Comprehensive Guide To Waste Reduction

PUT A LID ON GARBAGE!

DEVELOPED BY

The Bergen County Utilities Authority

What Is Source Reduction/Waste Reduction?

Each year, Bergen County residents generate approximately 1.3 million tons of solid waste. This amount is equivalent to over four pounds per person per day. Because of the high cost of garbage disposal, diminishing landfill space, and the depletion of natural resources, it is essential that we reduce the amount of garbage we produce.

Although the emphasis placed on recycling has produced significant results, additional emphasis must be placed on other areas of waste management, one being SOURCE REDUCTION/WASTE REDUCTION. In other words, we must continually strive to find ways to make less waste and practice waste reduction techniques.

Source Reduction/Waste Reduction is the act of reducing waste where it is created.

Every municipality in Bergen County has a Municipal Recycling Coordinator. It is his/her job to provide information and answer questions about recycling and waste reduction that are specific to each municipality. If you wish to locate the telephone number of your town's Municipal Recycling Coordinator, you may refer to *Recycling Information* in the **Customer Guide** section of your telephone book.

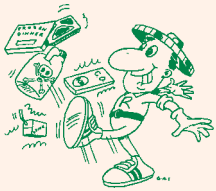
The information contained in this brochure is not meant to be an endorsement by the Bergen County Utilities Authority. The markets/products listed are only samplings of those available to Bergen County consumers.

The 5 R's . . .
These words all begin with the letter "R" and offer suggestions on how to make less waste.

REDUCE - the amount of waste we produce. An average of 35% of all household waste comes from product packaging. If we make conscientious, responsible choices in the supermarket (precycling), there will be less to throw away.

REUSE - as much as possible. Avoid disposable and one-time use products; purchase items that can be used over and over again; reuse grocery bags, plastic bags, coffee tins, margarine containers, etc. Have a garage or yard sale for gently used items and "attic treasures." Non-profit organizations are usually glad to receive donations of clothing and household items which are in good condition.

RECYCLE - the recyclables! Recycling is the law in New Jersey. It is important to know what materials are recycled in YOUR community. Contact your local Municipal Recycling Coordinator for information and a schedule for "pick-ups" and drop off center hours.



REJECT - products with packaging that is excessive or not recyclable. Refuse to purchase products that are harmful to the environment. Purchases act as VOTES for products. If we continue to buy products that are overpackaged or harmful, manufacturers will never get the message.

REACT - Reacting gives more impact to the other 4 R's. Talk to store managers, manufacturers, and legislators. Write letters. Call the toll free "800" numbers that are listed on some products and ask manufacturers to substantiate their claims about their product's sensitivity to the environment. Let everyone know you are concerned about the way products are packaged. Marketing experts believe that for every person who contacts them, they are actually hearing from ten; the one who took the time to write or call and nine others who feel the same, but didn't take the time to express it.

Precycle!

Precycling is the art of making waste less wasteful. It is the step BEFORE recycling -- the one in which we make a conscious choice to purchase or use products which will have a less harmful effect on the environment. You can reduce your household garbage by 20% just by learning to precycle.

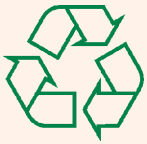
Select the products you buy carefully. Consider the environmental impact of each item you purchase. Can it be repaired, reused, or recycled? Become an "environmental shopper."

Bring your own cloth or mesh shopping bags to the market. Reuse paper or plastic bags on your return visits.

Look for products with the least amount of packaging. If the packaging isn't necessary for sanitary protection, or is only used to be eye-catching, buy the product with the least packaging. It will probably cost less, too!

Avoid whenever possible, disposable, environmentally harmful, and one-time use products.

Buy items with recyclable packaging. Paper bags, aluminum, cardboard boxes, tin cans, glass bottles, and some plastics are recyclable. Choose them when you shop.



