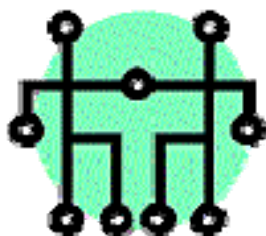
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NERC's mission is to advance an environmentally sustainable economy by promoting source and toxicity reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

State and Advisory Member Updates are provided as submissions to NERC and may not reflect the policy or position of the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.

TOPICS

MEMBERSHIP



We are very pleased to share with you the following:

- **Renewing Sustaining Members** [Curbside Value Partnership](#), [Canon USA](#), and the [American Chemistry Council](#)
- **Renewing Supporting Member** [Connecticut Recyclers Coalition](#) and [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management](#)

Thank you!

It is through the active participation and support of its Advisory Members that NERC is able to provide the strength of multi-stakeholder involvement and problem solving.

To see a listing of Advisory Members and the benefits of membership, visit the [NERC Advisory Membership Web page](#).

It is the broad spectrum of interests represented by NERC's Advisory Members and Board Members and their willingness to participate that significantly contributes to the unique and important role that NERC plays in recycling in the region.

NERC NEWS

State Electronics Challenge Informational Calls Scheduled – November & December

Interested in learning more about becoming a State Electronics Challenge Partner? Two Informational teleconferences are being offered:

Thursday, November 8, 10 a.m.

Dial in number: 973-321-2004

Pass code: 153783#

Wednesday, December 5, 1 p.m.

Dial in number: 706-758-0702

Pass code: 153783#

In the meantime, a PowerPoint that presents an overview the SEC is available at

http://www.nerc.org/documents/state_electronics_challenge_intro_teleconference.pdf. It will be used during the teleconferences.

Plan on joining us to learn more about this new opportunity. For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

In-pharmacy Unwanted Medication Collection Case Studies Posted

Reports on two retail pharmacy unwanted medication collections held in September have been posted on the NERC Web site. Through a Community Pharmacy Foundation grant, NERC worked with Ukrop's Grocery in Richmond, Virginia, and Big Y Grocery in Tolland, Connecticut, to organize and hold unwanted medication collections. Both collections were held in pharmacies inside of grocery stores. Case studies about these events are now available:

- [Big Y](#) - Connecticut
- [Ukrop's](#) - Virginia

For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

Minutes from Summer Board Meeting Posted

The [minutes](#) from the NERC Board of Directors summer planning meeting are now available.

Annual Report now Available

NERC's Fiscal Year 2007 [Annual Report](#) is now available.

Town & Business Workshops Held

Through a USDA Town and Business Recycling Project grant, NERC staff continues to work with State Members and communities to offer "Recycling Makes Sen\$e" workshops. To date, seven workshops have been held in Connecticut, Vermont, and New Jersey. Future workshops will take place in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Vermont – Workshops were held in Greensboro and in Barton. In addition to NERC staff, representatives from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Association of Vermont Recyclers presented information on available recycling resources for businesses, town offices, and schools. In addition to the in-depth dialogue at these workshops, NERC conducted walk-through waste assessments to assist business owners and town offices with developing recycling programs.

Connecticut – Twenty-nine participants came ready to ask questions about recycling and how to get more out of the waste stream at the Hotchkiss School in Salisbury, Connecticut. Representatives from Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Sharon/Salisbury Transfer Station, and NERC presented information about the state of recycling in the region and how to implement or expand recycling efforts. Representatives from the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and Welsh Sanitation Service were also on hand to answer questions and add to the lively conversation. Information about the successful recycling and composting efforts at Hotchkiss School was also presented.

Selectmen from Sharon and Salisbury, members of the Sharon/Salisbury Transfer Station Advisory Committee, students, and staff from several area schools, local businesspersons, and the local press attended the event.

As with all of the Recycling Makes Sen\$e workshops, attendees received a Toolkit, containing a recycling and waste prevention guide, state and local resources, Web resource listings, and more. The Toolkit will soon be available for download at the [NERC](http://www.nerc.org) Web site.

NERC staff provided technical assistance by conducting walk-through waste assessments of Noble Horizons, a long-term care facility in Salisbury, CT, and the Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT. Follow-up recommendations will be presented to the administration for both facilities. Many thanks to Brian Bartram, Manager of the [Town of Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station](http://www.nerc.org); Judy Belaval, [CT DEP Office of Source Reduction and Recycling](http://www.nerc.org); and The Hotchkiss School.

