



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2019  
*WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

## It's Not Just the Grass that is Green in Major League Baseball

For baseball fans, the spring is a wonderful time of year as Major League Baseball gets underway once again, giving fans months of exciting ball games and memories. The league's beautifully manicured green grass fields are an integral part of the baseball experience, but the fields are not the only things green in baseball. Major League Baseball is the first professional sports league to have all of its teams as members of the Green Sports Alliance. The Alliance inspires professional sports leagues, teams and other organizations to embrace renewable energy, healthy food, recycling, water efficiency, safer chemicals and other environmentally preferable practices.

Major League Baseball teams have stepped up and implemented a variety of waste reduction, recycling and composting programs at their ballparks. In 2018, the San Francisco Giants led the majors by diverting 94 percent of all waste generated at their ballpark from local landfills. The New York Yankees, another leader in sustainability, have even hired a full-time science advisor to help them with their various environmental initiatives. In addition, the Arizona Diamondbacks were recently recognized as an environmental innovator for dramatically increasing their recycling tonnage and rate, for installing eco-friendly hand dryers that save 350 miles worth of paper towels and for constructing a vertical garden on the exterior of the ballpark and donating the vegetables produced to a local food pantry.



## New Approaches to Managing Plastic Waste Announced

The proliferation of plastic waste in the environment continues to be one of the hottest waste management issues of the day and the impetus for two major industry announcements issued earlier this year.

Several of the world's largest plastic chemical manufacturers have gotten together to form the Alliance to End Plastic Waste and are collectively committing \$1 billion to combat plastic pollution. The projects to be undertaken by this new organization include funding the development of plastic recycling technologies, training community leaders in waste prevention and initiatives to divert plastic waste from rivers.

To address plastic packaging waste, several of the world's largest consumer products companies are teaming up with TerraCycle, an innovative recycling company based in Trenton, on a packaging reuse program called Loop. In this program, online purchasers of consumer products will return the newly designed reusable containers that their shampoo, detergent, ice cream, etc. arrived in so that they can be used again. A trial run of the program will be launched in New York and Paris in May.

### **Frequently Asked Question: *Should I put plastic shopping bags in my curbside recycling bucket?***

**Answer:** No. While plastic shopping bags are recyclable, they should not be put into your recycling bucket. These bags jam up the processing equipment at recycling centers just like hair jams up the rollers on vacuum cleaners. Plastic bags should instead be recycled separately through programs established in supermarkets.

## Did You Know...

- "Ecoglass" is environmentally-friendly Easter basket grass made from 100 percent recycled paper. Visit <https://www.ecoeggs.com/collections/frontpage/products/eco-grass> for details.
- The S-1500 office/school recycled content chair by Nordic Comfort Products is made from worn-out plastic fishing nets generated by Norway's salmon fishing industry. This innovative chair will go on sale later this year.
- Call2Recycle, a voluntary industry-backed battery recycling program, announced that 7.2 million pounds of batteries were recycled through their collection network in 2018.
- Amtrak's old train seats are disassembled and recycled into new products. The seat cushions get recycled by a carpet recycler while the leather seat coverings are cleaned and turned into high-end handbags.
- Olive pits that would ordinarily be disposed as trash by the olive oil industry can now be recycled into bioplastics. For more information, visit <https://bioplasticsnews.com/2019/02/03/bioplastics-made-from-olive-pits/>.
- Pat Smith, a 70-year-old English grandmother, cleaned trash off 52 British beaches in 2018. Ms. Smith met her goal by cleaning one beach each week for the entire year.
- Ben & Jerry's announced that it will no longer offer plastic straws and spoons in any of its 600 worldwide ice cream shops. The company plans to address the use of plastic cups and lids in its stores by the end of 2020.
- Parking lot curb stops, patio paver tiles and doormats made with 100 percent recycled rubber are available through many online retailers.

## Recycling Tip of the Day

In your office lunchroom or cafeteria try placing tent cards on the center of every table. These should have messages like "Don't Forget to Recycle" or "Did you know \_\_\_\_\_ can be recycled?" written on them. These simple statements serve as reminders to staff on how to properly sort their waste when they are done eating.

## Stylish Recycling in NYC

FabScrap is a nonprofit organization that recycles fabric scraps and leftover clothing generated by New York City's many fashion designers, costume designers, clothing brand companies, tailors and others. The organization collects approximately one ton of material per day, which is then sorted into material types. Small pieces of fabric are recycled into things like building insulation or blankets used by movers. Anything over a yard long gets sent to the "Reuse Room," where it is resold at a discount. Certain proprietary clothing brands, however, cannot be resold as is, but must be recycled into a new product.

Those looking to shop in FabScrap's Reuse Room must first make an appointment and are charged \$5 per pound for fabric, which is considerably less expensive than purchasing fabric in the garment district of New York. For additional information, visit <https://fabscrap.org/>.

## Springtime Reminders

It's time once again to remind your staff, co-workers and residents to keep the environment in mind when going about springtime tasks. Consider using the following DEP infographics this spring to get the word out:

"Spring is in the Air! - Recycling and Donation"  
"Grass Cut It and Leave It"  
"Green Your Lawn Care - Go Electric"  
"Composting - D.I.Y. Compost Recipe"  
"Lend a Hand! Litter Cleanup and Prevention"

These graphics and more can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html> and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ages/sustainability-infographics.html>.



### **New Jersey WasteWise**

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