



**Bergen County  
Utilities Authority**  
**201-641-2552**  
**www.bcu.org**  
**Spring 2010**



## Handling hazardous materials the right way

Hazardous waste doesn't belong in recycling bins or trash cans. Hazardous waste, including household, garden, and automotive chemicals, must be disposed at special facilities. When they are disposed improperly, chemicals can cause air and water pollution, putting humans and animals at risk.

To make it easy for families to handle hazardous materials the right way, the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) will continue to provide a drop-off household hazardous waste disposal program. There will be eight collection events in 2010. All collections are free but are open to Bergen County residents only. (Proof of residency is required.) All events are held between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., rain or shine. The first collection was held in March; these are the remaining collection dates for 2010:

- Sunday, April 11, Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
  - Saturday, May 15, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
  - Sunday, June 13, Bergen Community College
  - Saturday, July 17, BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie
  - Saturday, September 11, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
  - Sunday, October 17, Bergen Community College
  - Saturday, November 20, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
- At each of these events, we accept household hazardous waste from your home,



workshop, garden, and garage. These are just some of the items that you can drop off:

- Automotive fluids, including motor oil and antifreeze
- Rechargeable household batteries\* and button cell batteries
- Fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lamps, and other mercury-containing items, such as thermometers and thermostats
- Lawn and garden chemicals, such as fertilizer, pesticides, and insecticides

- Household cleaners, such as oven cleaner, furniture polish, and tub and tile cleaners
- Hobby and home improvement products, such as paints, glues, photographic chemicals, and pool chemicals
- Fuels, including gasoline and kerosene
- Personal care products, such as fingernail polish and fingernail polish remover

There is no charge to drop off these items. Please keep them in their original, labeled

## Attention, businesses

Bergen County businesses which are classified as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG's) may participate in this program for a nominal fee. All interested CESQG's must receive prior approval from the BCUA to participate. For further details, please contact Richard Baroch, Solid and Special Waste Program Administrator, at 201-807-8696.

containers, if possible. Remember not to mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

During 2009, BCUA also held eight drop-off events. At these, 11,792 Bergen County households disposed of 915,635 pounds of unwanted hazardous waste materials, just over 80 pounds of hazardous waste per vehicle. Bergen County's events continue to have the best attendance for one-day events in the State of New Jersey.

For more information, visit [www.bcu.org](http://www.bcu.org) or call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825.

*\*Alkaline batteries will no longer be accepted at any household hazardous waste collection events. Alkaline batteries (single-use AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt) are no longer classified as hazardous waste. Alkaline and heavy-duty carbon zinc batteries should be thrown out in the regular garbage.*

## Letter from the County Executive

One of my most important responsibilities as Bergen County Executive is to work with the Bergen County Utilities Authority to provide programs and services that protect and preserve the environment and serve our residents and businesses.

I am proud to note that the BCUA continues to excel and to innovate. The new combined heat and power plant (CHP), which now supplies energy to the Authority's Little Ferry wastewater pollution control (WPC) plant by burning biogas recovered from the treatment process, is the latest accomplishment. This facility, which has been recognized with awards of excellence from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), is a model for other WPC facilities and will save millions of dollars for ratepayers while reducing energy demand and helping to clean our air. The plant is an anchor of the Authority's forward-looking Sustainable Energy Plan, which also includes the use of hybrid vehicles, green roof technology, and solar power initiatives.

In the area of solid waste management, the BCUA continues to conduct its highly successful Household Hazardous Waste, Computer and Electronics, and Tire collection programs, with a total of twelve one-day collection events scheduled in 2010. I urge all of our residents to do their part and participate in these events to ensure that toxic materials are not introduced into the solid waste stream.

The Authority's Environmental Challenge Grant program for county schools experienced dramatic growth in its third year, with nearly \$70,000 in grants awarded to 72 Bergen public and private schools, an increase of \$23,500 over the grant total received by 47 schools in 2008. And the BCUA School Lab Grant continues to provide support for environmental cleanups, eliminating a longstanding hazard in many of our schools.

I salute the BCUA for its diligent efforts to protect the environment and serve our citizens, and I look forward to working with the Authority Commissioners and staff on future projects.

*Dennis McNerney  
Bergen County Executive*



The BCUA's Environmental Awareness Grant Program, now in its third year, continues to offer educators in all Bergen County schools, both public and private, the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$1,000. Grant guidelines invite creativity, and project activities vary widely, from recycling and waste reduction, to composting and gardening projects, and more.

