



Striving Towards Zero Waste NJ Through Reducing Consumption

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AGENDA

- Food Waste
- Recycling
- Plastics
- Making Connections



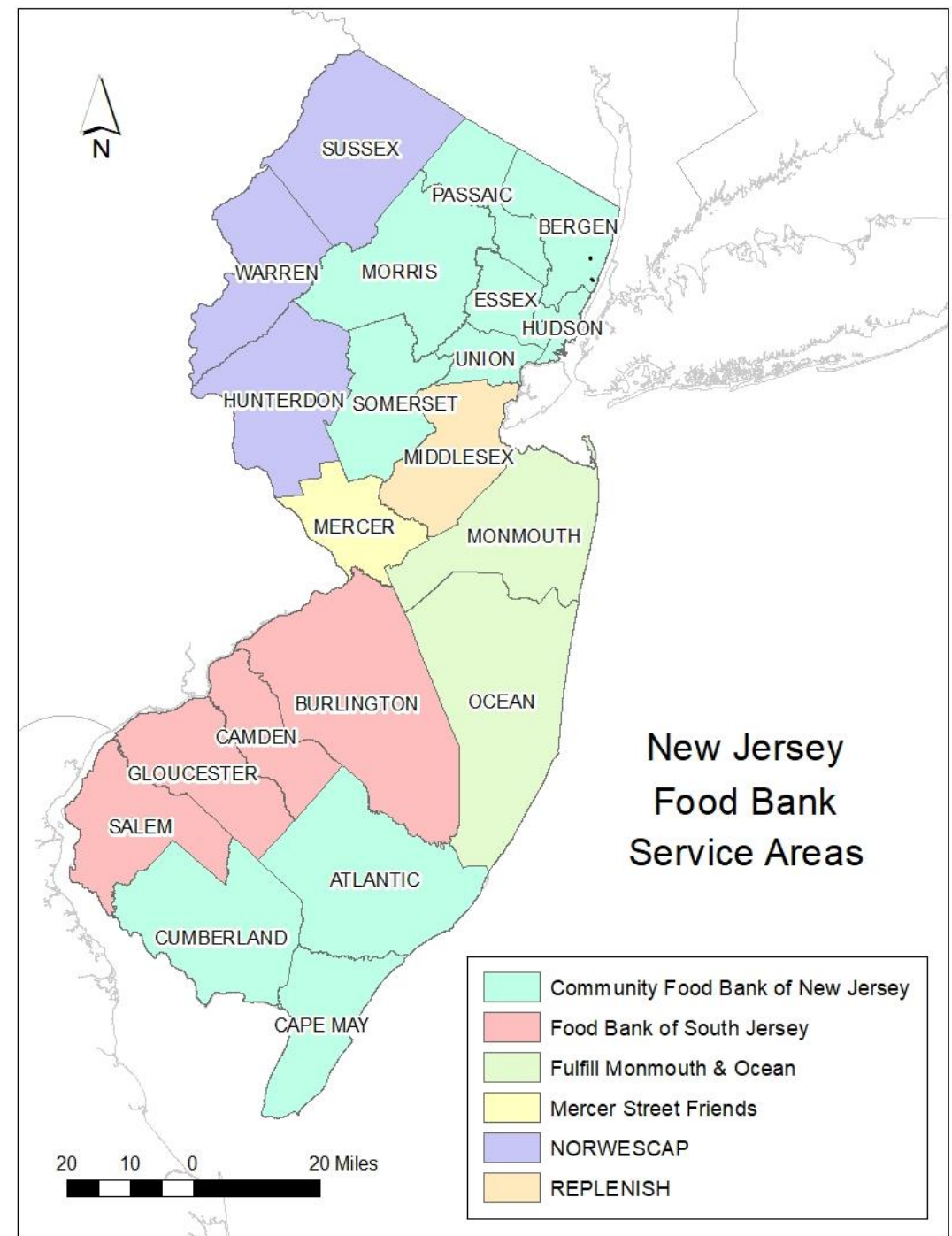
FOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The NRDC estimates that 40% of all food grown in the USA is wasted;
- New Jersey is the 2nd most affluent State in the US which is the most affluent industrialized nation on earth;
- Four New Jersey Counties are in the “Top 20” most affluent in the United States:
 - #10 Morris
 - #11 Hunterdon
 - #15 Somerset
 - #20 Bergen
- Despite our relative affluence, 11% of New Jersey’s population and 15% of kids 18 years of age and younger are food insecure;
- Wasted food is landfilled. Landfills are the 3rd largest source of human-related methane emissions in the US - some 15.1% of these emissions;
- Our goals are to dramatically advance food recovery systems while driving food waste away from landfills and to small and large-scale composting facilities.



