

On April 20, 1987, Gov. Thomas Kean signed the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act. This law requires everyone to separate recyclable materials from regular trash. Each municipality was obligated to recycle 25% of its solid waste. Middlesex County reached that 25% recycling goal in 1989.

In November of 1990, Governor James Florio accepted a report by the N.J. Solid Waste Task Force which called for a goal of 60% to be recycled by 1995. Middlesex County adopted that goal in March of 1991.

Residential recycling programs have been effective in helping the County achieve its 60% goal, but our residents cannot do it alone, businesses need to recycle, too.

WHY RECYCLE?



There are a number of reasons including:

First, and most obvious, it's the law.

Second, your disposal costs may be stabilized or reduced by decreasing the amount of trash sent for disposal.

Third, your business or commercial establishment may profit from selling recyclables.

Fourth, by recycling, businesses and commercial establishments help municipalities increase their Tonnage Grants, which are based on the amount of materials recycled by everyone in the town.

Fifth, recycling helps extend the life of New Jersey's dwindling landfill space and moves us towards disposal self-sufficiency.

INSPECTIONS

The Middlesex County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health, in cooperation with the County's Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM), conducts a recycling inspection program designed to accomplish three goals:

1. Provide businesses and commercial establishments with information about recycling.
2. Ensure uniform compliance with the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act.
3. Increase the County-wide recycling rate.

Your responsibility as the owner, operator or manager of a business/commercial establishment is to ensure that a recycling system is in place. That system must provide for the separation of mandatory recyclable materials from non-recyclable trash and for the proper recycling of those materials.

You, not your trash hauler, are responsible for separating mandatory materials and keeping them out of any refuse containers holding non-recyclable trash. Recyclables are not to be mixed with solid waste unless your municipality's recycling ordinance provides for - and you have been issued - an exemption. Exemptions are granted only if you demonstrate that your recyclables will be sorted from the solid waste at a State-approved materials recovery facility. Your business (not your hauler), must apply for and receive the exemption.

STORAGE

Recyclables should be temporarily stored in a clearly marked container. Each container should be large enough to hold the material you generate without overflow and must be free of non-recyclable trash.



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Contacting your trash hauler for recycling information and associated costs is the first step. If your hauler does not provide recycling services, read "Collection" for other options. Then, establish a recycling program at your business/commercial establishment, and educate your employees and your customers on how they should participate. Your Municipal Recycling Coordinator and the staff of the DSWM are available to answer questions about a recycling system for your business/commercial establishment.

COLLECTION

Your recyclables may be collected by a solid waste hauler, a recycling collection firm, or your municipal collection service, where available. If you generate a significant amount of recyclables, you should investigate marketing your materials directly in order to minimize costs/maximize revenue from the sale of the materials. If you generate only a small amount of recyclables, you may call your town's Recycling Coordinator to see if you are permitted to take recyclables to your town's drop-off center.



REPORTING

Each municipality must be able to determine the amount of recycling taking place at every business/commercial establishment. You or your recycler must provide information, such as weight slips or other documentation, to your municipal recycling coordinator on a quarterly basis. You are ultimately responsible for ensuring that this information is provided.

Each town's reporting procedures vary, so contact your Recycling Coordinator to determine your specific municipality's requirements.



BUSINESS/INSTITUTION/ GOVERNMENT/COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT COMPLIANCE

To comply with State, County and local laws, your business/institution/government/commercial establishment is required to separate the following materials if they are generated at your location(s):

- Newspaper
- Glass Containers
- Aluminum Containers (non-foil)
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Steel Cans
- Plastics SPI Code #1 & #2 (PET and HDPE)
- Mixed Paper (magazines, computer paper, glossy inserts, junk mail, colored paper and office paper)
- Motor Oil
- Leaves
- Brush (tree parts measuring not more than 5" in diameter)



PENALTIES

Violations of the recycling requirements may result in fines ranging from \$25 for a first offense to \$1500 for chronic offenses. The scale of fines is established pursuant to the NJ Solid Waste Management Act.

Avoid these fines by properly establishing a recycling program for your business/commercial establishment. Proper recycling requires some effort on your part, but the results will benefit you, your community and our environment.



YOU CAN HELP

While recycling alone cannot solve New Jersey's garbage problem, recycling programs are having a significant effect on reducing the volume of waste going to our landfill.

Support your community and Middlesex County by complying with the law. Establish and maintain the proper recycling program for your business/commercial establishment. Your commitment can help us maintain our 60% recycling rate.

