



Hour of Action: Lame Duck Policy Update



April 8 2026



www.anjec.org

ANJEC's Mission

Our Mission

To promote local action to protect and restore New Jersey's natural resources and ensure equitable, healthy communities.


ANJEC advances its mission by engaging in diverse and inclusive practices through leadership, partnerships, education, advocacy for strong public policy and support of environmental commissions, public officials and communities throughout New Jersey.



Agenda



Matthew Wasserman, NJ
Composting Council



Dini Checko, ANJEC, Skip the
Stuff



Jennifer Coffey, ANJEC,
NJ PACT





SKIP THE STUFF LAW!

“Accessories Upon
Request”

N.Dini Checko, April 8th





Skip the Stuff Law “Accessories Upon Request “ S3195/A5157



*Each year, more than **40 billion** throwaway plastic utensils are handed out in the U.S.*

WIN Business – Save inventory & labor costs

WIN Customer – Save trash costs & clutter

WIN Municipality – Reduce litter & save trash costs



Municipal Engagement Key



60+ towns passed ordinances or resolutions
(2023-2025)

Grassroots lobbying in Trenton Senate &
Assembly Committees; signed into law by
Governor Murphy on January 20, 2026

Red Bank case study demonstrated
significant financial/waste savings



Skip the Stuff - Opt-in for Delivery/Takeout

Makes the following single-use accessories opt-in vs. automatically provided for delivery & takeout ONLY

- **Utensils - forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks**
- **Napkins**
- **Condiments - sauces, sweeteners, seasonings, spices**
- **Applies to meal orders placed in person, over the phone or online**





Skip the Stuff - Dine In

Reusable utensils required for full service restaurants with seating capacity for 10 or more with wait staff





Additional Law Info



- Effective August 1, 2026
- 180 day education campaign
- Law preempts existing ordinances
- Noncompliance - Warning, \$100 fine, \$250
- Enforcement County Environmental Health Officers/
Local health officers and the board of health can
provide support
- Food courts have a 2 year exemption
- Law only applicable to food service businesses

EDUCATION

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NJ Clean Communities funds can be used for signage (e.g, tip card)

Advocates Drafted Educational Materials



https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/106d8sW6IRe9fzr75iav_39C1CmU0Ydo6

 **LITTER FREE NJ**

- Key Provisions
- Store signage
- Employee instructions
- Tip Cards

WE KINDLY ASK THAT
**YOU REQUEST ONLY THE
ACCESSORIES
THAT YOU NEED.**



Westfield Green Team



Beyond Plastics NJ

Ask me how to Skip The Stuff

Thank you!



Skip the Stuff!

Need single-use utensils and condiments?

Just ask!



What's New?

To reduce waste and save costs, restaurants no longer give single-use utensils or condiments automatically for take-out orders, but they're *still available upon request!*

The Solution

Don't need it? *Skip it.*
Need it? *Just ask!*

New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law – Effective 9/1/2026

NEED STUFF?

Single-use items will only be provided upon request for take-out orders.



JUST ASK!

Please only ask for the number of items you need!



THANK YOU!

For complying with New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can your customers receive single-use condiments and utensils under New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law?

For Take-Out Orders:

- Single-use items provided upon request.
- In person: Business may ask the customer if utensils are needed, or the customer can ask for them.
 - You can also offer utensil dispensers (one item at a time)
- Online: orders must ask the customer if they want single-use utensils and condiments
 - The default assumption must be "no" unless requested.

For Dine-In:

- Full-service restaurants (10+ seats with wait staff):
 - Business must provide reusable utensils
- Casual dining restaurants
 - Single-use utensils and condiments may be provided upon request

What are single-use utensils and condiments?

- Items designed to be discarded after one use
- Utensils: Forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks
- Condiments: Sauces, seasonings, sweeteners, spices

For more information, please visit... ?

Educational Materials Available



SIMPLE SWAPS: SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR RESTAURANTS!

YES, YOU CAN ACCEPT REUSABLE ITEMS!

Why It Matters:
Single-use plastics contribute to pollution, harm wildlife, and can leach harmful chemicals into food and drinks. By welcoming reusable items, your restaurant saves money, reduces waste, protects the environment, and supports customers making sustainable choices.

Did You Know?
In New Jersey, restaurants are allowed to accept clean, reusable containers, cups, and utensils from customers. Participating in sustainable practices can attract eco-conscious customers and reduce your waste disposal costs.



**ALLOW REUSABLE
COFFEE MUGS**

- Customers can bring their own clean coffee mugs for refills.
- Encourage customers to label their mug size.

**SAVE ~\$13,000+
ANNUALLY**



**ACCEPT REUSABLE
CONTAINERS FOR
LEFTOVERS**

- Customers can provide clean containers for staff to pack leftovers at the table.
- Customers can request their takeout orders be packed in their own clean containers outside the kitchen.

**SAVE ~\$4,000+
ANNUALLY**



**ENCOURAGE
REUSABLE UTENSILS
& DRINKWARE**

- Let customers know they can bring their own straws, cups, and cutlery.
- Offer an option to skip single-use utensils in takeout and delivery orders.

