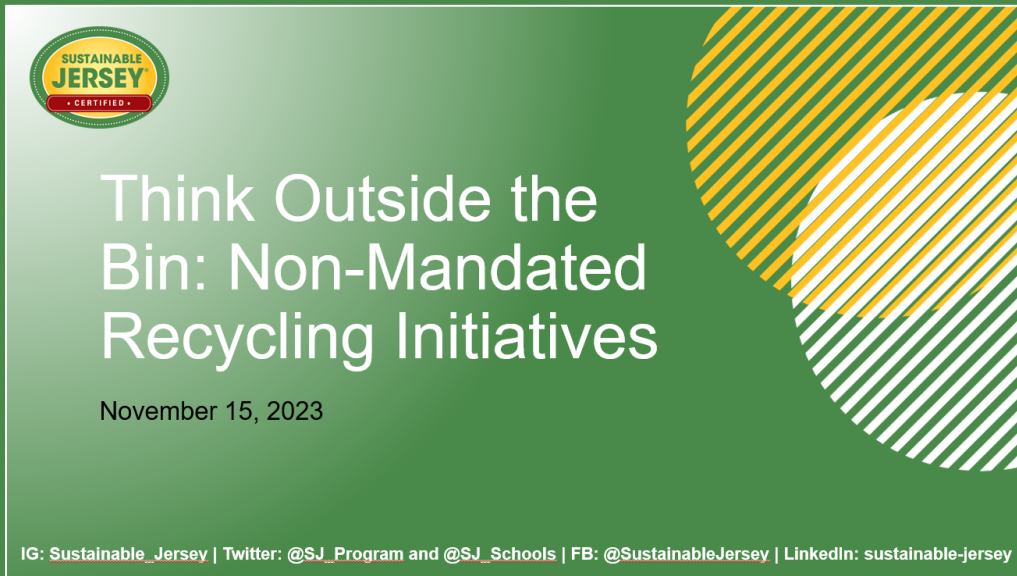


## Continuing Education Units | CEU's

To verify your attendance at this session **Scan in** at the **BEGINNING** and **Scan out** at the **END**

For your **PRINTED CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE**, follow the directions found in the “CEU Procedures” section of the printed Conference Program Book



Other questions, please consult the *League Staff at the Information Booth on Level 2*



# Think Outside the Bin: Non-Mandated Recycling Initiatives

**New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference**  
November 15, 2023

# Agenda

1. Sustainable Jersey Actions & Legislative Update – *Gary Sondermeyer, Bayshore Recycling*
2. Plastic Film & Toy Collection – *Emily Watts, Eatontown*
3. Polystyrene Collection – *Sean Hamlin, Ridgewood*
4. Food Waste – *Lois Kraus, Westfield*





# Sustainable Jersey Actions & Legislative Update

Gary Sondermeyer | Bayshore Recycling  
[gsonermeyer@bayshorerecycling.com](mailto:gsonermeyer@bayshorerecycling.com)

## Waste Management

### Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

🏆 Priority for all certification levels

### Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance

15 Points

🏆 Priority for all certification levels

• THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 15, 20

## Recycling

### Commercial & Institutional Recycling

10 Points

### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

• NON-COMPETITIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE

# Waste Management Actions

- The most heavily used action area along with Energy.
- One of 17 Action Areas with Task Force Leadership
- 16 Separate Actions – 2 General; 7 Recycling; 6 Reduction

## General

- Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal
- Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance

## Recycling

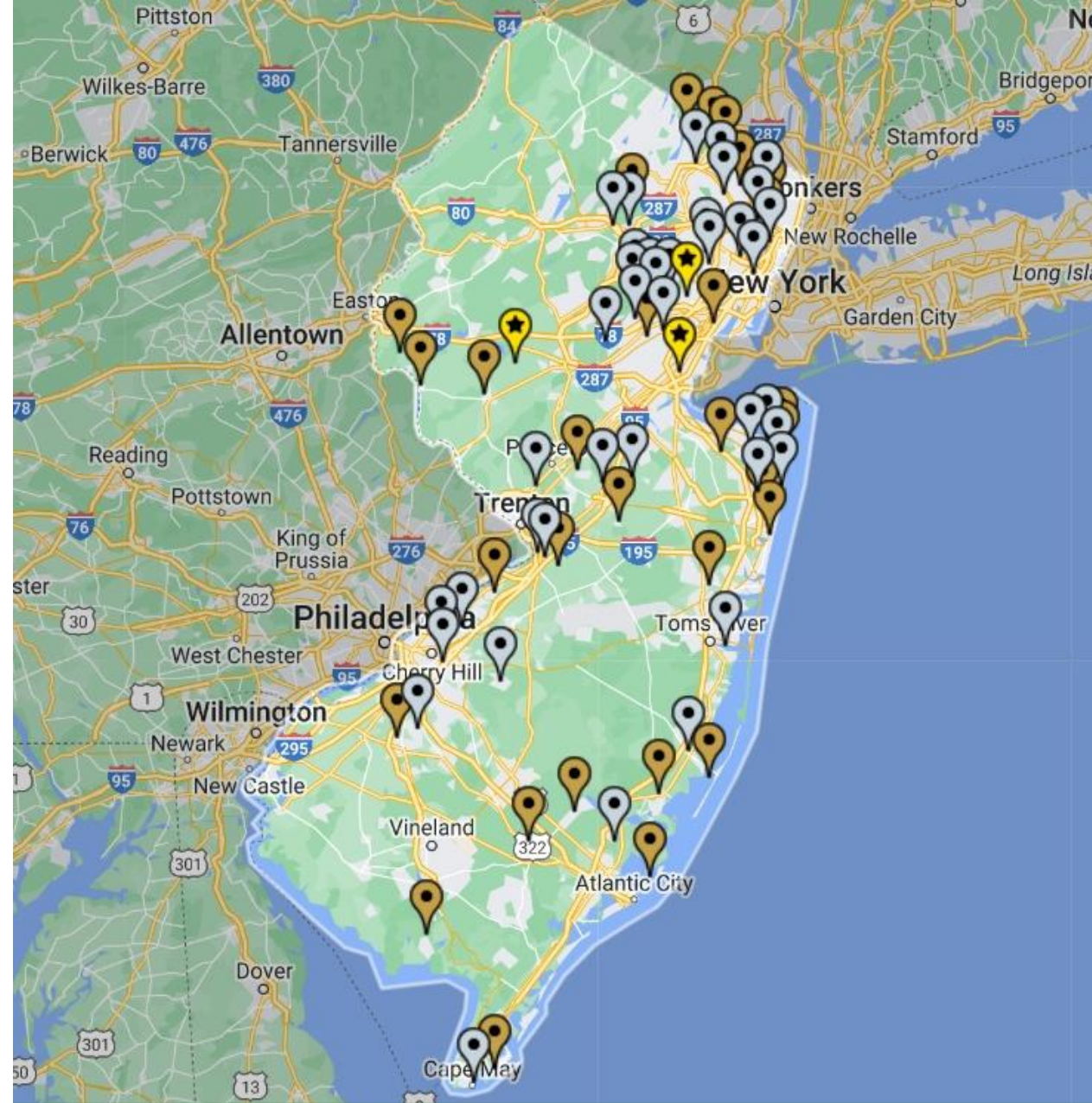
- Commercial & Institutional
- Community Paper Shredding Day
- Construction & Demolition Waste
- Food Waste
- Household Hazardous Waste
- **Non-Mandated Materials**
- Recycling Depot

## Reduction

- Backyard Composting Program
- Grass – Cut It & Leave It
- Materials Reuse Program
- Pay-As-You-Throw Program
- Reusable Bag Education Program
- Waste Audit of Municipal or School Buildings

# Non-Mandated Materials Recycling

- 5 to 60 points for implementing recycling initiatives that target materials **not designated as mandatory recyclable items as per state law, or the applicable county recycling plan.**
- Collected locally on regular basis through curbside pick-up or drop-off at the municipal recycling depot.
- Program must be active in the current or previous year from when you apply for certification.