Capable of being recycled

Made from recycled materials

Buy large or economy size packages of items you use regularly such as peanut butter, breakfast cereal, laundry soap, baking items, and shampoo. The larger sizes use less packaging and should cost less to purchase per unit.

Become An Environmental Shopper

Lack of demand for recycled paper products is one of the biggest factors limiting the recycling of paper. Buy paper products such as facial tissues and paper napkins/towels that are made from recycled paper fibers.

Gray paperboard packaging and nearly half of the aluminum cans and glass jars you buy are made from recycled packaging.

Avoid impulse buying! Products bought on impulse are often unnecessary and contribute to household waste!

Shop for durability.
Long-wearing products are often better quality products, and they create less waste than disposables. Examples of long-wearing products are flatware, cloth diapers, long-life light bulbs, electric razors, and refillable lighters.

Know what is recycled in your town!
Some products are only sold packaged in plastic. When purchasing these, try to select those plastics which are recycled in your town.

For more information, call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825.

If *what* you purchase cannot be recycled in YOUR town ... ... it becomes GARBAGE!

Identifying Plastics

#1-PET - Polyethylene Terepthalate

Soft drink bottles, salad dressing, peanut butter, popcorn containers

Characteristics: Stiff & transparent. Bottles cannot be manufactured with handles.

After Recycling: Carpet, twine, rope, belts, webbing, scouring pads, fenceposts, sails, fiberfill for pillows, cushions, insulated outerwear

#2-HDPE - High Density Polyethylene

Milk jugs, water bottles, detergent, bleach, and other cleaning agent bottles

Characteristics: Moderately flexible to stiff, translucent or opaque and colored

After Recycling: Waterproof plastic lumber, flowerpots, drainage pipes, trash cans, traffic barriers, cones and signs

#3-PVC - Polyvinyl Chloride

Cooking oil bottles, film covering on meat packages

Characteristics: Stiff, transparent with a slightly blue or grey tint

After Recycling: Drainage, sewer and irrigation pipes, handrails, pipe fittings, downspouts

#4-LDPE - Low Density Polyethylene

Some grocery store produce bags, bread bags, food storage wrap

Characteristics: Flexible, translucent to waxy in appearance, opaque coloring is possible

After Recycling: Traffic barriers, cones and signs, speed bumps, landscape timber, irrigation pipes, plastic garbage bags

#5-PP - Polypropylene

Yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, syrup bottles, margarine tubs

Characteristics: Stiff with a high melting point. Often used as inside layer for food packages

After Recycling: Manhole steps, video cassette casings, ice scrapers, paint buckets, lawn mower wheels, automobile battery parts

#6-PS - Polystyrene

Hot beverage cups, fast food clamshell containers, meat trays, egg cartons

Characteristics: White foam or hard and brittle; crystal clear with a shiny finish

After Recycling: Converted into pellets and used for plastic lumber, building insulation, packaging materials

#7- OTHER

Characteristics: Because of the mixed plastic content, it is usually “squeezeable"

After Recycling: Plastic lumber, traffic barriers, etc.

Disposables: Paper vs. Plastic
A look at the “throw-a-ways”

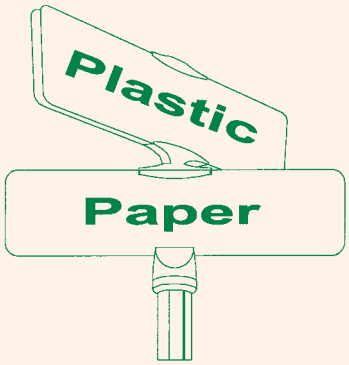
Are disposable items made from PAPER more "environmentally friendly" than those made of PLASTIC? The answer to this question is complicated by difficult and conflicting concerns over a number of environmental issues.