In 2009, nearly \$70,000 in grants was awarded to 72 schools, an increase of \$23,500 over the grant total received by 47 schools the previous year. In September, County Executive Dennis McNerney and BCUA Chairman James Krone distributed checks to the individual school representatives. They were joined by Freeholder Julie O'Brien and Dr. Aaron Graham, Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools. Two hundred guests, including school administrators, teachers, and students, were in attendance.

Grants were awarded to these schools:

- Allendale: Hillside School
- Alpine: Alpine Public School
- Bergenfield: Hoover School and Transfiguration Academy
- Bogota: Lillian M. Steen Elementary School, Saint Joseph School, and Trinity Lutheran School
- Cresskill: Cresskill High School
- Dumont: Dumont High School and Honiss School
- East Rutherford: St. Joseph School
- Elmwood Park: Elmwood Park Memorial High School, Gilbert Avenue School, and Gantner Avenue School
- Englewood: Dwight-Englewood School
- Englewood Cliffs: Japanese Children's Society
- Fair Lawn: Memorial Middle School and Warren Point School
- Fairview: Fairview Public School District
- Hackensack: Bergen County Academies and Jackson Avenue School
- Harrington Park: Harrington Park School
- Hasbrouck Heights: Euclid Elementary School and Lincoln School
- Haworth: Haworth Public School
- Hillsdale: Pascack Valley High School
- Leonia: Leonia High School and Leonia Middle School
- Little Ferry: Memorial Middle School

## Schools receive grants

- Lodi: Columbus School, Immaculate Conception High School, and South Bergen Jointure Commission
- Lyndhurst: Sacred Heart School and South Bergen Jointure Commission
- Mahwah: Mahwah High School
- Maywood: Memorial School
- Midland Park: Midland Park High School
- Montvale: Fieldstone Middle School and Saint Joseph Regional High School
- New Milford: Berkley Street Elementary School, BF Gibbs School, Hovnanian Armenian School, and New Milford High School
- North Arlington: North Arlington High School and North Arlington Public Schools
- Northvale: Northvale School District
- Palisades Park: Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School
- Paramus: Ben Porat Yosef, East Brook Middle School, Norman A. Blesman School, Visitation Academy, Ridge Ranch Elementary School, and West Brook Middle School
- Ramsey: Don Bosco Prep and Wesley D. Tisdale Elementary School
- Ridgefield: Slocum Skewes School
- Ridgefield Park: Lincoln School and Ridgefield Park Jr./Sr. High School
- Ridgewood: Willard Elementary School
- Rockleigh: Bergen County Special Services – New Bridges
- Rutherford: Lincoln School and Rutherford High School
- Saddle River: Saddle River Day School
- Teterboro: Bergen County Technical High School
- Upper Saddle River: Reynolds School
- Wallington: Jefferson & Gavlak Schools and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School
- Washington Township: Immaculate Heart Academy and Westwood Regional High School
- Wyckoff: Eastern Christian Middle School, Sicomac Elementary School, and Wyckoff Township Public Schools





# Spring reading, naturally

As the temperatures warm, you may be looking forward to more time outdoors. Your plan may be to garden, bike or walk, or simply sit and enjoy the spring breezes and sunshine. Consider a trip to the library (or used bookstore), too. Nothing is finer than reading a good book outdoors on a warm spring day.

If you love nature, consider some classics. *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* by Annie Dillard will have you ready to do some exploration of your own. Are you itching to travel? Pick up *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson. As two middle-aged men set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, you'll find humor and awe. Maybe it is the desert landscape that fires your imagination. Look for *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey or *The Land of Little Rain* by Mary Austin. More

of a beach person? Track down a copy of *The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* by Henry Beston. You might also look for works by John Muir, John McPhee, Gary Snyder, and Maxine Kumin, among others.

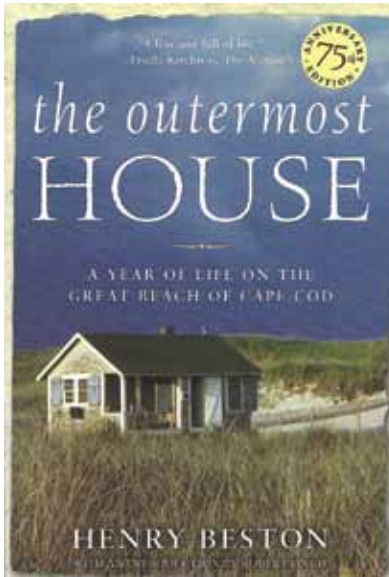
If you prefer your nature closer to the local coffee shop, look for *City Wilds: Essays and Stories About Urban Nature*, edited by Terrell F. Dixon. *City Wilds* celebrates the natural world that

is closest to home for many Americans.