Search the Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions page to view municipalities approved for the non-mandated materials action and view supporting documentation.

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions/>

# Non-Mandated Materials Recycling

- Examples and the associated point values include:
  - Bulky rigid plastics (10 points) – *includes plastic toy collection for at least 2 collections per year*
  - Carpet and foam padding (10 points)
  - Shrink wrap (5 points)
  - Plastics listed #3-7 on the Plastic Packaging Resin Identification Code (10 points) – *includes plastic film collection and polystyrene*
  - Ceiling tiles (5 points)
  - Textiles (5 points)
  - Cooking Oil (5 points)
  - Other (5-10 points): An additional five points will be awarded for recycling of up to two additional materials.



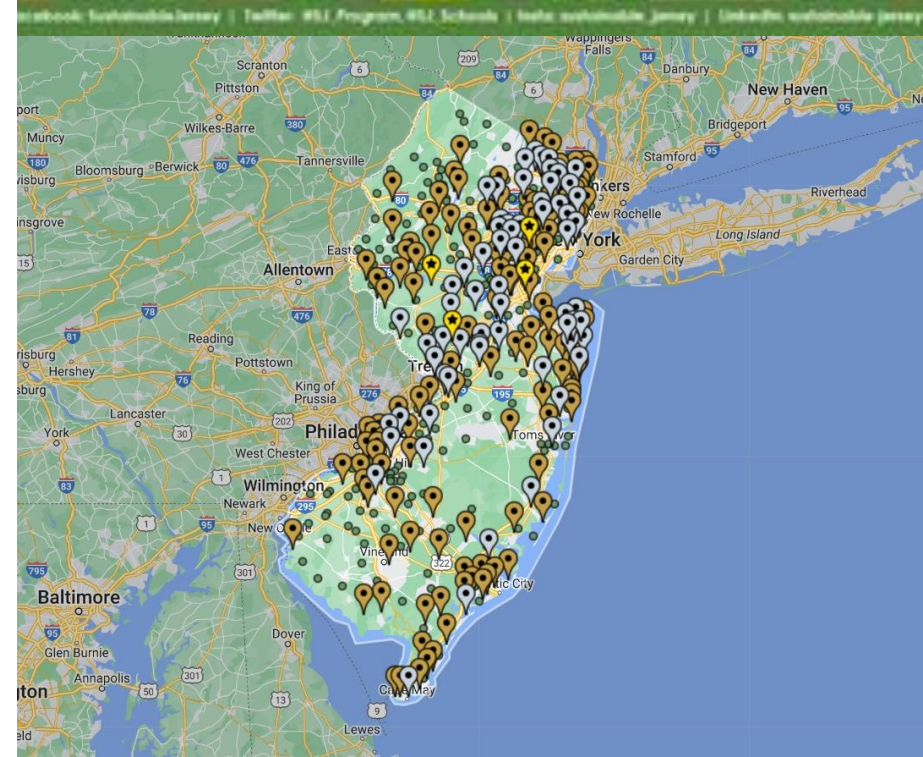
Plastic film collection in Maple Shade



Polystyrene collection in Monroe, Middlesex County

# Sustainable Jersey Action Update

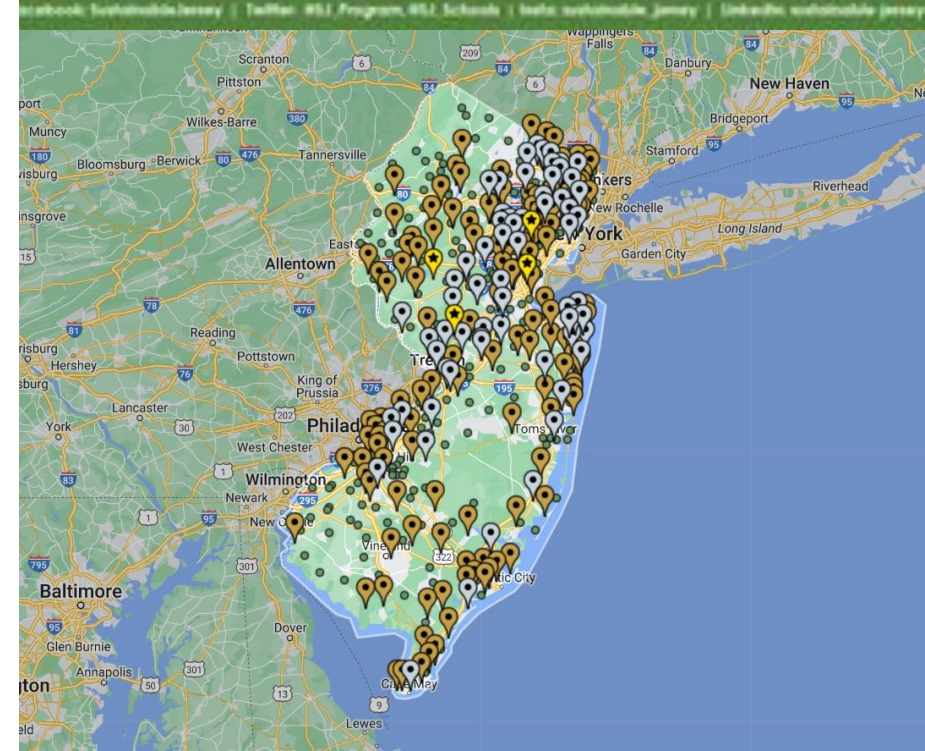
- **Waste Task Force Reactivated in 2023**
- **New Action Development/Update Structure Adopted:**
  - Litter Abatement
  - Waste Reduction
  - Food Waste
- **New Proposed Action:** *Education & Behavior Change Campaigns*
- **New Proposed Action:** *Food Service Best Practices to Reduce Waste*
- **New Proposed Action:** *Food Recovery / Share Tables & Donation*





# Sustainable Jersey Action Update

- **Update:** *Food Waste Management/Composting action*
- **Update:** *Waste Audit action*
- **New Single-Use Plastics Related Actions:**
  - Balloon Ban;
  - Zero Waste Events;
  - Disposal Free Dining