New Jersey – Workshops were held in Stanhope Borough, Andover Township, and Hardyston Township. Representatives from the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, the New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection, and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers joined NERC in presenting information at the Workshops on available recycling services. The Workshops were followed by walk-through waste assessments at schools, athletic clubs, and offices.

For more information on the Connecticut workshops and site visits, contact [Athena Lee Bradley](#). For more information on the Vermont, New Jersey, and upcoming workshops, contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#).

NERC Presents at NRC Congress

The launch of the State Electronics Challenge was announced during a session at the National Recycling Coalition Annual Congress in Denver. The session, entitled “Jolt into the Electronics Evolution,” was co-facilitated by NERC Executive Director [Lynn Rubinstein](#). The PowerPoint presentation that she made during the session provided an introduction and overview to the State Electronics Challenge. The [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available on line.

TPCH NEWS

TPCH Welcomes Illinois as its Newest State Member

The State of Illinois joined the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH) in September, bringing the number of member states to ten of the 19 states with toxics in packaging legislation. TPCH is pleased to strengthen its representation by Midwest states, which also includes Iowa and Minnesota. Six Northeast states (CT, ME, NH, NJ, NY, and RI) and California are also members of the TPCH. TPCH is working to bring additional states on board in light of its [recent study](#) that found a significant percentage of retail packaging containing toxic heavy metals in violation of state laws.

For more information on the TPCH, contact [Patty Dillon](#), TPCH Program Manager.

STATE UPDATES

CONNECTICUT

Under Deconstruction

When four buildings had to be removed to make way for Trailside Village, LLC in Hamden, Joe DeRisi of urbanminers saw an opportunity. It would be costly for the contractor to demolish and then dispose of the structures, and

there were good, usable materials that could be salvaged and re-used or recycled. DeRisi approached the contractor, Dean Fiske of Ravenwood Construction, LLC to see if he would consider “deconstructing” the structures instead the usual 3 d’s of unwanted buildings -- demolition, the dumpster, and disposal.

After some discussion, the two decided to try a small pilot project, deconstructing a small kitchen addition, approximately 200 square feet, on one of the structures. The pilot would determine the feasibility of deconstructing more portions of site and would give the crew (volunteers and Ravenwood staff) an opportunity to improve their dismantling techniques. The salvaged materials would be donated to two non-profit organizations that sell the used building materials, Habitat for Humanity’s “Restore” in Stratford and The ReCONNstruction Center in New Britain. The contractor would also save money on disposal costs and receive a tax deduction for the donated materials.

Deconstruction is done from the opposite direction of the building process – from the roof down. It involves carefully dismantling a structure to salvage good building materials for re-use or recycling. A deconstructionist must have knowledge of how structures are built as well as how to market the recovered materials, and must be trained in how to disassemble and manage the materials. According to DeRisi, “up to 80 % of the total materials of a typical residential structure can be salvaged for reuse or recycling”.

The pilot project took approximately 90 hours to complete. The recovered materials from this small kitchen addition deconstruction included, dimensional lumber, double glazed windows, solid wood doors, kitchen cabinets, trim and molding with an estimated resale value of over \$2,500. DeRisi estimates that a standard demolition project and disposal of a structure of this size may have cost the contractor about \$2,400.

Deconstruction is labor-intensive and can be more expensive than demolition, but it can be advantageous for both the contractor and consumer. Contractors can save on disposal costs, promote recycling awareness, and market themselves as “green builders”. Salvaged materials can then be purchased by the public at reuse stores or the job sites at rock-bottom prices. Reusing building materials is a good way to save money and natural resources, reduce waste and energy, and create employment.

For more information, contact [Joe DeRisi](#) and [the ReCONNstruction Center](#).

Foodshare Sustains More than the Hungry



If you are familiar with Foodshare, you probably associate them with feeding hungry people, their annual turkey drive, or the Walk Against Hunger. You probably don't think of energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, or recycling. But, sure enough, all of those things are happening at Foodshare.