**SAVE ~\$2,500+
ANNUALLY**







LITTER FREE NJ

Skip The STUFF - Take
Out





STOP TRASH BEFORE IT STARTS




SKIP THE STUFF CASE STUDY:
Borough of Red Bank

Restaurants providing single-use cutlery and condiments upon request only

Skip the Stuff - Amplify Message

- Sample articles / Op-Eds
- YouTube Videos
- Conference Presentations
- Tabling Events Earth Day/
Plastics Free July
- Social Media





Skip the Stuff - Amplify Message

- Educate your eating establishments/
Chamber of Commerce/ Downtown Business
Districts
- Promote in town newsletters/town website/
Mayor's letters/local press
- Social Media



Are the laws Working?

- Data is extremely valuable to help assess if law is working and what else needs to be addressed
- 2025 Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweep Data
 - It's Spring Cleanup time – are you using a litter data collection sheet?
 - Ecs & NJCC Coordinators 😊

Table 1. COA Beach Sweeps Data 2021 - 2025; “Get Past Plastic Law” Percentage of Total Items Collected

“Get Past Plastic Law” Debris Item	Law Enacted 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Foam Fast Food Containers	0.21%	0.17%	0.21%	0.19%	0.28%
Foam Cups	0.58%	0.50%	0.64%	0.62%	0.66%
Foam Trays	0.05%	0.04%	0.11%	0.04%	0.07%
Plastic Single Use Food/Shopping Bags	1.81%	1.55%	1.31%	1.01%	1.25%
Plastic Straws /Stirrers	6.78%	5.60%	5.59%	5.42%	5.57%

Decreases in **BLUE**, Increases in **ORANGE** (since enactment)



Skip the Stuff - How Can I help?

- Refuse single-use items at your local restaurants and tell friends to the same
- Educate restaurant owners, friends and family members why SUPs are problematic
- Bring your reusables (for leftovers)

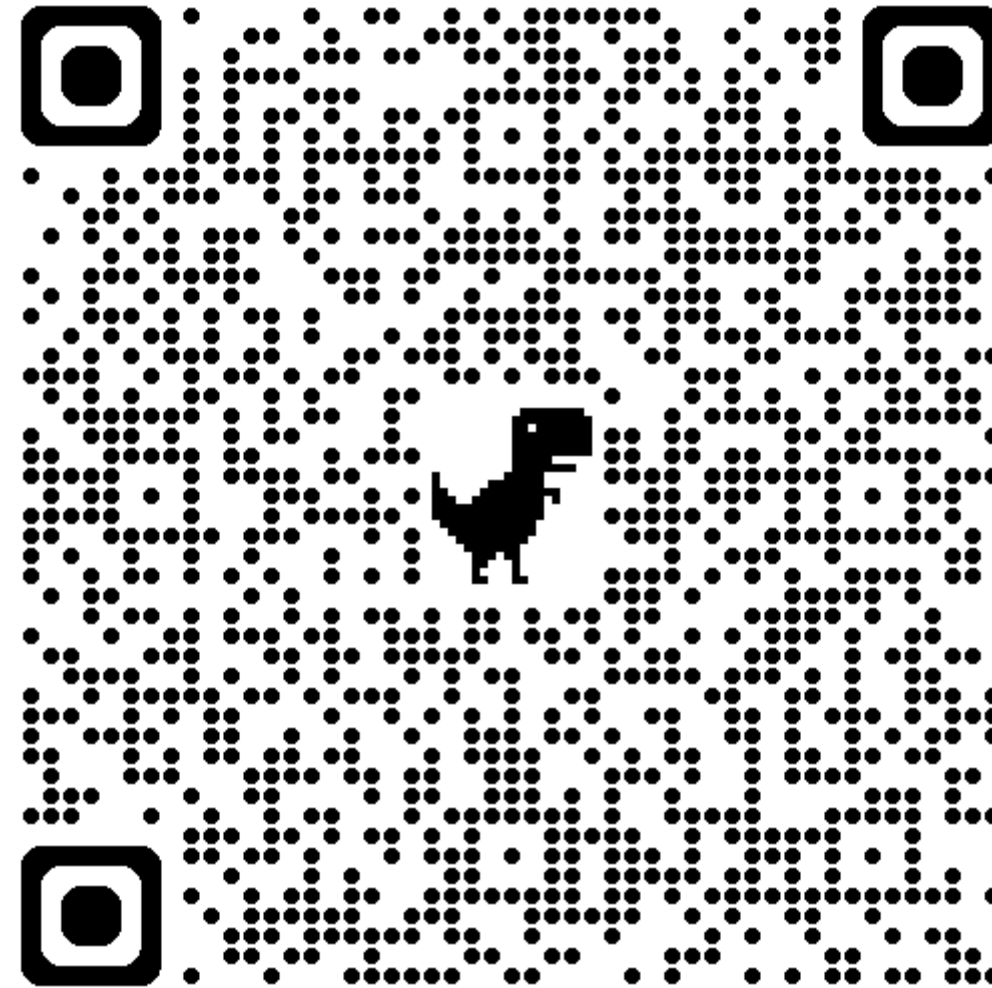


NJPACT (REAL) RULES



- ✓ **Addresses flooding caused by development that pre-dates stormwater management requirements by embracing stormwater management through redevelopment projects**
- ✓ **Requires NEW development design for the 83% percent that NJ will experience sea level rise up to 4.4 feet**
- ✓ **Provides protections for wetlands that serve as filters for water pollution, absorb flood waters; and provide habitat**





<https://shorturl.at/TVTPm>



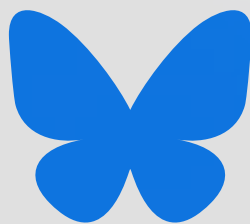
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