



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Winter 2023
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement.*

'Sustainability in Motion' Conference in Atlantic City a Sure Bet



The New Jersey Clean Communities Council and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers will co-host the "Sustainability in Motion" conference, New Jersey's first statewide conference focusing on sustainability, recycling, litter abatement, materials management and more from March 8-10 in Atlantic City.

In addition to its comprehensive agenda, the conference will also feature numerous exhibitors, the annual Association of New Jersey Recyclers business meeting, and the Clean Communities Awards ceremony. Attendees will earn Certified Recycling Professional or New Jersey Clean Communities Coordinator continuing education certification credits for each of the conference's educational sessions.

For conference information, visit
<https://www.njsustainabilityconference.com/index.php>.

Quote of the Day:

"It is important to remember that recyclable materials are not trash. They are valuable raw materials used to make new products."
– NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette

Litter Prevention Guide for Business Sector Now Available

A new litter prevention guide for businesses, developed by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection in conjunction with the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, is available online at
<https://www.njclean.org/images/best-practices/resources/litter-items/Litter-Prevention-for-Businesses-Guide.pdf>.

The new litter prevention guide reminds businesses that embrace sustainability to be sure to include litter prevention and cleanup in their company sustainability program. The guide provides background information on litter and specific strategies that companies can employ to prevent litter from becoming a problem at their sites. The Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Road litter cleanup programs are also featured in the guide, as are annual litter cleanup events that are open to businesses and the public.

Is Litter Recyclable?

Yes! Many items that are tossed away as litter – aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and corrugated cardboard - are recyclable! They should be relatively clean, dry and empty, however, just like recyclables collected through residential and commercial recycling programs. When planning a litter cleanup event, remember to give cleanup crews bags for both trash and recyclables and to arrange for the recyclables to be brought to a recycling processing center.

Save the Date: Next New Jersey
WasteWise Business Network Webinar -
May 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Did You Know...

- Each year, Americans throw out more than 12 million tons of furniture. (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- Pinatex is a fabric made from the wasted parts of pineapple bushes. It feels like thick cowhide leather, is watertight and very durable. Pinatex is used to make shoes, boots and bags.
- It takes about 90 percent less energy to recycle copper than to mine it.
- The NJ Food Council, which represents about 1,400 supermarkets, independent grocers, and convenience stores, reported that from May to December 2022 the plastic bag ban eliminated 4.8 billion plastic bags and 95.9 million paper bags from the waste stream based on what stores typically use.
- For the Fall 2022 season, 91 percent of Patagonia Inc.'s polyester fabrics were made with recycled polyester. Not using virgin polyester allowed the company to avoid emitting more than 12.3 million pounds of CO₂e into the atmosphere.
- The U.S. paper recycling rate has met or exceeded 63 percent since 2009.
- Farmers Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization based in Bordentown, was started in 1996 as a way to enable farmers throughout New Jersey to contribute their extra produce to those in need. For more information, visit <http://www.njagsociety.org/fah.html>.
- Discarded televisions accounted for 52 percent of the electronic waste collected in New Jersey in 2019. (Computers accounted for 32 percent and desktop printers/fax machines for 16 percent).
- Nationally, the use of rubber modified asphalt has increased approximately 50 percent since 2017.
- Most recycled aluminum cans are back on the shelf as new cans in less than 90 days.
- Second Chance Toys is a nonprofit corporation founded in 2006 to rescue and recycle plastic toys for children in need by donating them to community organizations. For further details, visit <https://www.secondchancetoys.org/>.
- Old street sweeper brushes can be repurposed as livestock scratching pads.

Planning for Disaster Cleanup Is Key

Floods, nor'easters, hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather events are becoming more commonplace in New Jersey. These catastrophic events result in significant damage to homes, businesses, boardwalks, infrastructure, trees and more. The amount of debris generated by natural disasters is staggering and can overwhelm a community that is not prepared for such incidents.

Recognizing this, the Department of Environmental Protection developed and maintains an Emergency Debris Planning and Management webpage that is designed to assist counties and municipalities in preparing for debris-generating events. A Municipal Tool Kit, sample flyers and other helpful resources are available on the webpage. For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/debris/index.html>.

Creative Manufacturers Using Recycled Content

Insulation – Bonded Logic makes insulation from old denim jeans and post-consumer cotton fibers. <https://www.bondedlogic.com/>

Shoes – The soles of the "Gumshoe" are made from recycled chewed bubble gum. <https://gumdropltd.com/gum-tec-gumshoe/>.

Safe Play and Sports Surfacing - Rubberecycle™ makes safe play and sports surfacing products from recycled tires. <https://www.rubberecycle.com/about-us>.

Building Products - Homasote® makes structural fiberboard from recycled paper. <http://www.homasote.com/>.



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Business Network

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

www.epa.gov/wastewise