Foodshare is a non-profit organization that provides 13 tons of food each day to needy people throughout Hartford and Tolland

Counties. When Foodshare outgrew their current space a few years ago, they choose a building site in Bloomfield for a new 30,000 square foot distribution center. The story behind this new facility is a tale worth telling. Initially, the plan was to build a standard, prefabricated steel building that could house food donations and some office space. However, a visit from a member of the Connecticut Green Building Council caused a completely different project to take shape.

After hearing about the benefits of a building system known as LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the Foodshare board was convinced they should build a high-performance, energy efficient building that would benefit the environment as well as being a healthy place for the employees and volunteers. Although construction costs would be higher than originally estimated, they would save money on energy costs for years to come and would be eligible for additional grant funding.

The new building has been up and running since December 2005, and Foodshare has applied to the US Green Buildings Council for LEED certification. Looking back, the only thing they would have done differently would be to have known earlier on, from the get-go, that they would end up building "green" so that everyone involved in the process would have been knowledgeable about LEED requirements.

Energy Efficiency: In a food warehouse of this size, the freezer and cooler are very big, and are the largest users of electricity. Here's where Foodshare really got creative. Typically, the freezer doors are opened and can remain open for a long time while food items are gathered. Instead, these doors have a pull cord allowing easy opening, then quickly close automatically. When all the food is gathered, the door can be opened from the inside. The freezer also uses four compressors of stepped sizing that are staged, so that only the compressors that are needed to maintain the correct temperature are utilized. The large freezer is kept at zero degrees, while a smaller freezer located within the larger one holds ice cream and is kept at 10 degrees below zero. In the past, the entire freezer had to be kept at the lower temperature. Computer software controls freezer temperatures and compressor usage to maximize efficiency.

The building was designed with several skylights and windows that utilize natural daylight. On sunny days, they don't even need to turn on the lights. All of the lighting throughout the facility, including the warehouse space, stairwells and offices is connected to occupancy sensors and timers to ensure that lights are on only when absolutely necessary. The heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system (HVAC) is a high efficiency Pur-on system that uses a non-ozone depleting refrigerant. There is no air conditioning in the warehouse space, and none is needed due to the highly reflective roofing, increased insulation, and superior ventilation.

The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund provided over \$100,000 for installing the efficient lighting and HVAC equipment, refrigeration, occupancy sensors and high-speed doors. Foodshare is expected to save over 320,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) over the next year, and nearly 5.8 million kWh over 18 years, the expected lifetime of the improvements. The dollar savings are approximately \$38,000 per year and \$685,000 over the lifetime.

Environmentally Friendly Materials: "From the first day that we moved in to the building, it never had that chemical smell that new buildings usually have, the smell that gives everyone a headache by the end of the day" is how Christine O'Rourke, the Executive Vice President, describes it. "The windows actually open, and there is so much day light that enters through the windows and skylights, it's amazing." The "green" materials chosen for the building included water-based paint, linoleum flooring and non-toxic carpeting and carpeting adhesives. All of the furniture is either re-furbished

or was donated, including the office cubicles, file cabinets, tables, and chairs. The building structure also contains 80% recycled steel.

Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Food Composting: Food donations come packed in cardboard boxes. Previously Foodshare filled a large dumpster with cardboard that needed to be hauled three times a week at their expense. Now, with a donated bailer, the cardboard is processed into bales and Foodshare is paid for this material. This has resulted in a reduction in waste disposal and a significant cost savings.

In addition to recycling bottles and cans, and re-using office paper, Foodshare also has a unique food waste recycling program. The organization receives large amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables, and needless-to-say, there is some spoilage. Foodshare's innovative solution is to recycle this food waste using a large chopper pump that pulverizes the spoiled produce into liquid slurry. The slurry is removed periodically from a 6,000-gallon holding tank and then taken to local farmers for composting. CT DEP provided \$47,000 towards the start-up of this program. Over the first 3 years of operation, 750,000 pounds (91,000 gallons) of spoiled produce was recycled at a savings of over \$32,000.

Wetlands and Water Conservation: Foodshare has given the Town of Bloomfield a Conservation Easement for 2.43 acres of land surrounding the facility that consists of wetlands, to preserve it permanently. To protect the wetlands from contaminants, an underground system has been installed that collects storm water run-off, and separates out sediment and oil.

Even the toilets at Foodshare are distinctive. "The Toilets From Weird" is posted above the tank with an amusing poem starts off with, "Why two buttons you may ask, for such a very simple task?" It concludes with, "in a small but significant way you'll have saved some water for another day." These toilets are ultra-low flow units that have a dual flush system with two separate buttons – one provides a full flush at 6 liters, the other provides a 3-liter flush.