NEW JERSEY FOOD ASSET RECOVERY SYSTEM

- National Oversight Organization – “Feeding America”
- Recognized “Food Banks” in New Jersey:
 - Community Food Bank of New Jersey
 - Food Bank of South Jersey
 - Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean
 - Mercer Street Friends
 - NORWESCAP
 - REPLENISH
- 1,400 Food Pantries Statewide (rough estimate)
- 150 Soup Kitchens Statewide (rough estimate)



BASELINE WORK UNDERWAY

- \$172,000 Stockton/Rutgers REA Grant: ***“Food Asset Recovery Statewide GIS Mapping Project”***
- \$335,261 Rutgers REA Grant: ***“New Jersey Leaves No Bite Behind”*** Food waste/climate change curriculum
- \$18,000 NJ State Policy Lab Grant : ***“Comparative analysis of State Food Recovery/Reduction Policies”***
- \$25,000 Center For EcoTechnology: US EPA ***“Municipal, Business, Institution Education Grant”***
- \$235,000 REA Grant to Sustainable Jersey: ***In-vessel compost units*** in George Catrambone in Long Branch, Delran and Newton Elementary Schools and Sustainable ***Food Management Tool Kit*** Development
- \$225,000 Taub Foundation Grant to Rutgers for ***Regulatory Reform and Composting Education***
- ***Bergen White Paper:*** County Template for Food System Assessments & Outreach Coordination
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension: 1-Hour ***Health Inspector Training Module***

FOOD ASSET MAPPING INVENTORY CATEGORIES

Excess Food & Food Waste Generators	Excess Food Distributors	Food Waste Processing Facilities
Food & Beverage Manufacturers	Food Banks	Compost Pick-Up Businesses
Wholesalers & Distributors	Food Pantries	Aerobic & Anaerobic Digestion Facilities
Grocery Stores	Soup Kitchens	Co-digestion Facilities
Restaurants & Food Service	Faith-based Organizations	Food Waste Recycling Facilities
Hotels & Motels	Non-profit Organizations	Composting Facilities
Casinos	Food Rescue Organizations	
Event Venues	Food Delivery Organizations	
Major Private Employers		
K-12 Schools		
Post-Secondary Schools		
Healthcare Facilities		
Correctional Facilities		
Farms & Fisheries		
Farmers Markets		

Who Generates the Food?

- **Composition Estimate From NRDC:**
 - 43% Residential
 - 26% Restaurants
 - 14% Retail Supermarkets
 - 9% Institutions (Hospitals, Prisons, Schools)
 - 8% Food Manufacturers & Processors



<i>FWG Sector</i>	<i>Inventory Total</i>
Food and Beverage Manufacturers	1,872
Wholesalers and Distributors	977
Supermarkets and Supercenters	6,047 (Supermarkets) 67 (Supercenters)
Hospitality	1,596 (Hotels) 110 (Casinos)
Restaurants and Food Service	18,321 (Full Service) 2,449 (Limited Service)
Colleges and Universities	165
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,558 (Public Schools) 716 (Private Schools)
Correctional Facilities	13
Healthcare Facilities	110 (Hospitals) 858 (Long-term Care Facilities)
Major Private Employers (>500 employees)	743
Event Venues	1,005
Farms	688
Farmers Markets	131
Food Banks	9

COUNTY FOOD REDUCTION PLANNING

- **A1439** Passed the Assembly (floor vote) on 2/27/23
- **S2730** Passed Senate Environment in June 2022
- *Requires each solid waste management district to **develop and implement** a strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste within 2 years. (**Full County Plan Amendment Needed.**)*
- This is a follow-up to the NJ Food Waste Reduction Act of 2017 (S3027);
- DEP has yet to publish its final Food Waste Reduction Plan
- County involvement in food reduction planning is coming!
- Ongoing baseline work being done to help!



MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING

1. Identify Champion in Twp Council
2. How does town want to reduce waste? (diversion and composting)
3. Conduct survey with educational material to residents (Why the need to compost? What are you willing to do? How much are you willing to pay?)
4. Township budget (Staff time, Compost Bins, RFP for Haulers)
5. Drop Off Locations (Convenience Center Exemption, 2 Industrial facilities, Agriculture/Farm)
6. Pilot program



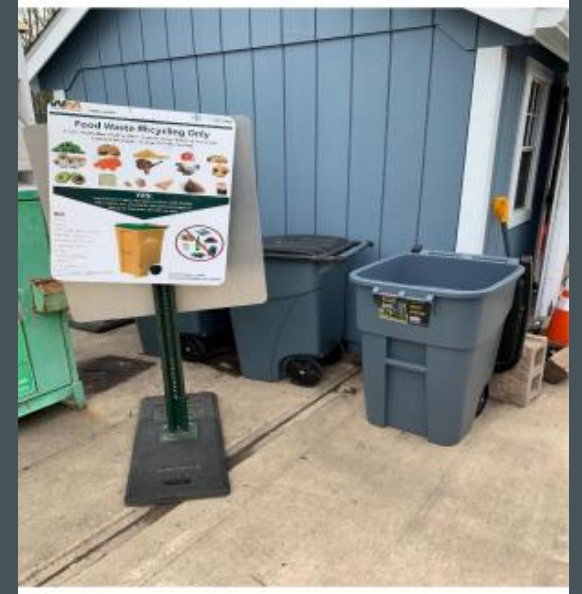
CONVENIENCE CENTER EXEMPTION

Westfield, Union County

- DPW convenience center yard drop off
- No DEP Permit Required
- Use MicroHauler (Green Bucket) to take it to CORE Facility

Examples of Haulers (ANJEC doesn't endorse)

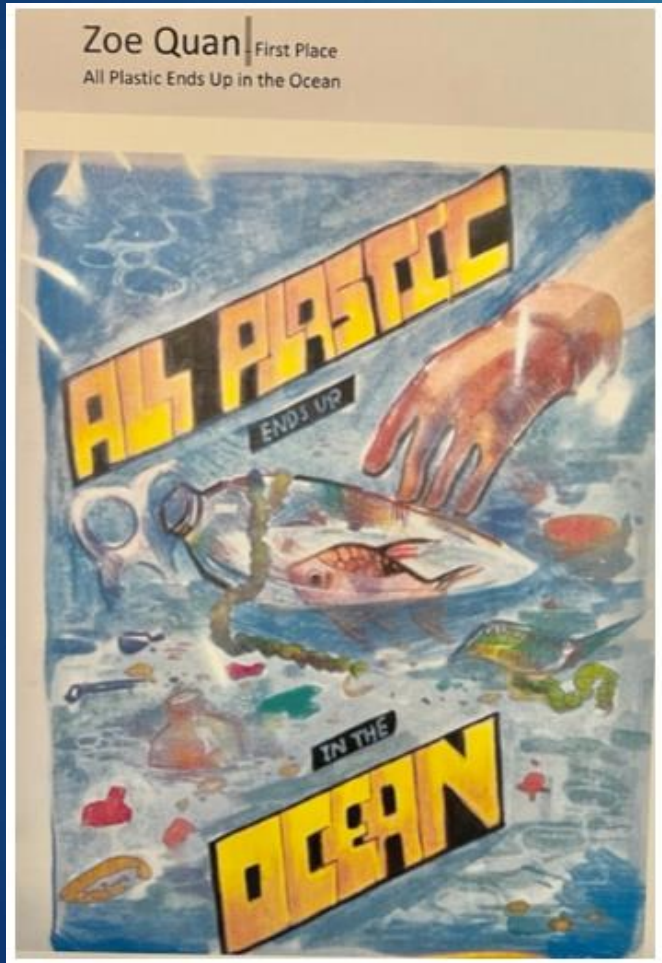
- Green Bucket Compost
- Java Compost
- Community Compost Company
- Un-Waste