Perhaps you are interested in how we form communities. A National Science Foundation study in 2007 found that as many as one quarter of Americans have no one to confide in or celebrate with. In *Population: 485 – Meeting Your Neighbors*

*One Siren at a Time*, Michael Perry writes of returning to his hometown and joining the volunteer fire department. One emergency call at a time, he connects with his neighbors and explores the place where he grew up with new eyes. In *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness*, edited by Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, the authors ostensibly address how to embrace a simpler lifestyle. However, their real concerns seem to be how we find and maintain more enriching relationships. The reader is challenged to ask the question, "What do I have to offer?"

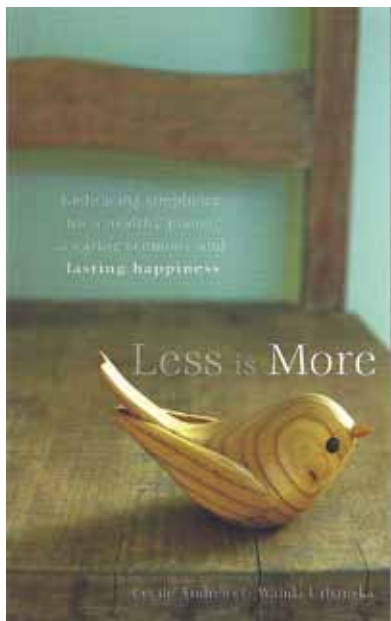
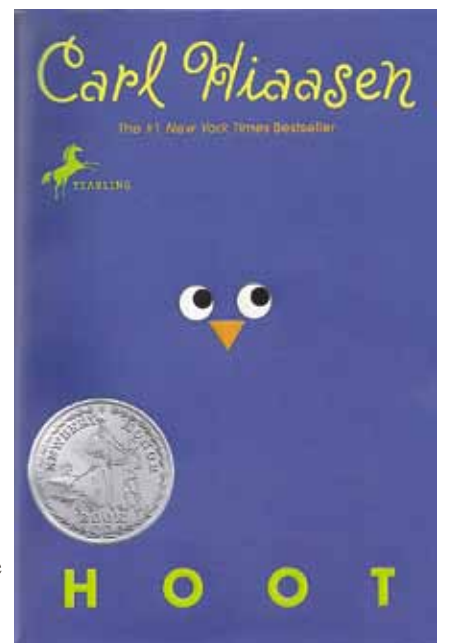
If you have children in your life, check out *Get Out! 150 Easy Ways for Kids & Grown-Ups to Get into Nature and Build a Greener Future* by Judy Molland. This book is full of ideas to get families and groups outside where they will learn about nature as they enjoy it.



Sharing books with young people builds relationships and improves their reading skills. For wonderful books about the natural world, look for Lynne Cherry's books, such as *The Armadillo from Amarillo* or *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*; *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Chief Seattle, illustrated by Susan Jeffers; and *Just Us Two: Poems About Animal Dads* by Joyce Sidman. Encourage young gardeners with *The Empty Lot* by Dale H. Fife, *The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart, *A Handful of Dirt* by Raymond Bial, and Lorraine Roulston's series on Pee Wee, the worm. For the slightly older crowd, suggest a simple chapter book, such as *Judy Moody Saves the World* by Megan McDonald.

Pre-teens can be a harder group to please. Get them excited about the environment with Carl Hiaasen's eco-thrillers: *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. In these books, youth find—and find ways to solve—environmental problems created by adults.

Obviously, there are many more great books for children, teens, and adults. Take advantage of that reuser's paradise—the local library—and enjoy good reading with the good weather!

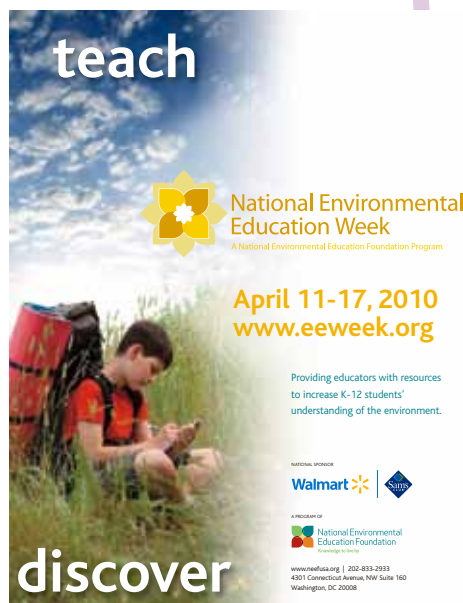


## What a week!

In the week before Earth Day each year, students and teachers are invited to explore the natural world during National Environmental Education Week. Environmental education isn't just for the science classroom, but can include activities in social studies, language arts, math, art, music, and more. Environmental education gets students excited because they get involved in real-world problem solving.