Foodshare should be very proud of both their distribution facility in Bloomfield and the work they do for the community. They are an agency that exemplifies sustainability.

For additional information, go to [Foodshare](#) and contact Christine O'Rourke.

For more information about LEED and green buildings, go to [CT Green Building Council](#). For more information on the composting program, go to [CT DEP Recycling](#).

MASSACHUSETTS

MassDEP Issues Disaster Debris Management Planning Guidance

In September, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) issued a new guidance document for local and regional government officials and emergency planners titled *Disaster Debris Management Planning: An Introduction for Local Government Officials*. The [guide](#) is posted on MassDEP's Web site.

The [guide](#) is intended to help planners think through in advance some of the key steps and decisions involved in coping with disaster debris, which is typically the costliest part of disaster recovery.

With little or no warning, a hurricane, northeaster, flood, or other disaster can generate substantial debris that can overwhelm disposal capacity, unless strategies are formulated in advance to facilitate recycling, composting, and other forms of diversion as a part of the recovery process. The MassDEP guidance is designed to help communities think through debris management with an eye toward meeting state recycling and other diversion needs, as well as requirements for FEMA reimbursement in the event of a federal disaster declaration.

The Disaster Debris Management guidance, along with other planning tools being developed, are being released now to assist communities in qualifying for other benefits under the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) Public Assistance Pilot Program](#). Under that program, municipalities that have a debris management plan approved by FEMA and have identified pre-qualified debris contractors before the end of 2008 will qualify for increased federal reimbursement for debris management costs.

The new guidance is an initial step in a more comprehensive effort by MEMA and MassDEP to support and implement improved planning for

disaster debris management. MassDEP will continue working with local and regional government officials on disaster debris management planning through technical assistance and training sessions over the coming year. Also, we expect to issue a revised state Disaster Debris Management Plan in the next few months.

Comments or questions regarding the MassDEP guidance should be directed to [Gretchen Brewer](#) or [John Fischer](#)

MassDEP Launches Sixth Year of The Green Team

MassDEP launches the sixth year of [The Green Team](#), the state's interactive school recycling and environmental education program. Green Team schools and classrooms receive educational tools, including classroom posters, lesson plans, and environmental classroom and home-based activities. As classrooms complete lessons and activities, they become eligible for certificates and prizes at the end of the school year.

Last year, 700 teachers from 300 schools, representing 125,000 students signed up to participate in The Green Team. 113 classes received certificates and awards for their students. Green Team participants are also eligible for recycling and composting containers and idling reduction signs and education materials; 75 schools received these materials last year. Energy conservation was introduced to the program for Earth Day 2007, and 50 classes who conducted the energy efficiency lesson received a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) for each student. This year, a climate change component is being added to the program. For a complete description of the outstanding accomplishments of last year's program participants, see the [Green Team Summer 2007 Newsletter](#).

Pay-As-You-Throw Workshop Series & Updates

During the month of October, MassDEP held a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Workshop Series entitled "Why Pay-As-You-Throw Programs Are Working in Massachusetts." The first workshop was held in the Town of Shrewsbury. The workshop was led by municipal officials of Gardner, Natick, and Greenfield, Massachusetts. The officials presented their experience on implementing PAYT Programs in their municipalities.

The second workshop was held in the City of Leominster, Massachusetts. Speakers included municipal officials from Attleboro, Winchendon, and Groton.

In other PAYT news, two large municipalities started PAYT programs recently, bringing the number of Massachusetts programs to 122. The Town of Marshfield (pop. 24,324) started curbside PAYT in July 2007. The first quarter records comparing September '06 to September '07 show a recycling tonnage increase of 42% and trash disposal decrease of 42%. The Town of Dartmouth (pop. 31,532) began its new curbside PAYT program on October 1, 2007. For more information, contact Joseph Lambert at joseph.lambert@state.ma.us.

Fall Massachusetts WasteWise Forum

The next Massachusetts WasteWise meeting will take place on Thursday, November 29th at [Dunkin Brands](#) in Canton, Massachusetts. The theme of the Forum: The 3 R's of WasteWise: Reduce, Report and Recognition! Speakers will cover topics on waste reduction and the importance of reporting results followed by an awards presentation. For more information contact [Morgan Harriman](#) or go to the [Massachusetts WasteWise](#) program page.