If we look at the total picture, neither paper nor plastic (including polystyrene) are "natural" products. Both are manufactured from natural resources, renewable and non-renewable (wood pulp and fossil fuels). Fossil fuels (non-renewable) take millions of years to form. Trees, on the other hand, are not an annual crop, like corn or cotton. Although trees do not take millions of years to grow, they certainly do take decades, and are vital to wildlife habitats, watershed protection, and human enjoyment. Therefore, the harvesting of timber has a continuous impact on a wide variety of ecosystems.

Approximately 44% of the fuel and energy used by the U.S. pulp, paper, and paperboard industries comes from fossil fuels.

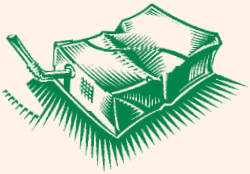
Both paper and plastic take up valuable landfill space, and as far as degradability is concerned, there is no advantage to paper over plastic in the oxygen-deprived environment of a landfill. Paper and plastic could both be considered prime candidates for incineration, but many concerns about the incineration of solid waste still exist, ranging from the impact on our air quality to the concentration of toxic substances remaining in the ash residue.

The answer to "the paper vs. plastic" question lies not in trying to determine which is better, but in changing our attitude about disposables in general. The conservation of our natural resources is compromised by single-use, disposable items, whether they are paper or plastic. The use of disposables undermines our efforts to reduce the amount of solid waste we are generating. Disposables are NOT "friendly" to waste reduction. We need to change the “it’s ok to throw away” attitude that has contributed to the creation of our solid waste disposal problems.



Paperboard Food Packaging And Drink Boxes

Polyboard and Aseptic Packaging (commonly known as the "drink box") are food and beverage containers made from polyethylene (plastic) coated, bleached, white paperboard. The polyboard paper packages most often contain frozen vegetables, ice cream, and bakery items. Aseptic containers have an extra aluminum foil layer. Aseptic is another word for sterile or germ-free. In an aseptic package, the beverage, the drink box and the filling chamber must be sterile. After processing and packaging, the beverage stays fresh and germ-free until the little straw is poked through the box. Polyboard and Aseptic container recycling requires a special "hydrapulping" process. During this process, the plastic and foil layers separate from the paper pulp and the recovered paper is recycled into consumer paper products, such as tissues, napkins, and paper towels. The residuals may be used as an energy source at the mill, or in recycled plastic lumber products. At the present time in our area, aseptic packages are not readily recycled.



Polystyrene

Polystyrene or Styrofoam® is recyclable. Storage (polystyrene can be bulky) and transportation to a recycling manufacturer are usually the major concerns of schools, companies, and communities wishing to recycle polystyrene. A new process, the Styro Solve System, reduces the volume of polystyrene waste by as much as 90%, using a citrus oil spray to dissolve foam products into a gel. At the recycling plant, the polystyrene is separated from the Styro Solve and reprocessed into bead form for remanufacturing. The Styro Solve is then reclaimed through distillation for reuse. For more information on this innovative polystyrene recycling technique, contact International Foam Solutions, Inc., P.O. Box 218, Delray Beach, Florida 33447-0218. Telephone: 800-856-3626 or 561-272-6900.

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Composting: Nature's Way Of Recycling

In nature, when things such as leaves, flowers, fruit, acorns, pinecones, etc., fall to the ground, they don't just disappear--they change into something useful. A natural decaying process (decomposition) of these materials occurs when bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and other organisms mix with air and moisture. After a few months, nature has created a new soil-like product or mulch called COMPOST.

On the average, 20% of the garbage made in our homes can be composted. While most of it is comprised of yard waste, some of it is also found in our kitchens, i.e. vegetable and fruit peelings, coffee grounds, eggshells. Building and maintaining a composting area in your yard is really quite easy. There is a variety of backyard composting kits available in the marketplace, but enterprising residents can usually come up with their own homemade, less expensive approaches. Your flowering plants, shrubs, and vegetable gardens will greatly benefit from your extra effort.

Grass clippings from our homes have been a designated recyclable material in Bergen County since 1994. Below are two positive, environmentally sound alternatives to "bagging your grass."