There are many ways for students and teachers to take part in Environmental Education Week, beginning with incorporating environmental themes and topics into daily lessons. But the activities don't end there. Students can be encouraged to write conservation plans for home and school, audit energy and water use or trash disposal, set up a nature walk or scavenger hunt, take part in a litter cleanup, visit a local utility facility (power plant, water treatment plant, wastewater plant, recycling facility, etc.), start or expand a school recycling program, and much more. Get parent organizations and clubs into the act, as well!

Environmental Education Week 2010 is April 11-17. This year's focus will be on conserving water and energy to preserve our planet and save money. For more information, visit [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org).



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.... There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.

Rachel Carson, 1907–1964  
from *The Sense of Wonder*  
American biologist

## One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Purchase recycled-content trash bags and trash can liners. When you are at the store to buy trash bags and can liners, read the labels and look for phrases like "made with recycled content" and "made with post-consumer recycled content."

Don't forget reuse. Plastic shopping bags can be used as liners for small wastebaskets.



# Mobile paper shredding added to electronics and tire recycling event

New in 2010, Bergen County residents will be able to drop off confidential papers for shredding, computers and electronics for recycling, and tires for recycling at the same one-day events. These will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, on these dates:

- Sunday, April 25, Bergen County Community Services Building, 327 East Ridgewood Ave., Paramus
- Saturday, June 26, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, August 21, Bergen County Community Services Building
- Saturday, November 6, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation

## Confidential Papers

All Bergen County residents are eligible to participate in Bergen County's first series of Mobile Paper Shredding events for personal documents. At these free events, Bergen County residents can drop off residentially generated confidential and personal documents. Residents will be able to observe their documents being shredded on-site. There is no need to remove paper clips, staples, or paperboard binder covers. This is for confidential papers only, to help residents reduce the risk of identity theft. Please limit your documents to four bags or boxes weighing no more than 10 pounds each.



## Computers and Electronics

Acceptable materials include monitors, CPU's, printers, keyboards, fax machines, copiers, laptops, hard drives, circuit boards, speakers, modems, motherboards, power supplies, television sets, VCRs, stereo equipment, and cellular phones. All of these materials are accepted from residents at the one-day events and the Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot. No appointment is necessary at the one-day events. Appointments are required at the Depot, which is located at the BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

## Tires

Residents may drop off passenger vehicle tires only, with or without metal rims. There is a limit of four tires per participant. No commercial generators will be accepted.



For more information about future events, or for directions, call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit [www.bcu.org](http://www.bcu.org).

## Attention, businesses!

Business and commercial items cannot be dropped off at the one-day events. However, businesses may recycle electronics at the Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot for a nominal fee. Payment must be made by check only, and materials must be received by appointment only. Contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 for complete details.

## And there's more!

### Environmental Shopping Program

The BCUA is launching an environmental shopping program which teaches consumers about environmental consequences. "A Green Shopping Guide," an eight-page guide for residents, is geared toward practical, everyday tips. If you would like more information, please contact Angela Bonanno-Lynch at 201-807-5821.

### Bergen County Career Crossroads Program

The BCUA and the Bergen County Special Services Technical School continue their partnership that allows the BCUA to participate in the Career Crossroads Program. The Career Crossroads Program prepares students for the realities of entry into the workforce through internships with local businesses and governmental agencies.

# Recycle in Bergen County

The following materials may be recycled in your community. **Boldfaced** materials are required to be recycled at residences; materials with an asterisk (\*) must be recycled by businesses.

- Aluminum Containers\* ■ Antifreeze ■ Auto Scrap ■ Car Batteries ■ Clothing ■ Corrugated Cardboard\* ■ Construction & Demolition Debris\* (Asphalt, Concrete) ■ Ferrous Scrap Metals\* ■ Food Waste ■ Glass Beverage Containers\* ■ Grass ■ High Grade Paper\* ■ Household Batteries ■ Leaves ■ Magazines\* ■ Mixed Paper\* ■ Motor Oil ■ Newspaper\* ■ Non-Ferrous Metals ■ Plastic (#1 and #2 Containers)\* ■ Roofing Shingles ■ Tree Stumps & Logs ■ Steel Containers ■ Tires ■ White Goods\* ■ Wood Chips/Brush/Wood Waste