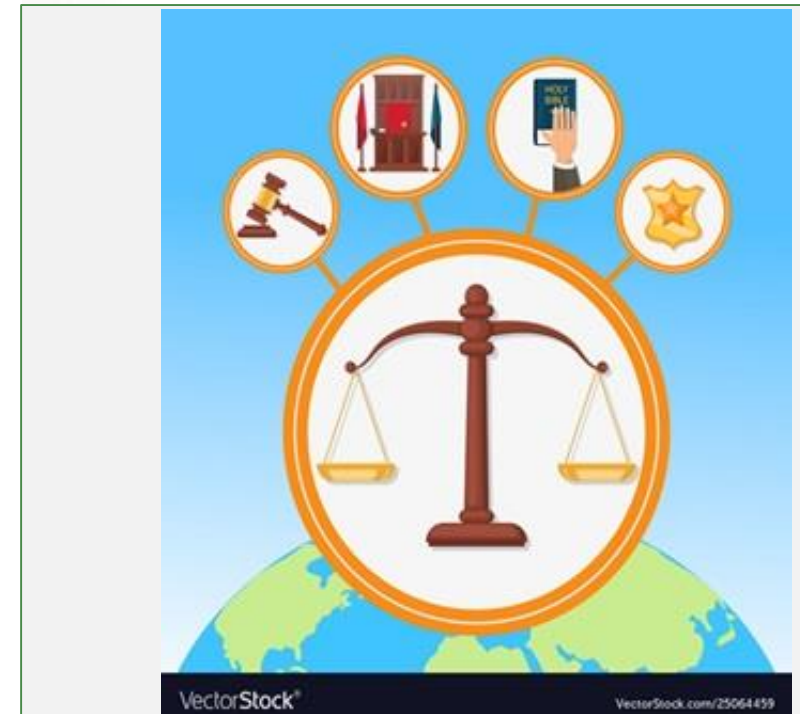
# County Food Reduction Planning

- **A1439** Passed Assembly (floor vote) on 2/27/23
- **S2730** Passed Senate Environment in June 2022
- ***Requires each solid waste management district to develop and implement a strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste within 2 years. (Full County Plan Amendment Needed.)***
- This is a follow-up to the NJ Food Waste Reduction Act of 2017 (S3027);
- DEP has yet to publish its final Food Waste Reduction Plan
- County involvement in food reduction planning is coming!
- Ongoing baseline work being done to help!



# Other Food Legislative Initiatives

- Food Waste Recycling Act Signed by Governor on 4/14/2020 as A2371/S865
- Regional School Composting Bill: A4548
- Community Gardens Composting Exemption Bill: A4547
- Backyard Composting Exemption Bill: Being Written
- Share Table Liability Limitation Bill: Under Development
- Food Bank/Pantry/Kitchen Small Grants Assistance Bill
- Tiered Compost Facility Regulation Bill



# Batteries Legislation

- Enormous problem facing recycling processing facilities in New Jersey, nationally and internationally;
- Lithium-ion batteries are highly explosive and flammable when punctured/crushed on processing facility tipping floors and processing lines. Four New Jersey processing facilities have had devastating fires;
- New York City enacted L-I battery legislation last year;
- ANJR Legislative Subcommittee finishing a draft bill using the New York City model which also:
  - Adds primary (alkaline) and all rechargeable battery types to those covered under the Dry Cell Battery Management Act;
  - Adds embedded battery containing products to the e-waste law;
  - Restricts the sale of scooters, e-bikes and their replacement batteries to those tested/certified.



# Plastic Film & Toys

---

Emily Watts, CRP CCCC SRMP

Administrative Assistant

Eatontown Department of Public Works





# Introduction

---

My name is Emily Watts, I have been with the Borough of Eatontown for six years. Within that timeframe, I became a Certified Recycling Professional, Certified Clean Communities Coordinator as well as a Sustainable Resource Management Professional, obtained my New Jersey Compost Site Operator Certificate and have conducted multiple presentations in the Eatontown Schools regarding recycling and litter.

# Toys





- Approximately 90% of all toys are made up of different types of plastics
- Average lifespan of a toy used in a home is 6 months
- 80% of toys end up in landfills (6% of landfill space)
- Plastics are not biodegradable so they just sit and never fully decompose.







The Borough of Eatontown started recycling gently used plastic toys in 2019 after partnering with Second Chance Toys.

- We have an on-going collection during our normal business hours through out the entire year. We send a flyer out through our school district, post on our social medias as well as distribute flyers.
- With the partnership of SCT, we have a cleaning day and then donate to an organization that works with/cares for children in need
- We have kept just over 1500 toys out of the landfill and in the hands of less privileged children





## Things that we accept for donation:

- Plastic toys (clean)
- Toys with batteries (in working order)
- Larger items (plastic kitchens/work benches)
- Puzzles (with all the pieces)



## Storage:

- Shipping Container with shelving we found to be the best most organized way to do it

## Cleaning Day:

- We have hosted NJ Natural Gas for clean ups
- We use soap and water to give the toys a clean up. Sometimes wipes to get the smaller detail areas (doll eyes, or plastic phones, etc.)
- We bag them all up and send them either with 1-800-GOTJUNK or the recipient comes and picks it up



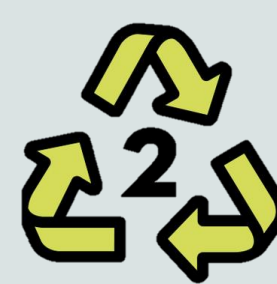
# Plastic Film





## What is Plastic film?

- Any plastic that is less than 10mil thick. The plastic will stretch when pulled but not tear. It is not crinkly/crunchy sounding.
- Plastic film comes in a variety of items but is most often associated with plastic bags
- Plastic film could take up to 1000 years to breakdown
- Plastic film is not widely curbside recycle bin friendly
- Considered a tangler at many if not all recycling facilities
- Plastic film is usually labeled as #2 or #4 plastic



**HDPE**  
(HIGH DENSITY  
POLYETHYLENE)



**LDPE**  
(LOW DENSITY  
POLYETHYLENE)



# Plastic Film Recycling

**What is plastic film? What does it look like to you?**

Any plastic less than 10 mil thick.

Plastic Grocery Bags	Bread Bags
Case Overwrap	Dry cleaning bags
Newspaper sleeves	Ice Bags
Wood Pellet Bags	Ziploc® & other recloseable bags
Produce Bags	Bubble Wrap
Salt Bags	Cereal bags

**What is the Challenge?**

The Borough of Eatontown is being challenged to a 6 month long recycling program to collect 500 pounds of these plastic films.

**Why Do It?**

When the goal of 500lbs within 6 months is met Trex® will have a bench built for the residents out of recycled material.

**Not so Fun Facts:**

-The plastic used for these items take up to 500 years to degrade in landfills but never fully break down. Instead they become micro plastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

-The average family accumulates 15 bags per trip to the grocery store and these bags are used for an average of 12 minutes.



**Fun Facts:**

-The Borough has already been rewarded 4 benches from the residents recycling efforts! (See picture to left)

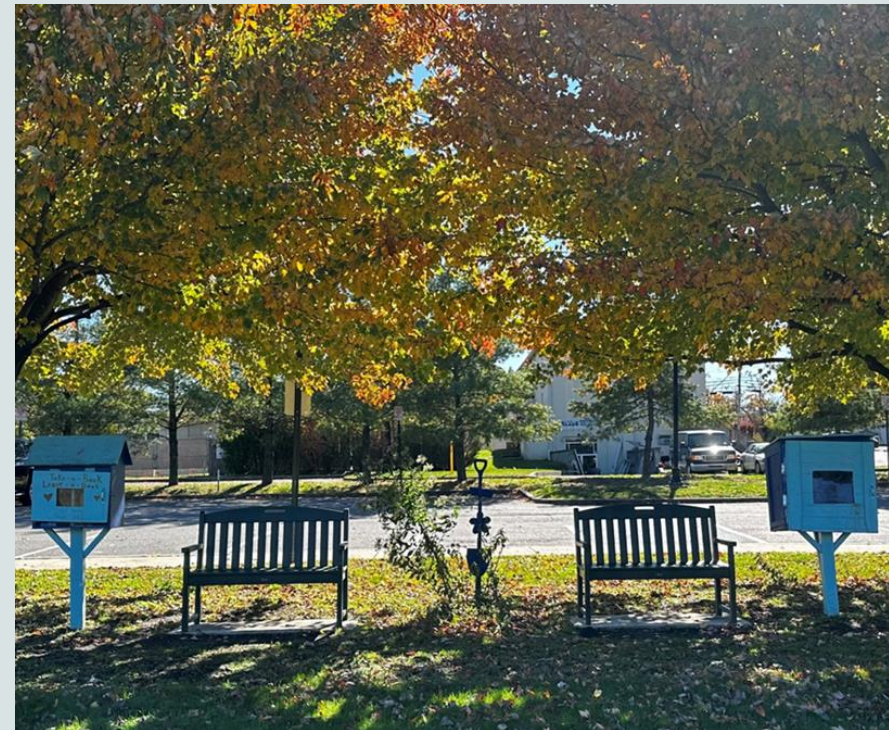
- Two of the benches were able to be donated to the Girl Scout Silver project near Wampum Lake.