Grass clippings are a valuable resource because they are high in nutrient value. They usually contain approximately 4% nitrogen, 2% potassium, and 1/2% phosphorous. All of these nutrients should be returned to the lawn. Allowing grass clippings to remain on the lawn is the same as giving your lawn small amounts of fertilizer continuously. For the best possible results, during the rapid growing season, mow every 4 to 5 days instead of once-a-week. Grass clippings left on the lawn will NOT contribute to thatch.

ENRICH YOUR COMPOST PILE -- Grass clippings can also be incorporated into your backyard compost pile. They should be composted with another bulking material, such as leaves. Any compost pile which contains grass, should be aerated (turned) frequently in order to continually reoxygenate the material, thereby minimizing any of the unpleasant odors associated with matted grass. The addition of grass clippings to a compost pile contributes to a healthier end product with a higher nitrogen content.

AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING

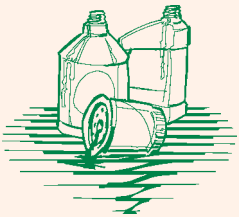
Over 2.3 million automobile and truck lead-acid batteries are expended in New Jersey each year. A typical lead acid battery contains the greatest concentration of lead (18 pounds) found in any consumer product.

Many municipal recycling "drop-off" depots will accept your old car batteries, tires, and antifreeze for recycling. Call your local Recycling Coordinator to see if your town accepts these materials. In addition, local retailers, auto service stations, auto supply stores, private scrap dealers, or battery recyclers may also provide a collection service for the proper recycling of these materials.

MOTOR OIL

It is estimated that at least 200 million gallons of used motor oil end up in the soil and water each year. Oil that is dumped on the ground or down storm drains (non-point source pollution) will eventually end up in local lakes, rivers, streams, and wells that provide drinking water.

Used oil can be recycled and used again. Many municipalities will accept used motor oil from residents for recycling. If your town does not accept used motor oil, participating gas stations with service bays may accept your used motor oil.

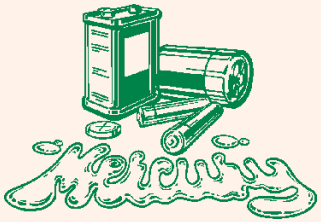


BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline
201-807-5825
BCUA Website: www.bcua.org

More Difficult To Recycle!

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Why are household batteries a problem?



It is important to remove all types of batteries from our waste stream because the metals which are contained in some batteries can be a major source of pollution when they are not disposed of properly. There are eight major metals commonly used in batteries:

cadmium	lithium	mercury	silver
lead	manganese	nickel	zinc

Alkaline and carbon zinc batteries, most commonly purchased for household use, account for 50% of all batteries sold. These cells on the average contain only 1% mercury by weight, but represent the largest potential mercury contamination because of their volume.

How can you help?

Use nickel-cadmium/rechargeable batteries which are available in AAA, AA, C, D, N, wafer, and button cells. Although they may cost about three times more, they will last up to 40 times longer.

Look for a nickel-cadmium recycling program at local stores where they are sold. Recycle lead-acid batteries at retailers, distributors and manufacturers when a new battery is purchased.

Contact your local Municipal Recycling Coordinator for information on battery recycling in **your** town.

Bergen County residents may also bring used batteries to the Bergen County Utilities Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Contact the BCUA's Environmental Programs Hotline or Website for scheduled days and times.

What Can I Do With Paint?

Buy only what you need. Take measurements with you to the store and ask the paint salesperson to help you decide how much you need for a particular project.

Apply a second coat or use leftovers for "touch-up" jobs.