WHAT OTHER MATERIALS SHOULD MY BUSINESS BE CONCERNED WITH?

There are other items that your business may be required to recycle or dispose of properly, depending upon the amount that you generate. The DSWM has prepared a Markets Directory listing companies that provide recycling services. There are over 40 different items listed in the directory, including those items discussed below. Call the DSWM at 732-745-4170 for a free copy.

Electronics:

Certain consumer electronics contain heavy metals and materials that are considered hazardous. These items must be properly disposed according to Hazardous Waste or Universal Waste regulations.



The NJDEP maintains a list of approved facilities for these materials. Contact the NJDEP at 609-984-6650 or visit their website at www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/uwrcompu.htm for the names of additional approved facilities.

Fluorescent Lamps:



Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury and

other hazardous materials. Businesses should recycle their fluorescent bulbs under the State Universal Waste regulations or manage them under the Hazardous Waste regulations.



Batteries:

Dry cell batteries may contain cadmium, mercury, copper, zinc, lead, manganese, nickel, and lithium which may create a hazard when disposed incorrectly. Small sealed lead acid batteries and Ni-Cad batteries must be recycled. Other rechargeable batteries may contain enough hazardous materials that they must be handled under the Universal Waste or Hazardous Waste Regulations. The County encourages businesses to recycle all types of batteries when feasible. For a listing of places that can handle your batteries, you may try the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's website at www.rbr.org or contact the DSWM for a vendor list.

Tires:

Middlesex County Solid Waste Management Plan requirements state that if you have 5 or more used tires on your site, the tires must be stored in totally enclosed structures, closed trailers, or covered roll-off containers. You are also required to properly dispose/recycle your tires.



Materials Exchanges:

Services that match generators of valuable waste and surplus goods with organizations or businesses that can reuse them are called Materials Exchanges. These exchanges prevent usable materials from becoming waste and can save businesses money that would have been spent on disposal. You can visit the Northeast Recycling Councils website at <http://www.nerc.org/documents/exchanges.html> to get information on Exchanges serving our region.

For more information about recycling, contact your Municipal Recycling Coordinator

Town	Recycling Phone #
Carteret	732-541-3882
Cranbury	609-395-0900 x222
Dunellen	732-968-5455
East Brunswick	732-390-6984
Edison	732-248-7518
Helmetta	732-521-4946
Highland Park	732-514-1277
Jamesburg	732-521-2222
Metuchen	732-632-8519
Middlesex	732-356-7953
Milltown	732-828-2100 x135
Monroe	732-656-4575
New Brunswick	732-745-5059
North Brunswick	732-297-1134
Old Bridge	732-721-5600 x6140
Perth Amboy	732-826-0102
Piscataway	732-562-2390
Plainsboro	609-799-0099
Sayreville	732-390-7008
South Amboy	732-721-5793
South Brunswick	732-329-4000 x7274
South Plainfield	908-226-7621
South River	732-257-9051
Spotswood	732-251-0700 x822
Woodbridge	732-738-1311 x3049

Middlesex County Department of Planning
Division of Solid Waste Management
100 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

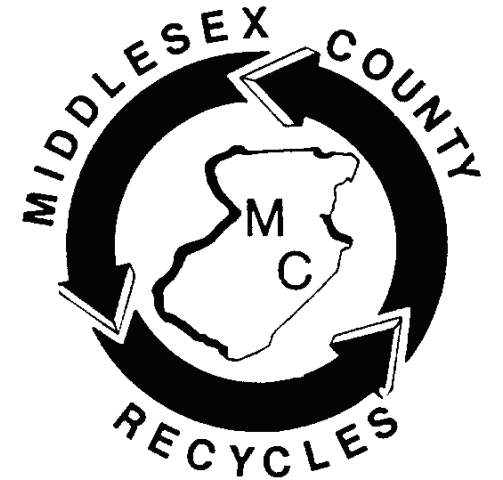
732-745-4170 (phone) 732-745-3010 (fax)
solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us

<http://co.middlesex.nj.us/planningboard/solidwaste.asp>
Middlesex County Environmental Health Division
732-745-8492

Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders
David B. Crabiel, Director
Stephen J. Dalina John Pulomena
Camille Fernicola Christopher D. Rafano
H. James Polos Blanquita B. Valenti

Recycling

A Guide for Middlesex County Businesses



25 TOWNS RECYCLING TODAY TO
PRESERVE TOMORROW