Questions? • [dpw@eatontownnj.com](mailto:dpw@eatontownnj.com) • 732-389-7651

- The Borough of Eatontown started recycling plastic film in 2019 in partnership with TREX®. Initially we challenged our residents to a 6 month timeframe to collect 500 pounds of plastic film. If successful, the Borough would be rewarded with a park bench made from the recycled materials.
- We distributed flyers, word of mouth and posted on our social medias to get the word out.
- By 2021 we had successfully recycled enough plastic film for four benches!
- We have successfully completed the challenge a total of 5 times to date.
- TREX® has updated the challenge to 1000 pounds over a 12 month period in which Eatontown intends to be successful again come the start of the new year.

- We stored the film in larger plastic bags in the hallway of the DPW office and then once or twice a month, weigh the film and bring to a participating recycling partner.
- When we realized that we were growing out of this storage model, we purchased a 10 yd container for the collection and placed it in our recycling yard.
- We were able to collaborate with a local Girl Scout Troop and place two of the benches along with their Silver award project (seen here) at Wampum Lake in Eatontown.
- When NJ passed the bag ban that went into effect in 2022, we did see a slow down in drop off however, we are still successfully collecting and trying our best to keep the film out of curbside bins.



## Accepted Items Include:

**FROM THE STORE**

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

**FROM YOUR PANTRY**

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

**FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR**

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

## Items NOT Accepted Include:

**DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS**

- FROZEN FOOD BAGS
- CANDY BAR WRAPPERS
- CHIP BAGS
- NET OR MESH PRODUCE BAGS
- PET FOOD BAGS

**OR THESE**

- ✗ Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- ✗ Six-pack rings
- ✗ Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- ✗ Pre-washed salad mix bags
- ✗ PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear
- ✗ Bedding or linen packaging
- ✗ Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- ✗ Pool covers
- ✗ Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap
- ✗ Lamination film
- ✗ Silage and hay bags
- ✗ Backyard ice rinks

ALL FILM THAT IS DROPPED OFF MUST BE CLEAN, DRY AND RESIDUE FREE. ALL LABELS AND ADHESIVE MUST BE REMOVED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

## Special Thanks to Our Partners!



Use the following link for more information or to get involved with Second Chance Toys-

<https://www.secondchancetoys.org/get-involved-0>



Use the following link for more information or to sign up your municipality/organization/community for the TREX® challenge-

<https://nextrex.com/view/programs>





Thank you

---

Emily Watts

[dpw@eatontownnj.com](mailto:dpw@eatontownnj.com)

Ridgewood



Recycling

2023 - Nov - 15

# Think Outside the Bin:

## Expanded polystyrene (EPS) Recycling

Sean Hamlin, Recycling Coordinator

Village of Ridgewood, Ridgewood, NJ





## Ridgewood, NJ

Population: 25,979

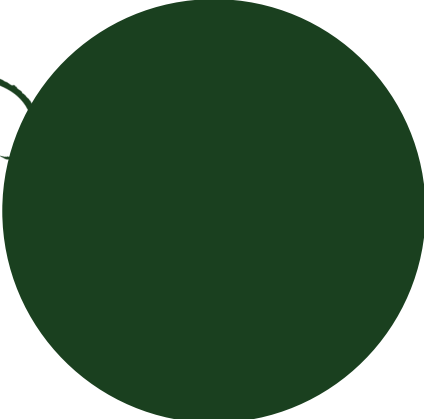
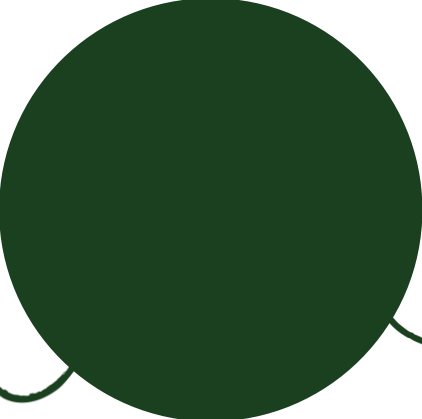
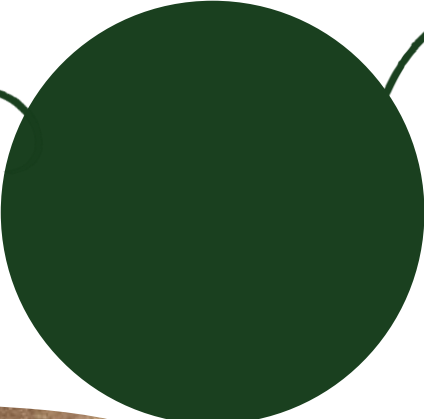
Households: 8,600

- Municipal staff collects solid waste & dual stream recycling
- Recycling Center open 5 days/wk
- Environmentally conscious community

# The Road To EPS Recycling



2017  
Sussex  
County  
MUA





**FOAMCYCLE**

For More Information Visit Us at  
**www.FOAMCYCLE.com**  
OR CALL  
**1-844-FOAM CYC**

Recycling  
Helps Our Earth In a Better Way

OK. Recycle  
NOW

SUSSEX COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
PS

Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority



"Foam Recycling  
Helps Put Earth In a Better Frame"

**FOAMCYCLE**

For More Information Visit Us at  
[www.FOAMCYCLE.com](http://www.FOAMCYCLE.com)  
OR CALL  
1-844-FOAM CYC

*In Partnership  
With*



SUSSEX COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL  
UTILITIES  
AUTHORITY