Before disposal, offer unused paint to:

- neighbors
- friends
- relatives
- churches
- schools
- theater groups
- recreation centers
- community service organizations

Acceptable And Safe Paint Disposal

Oil based paints (also known as solvent based) are ignitable and require careful handling. If your community does not have a "paint recycling program," you may bring leftover paints and thinners to a scheduled Bergen County Utilities Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Latex paints (also known as water based) are **not** considered hazardous; **however** liquid paint of any kind should ***never*** be dumped into storm drains or sewers. If you have leftover latex paint, you can remove the lid from the can and allow the paint to air dry (away from children, pets, and rain). This works well for small quantities and will take several days. To speed up the process or for larger quantities, pour in an absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded newspaper. Stir and allow to dry. When thoroughly dry, the hardened paint may be removed from the can and discarded with your regular trash. Be sure to leave the cover off the empty paint can so your trash hauler or recycler can see that the can is empty.

To further reduce the hardening or drying time of leftover latex paint, check with local home center stores and paint stores for a **latex paint hardener** or **Waste Paint Hardener®**. It comes in a powder or crystal form, and when it is added to your unwanted paint, the hardening time is reduced from days to minutes.

Propane Gas Cylinders

Propane gas is commonly used as a fuel for cooking with outdoor barbecue grills, recreation vehicles, and cooking stoves used when camping. It is most often stored in a refillable cylinder. When the useful life of your propane gas cylinder has ended and is ready for disposal, it *should not* be included with your regular household garbage--it requires special handling!

What is the safest disposal method?

Some local propane gas suppliers and retailers will accept outdated, faulty, or damaged cylinders for recycling (possibly for a nominal fee). Contact local filling stations or retailers for details.

Call your Municipal Recycling Coordinator for the acceptable disposal method in your town. You may also safely store these cylinders and bring them to any of the BCUA's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events.

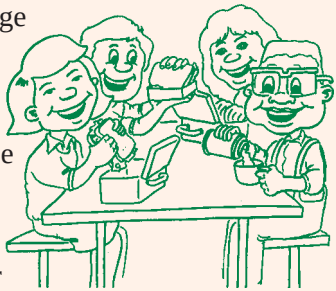
For additional information, please call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit our website at www.bcua.org. Look on the left-hand side for **Solid Waste** and click on *HHW Programs*.

Safety Tips

- Keep the valve tightly closed and plugged with the "POL" left- handed thread plug.
- Never store propane gas cylinders inside an enclosed structure. Store outdoors only.
- Always keep cylinders upright and in a secure position when transporting. Bouncing could damage the cylinder or valve and allow residual gas to escape.
- Keep your vehicle well-ventilated when transporting cylinders. A leak inside a closed car is dangerous.
- Never leave a propane gas cylinder in a vehicle whether it is empty or full. Sitting in a hot vehicle may cause the safety relief valve to discharge gas.

What About School?

- Determine what materials can be recycled in your school.
- Set up recycling bins for recyclable materials in central locations throughout the school.
- Recycle paper in each classroom.
- Use both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- Start or join an environmental club in your school.
- Start a swap box in school for old toys or books. This enables you to trade an old toy or book for a new one. Or, donate the contents of the "swap box" to the Salvation Army or Goodwill.
- If you have a cafeteria in your school, discuss the use of polystyrene with school officials. If you use it, find out if the school district can recycle it. If it cannot be recycled, suggest switching to paper products when possible.
- If you bring your lunch to school, use reusable food and beverage containers and a lunch tote or box.
- Sponsor a contest among classes to see which classes can make the least amount of garbage at lunchtime.
- Use paper grocery bags for bookcovers.
- Encourage school administrators to enhance and expand their environmental studies curriculum.
- Plan a science fair or an environmental fair that will focus on ways to reduce the amount of waste that is generated, as well as how to recycle at home and at school.



What About Work?