NEW JERSEY

DEP Awards \$4.2 Million To Recycling Programs

The Department of Environmental Protection is providing nearly \$4.2 million in grants to support county and municipal recycling programs.

“Recycling remains one of the best hands-on ways for individuals to protect their environment,” Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson said. “Not only does recycling save landfill space and conserve natural resources, it also reduces the emission of greenhouse gases by allowing industries to use less energy. Every ton of plastic, paper, glass, and metal cans that is recycled reduces the emission of greenhouse gases by about a ton.”

“Recycling also supports more than 27,000 jobs and generates approximately \$6 billion in receipts each year in New Jersey,” Commissioner Jackson said.

The DEP recycling grant awards are based on the recycling performance of each county or municipality during calendar year 2005, the latest year for which statistics are available.

In 2005, New Jersey generated 21.5 million tons of solid waste, of which 10.1 million tons were sent for disposal. New Jersey recycled 11.4 million tons of materials - including municipal solid waste as well as commercial waste such as scrap iron, concrete, and wood - for an overall solid waste recycling rate of 53 percent.

Of the total waste stream, 10.5 million tons was categorized as municipal solid waste. Of this total, more than 3.5 million tons, of paper, glass, cans, and plastics, were recycled, for a 34 percent municipal solid waste recycling rate.

The Solid Waste Management Act provides the framework for the collection, transportation, and disposal of solid waste in New Jersey. DEP is required to implement a Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan, which outlines steps that state, county and municipal governments need to take to achieve recycling goals.

The Clean Communities and Recycling Grant Act, enacted in December 2002, provides the mechanism for funding the recycling grants through nominal fees on litter-generating products. This law also provides financial assistance to municipal and county anti-litter programs through a separate grant program.

For additional information, contact [Elaine Makatura](#) of the NJDEP Press Office.

Food Waste Recycling Forum Introduces Money Saving & Greenhouse Gas Reducing Alternatives

Until recently, only New Jersey supermarkets could recycle their food waste. Now, restaurants, corporate and school cafeterias, hospitals, and universities can recycle not only kitchen prep waste - such as cucumber peels and potato skins - but also plate waste and leftover food from the buffet.

Many organizations and institutions are new to food waste recycling programs. To help educate those who want to be involved in these programs, the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station's Solid Waste Resource Renewal Group (SWRRG) presented the first of a series of county-based forums on food waste recycling in October at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, New Jersey.

Forum participants learned how to use a federal environmental branding program, the United States Environmental Protection Agency "WasteWise" program. Users of WasteWise gain recognition as environmental leaders, receive free analyses of greenhouse gas reductions and of natural resources saved, as well as free consulting help in improving their food waste and other recycling programs to generate even more savings.

Albert Fralinger, manager, Materials Resource Recovery for Public Service Enterprise Group, described how he has saved his company thousands of dollars through his waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs, and gained PSEG national recognition through the program. His efforts and those of his company have inspired many other corporations to use the voluntary program to gain recognition of their own.

The forum also featured an expert panel who discussed the nuts and bolts of setting up a food waste recycling program. Michael Manna of Recycling Resources spoke about his experiences as a food waste recycler. Additionally, the food waste hauler that Manna was working with decided to invest in a transfer station, which allows it to create a more efficient hauling system. "It's really the best time to be thinking about food waste recycling," Manna said. "Not only has our one major food waste hauler put significant dollars into more efficient trucking, but in the pipeline we have a host of facilities that will allow you to choose what your food waste gets made into-organic fertilizer, fuel for flexible fuel vehicles, liquid natural gas, animal feed, and, of course, organic matter to replenish our soils."

The forum's all-star expert panel also included John Connolly, who has more than 20 years of experience in corporate expense management. Connolly has been helping lead a successful food waste program in Massachusetts by helping individual businesses better understand their waste disposal costs and how to save money through contracting for mutual benefit with haulers and recyclers.

Steve Mojo also participated on the expert panel. Mojo is the executive director of the international Biodegradable Products Institute, and one of the architects of a new "Compostable Logo" for plates, cups, cutlery, and bags that identifies such products as something other than just plastic. Mojo discussed ways to make sorting of food waste from other wastes easy by using biodegradable products.