PS



**Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority - 2017 SWANA Special Waste Bronze Award**

**Photo taken during the peak of the Eclipse by Neil McCain**

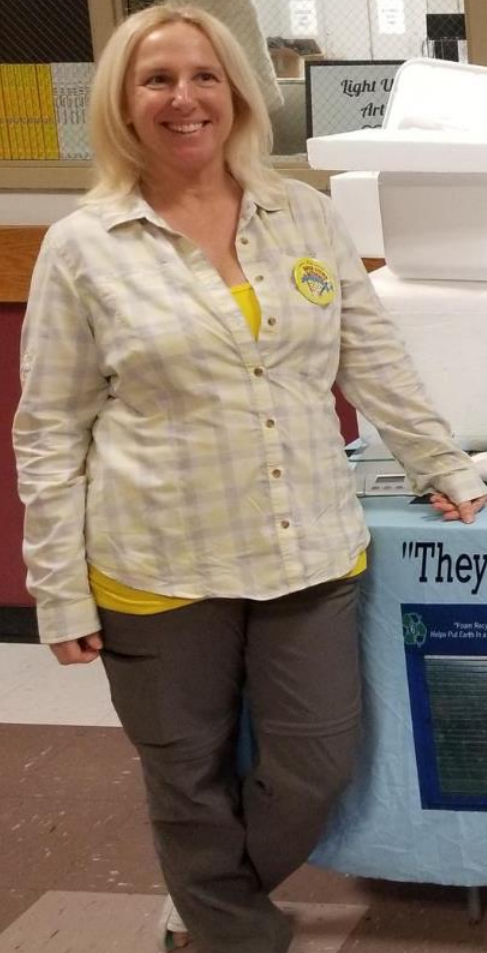
# The Road Traveled



# Ridgewood Recycling teams up with Foamcycle at Super Science Saturday in the Village

# 2018

Enthusiasm  
from  
Ridgewood's  
Elected  
Officials grows



*"They say it can't be recycled, we're here to prove them wrong"*





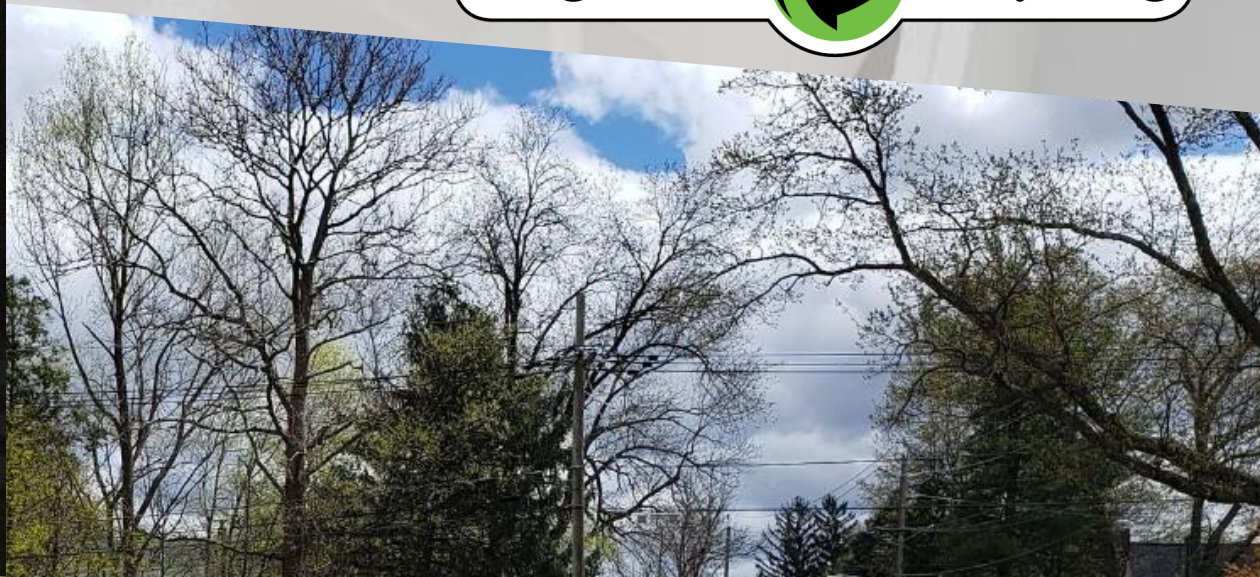
# The Road Traveled



# 2019 - First Ridgewood Hosted Sustainable Jersey Bergen Hub Drive







2021

# The Road Traveled



2017  
Sussex  
County

2018  
Elected  
Official  
Support

2019-2021  
Sustainable  
Jersey Bergen  
Hub Drives

2022  
Foamcycle  
Trial, then  
Purchase





Ridgewood Recycling Center  
March 2, 2022 install of densifier



# Getting the Word Out







northjersey.com

[ News ] Bergen Passaic Sports HS Sports Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals

RIDGEWOOD

## Ridgewood is first town in Bergen County to buy foam-compressing machine

*2-minute read*



**Marsha A. Stoltz**  
NorthJersey.com

Published 4:12 a.m. ET April 18, 2023 | Updated 9:35 p.m. ET April 18, 2023



# Earth Day

Ridgewood



Recycling



# Earth Day

Ridgewood



Recycling



# Tours

Ridgewood  Recycling



# Social Media


 **Ridgewood Recycling**  
Published by Jo Recycle · March 9 ·

Transforming Foam - 5 Things You Never Knew

On Saturday, March 4 Ridgewood Recycling participated in Super Science Saturday. Do you know how Ridgewood transforms foam packaging? Checkout our fun, 2-minute video to see the transformation for yourself and remember to support the transformation by bringing your clean, dry, white foam packaging to Ridgewood Recycling (no tape or labels please).

[#foamcycle](#) ... See more

The video thumbnail features the Ridgewood Recycling logo at the top center. Below it, the text 'TRANSFORMING FOAM: 5 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW' is displayed in large, bold, yellow and green letters against a dark, chalkboard-like background. The video player interface at the bottom shows a progress bar at 0:02 / 2:02 and various control icons.

 **Village of Ridgewood**  
December 27, 2021 ·

**RECYCLE STYROFOAM PACKAGING**

We are happy to announce that Ridgewood residents may bring expanded polystyrene packaging to the recycling center. Don't landfill that foam - recycle it!

Here are the rules:

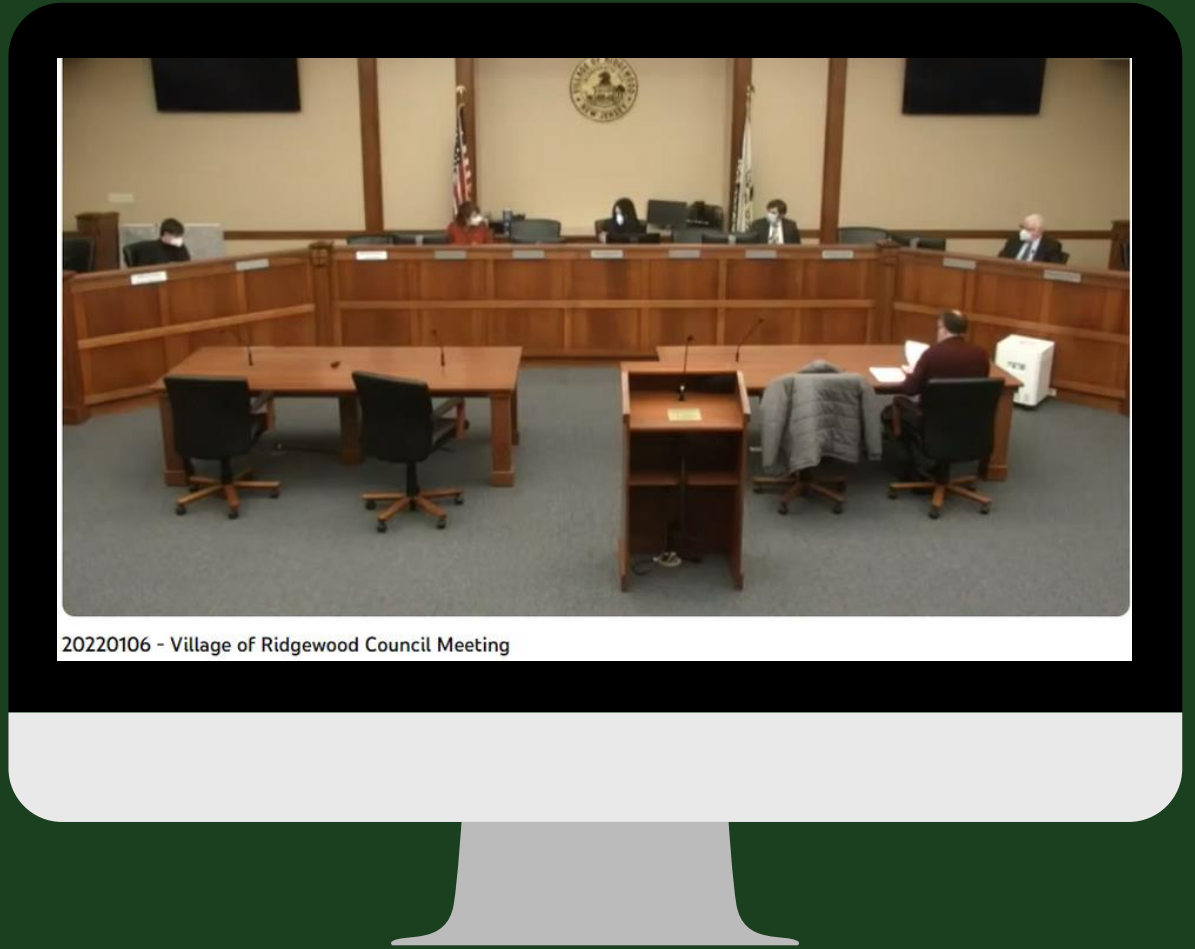
- Only bring clean "block" type #6 foam material
- Foam must be free of tape, ink, & labels
- No packing peanuts
- No egg cartons, cups, or food containers
- No colored foam
- No wet or dirty foam