The workplace is an ideal place to practice waste reduction techniques. With a little forethought, cooperation, and determination, the following suggestions can be easily implemented:

1. Reduce the amount of paper generated in your office by:

   a. posting office announcements in central locations
   b. reformatting faxes to omit cover sheets
   c. editing on the computer before printing
   d. using small pieces of paper for short memos
   e. discouraging the use of colored paper (white paper is easier to recycle)
   f. having your printing needs done on recycled paper
   g. reusing scrap paper printed on one side by stapling into a pad and reusing for phone messages or notes
   h. reversing and reusing file folders
   i. avoiding duplication on mailing lists
   j. increasing two-sided copying
   k. encouraging your office manager to buy laser printers that can make double-sided copies and a program that allows you to fax from a computer to avoid printouts
   l. using two-way envelopes instead of one carrier and one return envelopes. This enables large companies to cut paper use by one third, increases recycling, and significantly reduces consumer waste.

2. Use nondisposable tableware (mugs, flatware, plates)
3. Refill laser cartridges
4. Buy reuseable filters for coffee machines
5. Buy mechanical pencils and refillable pens
6. Use undated, erasable wall calendars for appointments and meetings
7. Reuse envelopes with metal clasps
8. Ship material in reusable/reused packaging
9. Share newspapers and magazines

Every 20 minutes Americans dump enough cars into junkyards to form a stack as high as the Empire State Building. Keep cars, bikes, stereos, and other possessions in good working condition so they will last longer!

Did You Know?

- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, 7,000 gallons of water and 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity--enough energy to power the average American home for 5 months.
- Americans use over 67,000,000 tons of paper each year, or 600 pounds per person. It takes more than 500,000 trees to produce the newspapers Americans read each Sunday, yet only 30% of all newspapers are recycled.
- Recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy required to make new cans out of raw materials.
- If the Pilgrims had used aluminum cans at the first Thanksgiving, those cans would still be around today.
- The energy saved by recycling one glass bottle could run your TV set for 3 hours.
- Solid waste disposal is the third largest municipal government expense after police protection and education.
- Americans use 18 billion disposable diapers each year. If stretched end to end, they would reach the moon and back 7 times.
- If you convinced two people to do something for the environment, and the next day they convinced two people, and so on, it would take less than a month to get everyone in the U.S. to take action.
- Reusing saves more energy and resources than recycling.

What Else Can I Do?

BORROW OR RENT items that you use only on occasion, e.g., chainsaws, tableware and furnishings for parties, slide projectors, or specialized power tools. Renting or borrowing items saves you the burden of buying, storing, and maintaining, and will allow you to decide if you truly need or want one of your own. It will also give you the time to find the one best suited to your needs.

DONATE old clothing, household items and toys to charities instead of throwing them away.

FIX broken items instead of replacing them (toys, small appliances, etc.)

OFFER leftover packing material to a local gift shop if you can't reuse all of the POLYSTYRENE PEANUTS. Or call 1-800-828-2214 for the nearest location of "Mail Boxes, Etc.," a packing and shipping company, who will gladly accept these "peanuts" for reuse.

TEACH children about reducing waste and protecting the environment. This is the best way to change our "throw away society" into responsible, recycling citizens.

WATCH for information on Bergen County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events, which are sponsored by the Bergen County Utilities Authority. This program provides residents with a safe disposal for hazardous waste. For the schedule and location of the drop-off sites, and additional information, call the Bergen County Utilities Authority's Environmental Programs Hotline at 201- 807-5825 or visit our website at www.bcua.org.

LEND OR GIVE magazines to interested friends, office waiting rooms, hospitals, and nursing homes.

REMOVE your name from junk mail lists for five years at a time by writing to:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512
www.dmaconsumers.org

Mail a written request including your name, complete home address, **and signature.**

Biodegradability And Product Labeling

"Biodegradable," "ecosensitive," and "environmentally-friendly" are all terms that make people feel good when purchasing products with those labels. We actually feel as if we are doing something beneficial for the environment. In reality, simply because a product contains that label, does not mean that the product is any "friendlier" to the environment than another product without that label.