Priscilla Hayes, director of the SWRRG, stated, "The forum will show businesses and schools how to make food waste recycling a win-win opportunity. By keeping food waste and other organic wastes out of landfills, we can avoid the major source of methane--62 times more potent than carbon dioxide--in our atmosphere. And we can do this in a way that not only saves money, but allow businesses and schools to show off their sustainability achievements."

The forum also offered participants the chance to meet companies interested in participating in recycling programs.

Contact [Priscilla Hayes](#) for more information or to help plan additional Food Waste Recycling forums.

27th Recycling Symposium & Awards Luncheon "Evolution Of Recycling"

ANJR, the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, held its annual Recycling Symposium in October. The theme of the symposium was "Evolution of Recycling" and featured several speakers who discussed the past, present, and future of recycling collections in our area, with a focus on Single Stream Recycling.

Speakers included Dominick D'Altilio, ANJR President; Frank Troy, Recycling Coordinator, Borough of Highland Park; and Anthony Giordano, Jr., of Integrity Recycling & Waste Solutions.

The symposium also featured presentations on Electronics Collections and examples of Green Global Leadership. Eric Svenson, Vice President of Environment, Health & Safety at Public Service Enterprise Group's (PSEG) presented his company's commitment to reducing corporate carbon emissions. In addition, Greg Mattison of Kaizen Productions-GreenByDesignTV highlighted businesses taking steps toward sustainability.

For the luncheon portion of the event, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection presented its Annual Recycling Awards and named the 2007 Poetry Contest Winners. Award winners for this year are listed below. For more information, contact [Vicki Kerekes](#).

2007 RECYCLING AWARD WINNERS

CATEGORY: *Volunteer Citizen*

WINNER: *Claire Harrison*

Claire recently entered middle school and is the youngest member of the Summit Recycling Task Force, which is charged with increasing the city's recycling rate from its present 35% to 50% of the waste stream. Claire educated herself and others to the dangers and ecological concerns associated with the personal use of polystyrene products. She worked diligently to convince the Summit public school system to work with its lunchroom provider to stop using polystyrene lunch trays and other food-related products in all seven of the public schools in the system. As of this past September, because of her commitment and determination, the lunchroom provider began using more ecologically friendly trays and stopped the use of polystyrene in the schools.

CATEGORY: *Retail Merchant*

WINNER: *Burlington Coat Factory – Burlington Township and Edgewater Park Facilities*

In 2006, Burlington Coat Factory took significant steps to improve recycling at its corporate headquarters/warehouse in Burlington Township and its office/warehouse facility in Edgewater Park. They revamped recycling at the Burlington location, adding commingled recycling, and in 2006, paper and commingled recycling programs were established at the Edgewater Park site for the first time. The Burlington Coat Factory diversion rate in 2005 was 84.49%. In 2006, they increased recycling and reduced the amount disposed to achieve a diversion rate of 92.10%.

The Coat Factory placed notices over trash containers and in prominent locations within their offices advising staff to keep recyclables out of the trash. Recycling containers for paper were placed at all desks and copy locations, and containers and signage for commingled bottles and cans were set up at strategic locations as well. A monthly newsletter keeps employees informed of their progress.

CATEGORY: *Government*

WINNER: *Lafayette Township*

Lafayette Township has developed an impressive recycling program for residents, schools, and businesses. The Township's recycling program consists of a curbside recycling program with once a month pickup (twice a month for the township's one school), and a county depot located within the

town. Last year, the township developed an annual newsletter, which contains solid waste information, recycling articles, and Clean Communities news. Program enforcement is handled by the township road department via violation logs. The MSW recycling rate in 2005 was approximately 65%.

The Township has assisted other towns in Sussex County in setting up their recycling programs, and in 2006, they were asked by the county to participate in a pilot project to include flat cardboard in the curbside pickup program.