For more detailed recycling program information or local recycling schedules, contact your local municipal recycling coordinator:

Allendale.....	201-818-4411
Alpine.....	201-768-6942
Bergenfield.....	201-387-4055, ext. 3
Bogota.....	201-342-1736, ext. 267
Carlstadt.....	201-939-2857
Cliffside Park.....	201-313-2070
Closter.....	201-784-0753
Cresskill.....	201-567-2184
Demarest.....	201-768-6669
Dumont.....	201-387-5022
East Rutherford.....	201-729-9751, ext. 278
Edgewater.....	201-943-1700
Elmwood Park.....	201-703-2207
Emerson.....	201-262-6086, ext. 9
Englewood.....	201-568-3401
Englewood Cliffs.....	201-568-0242
Fair Lawn.....	201-794-5341
Fairview.....	201-943-3300
Fort Lee.....	201-592-3635
Franklin Lakes.....	201-891-4333
Garfield.....	973-546-1429
Glen Rock.....	201-670-3990
Hackensack.....	201-646-3955
Harrington Park.....	201-768-0944
Hasbrouck Heights.....	201-288-1072

Haworth.....	201-384-1037
Hillsdale.....	201-666-4800, ext. 5007
Ho-Ho-Kus.....	201-445-8161
Leonia.....	201-592-5771
Little Ferry.....	201-641-0023
Lodi.....	973-365-4068
Lyndhurst.....	201-804-2493
Mahwah.....	201-529-3344
Maywood.....	201-845-2920
Midland Park.....	201-445-5720
Montvale.....	201-391-1312
Moonachie.....	201-641-1813
New Milford.....	201-967-5044
North Arlington.....	201-955-5665
Northvale.....	201-767-0210
Norwood.....	201-767-7200
Oakland.....	201-405-7732
Old Tappan.....	201-664-4438
Oradell.....	201-261-8610
Palisades Park.....	201-585-4133
Paramus.....	201-265-2100, ext. 687
Park Ridge.....	201-391-3933
Ramsey.....	201-825-3400, ext. 229
Ridgefield.....	201-945-5319
Ridgefield Park.....	201-440-4860
Ridgewood.....	201-670-5500, ext. 266
River Edge.....	201-599-6275
River Vale.....	201-664-2346
Rochelle Park.....	201-587-7752
Rockleigh.....	201-768-4217
Rutherford.....	201-460-3004
Saddle Brook.....	201-587-2903
Saddle River.....	201-327-2609
South Hackensack.....	201-440-3283
Teaneck.....	201-837-4855
Tenafly.....	201-569-7275
Teterboro.....	201-288-1202
Upper Saddle River.....	201-327-2196
Waldwick.....	201-652-5300, ext. 4
Wallington.....	973-777-0318
Washington Twp.....	201-664-1734
Westwood.....	201-664-2349
Woodcliff Lake.....	201-391-3172
Wood-Ridge.....	201-939-2438
Wyckoff.....	201-891-7000

### Bergen County Executive

- Dennis Mc Nerney
- 2010 BCUA Commissioners**
- Andrew "Chuck" Vaccaro, Chairman
- Ronald Phillips, Vice Chairman
- James L. Cassella
- Louis J. DeLisio
- Paul A. Juliano
- James Krone
- David J. Lorenzo
- Richard D. Schooler
- Joel T. Thornton

### BCUA Acting Executive Director

- Richard D. Wierer
- Solid Waste Department Staff**
- Richard Wierer, Director of Solid Waste/Information Technology Systems
- Mark Vangieri, Solid Waste Manager
- Richard Baroch, Solid and Special Waste Program Administrator
- Angela Bonanno-Lynch, Education/Technical Advisor
- Lori Russo, Education/Technical Advisor

**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

**Bergen County Utilities Authority**

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70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS CONTENT,  
USING SOY INKS

# Start composting this spring!

Composting allows you to turn your yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment without ever leaving your yard. To help residents get started with home composting, the BCUA will hold a one-day compost bin sale on Sunday, April 25. The sale will be held, while supplies last, at the Bergen County Community Services Building, 327 East Ridgewood Avenue in Paramus, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., rain or shine.

At the event, residents can purchase an Earth Machine home composting bin at a reduced rate. Payment is accepted in the form of a check or money

order. **NO CASH!** Participants will also be provided with information on composting and recycling. Other composting items will also be available for purchase from a vendor. (Cash may be used to purchase those items only.)

If you can't attend this event, compost bins are also available Monday through Friday at the BCUA by appointment only. Contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

