



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

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

## Electronics Purchasing Tool a Great Resource

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, most often referred to as EPEAT, is a free environmental product ratings system that helps companies and organizations select high-performance electronics that support their IT and sustainability goals. Specifying EPEAT in electronics purchase agreements sends a clear signal to suppliers that the market demands more sustainable practices throughout a device's lifecycle. EPEAT criteria currently address multiple categories of environmental attributes covering the full product lifecycle — including design, energy use and recycling.

The EPEAT system currently tracks more than 4,400 products from more than 60 manufacturers across 43 countries. The EPEAT registry includes desktops, laptops/notebooks, workstations, thin clients, displays (computer monitors), televisions, printers, copiers, scanners, multifunction devices, fax machines, digital duplicators and mailing machines. The EPEAT program is administered by the Green Electronics Council, a non-profit whose mission is to achieve a world in which only sustainable IT products are designed, manufactured, and purchased. For more information, visit <http://www.epeat.net/>.

## Tips on Bins and Signs

Office staff should be able to determine where recyclables should be deposited within a few seconds. Use uniform recycling containers throughout your office. Recycling bins with specialized lid openings help staff identify the correct bin as do signs with both text and pictures of recyclable items. Keep signage and branding simple and consistent.

## Did You Know...

- Recycled content gloves for gardening or litter cleanup projects are available from Worldwide Protective Products of Hamburg, New York. The Eco-Gloves are made with 35% post-consumer recycled content with recycled PET soda bottles as the feedstock. For more, visit [www.worldwideprotective.com](http://www.worldwideprotective.com).
- The National Hockey League's "NHL Green" sustainability program was established in 2010 and promotes equipment donation/reuse and recycling, among other things. To learn more about this program, visit <https://www.nhl.com/info/nhl-green>.
- With more than 200 filtered water bottle-filling stations on the Princeton University campus, students, staff and visitors have easy access to free filtered water for their reusable water bottles and mugs. Freshman and new graduate students receive complimentary water bottles during move-in as part of this waste reduction strategy.
- Many coffee shops offer discounts to customers who bring their own reusable mugs to the shop when purchasing coffee (at Starbucks, it's a 10-cent discount). By switching from paper cups to reusable mugs, consumers help save paper and reduce waste.
- ChopValue™, a startup in Vancouver, Canada collects, cleans and upcycles used chopsticks to make a variety of home décor items and other products, like yoga blocks. Since its inception in July 2016, the company has recycled 800,000 chopsticks! For more information, <https://chopvalue.ca/>.
- Bureo skateboards are made from recycled fishing nets! <https://bureo.co/>.
- On average, the United States processes enough ferrous scrap metal daily, by weight, to build 25 Eiffel Towers every day of the year.

# Neighborhood Litter an Unsightly Mess

## (Editor's Perspective)

I hate litter. It's as simple as that. Litter is a blight on the landscape. It negatively affects our quality of life, often ends up in our waterways and oceans and has a negative economic impact on communities. Unfortunately, littering continues to be a significant problem in New Jersey and throughout the United States. With summertime being the busiest time of year in terms of litter generation, I thought it would be a good time to revisit this issue.

While there are numerous factors that come into play when analyzing why people litter, a study by Keep America Beautiful found that a strong contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter. Undoubtedly, litter seems to beget more litter, so it is important to clean up litter hot spots before they get out of control. The KAB study also found that individuals under 30 years of age are more likely to litter than those who are older. I have been picking up litter in my neighborhood and township for years and have seen this first hand. While all age groups litter, educational programs and campaigns targeted at those under 30 years old are essential. Use of social media is recommended to reach this segment of the population.

The Garden State is fortunate to have its New Jersey Clean Communities litter prevention and cleanup program, however, more needs to be done by individuals, businesses and other organizations to help with this situation. Be part of the solution and pick up litter in your neighborhood, participate in litter cleanup days or organize your own litter cleanup event either through your employer or through a community group. It is easy to do and you will find the experience rewarding. Plus, you will be helping to keep our state and environment cleaner and more enjoyable for all. To learn more about the various cleanup programs run by the New Jersey Clean Communities program visit <http://www.njclean.org/>.

# The Pull Printing Option

Pull printing is an approach to office printing that can reduce paper consumption and waste. The way pull printing works is by sending a print job to a secure server that then delivers or "pulls" the job to a printer when it is authenticated at the device by the user. This approach is often used to increase document security, but it also reduces unclaimed print jobs and their associated costs. It is estimated that 30% of office print jobs are never collected at the printer by the person sending the print job. Thus, there is more waste paper to manage at the end of the day. Hopefully, this paper is being recycled through office paper recycling programs, but even better yet is an approach that creates less waste in need of management, such as the pull printing approach. Pull printing is also sometimes called "FollowMe printing." Speak with your printer supplier if you would like to learn more about this approach to printing.

# Consider Recycling Cartons in the Office

Refrigerated and shelf stable food and beverage cartons, such as milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons, juice boxes, etc. are made mostly of high quality recyclable paper fibers. Contact your vendor to see if the recyclable materials collected in your office are being delivered to a processing center that can handle cartons, and if they are, be sure to add these items to your program.

# Cutting Edge Mall Opens

A shopping mall consisting of stores that only sell recycled content and upcycled products opened in Eskilstuna, Sweden in 2015 and has been a huge financial success! A wide variety of products are available at the mall, and shoppers can even drop off used items at the mall for upcycling.

### ***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)

*Editor: Steven Rinaldi - Printed on Recycled Paper*