



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

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*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

Recyclable Commodity Prices Tumble Along With the Economy

After enjoying many years of robust recycling markets resulting from strong worldwide demand for materials, the recycling industry and extended community have been hit hard by the recent downturn in the national and worldwide economy. The economic slowdown has weakened the demand for recyclable commodities such as paper, metal and plastic and has led to significant reductions in the prices paid for these materials. This chain of events is a reminder of how inextricably linked recycling is to the worldwide economy.

Despite the troubling economic news, recycling program managers in both the public and private sector must remember that recyclable materials, while similar to other traded commodities in many respects, are different in one key respect, that being that they are also part of the world of materials management. More specifically, the value derived from recycling a recyclable material is not only derived from the market price paid for the material, but also the cost that is avoided by recycling the material rather than disposing of it as waste. Thus, the landfill tipping fee that is avoided through recycling must be factored into the equation. With New Jersey garbage tipping fees averaging \$80 per ton and reaching as high as \$113 per ton, this is a significant factor that must not be overlooked. It is this materials management aspect of recycling that led to mandatory recycling becoming law in New Jersey in 1987.

While many experts believe that the economy will continue to falter through 2009, the recycling community has weathered hard times before and will undoubtedly do so again.

Did You Know...

- The Atlantic County Utilities Authority has made the switch from a dual collection system for recyclables to a single stream collection system. In single stream systems, recyclable containers and recyclable paper grades are mixed together in one container by generators. The ACUA anticipates that this change, which took effect this month, will lead to an increase in recycling program participation rates and an increase in recycling tonnage.
- The Wat Pa Maha Chedio Kaew temple in Thailand is made of more than one million recycled glass bottles! The bottles are used throughout the temple, which is located approximately 370 miles northeast of Bangkok. Visit <http://www.inhabitat.com/2008/10/27/temple-of-a-million-bottles/> to see photos of this unique temple.
- A "Green Inaugural Ball" is planned for January 17, 2009 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. According to the organizers of this event, "every facet of the Green Ball is designed to reduce the impact on the environment." The event will also feature an exhibition of fashions made from recyclable materials.
- The plastic shell of Motorola's "Renew" cell phone is made of recycled water bottles and is 100% recyclable, according to the company. The product's recycled content packaging includes a pre-paid envelope for recycling your old phone.
- Vast Enterprises manufactures brick landscape and deck pavers that are made from scrap tires and recycled plastic. The company website - www.vastpavers.com - indicates that the pavers contain up to 95% recycled content.

What Happens to Trash in Paradise?

As freezing temperatures, ice and snow descend upon the northeast, many people begin to daydream about sipping piña coladas on one of the many beautiful beaches found in the Caribbean. The U.S. Virgin Islands, which consists of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix Islands, are located in the Caribbean and are often described as paradise on Earth, but what happens to garbage in paradise?

The hilly terrain and narrow roadways found in the U.S. Virgin Islands determines whether "house-to-house" solid waste collection service is provided or whether residents must use one of the many waste disposal bin sites located throughout the islands. Due to its hilly terrain, there is no house-to-house solid waste collection service on St. John. St. Thomas has a mixed terrain and thus has house-to-house solid waste collection in certain parts of the island, while most of St. Croix is serviced in this manner. Businesses are mandated by law to utilize a contracted private hauler to collect and properly dispose of their waste. Once collected, garbage will either be disposed of in the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas or the Anguilla Landfill on St. Croix. There is no landfill on St. John, therefore, garbage generated on this island is first sent to its Susannaberg Transfer Station and then shipped to either the landfill on St. Croix or St. Thomas.

Realizing that landfill space is extremely limited, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority has initiated numerous recycling programs aimed at extending the lives of these two landfills, including recycling programs for electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, scrap metal, tires and aluminum cans. In addition, used motor oil recycling sites are located on each island. A "Preserving Paradise" campaign has also been implemented to promote environmental education, community pride, and public-private partnerships. This campaign stresses proper waste management and recycling, among other things. Clearly, the proper management of solid waste is essential to any island that

relies on its natural beauty to attract tourists. The U.S. Virgin Islands understands this and is taking this responsibility seriously.

The Power of Purchasing

The Northeast Recycling Council will be holding a series of webinars this spring on how to incorporate green purchasing into your purchasing decisions. The webinars will teach participants how to save money through green purchasing, make the connection between green purchasing and climate change, measure the environmental impacts of green purchasing, and learn about the environmental impact of green purchasing. Visit www.nerc.org for details about participating in these webinars.

Super Bowl Greens Up

The National Football League has a number of environmental initiatives in store for Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, Florida that should make this the greenest Super Bowl ever. In addition to implementing a comprehensive recycling program, the NFL plans to donate leftover prepared food from events, donate leftover building materials to local nonprofits, use renewable energy and plant thousands of trees in Tampa.

New Recycling Rules Become Effective

The NJDEP's new recycling rules (N.J.A.C. 7:26A) were adopted on January 7, 2009 and will be published in the New Jersey Register on February 2, 2009. Among other provisions, the rules include new subchapters that address penalties for recycling violations, standards for generators of recyclable materials, and the requirements placed upon municipal and county governing bodies by the Recycling Act.

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