



The Recycling Coordinator's Primer



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

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Why this primer?

Early in 2005 the executive director, president and two board members of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) met first with Joseph Seebode, assistant commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and then with Commissioner Bradley Campbell to express the ANJR's opinion that recycling did not seem to be a priority for the NJDEP, and to stress the importance of state support for recycling. The ANJR representatives urged the Commissioner Campbell to release the updated Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan so that discussion of ways to reinvigorate recycling could start.

In late March, Commissioner Campbell attended ANJR's annual meeting and announced the release of the Solid Waste Management Plan and the states' plan to emphasize recycling.

In June, NJDEP hosted a meeting of recyclers, county and local government officials, representatives of industry and other interested parties to solicit their thoughts, suggestions and recommendations on how to reinvigorate recycling in New Jersey. This meeting produced a list of many concerns

As a result of the June meeting, four work groups were formed: education, local government issues, business community, State/DEP. Each group had discussions among its stakeholders that identified issues and concerns and then developed possible recommendations for action.

After reviewing the draft recommendations, the work group chairs identified issues that were common to all groups and prioritized them as action items. These action items were presented to the large group of stakeholders at the December 1, 2005, meeting. From this meeting, the work group chairs were charged with developing an action plan for 2006.

The action plan identified priority action items limited and modified to include only those priority action items that would not require large expenditures of either time or money. The goal of the plan is to facilitate increased understanding and awareness of recycling both by professionals and the general public throughout the state.

One of the action items in the plan is the development of a manual for recycling coordinators that would contain information about the laws governing and regulating recycling and a fundamental understanding of their duties.

This primer is that manual.

The challenge has been to produce a work that is both basic and comprehensive for use by those new to recycling, as well as an informative reference manual for those who have been familiar with recycling for a long time.

The primer was written to be a dynamic work, one that will be available on-line so that it can be updated when new, current or additional information becomes available.

Acknowledgements

I take great pleasure in thanking my colleagues and friends who read, criticized, suggested and assisted in completing the first version of this Primer.

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Introduction

Recycling is a dynamic activity. Changes in materials, collection and processing methods, legislation and public perception require that recycling programs be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

This primer is dynamic too, a work that will be updated when new, current or additional information becomes available.

Getting Started

The chapter organization of the primer is intended to help easily locate information. **“Statutory References, Rules and Regulations”** provides a Table of Contents for both the “Recycling Act” and Recycling Regulations. It also contains documents that explain responsibility, enforcement and marketing. **“Implementation”** covers the duties and responsibilities of a recycling coordinator. **“Synergies”** offers suggestions for combining recycling efforts with other programs. **“Examples”** presents information, model ordinances and program descriptions from various communities. **“Glossary”** includes acronyms and definitions that are related to recycling and solid waste.

This primer is user friendly, clear and concise. All material is provided as PDF files in an open format.

Because this is a dynamic work, readers are encouraged to forward to the author any suggestions, changes, additions or any other information that they believe would be helpful to share with the recycling community.

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