**RECYCLE STYROFOAM PACKAGING**  
Recycling Center (203 E. Glen Ave | 8am - 3pm | Closed Wedn & Sun)

<b>ONLY CLEAN FOAM BLOCK FROM:</b>	Televisions Appliances Computers	✓	Furniture Foam Coolers
<b>WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:</b> Throw these in the trash	NO Foam Peanuts NO Colored Foam NO Food Packaging NO Packaging w/ Tape or Labels	✗	

**RIDGEWOOD RESIDENTS ONLY** 

# Village Website & Council Meetings



# Dollars and Cents





**Complete  
Foamcycle System  
Including  
Delivery,  
Installation, &  
Onsite Training**

**\$68,500**







**Roundtrip Trucking Costs**

**Labor Costs**

**These Costs are Offset by  
Revenue received**



# Participation



Ridgewood



Recycling

Ridgewood Recycling



Success!

S U C C E S S



# Environmental Impact

Ridgewood



Recycling

- 12,865 Lbs of Packaging Foam Recycled  
(Almost three, 53-ft trailer loads worth)
- 9,986 Cubic Feet in Landfill Airspace Savings



# Support Local Economy

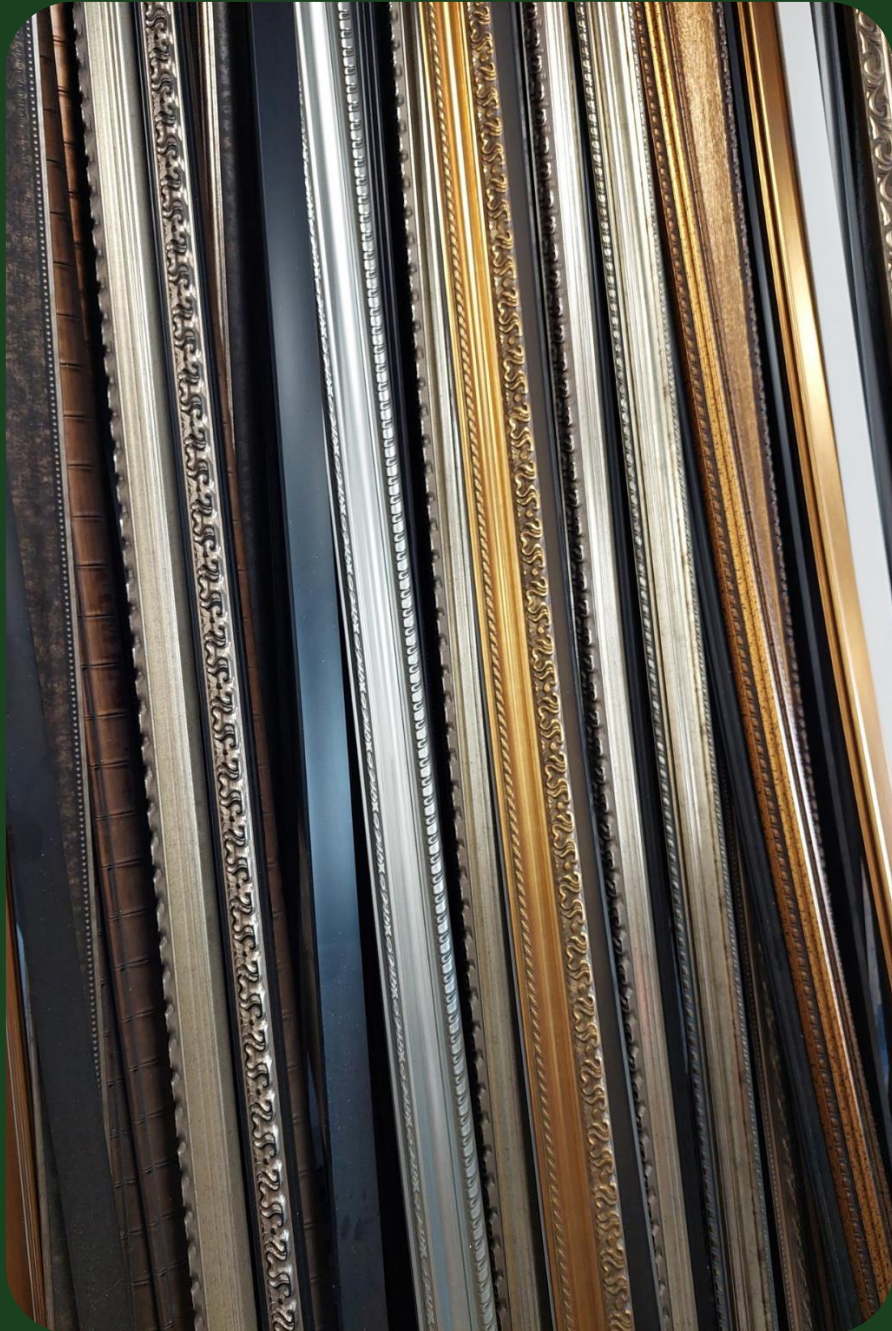
Ridgewood



Recycling

*Recycle Right*

Princeton Moulding, a New Jersey manufacturer purchases our densified EPS and recycles the material into trim





**Well Received  
Educational  
Video**

# TRANSFORMING FOAM:

**5 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW**

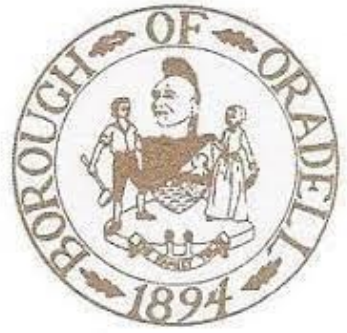


# Shared Services Agreements (SSA)

## Ridgewood Recycling



**Glen Rock**  
*New Jersey*



Ridgewood



Recycling

*Recycle Right*

Challenges?



CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE



# Quality Material Necessary

## Dry, Clean, White, Rigid, No Tape, No Labels, No Ink



NO insulation foam

NO wet  
foam



Foam packing peanuts

Food packaging items such as cups, trays, take-away boxes and utensils.



Material featuring any recycle number other than '6' should not be placed in this bin.

# Challenges from SSA

- **Scheduling & Communication**
- **Waste Reduction (Bag Exchange)**

What's Next?