CATEGORY: *Business*
WINNER: *Johnson Farms*

Johnson Farms is a 2,000-acre nursery and sod farm located in Deerfield, Cumberland County. From 2001 until 2003, Johnson Farms recycled their nursery film through the Cumberland County Improvement Authority's nursery and greenhouse film-recycling program. In 2004, Johnson Farms purchased a Tiger Baler, which has significantly reduced their labor costs and allowed the farm to bale and direct market the material to a plastic recycling vendor. From 2004 to 2006, 50 tons of LDPE were baled and direct marketed. In 2006, Johnson Farms initiated a program to recycle 20 tons of nursery pots (HDPE) and 4 tons of plastic netting used in the production of sod and direct marketed the material to a plastics recycling vendor. In 2007, Johnson Farms recycling program will be expanded to include HDPE triple rinsed pesticide containers. Johnson Farms also recycles three tons of designated recyclable material such as mixed paper, office paper, aluminum, and cardboard. Working with the NJ Dept. of Agriculture and the NJ Nursery and Landscape Association, Johnson Farms helps to promote recycling opportunities to other agriculture industry members throughout the Garden State and the nation.

CATEGORY: *Business*
WINNER *Novartis Pharmaceuticals*

Novartis operates a research and development facility in East Hanover, Morris County. The site employs over 5000 people on 181 acres and is one of Morris County's largest recyclers. An impressive component of their program is the East Village project, a construction project involving two office buildings and a parking garage at their East Hanover location. The buildings in the project were targeted to be USGBC, LEED certified.

It was determined that any material generated as waste should be recycled or reused if possible. Materials targeted were wood, asphalt, concrete, metals, soil, cardboard and paper products. Following discussions with the Armstrong Corporation, ceiling tile scraps and partial tiles became a new material to be recycled. To date, over 53,000 pounds of ceiling tiles have been recycled since the beginning of 2006. Overall, the recycling LEED guidelines have been met and surpassed, as the recycling rate for the entire project is 98% and the overall recycling figure for that particular location is 85%. During the erection process of this project from December 2005 through March 2007, a 98.2 % recycling rate by weight was achieved, and over 10,000 tons of waste material was reused or recycled.

CATEGORY: *Institution*

WINNER: *East Brunswick S.A.V.E. Club (Students Against Violating the Environment)*

This club is part of the Hammar skjold Middle School in East Brunswick and is run by one of the school's science teachers. For the past two years, the club has chosen to recycle batteries as its environmental service project. They selected this project because students use many batteries and they fear that most end up in landfills. Every two months, a recycling center employee goes to the school to remove the batteries collected for recycling. The batteries are taken to the East Brunswick Recycling Center and recycled properly. This project has created an easy way for students and their families to properly recycle their batteries. Announcements were made in school regarding the availability of this program, and appropriate signage was prepared and displayed. To encourage participation amongst the students, an awards program was developed and implemented. In only two years, the club has collected over 6,000 batteries.

CATEGORY: *Institution*

WINNER: *Sussex Wantage Regional School District*

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District is located in Sussex and Wantage Townships, in rural Sussex County, NJ.

The district is unique in that it provides elementary through middle school services for two townships. The Sussex-Wantage School District consists of three schools ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade, with approx. 1720 total student population. From an initial meeting in September 2005, a pilot program was developed to promote, implement, and maintain a comprehensive, successful recycling program. America Recycles Day was chosen as the day to kick off the program. The program includes the

collection of a variety of materials including mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, glass bottles, and tin and aluminum cans. Recycling numbers have increased from 6460 lbs. of commingled and 37,440 lbs. of mixed paper in 2005 to 10,800 lbs. of commingled and 42,060 lbs. of mixed paper in 2006.

Sussex-Wantage School District has offered information and resources to other districts on how to plan and implement a comprehensive recycling program to better serve their staff, student body, and the environment.

CATEGORY: ***Educator/Educational Program***

WINNER: ***Hudson County Improvement Authority***

The HCIA works consistently to educate both residents and businesses alike on the benefits of recycling. Through the county's Environmental Education Partnership Program, the HCIA's recycling division has offered 45-minute audience participation presentations to the majority of the public, private and parochial schools in the county. They also publish a bi-annual newsletter and a 16-month calendar, which identifies holidays important to many different ethnic and religious groups present in the county, and sponsor both a Crayon Recycling Contest and an Earth Day celebration. These elements of the Partnership Program have been very successful and together serve as a yearlong interactive way for the county's children to stay focused on environmental stewardship. The HCIA poster contest, another successful event associated with the Earth Day celebration, is one of the unique ways that the county has been able to strengthen its partnerships with educators. The bi-annual children's newsletter contains bright and colorful imagery, combined with child-friendly text, which educates students about the importance of recycling, the dangers of household hazardous waste, and other environmental issues.

