

Recycling Update



September 2009

Bergen County Utilities Authority - Foot of Mehrhof Road, Little Ferry, NJ 07643

Save the date...

The Association of New Jersey Recyclers will be hosting their 29th Annual Symposium, "Different Shades of Green," and Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel and Conference Center.

This Symposium will feature exhibits, networking, presentations by Sustainable Jersey, recycling markets, Green Buildings Council, Certified Recycling Professional graduation, recycling awards, and the much coveted REX Award.

ANJR is a non-profit, non-partisan network whose mission is to serve as the voice of recycling in New Jersey through education, advocacy, and the promotion of professional standards. To learn more about them, call 908.722.7575 or visit www.anjr.com.

Freeze your cash?

New Jerseyans can get clunker refrigerators or freezers hauled away for free and be paid \$30 under a recycling program launched recently by the state Board of Public Utilities.

The \$3.3 million project is an attempt to recycle 20,000 refrigerators with two environmental goals in mind: the removal of inefficient appliances that use two to four times the electricity of newer models, and the safe disposal of foam insulation and coolant chemicals.

The \$3.3 million comes from the Societal Benefits Charge - a state fund that ratepayers are required to pay into. The BPU will pay Jaco Environmental, a Washington State-based company, \$101 for every refrigerator.

Requirements for Program Participation

1. Customer must be a residential electric customer of one of the following NJ utilities: Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, PSE&G, Rockland Electric Company.
2. Customers of municipal electric utilities do not qualify.

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Freeholder Julie O'Brien and County Executive Dennis McNerney stopped by the BCUA booth while attending the 4-H Fair on Saturday, August 15th in Van Saun Park, Paramus.

2009 Backyard Compost Bin Sale

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
Sat., Nov. 7, 2009
Sale Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine!)
All bins are \$52.00

2009 Tire Recycling & Computers/Electronics Program

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
Sat., Nov. 7, 2009
Collection Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine!)

2009 Household Hazardous Waste Events

Bergen Community College
400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
Sun., Oct. 4, 2009
Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
Sat., Sept. 12, 2009
Sat., Nov. 21, 2009
Collection Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine!)

A fairy tale ending for recycling legislation

As reported in EnviroPolitics Blog on July 9, 2009: "Recycling in New Jersey—once a national model—had been on a down slide for years until the state Legislature, despite significant opposition, passed legislation last year that re-imposed a recycling tax on garbage.

When Governor Corzine signed the legislation into law, the state's recycling community was elated and re-energized. Recycling coordinators knew that revenue from the tax would go into a dedicated state fund and would be used to support local recycling

Governor Jon Corzine promised Senator Bob Smith that his staff would look elsewhere for the \$7 million budget shortfall.

efforts—based on how successful each county and town was in removing cans, bottles, paper and other 'recyclables' from the waste stream.

Recycling coordinators began planning ways to pump up their programs. Some ordered new equipment. Some entered into agreements with commercial recyclers for single-stream pickups which eliminate the need for residents and businesses to separate paper from metal and metal from glass. Others laid out plans for new educational and collection plans in schools and for tougher enforcement efforts to insure compliance.

Then along came the state budget crunch. In a last-minute strategy to balance the current fiscal year's budget—as the Legislature was working out final details on next year's FY 2010 spending plan—the Corzine Administration pushed through a supplemental appropriations bill that transferred money from a number of existing program accounts into the General Fund.

Part of that re-appropriation included grabbing \$7 million from the state's newly revitalized Recycling Fund.

The reaction of municipal and county recycling coordinators, who were counting on the money to pay for programs and equipment they had already committed to, ranged from consternation to near panic. Then Bob Smith stepped in.

Smith, a veteran state legislator from Middlesex County, is the Democratic chairman of the Senate

Environment Committee and a long-time supporter of recycling. He was the sponsor in the Senate of the legislation that refunded the recycling program and author of a 'poison pill' provision within the bill that basically said the money could only be used for recycling.

Recognizing that previous Administrations, in times of budget stress, have ignored such legal limitations, Smith made a personal plea to Governor Jon Corzine. He explained the benefits of recycling and the reasons for the 'poison pill' language. He then told the governor: "If you allow this to happen, you will kill recycling in New Jersey."

What followed sounds like a Hollywood ending. The governor listened and was persuaded. He promised Smith that his staff would look elsewhere for the \$7 million.

An amazing story, but true. Thanks to Senator Smith, recycling in New Jersey has been saved—again."

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Freeze (continued)

3. Appliance types include refrigerators and freezers.
4. Maximum 2 units per customer per year.
5. Valid for period from July 15, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Unit must be picked up within this time frame.
6. Refrigerator/Freezer size limited to 10 - 30 cu. ft.
7. Refrigerator/Freezer must be operational at time of pick up.
8. Refrigerator/Freezer unit must be owned by customer.
9. No age restriction.
10. Refrigerator/Freezer must have clear access path for removal.

If you have any questions about the recycling program, or if you would like to schedule your pickup date by phone; please feel free to contact our customer service center toll free at 877-270-3520.

Market information contained in this newsletter is not meant to be an endorsement by the BCUA. Markets mentioned are not the only markets available to the County of Bergen.

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