FUTURE



# Goals:

Adopt Ordinance  
to Make EPS  
Recycling  
Mandatory in  
Ridgewood

Be a Good  
Ambassador /  
Encourage Access



Ridgewood



Recycling

# Thank You

Sean Hamlin, Recycling Coordinator

Village of Ridgewood

[shamlin@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:shamlin@ridgewoodnj.net)

(201) 670-5500 x6115

FB: [@ridgewood recycling](#)

[www.ridgewoodnj.net](http://www.ridgewoodnj.net)

# Westfield's Food Waste Recycling Program

*Fueling our Journey to Sustainability*

*Lois Kraus, Co-Chair Westfield Green Team*



**NJLM: Sustainable Jersey: Thinking Outside the Bin 11/15/23**

# What I Will Cover Today

- WGT approach to creating a food waste recycling program in Westfield
- How we engaged our 30,000 residents
- Our elementary school pilot program
- Program economics
- Next steps toward sustainable food management



# How the program got started...



Official program kick-off  
**November 2019**

Engaged potential key stakeholders  
January 2019

Visited RVSA and CORE facilities  
Fall 2018

Identified a need in Westfield

Team member experience in NYC  
with DSNY's organics recycling  
program  
2013-2016





# Engaging Key Stakeholders and Building the Case

January 2019



Jim Van Woert,  
Area Director of Diversion  
Strategies Waste Management



Dr. Serpil Guran  
Director of Rutgers EcoComplex



Jim Meehan,  
Executive Director Rahway  
Valley Sewerage Authority



We invited: Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Head of Public Works,  
Council Members, Local Businesses

# From Concept to Town Approval

*Key Players: Champion: David Contract, Town Council Member, Liaison to the Green Team, Department of Public Works, Finance Committee Member*

1) Assessed Community  
Interest  
Spring 2019

2) Secured Committee  
Approval  
Summer 2019

3) Secured Town  
Council Approval  
Fall 2019

4) Launched and  
Promoted  
November 2019

5) Quickly Expanded  
December 2019



# Processing the Collected Food Waste

Key Player: Arielle Bernard: Waste Management's CORE Sales Support Manager



**Location**  
847 Flora St  
Elizabeth, NJ

**500 tons per day**  
permitted capacity

Long-term  
**partnership** with  
Rahway Valley  
Sewerage Authority  
(RVSA)

Food waste transported to CORE

### CORE® in Operation

From food waste organics to EBS®




**CORE® SSO Receipt Hopper & Bioseparator**    **EBS® Mixing and Storage Tank**    **EBS® Product**

Food transformed into an engineered bio-slurry (EBS)


### EBS® Transported to WWTP

Brought to WWTP for co-digestion/energy production



**EBS, TRANSPORT TO WWTP**    **WWTP DIGESTER**    **RENEWABLE ENERGY**



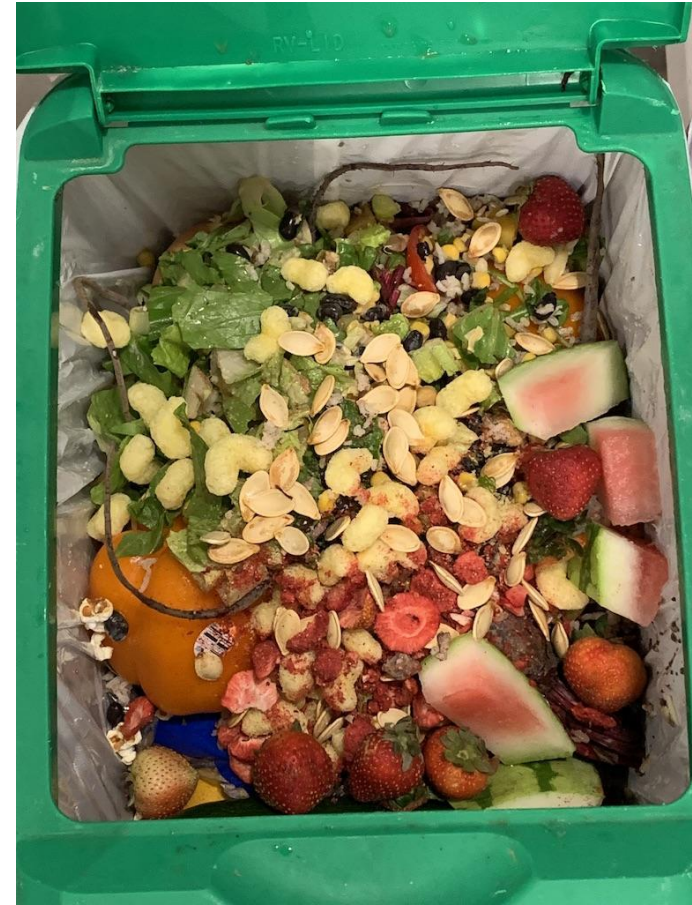
10 

EBS transported to a wastewater treatment digester where it is converted to energy



# Overview of How Residents Participate

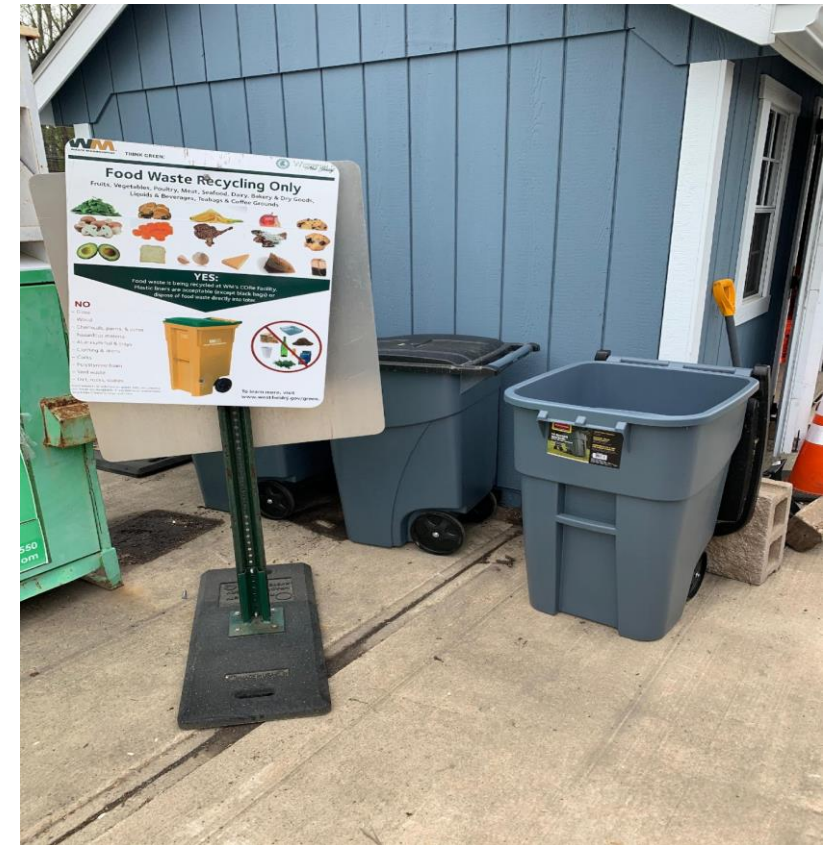
- ▶ I keep all food waste in a bin in my kitchen
- ▶ It has a lid to help with any smells- just like regular kitchen garbage
- ▶ I take it as needed to our Conservation Center
- ▶ For this program, food waste can be collected in a container or a non-black plastic bag
- ▶ Low barrier to entry



# Food Waste Collection at the Conservation Center

*Key Player: Richard Eubanks: Westfield Department of Public Works, Supervisor Parks & Fields Division, Westfield Recycling Coordinator*

- ▶ Working with Waste Management to get started
- ▶ Initial concerns
- ▶ Demands on staff
- ▶ Troubleshooting contamination



# Spreading the Word

Jackie Lieberman & Matt Kadosh

**TAPintoWestfield**  
Your Neighborhood News Online

LOGIN SUBMIT CONTENT

NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Thu, Oct 13, 2022

Choose your town Search

Advertise Franchise TAPinto

## Green

### Westfield First in Union County to Feed Into New Food Waste Process

The Westfield Southsider · Join

Kirti Malik · Dec 12, 2019

Hey Westfield- You hit the ground running and filled up the organic recycling bin faster than Waste Management could empty it! So, due to popular demand, there will now be THREE bins available for drop offs.

