

MONMOUTH COUNTY SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

What Should You Know and Do?

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The Recycling Act of New Jersey

- ▣ Do you know what type of recycling collection your town does?
- ▣ 1. Single Stream
- ▣ 2. Dual Stream

The passage of New Jersey's mandatory recycling legislation in April, 1987 was a major milestone in our state's solid waste management history and helped establish New Jersey as a leader in this field. The "New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act" (Recycling Act), N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.11 et seq., set forth an ambitious program that reshaped at least one aspect of the everyday lives of state residents, businesses and institutions. Among other things, the Recycling Act required New Jersey's twenty-one counties to develop recycling plans that mandated the recycling of at least three designated recyclable materials, in addition to leaves. County recycling plans were also required to designate the strategy to be utilized for the collection, marketing and disposition of designated recyclable materials. Other provisions of the Recycling Act required municipalities to adopt an ordinance based upon their county's recycling plan

Dual Stream Recycling (DS)

- ▣ This means that residents keep paper in one container and other recyclables – such as plastic and metal – in another



History of Single Stream Recycling

- ▣ In the early 2000s, recycling changed with the arrival of single-stream recycling.
- ▣ Through this process, residents and businesses could put all of their recyclables into a single bin or cart, and those items would then be separated at a sorting facility.
- ▣ Over a short period of time, thanks to the convenience of single-stream, more people began to participate and recycling rates soared to their highest levels.
- ▣ Households were recycling more, and as a result, we were processing millions of tons for the betterment of the environment.

History of Single Stream Recycling

- ▣ At the same time, products and packaging were becoming more complex. For example, the size of a plastic bottle today as compared to 15 years ago.



History of Single Stream Recycling

- ▣ Plastic bottles today are a lot thinner and lighter than they used to be. We've also seen that a wider variety of plastics are being used to package the everyday items we purchase.



History of Single Stream Recycling

- ▣ Thus, this complexity has in many ways altered our understanding of what is recyclable. More and more non-recyclables are finding their way into single-stream containers.



Examples of Contaminated Recycling



Examples of Contaminated Recycling



Examples of Contaminated Recycling



Contaminated Recycling

- ▣ Contamination rates – or the percentage of trash mixed with recyclables has steadily climbed over the years.



Examples of Items Not to Recycle

- ❑ Plastic Bags
- ❑ Kitchen Trash Bags
- ❑ Food Storage or Take-Out Containers
- ❑ Straws, Caps, or Lids
- ❑ Plastic Wrap or Food Wrappers
- ❑ Margarine Tubs
- ❑ Yogurt Containers
- ❑ Diaper Wipe Containers
- ❑ Styrofoam
- ❑ Shredded Paper
- ❑ Light Bulbs
- ❑ 5-Gallon Rigid Plastic Buckets
- ❑ Garden Hoses

Example of Items Not to Recycle



Problems with Recycling

- ▣ Contamination significantly increases the cost to process recyclables. Add this to the fact that commodity prices for recyclables has fallen significantly and the financial sustainability of recycling is at risk.



Problems With Recycling

- ▣ Recycling contamination has a direct impact in the quality of recyclables entering the commodity markets. For example, when food or liquids are placed in a recycling container they will ultimately saturate tons and tons of otherwise good paper and cardboard that they come into contact with. When paper and cardboard loses its quality, it also loses its ability to be recycled and thus it becomes trash.

Problems With Recycling

- ▣ In response to these quality issues, China – a major importer of recyclables – recently issued new rules on the types of materials it will accept, including a 0.5% max on recycling contamination. That means that the 25% contamination rate we see today at the curb must reach virtually zero for those items to be recycled. Anything above that 0.5% will not be accepted recycling commodities.



Problems With Recyclables

- ▣ Manufactures report problems created by poor quality materials being shipped to end markets.



Problems With Recyclables

- ▣ Residents that place inappropriate and contaminating materials in their recycling cans are difficult to sort out at the MRF



- ▣ Residual recyclable materials from any system end up being landfilled in most cases

End-Market Questions & Answers?

- ▣ End Markets are currently seeing more contamination.
 - Optical Sorting a Potential Solution
- ▣ Both single and dual stream recycling are showing some levels of contamination.
- ▣ What Are Ways Towns Can Eliminate The Problem?
 1. Enforcement
 2. Education

Solutions

- ▣ Communities and businesses are responsible to recycling the right items, the right way.
- ▣ Basically, it's time to get back to the basics and to apply the same discipline we did years ago to the modern recycling programs of today. This can be done by following a few simple rules:
 - ▣ 1. Recycling all empty bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard
 - ▣ 2. Keep food and liquids out of your recycling
 - ▣ 3. Keep plastic bags out of your recycling

Any Questions??

