



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Autumn, 2017  
WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.

## China Proposes Ban on Import of Several Recyclable Materials

Chinese government officials recently announced in a filing with the World Trade Organization that China would ban the import of several recyclable materials by the end of the year. Included on the list of recyclable materials that would be banned from entering China are most scrap plastics, including PET, PVC, polyethylene and polystyrene, as well as unsorted mixed paper, textiles, and some trace metals. China's World Trade Organization filing noted the troubling increase in non-recyclable trash that is mixed in with recyclable materials sent to China stating that "...large amounts of dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes are mixed in the solid waste that can be used as raw materials."

This announcement understandably got the attention of the world's recycling industry, including recycling industry officials in the United States. The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) stated that: "With more than \$5.6 billion in scrap commodities exported from the United States to China last year alone, the trade in specification-grade commodities – metals, paper and plastics – between the United States and China is of critical importance to the health and success of the U.S. based recycling industry." In response to this situation, ISRI has filed comments with the World Trade Organization requesting a revision of the policy to avoid a disruption in trade as well as clarification of the ban's scope.

The proposed ban represents a significant end-market change that would be felt throughout the recycling system. Thus,

recycling end markets will need to work even more closely with operators of recycling centers and in turn operators of recycling centers will need to coordinate their efforts even more with local recycling program coordinators to work through this potential market disruption. At the local level, recycling coordinators must continue to educate residents about what their recycling program collects and does not collect, as well as the importance of providing clean, high value recyclables.

## Hurricane Debris Removal a Costly and Monumental Task

Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma have not only inflicted much suffering on the people of Texas, Florida and the southeastern United States, but have also left behind an enormous quantity of debris in need of disposal. The massive amount of debris left behind by the storms includes wrecked homes and their contents, buildings, cars, boats, trees and a whole lot more. The combined cleanup costs for these storms are expected to surpass the cleanup bill associated with the Hurricane Katrina, which had been the costliest storm cleanup to date. In addition, it is estimated that it will take many months to clean up the debris from these storms.

### **Upcoming Recycling Events**

**10/18/17** - ANJR Annual Recycling Symposium and NJDEP Recycling Awards - [www.anjr.com](http://www.anjr.com)

**11/2/17** - Meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network - RSVP to [Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov)

**11/15/17** - America Recycles Day - [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)

## Did You Know...

- Vodka produced by the Misadventure & Company distillery in San Diego is made from old Twinkies and stale donuts, crullers, cakes and other past due baked goods from supermarket bakeries. Vodka can be made from anything that has starch or sugar in it, so the baked goods make a good feedstock. Each bottle utilizes two pounds of what would have been food waste.
- Rothy's shoes are made with recycled PET plastic bottles and are recyclable too! The fabric portions are recycled into carpet tiles, while the rubber soles are recycled into yoga and gym mats. Learn more at [www.rothys.com](http://www.rothys.com).
- Fans of rocker Jack Johnson were each given a souvenir stainless steel cup at recent concerts in California to eliminate single-use plastic cups and to build on his legacy of greening rock and roll. Fans could fill up for free at any of the venue's water stations with their cup or get a \$1 discount on all beverage refills for the life of the cup or at any future Jack Johnson concert.
- Several Ford vehicles contain underhood parts made from recycled postconsumer carpeting and all Ford vehicles contain at least 25% postindustrial recycled PET plastic content.
- Amazon's personal assistant *Alexa* can now help people save food at home and create less food waste. The "Save the Food" skill set was added to *Alexa's* repertoire earlier this year. This skill set was developed by the National Resources Defense Council and the Ad Council and is part of their "Save the Food" campaign, which hopes to reduce food waste generation in America.
- Three 8<sup>th</sup> grade public school students from Jersey City were recently announced as winners of the USEPA's President's Environmental Youth Awards. The students designed an environmentally-friendly mosquito trap that uses the heat and CO<sub>2</sub> from composting organic material to attract mosquitoes, along with a solar powered light and suction fan to trap them. <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award-peya-winners>.

## New DEP Ads a Hit

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection recently released two new ads that can be used to promote recycling and reuse. The ads, along with others issued last year, are available online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html>. Please consider using them to promote your program via your organization's website, Facebook page, etc.



### Office Recycling Tip of the Day

Continual communication with office staff is important for your recycling program to succeed. Send out reminders and praise staff for successful recycling efforts.

#### ***New Jersey WasteWise Business Network***

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

[www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise)

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