Just a reminder that while it is okay to... See more

1:02

www.tapinto.net

**TAPinto Westfield**

KEAN UNIVERSITY  
Cougars Climb HIGHER

Westfield > Green

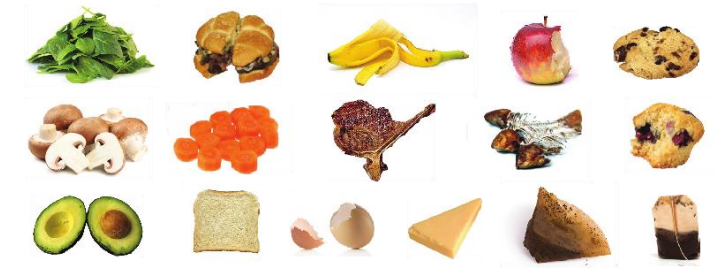
### Green

#### Westfield Food Waste Recycling Program Returns

**WM** WASTE MANAGEMENT THINK GREEN: WESTFIELD New Jersey

### Food Waste Recycling Only

Fruits, Vegetables, Poultry, Meat, Seafood, Dairy, Bakery & Dry Goods, Liquids & Beverages, Teabags & Coffee Grounds



**YES:**

Food waste is being recycled at WM's CORE Facility. Plastic liners are acceptable (except black bags) or dispose of food waste directly into toter.

- NO**
- Glass
  - Wood
  - Chemicals, paints, & other hazardous material
  - Aluminum foil & trays
  - Clothing & linens
  - Corks
  - Polystyrene foam
  - Yard waste
  - Dirt, rocks, stones



Small amounts of solid paper goods, fats, oils, greases, and liquids are acceptable. These items can contain toxic ingredients and are not accepted.

To learn more, visit [www.westfieldnj.gov/green](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/green).



# Food Waste Recycling in an Elementary School

- ▶ Westfield Board of Education approved pilot in one of its ten schools
- ▶ Green Team worked with the principal, head custodian and teacher
- ▶ Students performed an assessment of the school's waste
- ▶ Most importantly we supported a very engaged group of 5th graders who educated the community and facilitated the waste sorting at lunch



# *Economic Considerations of Food Waste Recycling*

- ▶ Stop seeing food waste as heavy garbage and instead view it as a valuable resource
  - ▶ Food waste makes up the largest portion (lbs.) of most residents' garbage
- ▶ Currently running \$355/month for four 64 Gallon toters to be picked up bi-weekly.
- ▶ Cranford received a Sustainable Jersey grant to start their own waste recycling program - there is some money out there
- ▶ If residents are source separating and food waste is being recycled, there is less garbage generated and tipping fees should be reduced (or at least remain flat)





# Looking Ahead



# Embarking on a Sustainable Organics Material Management Plan

Lead: Catherine Choudhry, Westfield Green Team Zero Waste

With direction and support from Gary Sondermeyer

17 Core Opportunities for Action

THE NEW JERSEY CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE ORGANICS WORKGROUP

Westfield as a Pilot Community

Engaging Broader Community



# Integrating Westfield's Food Waste & Recovery Efforts

- ▶ “Lunch and Learn: with Important Community Leaders: clergy, BOE, Girl Scouts, library, Rotary, other volunteer organizations , Public Works, Green Team
  - ▶ Modeled a fully “zero-waste” luncheon
- ▶ Objective:
  - ▶ Shared current activities
    - ▶ School / Church gardens
    - ▶ Backyard composting
    - ▶ Active food pantry
    - ▶ Food waste recycling at conservation center
    - ▶ Student / Community volunteers
  - ▶ Expressed Needs
    - ▶ Community garden / expanded donation garden
    - ▶ Expansion of food pantry
    - ▶ Increase in food waste composting: # locations, # participants
    - ▶ Commercial food waste composting and recovery
    - ▶ In-vessel composter
- ▶ Design a comprehensive way to recover more food as well as divert food waste from our landfills
- ▶ Identify champions



# *Convenience Center Exemption*

- ▶ DPW convenience center yard drop off
- ▶ No DEP Permit Required
- ▶ Use MicroHauler (Green Bucket) to take it to CORE Facility



# Reusable Bag Recycling: GOATote

- ▶ Launched in Spring, 2023
- ▶ Program addresses surplus of reusable plastic bags in the community
- ▶ Reusable Bags (i.e. Amazon Prime, Fresh Direct) are collected at the Conservation Center and sent to GOATote to be sanitized
- ▶ GOATote, collects, cleans and sanitizes bags
- ▶ Bags are delivered to the Community Food Bank (Hillside) and from there they are distributed to local Food Banks and Food Pantries
- ▶ Currently two programs in Union County (Westfield & Elizabeth); available to all county residents
- ▶ Westfield collected 180 - 200 bags per week

A MESSAGE FROM THE UNION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## WE WANT YOUR BAGS!

New Jersey's bag ban has been an **enormous success**, reducing billions of single-use bags yearly from New Jersey's waste stream, preserving-wildlife and waterways, and improving our community aesthetic.

**If you have extra cloth reusable bags, donate them here!** This program collects these bags, gets them cleaned, and supplies them to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey for reuse in food distribution.

*(Note: our program does not accept plastic bags.)*

**THANK  
YOU!**



**THANK  
YOU!**

A PSA from your partners in  
keeping our environment clean:



*For more information:*

*[Greenteam@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:Greenteam@westfieldnj.gov)*



Westfield | green team





# SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



**PSEG**  
*Foundation*

## New Funding Cycle Announced!

- \$200,000 in grants are available to New Jersey municipalities participating in the Sustainable Jersey program
- \$2k, \$10k and \$20k grants for sustainability projects and green team support

### Informational Webinar

1-2:30pm on  
Thursday,  
**December 7,  
2023**

### Application Deadline

By 11:59pm  
on Friday,  
**February 9,  
2024**

### Award Notifications

By **late April  
2024** with an  
event in **late  
May 2024**

### Performance Period

**10k/20k Grants:**  
18 months  
**2k Grants:**  
12 months

Learn More & Apply



# Sustainable Jersey Technical Assistance

## COMPLETE STREETS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Municipalities within the NJTPA region are eligible to apply to receive free technical services to advance a complete street initiative. Register for this webinar on **December 5 from noon to 1:00pm** to learn how 24 New Jersey communities have used this program to address their local issues and how to identify and apply for a project in your community.



## LEARN MORE

For more information and to apply for technical assistance visit:

<https://bit.ly/SJgrants>

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Energy Technical Assistance includes:**  
Identify and apply for NJCEP and/or utility incentives for facility upgrades
- Establish energy tracking system for facility energy use

### Energy TA funded by:

- NJ Board of Public Utilities
- Investor-owned utilities:
  - Elizabethtown Gas
  - New Jersey Natural Gas
  - PSE&G
  - South Jersey Gas

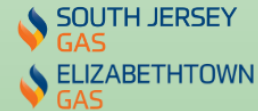


# Sustainable Jersey Underwriters and Sponsors

## Program Underwriters



## Corporate Sponsors





# Thank You

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