East Brunswick Poster Contest

Hammar skjold Upper Elementary School



The Six "Rs"

1. Refuse products that are destined for the trash after one use.
2. Reduce items that have excess packaging or unneeded products.
3. Repair items in your home instead of discarding them
4. Reuse products to reduce waste and save money
5. Recycle if items can't be refused, reduced, or reused.
6. Rot return nutrients to the soil by composting.

RECYCLING MATTERS!

RECYCLED CONTENT LEGISLATION

Rigid Plastic Packaging:

- By 2024 10% post consumer content required;
- 50% by 2036

Plastic Beverage Containers:

- 15% recycled content by 2024;
- 3% increase in content every 3-years thereafter;
- 50% by 2044

Glass Containers:

- 35% recycled content by 2024;

Carryout Bag Provisions:

- 40% post-consumer content by 2024 for paper bags
- Plastic film bags 20% content by 2024 and 40% by 2027
- 20% content for plastic garbage bags by 2024 and 40% by 2027 (1 Mil)

Polystyrene Packaging Peanuts:

- Banned by January of 2024



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ACTION UPDATE

- **Waste Task Force Reactivated in 2023**
- **New Action Development/Update Subcommittee Structure Adopted:**
 - Litter Abatement
 - Waste Reduction
 - Food Waste
 - Actions Update (16 existing actions)
- **New Actions on the Way in the Schools Program – All Food Related**
 - **New Proposed Action:** *Education & Behavior Change Campaigns*
 - **New Proposed Action:** *Food Service Best Practices to Reduce Food Waste*
 - **New Proposed Action:** *Food Recovery / Share Tables & Donation*
 - **Update:** *Food Waste Management/Composting action*
 - **Update:** *Waste Audit action*
- **Single-Use Plastics Action:**
 - Balloon Ban;
 - Zero Waste Events;
 - Disposal Free Dining

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

- Report on K – 12 Climate Change Education Needs in New Jersey:
<https://www.njsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/climate-change-ed-online-2-2.pdf>
- NJDEP Division of Sustainable Waste Management Food Reduction Website:
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste/>
- State of New Jersey School Food Waste Guidelines:
https://dspace.njstatelib.org/bitstream/handle/10929/100930/the_state_of_new_jersey_school_food_waste_guidelines_higher_ed_2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension – “New Jersey Leaves No Bite Behind”
<https://foodwastelessons.rutgers.edu/>
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension – “People, Plants and the Planet”
<https://sites.rutgers.edu/ppp/>



Plastic Pollution Reduction Act: 1 Year Review

- reduction of **8 BILLION** single use plastic bags in one year
- reduction of **110 MILLION** single use paper bags in one year

Cleanup Stats- Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps*

- 37% fewer plastic bags
- 39% fewer plastic straws
- 37% less polystyrene foam waste

***First time since **2007**, plastic bags were **NOT** included in Clean Action Ocean's 2022 Beach Sweep Dirty Dozen list



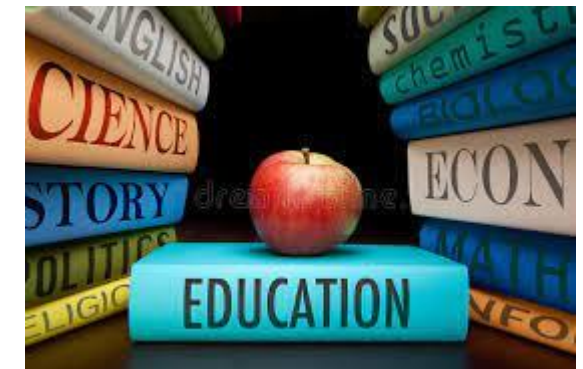
Learning Lessons



NEW JERSEY: SINGLE-USE BANS			
Support ban on...	2023	2022	2019
Single-use plastic bags	56%	61%	65%
Foam food containers	56%	64%	n/a
Plastic straws	50%	52%	52%
Supermarket paper bags	44%	47%	n/a