RHODE ISLAND

A Special Rhode Island Recycles Day Planned

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) is ramping up for a special Rhode Island Recycles Day event on November 17th at the Central Landfill. Activities will include a special, one-day paper shredding opportunity for residents, a household hazardous waste collection, a computer, TV and cell phone collection, and a compost bin sale. A highly rated radio DJ will broadcast live from the event and encourage participation.

RIRRC Examining Corporate Values

RIRRC is undertaking an examination of its corporate values and involving employees in the creation and implementation of the mission, vision, and value statements. Employee discussion groups will continue for the next few months and the recommendations from the sessions will lead to goal setting and measurement structure, together with a values-based award program.

Plastic Bag Recycling Law Updated

At the conclusion of the last legislative session, the Rhode Island General Assembly amended the plastic bags recycling statute to make it mandatory for all businesses with sales in excess of \$8M in the aggregate to collect plastic bags for recycling. The deadline for compliance is January 1, 2008. RIRRC has been meeting with haulers and representatives of the business community to educate them about the change and how to participate in the successful ReStore plastic bag recycling program that RIRRC launched two years ago with the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association and grocers. Additionally, the corporation continues to promote awareness of the ReStore program with radio, online and outdoor advertising.

ADVISORY MEMBER NEWS

Connecticut Recyclers to Focus on Single Stream at Annual Meeting

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition will tackle the hot topic of single stream at its annual meeting on Wednesday November 7, 2007.

Continuing its tradition of covering push button issues and emerging technologies at annual meetings, the CRC will bring speakers to Hartford for a discussion of single stream recycling. The event will also include a brief business meeting, solid waste management plan update, demonstration of recycling-focused magic, lunch, and tours of the CRRA's materials recovery facility and Trash Museum. The CRRA Visitor's Center is located at 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT.

Registration and coffee begin at 8:30. The meeting and discussion will run 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, followed by lunch.

Registration, including lunch, is \$20 for CRC members and \$25 for non-members. Registration and membership forms are available [on-line](#). For further information, contact [CJ May](#), CRC president.

PROP Announces Plans to Host NRC Conference Slated for 2008

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) will be the Recycling Organization Host for the 2008 National Recycling Coalition (NRC) Congress & Expo in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This national recycling event will be held at the David Lawrence Convention Center from September 21 - 24, 2008. As Host, PROP will sponsor a host reception and several facility tours in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

PROP will be holding its 18th Annual Conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from July 30 - August 1, 2008, at the newly completed Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg. This new facility will allow several hundred PROP members to enjoy comfort and convenience while learning about the latest recycling innovations from top exhibitors. As always, PROP, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State University, will conduct Professional Certification classes for recycling professional continuing education credits. Other educational sessions will be offered during this well-attended event.

PROP's 17th Annual conference held in late July 2007 at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge was a success, having been attended by over 300 recycling professionals and state dignitaries.

During the three-day event, Carole Rubley, Chester County State Representative, spoke about current legislation regarding recycling funding.

Bill Heenan, President of the Steel Recycling Institute addressed the PROP attendees. Heenan demonstrated the importance of recycling for many reasons, and stressed that using recycled materials for new products saves billions of dollars in energy. This energy savings affects citizens in many aspects of daily life from budget challenges to homeland security.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty spoke at the PROP Annual Meeting and Banquet. Her comments included the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). She noted the importance of educating the public about how recycling helps to lower GHGs.

PROP was pleased to welcome Governor Edward G. Rendell to the closing day Brunch. The Governor continues to speak on PROP's stance regarding recycling being key to Pennsylvania's future.

Representing Pennsylvania's recycling and solid waste professionals as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of recycling and recycling programs across the state through education, information exchange, technical support, applied research and coordination of recycling industry and market development initiatives, PROP is the state's affiliate to the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) with a current membership of nearly 700 recycling, composting and solid waste professionals representing both the private and public sectors. PROP has been recognized nationally for their educational and legislative efforts and expertise in the recycling field.

PROP Staff Attend NRC Conference in Denver

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) sent three staff as delegates to the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) Congress & Expo in Denver, Colorado in late September of 2007. John Frederick, PROP Executive Director, Jan Arnold, PROP Program Manager, and Doug Orner, PROP Information Technology Manager attended the NRC Congress for PROP.

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