



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Summer 2021
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

Hot Recycling Markets

After some rough years, recycling markets are flourishing in 2021. Industry experts even speak of the “hot recycling market” at this time.

As with other commodity markets, recyclable materials commodity markets are cyclical and impacted by many factors. Changes in consumer and business purchasing practices, oil prices and the strengthening economy are just a few of the factors that have made for an overall robust recycling market so far this year.

Undoubtedly, the pandemic changed the purchasing habits of American consumers. With Americans continuing to turn to online shopping at an unprecedented level in 2021, the demand for recycled feedstock to make new boxes and packaging remains strong. Thus, both the domestic and export recycling markets for old corrugated cardboard and mixed paper have been robust in 2021, which has led to an increase in the prices paid for these recyclable commodities.

As a result of the increased demand from U.S. manufacturers for recycled plastic feedstocks for product packaging, as well as rising worldwide oil prices, recycling markets for both PET and HDPE recyclable plastics remain strong at the year’s halfway point. The demand for recyclable polypropylene plastic is also strong at this time. The high domestic and export demand for these recycled plastic feedstocks also has led to rising market prices for these materials.

After enduring a slumping market in 2020, both the tin can and aluminum can recycling markets have bounced back this year with strong market prices not only well above those of the previous year, but also well above the prices paid prior to the pandemic.

This is not only good news for the recycling industry, but also for local recycling programs that rely on the aluminum can recycling market to help stabilize program costs.

In addition, glass recycling markets remain stable in 2021. Demand for color separated glass is strong while demand for mixed color recyclable glass remains uneven.

State Recycling Market Development Council Underway

The state Recycling Market Development Council, which was created through legislation enacted last year, is underway and exploring a wide range of significant recycling issues, including the recycling contamination problem, the need for additional end markets for the recyclable materials collected and the importance of government purchase of recycled products. The Council anticipates releasing a report on its findings in the spring of 2022.

The Council members are as follows:

Ann Moore, Chair, Burlington County
Department of Solid Waste

Marie Kruzan, Executive Director,
Association of New Jersey Recyclers

Jimmy Lawler, Sales and Marketing
Manager, SIMS Municipal Recycling

Kevin Lyons, Associate Professor, Rutgers
Business School

Steve Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of
Sustainability

John Stanton, Director of Business
Operations, Atlantic Coast Fibers

Megan Tagliaferri, NJ Department of
Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property

George Tyler, Attorney, The Law Office of
George. J. Tyler

Goodwill Going Strong

Goodwill Industries, a non-profit organization formed in 1902, accepts donations of gently used items that you no longer need. This program not only keeps usable items out of the waste stream, but also benefits the community. The donated items are sold to value-conscious consumers in one of the many Goodwill retail stores. Proceeds from the sale of used items (as well as monetary donations) are used to fund job training and career service programs for individuals with disabilities and those facing disadvantages. To find a nearby Goodwill location, visit <https://locations.goodwillnynj.org/> or <https://goodwillnj.org/store-locator/>.

Did You Know...

- Soundsticks are noise-absorbing space dividers made from recycled textiles. They can be used to divide work spaces or public spaces in buildings. Learn about this recycled product at <https://www.dezeen.com/2020/11/03/soundsticks-noise-absorbing-space-dividers-textile-cut-offs-dezeen-showroom/>.
- A sculpture made of electronic waste - dubbed "Mt. Recyclemore" - was created at the recent G7 summit in England to highlight the environmental issues associated with e-waste. Visit <https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2021/06/10/mount-recyclemore-sculpture-g7-leaders-lon-orig-na.cnn> for more.
- The 2021 NJDEP Recycling Award Nomination packet is now available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/2021RecyclingAwards.pdf>. Nominations are due by July 30, 2021.
- TerraCycle recycles all brands and sizes of disposable safety equipment and protective gear, including beard and hair nets, disposable gloves and masks. Visit <https://shop.terracycle.com/products/safety-equipment-and-protective-gear-zero-waste-boxes> for details.
- Recycled rubber On Deck Circles for baseball/softball fields are available at <https://www.ironcompany.com/rubber-gym-flooring/baseball-on-deck-circles>.

Food Waste Law Gets Cooking in October

Signed into law in April of 2020, the state's food waste recycling legislation (P.L. 2020 c.24) will become effective on October 14, 2021. The law requires those generating a projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year to source separate and recycle their food waste under certain conditions. This provision applies to commercial food wholesalers, distributors, industrial food processors, supermarkets, resorts, conference centers, banquet halls, restaurants, educational or religious institutions, military installations, prisons, hospitals, medical facilities, and casinos. The DEP has introduced a new website on the law and its implementation at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste-recycling-law/food-waste-legislation.html>.

DEP Facebook Campaign a Hit

Launched in the spring of 2020, the DEP, Bureau of Sustainability has produced and posted numerous timely and educational Facebook posts on recycling, food waste reduction, waste reduction and sustainability over the past 18 months. Please share this helpful content with your organization and community. The campaign can be found on the NJDEP's AQES Facebook page by searching @NJDEPAQES.

Summer Fun: Dumpster to Pool

Learn how to turn a garbage dumpster into a swimming pool! Check it out at:

<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/outdoor-spaces/pools-and-water-features/astounding-dumpster-to-pool-conversion-pictures>



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Business Network

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

www.epa.gov/wastewise