Monmouth University Poll
New Jersey, Aug. 10-14, 2023



**The WHY Plastic
is a Problem?**



The Plastics Advisory Council

- 16 members (with guidance from NJDEP)
- Goals: Submit written reports to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the law, make recommendations to reduce the use of plastics, the amount of plastic entering the environment and increase the rate of plastics recycling

<https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/plastics-advisory-council/>

PAC RECOMMENDATIONS 1st Year Report

- Focus on enforcement
- Need robust metrics
- Reduce microplastics being released into environment
- Study the pros and cons of developing a New Jersey Bottle Bill
- Improve municipal recycling programs
- Foster a reuse & refill green business economy
- Expand waste reduction and recycling in schools
- Figure out a way to address the issue of grocery deliveries and the buildup of excess reusable bags
- Enact extended producer responsibility and hold manufacturers responsible and accountable for packaging waste



Need to Report a Violation?

- ▶ County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) agent for bags/Styrofoam:
<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/get-past-plastic/docs/ceha-agency-directory.pdf>
- ▶ The Department of Health enforces the plastic straw provision of the law.
<https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/retailfood/singleuseplasticstraws.shtml>



What's Next? More Progress....



- Extended Producer Responsibility with Incineration Ban
- Evaluate Bottle Bill (goal – improve recycling)
- Skip the Stuff
- Truth in Labeling
- Microplastics – washing machine filters, waste water treatment plants
- Balloon Releases
- Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (HR 5845)



PRODUCT PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP (EPR)

- Where **producers take responsibility** for management of the disposal of products they produce once those products are no longer useful by consumers.
- Extended producer responsibility **shifts the economic burden** of the cost of disposal from the government to the producer of the product.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Brands reduce packaging. Remaining packaging is free of toxics and is recyclable/contains recycled content.

Retailers and brands implement reuse + refill systems.

Brands invest in infrastructure to improve recycling and reuse.

Consumers return or recycle product packaging.

Brands pay for costs of recycling and disposing of product packaging.



BEYOND PLASTICS

Municipal Resolution of Support Packaging Reduction Act S426/A1444

RESOLUTION #XX-XX

TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX, COUNTY OF XX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO SUPPORT PACKAGING REDUCTION ACT

Support for the New Jersey State Legislature to Pass a Strong Packaging Product Stewardship Act
(S426/A1444)

WHEREAS, packaging constitutes one-third of the municipal waste stream in New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New Jersey taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable, and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution throughout its entire lifecycle - from extraction of the fossil fuels used to make it, to its manufacture, its petrochemical additives, its use, and its disposal, and

WHEREAS, those who produce these materials should help bear the costs of managing them, and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Product Stewardship Act, as drafted in the NJ Senate and Assembly
(S426/A1444) would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create green sector jobs, reduce toxicity in
products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lowers greenhouse
gas emissions, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that [\[INSERT JURISDICTION\]](#) urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass to sign into law a
strong and effective Packaging Product Stewardship Act,

RESOLVED, further, [That \[INSERT JURISDICTION\]](#) shall forward copies of this resolution to:

1. Senator Bob Smith [Senbsmith@njleg.org]
2. Assembly Rep James Kennedy [Asmkennedy@njleg.org]
3. Association of NJ Environmental Commissions [Info@aniec.org]





Litter Survey & Data Form

DEAR CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to a litter free NJ. In addition to your cleanup efforts, NJCCC appreciates your time and attention in helping to quantify today's litter data. Numbers are the only valid form of data, so please **DO NOT** use words or check marks in the boxes next to each trash item.