Biodegradability: Scientists have found that waste which decomposes rapidly when exposed to natural elements (sun, wind, rain) will take many years to decompose underground in a landfill. The conditions needed for proper decomposition--exposure to air, sunlight, and water, do not exist in a landfill. Therefore, focusing on the term "biodegradable," takes away from the real issue--our need to reduce the volume of material we throw away.

Product Labeling: In July 1992, the Federal Trade Commission issued guidelines for the use of environmental marketing claims. The guidelines apply to "environmental claims included in labeling, advertising, promotional materials, and all other forms of marketing, whether asserted directly or by implication, through words, symbols, emblems, logos, depictions, product brand names, or through any other means." The guidelines also apply to "any claim about the environmental attributes of a product or package in connection with the sale, offering for sale, or marketing of such product or package for personal, family or household use, or for commercial, institutional or industrial use."

Because the guidelines are not legislative rules under Section 18 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, compliance is voluntary. Manufacturers *may* be held accountable for their claims and corrective action by the FTC *may* result if the claims cannot be substantiated satisfactorily. The FTC believes that to make a claim about the environmental attributes of a product or package, a reasonable basis of competent and reliable scientific evidence must be possessed.

The objective of these guidelines is to assure the consumer that the products displaying environmental claims meet certain standards. At the very least, the consumer should be able to determine that the product s/he is considering is not harmful to the environment.

If the consumer still has doubts about the reliability of a manufacturer's claims, one or two other avenues of assurance remain. Call the toll free number that is usually listed on the product, and have the manufacturer substantiate those claims to your satisfaction, OR write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 and request a copy of "Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims." You may also go to their website at ***www.ftc.gov*** and look under the heading "Consumer Protection" and the subheading "Environment."

Computer & Electronics Recycling

Computers and electronic equipment contain toxic materials and heavy metals. For example, **lead** can be found in solder and CRT glass; **cadmium** is in resistors and batteries; **mercury** can be found in sensors, relays, switches, lamps, and batteries and **hexavalent chromium** acts as a corrosion protector. When disposed of improperly, these materials will be landfilled or incinerated, potentially creating an unsafe environment.

To reduce the environmental impact caused by improper disposal, the Bergen County Utilities Authority has established a permanent ***Computer & Electronics Recycling Depot*** at its headquarters in Little Ferry where residents may bring their unwanted computers or electronic equipment free of charge. Bergen County businesses are charged a nominal fee.

The Depot is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and noon, **by appointment only**. Call the Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 and listen for the Computer/Electronics Program menu prompt.

Any of the following equipment will be accepted for recycling at the Computer & Electronics Recycling Depot:

Monitors	CPUs	Laptops	Printers
Keyboards	Fax Machines	Hard Drives	Modems
Speakers	Mice	Scanners	TVs
VCRs	Power Sources	Wiring	Stereo
Cell Phones			Equipment

Tire Recycling

In the United States, an estimated 240 million used tires are discarded annually. These used scrap tires fall into 2 categories (automobile and truck).

Scrap truck tires which are collected for recycling are primarily retreaded. The freshly retreaded tires are reused on trucks and buses. Automobile tires can be remolded or recycled into safety flooring, commercial fishing equipment, dock and boat bumpers, truck bed mats, mud flaps, farm equipment, garbage and recycling containers, recycled-rubber soled shoes, and tire swings. They can also be used in the construction of artificial reefs and as river bank stabilizers as well as in road resurfacing.

Bergen County residents should contact their local Recycling Coordinators to find out recycling procedures for tires in their respective towns. Also, tire retail stores and local service stations may be contacted to see if scrap tires are accepted for recycling. A nominal fee may be charged.

QUESTIONS?

Please call the Bergen County Utilities Authority Environmental Programs Hotline at:

201-807-5825

You may also visit our website at:

www.bcua.org

The information provided in this brochure has been compiled, written, and edited by:

The Bergen County Utilities Authority
Solid Waste Division