



## Single Point of Contact within DEP Enforcement for School Environmental Issues

### Who is affected by this initiative?

All persons responsible for or involved in management or operations of school facilities and grounds may benefit. Responsibilities for environmental concerns at schools may be found at many levels and may vary across schools and districts. Administrators are key figures, but other managers, teachers, janitors, grounds keepers and students may all have roles to play. To help schools make sense of their responsibilities, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is providing a new single point of contact organized around, but not limited to compliance issues. This support and contact is intended for both public and private pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools and facilities.

While the Department's overall focus on schools will generate information that may be useful for colleges, universities, adult and technical schools, the resources for single point of contact to these facilities are not presently available. All schools are encouraged to regularly access the Department's online resources, which are to be expanded over time at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/school/>.

### What has occurred?

The Department is placing added focus on schools in its ongoing efforts to ensure healthy environments for New Jersey's children. In the past, compliance inspections have identified the following most frequently encountered environmental compliance issues:

1. Illegal idling of school buses;
2. Unregistered underground storage tanks;
3. Lack of/expired permit for regulated boilers;
4. Improper management of chemicals in school laboratories;
5. Improper management of laboratory hazardous waste;
6. Lack of school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and/or improper implementation of School IPM program;
7. Improper management of "Recyclables."
8. Improper management of septic systems and/or lack of/expired permit (if required);

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9. Violation of land use regulations; and
10. Failure to comply with the Safe Drinking Water requirements, including the posting of the Consumer Confidence Report.

## What is DEP doing?

In order to provide New Jersey's schools with compliance assistance and ensure that environmental concerns are being properly managed, Compliance and Enforcement has designated a School Coordinator to:

- Provide answers to questions;
- Direct inquiries to the appropriate program, and/or provide contact information;
- Provide compliance assistance package if requested (Note: currently under construction);
- Arrange with programs to conduct compliance assistance visits when requested; and
- Meet with school administrators/principals to discuss environmental concerns when requested.

## Who should I contact with questions?

Please contact Farouk Afrasiabi (School Coordinator) at:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Compliance and Enforcement  
P.O. Box 422  
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## Where can I get more information?

**The following web sites can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:**

School Facilities <http://www.nj.gov/dep/school/>  
Compliance & Enforcement <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/>

**Visit the following Web site for general information:**

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

**To comment on this advisory:**

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the number listed above.