DATE: _____ NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

CLEANUP SUMMARY

Cleanup Site Location: _____

Total # of Volunteers at this site: _____ Total Hours of Cleanup: _____

Total # of Trash Bags Filled: _____ Total Weight of Trash Collected: _____ lbs. or _____ cubic yards

Estimated Distance Cleaned: ☐ 1/4 ☐ 1/2 ☐ 3/4 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Other: _____ miles

TRASH COLLECTED: Please only enter NUMBERS in the field next to each trash item

TOTAL #



MOST LITTERED ITEMS:

TOTAL #



____ Balloons
____ Plastic Bags
____ Straws/Stirrers
____ Cigarette Butts
____ E-Cigarettes
____ Bottles
____ Cans
____ Nips/Mini Alcohol Bottles
____ Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)

____ Bottle Caps (Plastic/Metal)
____ Lids (Plastic)
____ Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)
____ Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)
____ Cups & Plates (Plastic/Foam)
____ Forks, Knives, Spoons
____ Fishing Gear (line, nets, traps)
____ Tires

ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN:

A MESSAGE FROM THE UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WE WANT YOUR BAGS!

New Jersey's bag ban has been an **enormous success**, reducing billions of single-use bags yearly from New Jersey's waste stream, preserving wildlife and waterways, and improving our community aesthetic.

If you have extra cloth reusable bags, donate them here! This program collects these bags, gets them cleaned, and supplies them to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey for reuse in food distribution.

(Note: our program does not accept plastic bags.)

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!



A PSA from your partners in
keeping our environment clean:



A SERVICE OF THE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS





DID YOU KNOW?

- We produce 380 million tons of plastic each year worldwide, half of which are for single-use items. That's nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.
- Plastic usage has increased 84% between 2002 and 2020. By the year 2050, it is estimated that production will increase by another 150%.
- Approximately 40% of plastic produced is for single-use.
- By weight there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050.
- Every minute one garbage truck of plastic waste enters the oceans.
- About 90% of single-use plastics are NEVER recycled, they go into landfills, incinerators or dumped. The United States is the largest generator of plastic waste in the world.

RESOURCES

- NJNoPlastics.org
- Get Past Plastic: <https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/>
- BeyondPlastics.org
- Break Free from Plastic Act: <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/>
- Prevent Balloon Litter.org
- Rethink Disposable.org

NJ LAWS

- In the 1st year of the Plastic Pollution Reduction law - 8 Billion plastic Bags & 110 Million paper bags eliminated from waste stream: <https://bnyurl.com/3uzp73rr>
- Recycled Content Law: <https://bnyurl.com/mrynpv4a>

info@anjec.org
<https://anjec.org>
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[@anjecviews](#)
[@anjecposts](#)

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Plastic is connected to health, climate change and wildlife. Single-use plastics take an enormous amount of water, energy, and chemicals to produce and dispose, yet are only used for mere minutes and can persist in our environment for more than a millennium.

BEYOND PLASTICS



Laws & Bills

- Food Waste Recycling and Food Waste-to-Energy Production Law (P.L. 2020 c. 24)
 - This law requires the separation by source and recycling of food waste for those that generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more annually, are within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility, and fall within the dictated categories.
- Bill S418 Sca (1R)
 - This bill sets standards for date labeling on food products and orders the Commissioner of Health to institute a public education program and communicate food safety guidelines.
- Bill S3153 Sca (1R)
 - This bill allows schools to obtain and compost other schools' food waste, under specified conditions.

Resources:

- Sustainable Management of Food Basics: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/sustainable-management-food-basics>
- Food Waste "The Big Picture": <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/sustainability/food-waste/>
- How to Compost: A Guide to Composting at Home: <https://www.almanac.com/how-compost-guide-composting-home>
- How to recycle food waste in New Jersey - A guide: <https://www.rts.com/blog/how-to-recycle-food-waste-in-new-jersey-a-guide/>
- ANJEC Report - Summer 2023: <https://anjec.org/web-content/June2023/05/ANJEC-Report-web-6-x-9-Summer-2023-1.pdf#page=14>

Check out our Food Waste Webinar by scanning the QR Code!

Questions? Contact us at info@anjec.org

Food Waste

Current and Future Outlook





Thank You!

Questions? nchecko@anjec.org
GSondermeyer@bayshorerecycling.com



<https://njnoplastics.org/resources>
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic>
<https://litterfreenj.com>