

# “One Person’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling



2016 Newsletter

Bergen County  
Utilities Authority  
201-641-2552  
www.bcua.org



## Schools expand environmental programs with challenge grants

The 2015-2016 school year marks the BCUA's ninth year of the popular Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant Program for Bergen County schools. The objective of the program is to promote recycling and environmental awareness in schools through grant programs relating to the environment. Funded entirely by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, both public and private Bergen County schools may apply for grants of up to \$1,000. All eligible schools must have a functioning recycling program or use the grant to implement one.

Challenge Grant guidelines invite creativity. This year's project activities varied widely, from recycling and composting to school gardens, water conservation programs, river cleanups, and more.

During 2015-2016, the BCUA awarded a total of \$77,396.91 in grants to these 81 schools:

- Hillside and Northern Highlands Regional High, Allendale
- Bergenfield High, Bergenfield
- Bogota Junior/Senior High and Saint Joseph Academy, Bogota
- Carlstadt Public, Carlstadt
- School Six and School Three, Cliffside Park
- Cresskill Middle/High and Merritt Memorial, Cresskill
- Academy of the Holy Angels and Northern Valley Regional High, Demarest
- Becton Regional High, East Rutherford
- Eleanor Van Gelder and George Washington Elementary, Edgewater
- Japanese Children's Society Preschool and Elementary and Englewood Cliffs Upper, Englewood Cliffs
- H.B. Milnes, Fair Lawn High, and Memorial Middle, Fair Lawn
- Union Street School for the Deaf, Hackensack
- Harrington Park School, Harrington Park
- Ann Blanche Smith and Pascack Valley High, Hillsdale
- Ho-Ho-Kus Public, Ho-Ho-Kus
- Anna C. Scott Elementary and Leonia Middle, Leonia
- Columbus, Lodi High, South Bergen Jointure Commission, and Wilson Elementary, Lodi
- Jefferson Elementary, Memorial Campus, and Washington Elementary, Lyndhurst
- Betsy Ross and Joyce Kilmer Elementary, Mahwah
- Memorial, Maywood
- Highland Elementary and Midland Park Junior/Senior High, Midland Park
- Fieldstone Middle and Saint Joseph Regional High, Montvale
- B.F. Gibbs Elementary and Berkley Street, New Milford
- Academies at Gerrard Berman Day, Oakland
- Northern Valley Regional High and T. Baldwin Demarest, Old Tappan
- St. Joseph, Oradell
- Lindbergh Elementary and Palisades Park Junior/Senior High, Palisades Park
- Bleshman Regional Day, Midland, Paramus High, Stony Lane, and Visitation Academy Interparochial, Paramus
- East Brook Elementary, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Park Ridge High, and West Ridge Elementary, Park Ridge
- Ramsey High, Ramsey
- Slocum Skewes and Slocum Skewes School Learning Center, Ridgefield
- Ridgefield Park Junior/Senior High, Ridgefield Park
- Benjamin Franklin Middle, George Washington Middle, and Ridgewood High, Ridgewood
- Stepping Stone Learning Center, River Edge
- Franklin, Saddle Brook
- Memorial, South Hackensack
- Thomas Jefferson Middle, Teaneck
- Tenafly High, Tenafly
- Bergen County Technical High, Teterboro
- The Village School, Waldwick
- Frank W. Gavlak and Jefferson, Wallington
- Immaculate Heart Academy and Washington Elementary, Washington Township
- Brookside Elementary, Westwood
- Woodcliff Middle, Woodcliff Lake
- Wood-Ridge Junior/Senior High, Wood-Ridge
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary and Sicomac Elementary, Wyckoff

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

In 2015, the BCUA offered eight, one-day collection events for household hazardous waste (HHW). These events were held at three different locations throughout Bergen County. Three events were held in the northern part of the county at the Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, Mahwah. Three events were held in the central part of the county at Bergen Community College, Paramus, and two events were held in the southern part of the county at the Bergen County Utilities Authority, Little Ferry.

A total of 12,819 Bergen County households took advantage of these eight events to dispose of 1,110,705 pounds of unwanted hazardous waste materials. The amount of hazardous materials delivered averaged slightly over 86 pounds per participant.

This popular BCUA program continues this year. All collections are free, but they are open to Bergen County residents only (proof of residency is required). All HHW events are held between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., rain or shine.

These are the remaining collection dates for 2016:

- Saturday, May 14 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, June 26 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, July 23 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, September 10 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, October 16 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, November 12 – BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie

At these HHW drop-offs, the BCUA accepts a wide range of materials used in and around your home. Please keep all chemicals in their original, labeled containers, and store them out of reach of children and pets. For a complete list of materials accepted and other details, please call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org).

Please note: We no longer accept

alkaline batteries at the household hazardous waste events. Common household batteries with “alkaline” on the label are not classified as hazardous waste and can be thrown out in the regular garbage. **Also, no computers, electronics, or tires will be accepted at these events.**

Bergen County businesses classified as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) may participate in this program for a nominal fee. All interested CESQGs 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.



## Safety Tips

- Always read labels carefully before buying and using hazardous products. Be aware of their uses and dangers. If directions are unclear, contact the manufacturer before using.
- Buy alternative household products that are not toxic.
- Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable.
- Store hazardous materials in an area that is not accessible to children and pets.
- Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only material you need and will use.
- Avoid mixing different products, which can sometimes cause explosive or poisonous chemical reactions.
- Always use hazardous products in well-ventilated areas. Wear protective gloves when warranted.
- Look up the phone number of the poison control center and place it near or on your phone in case of actual or suspected poisoning.

# Make every day EARTH Day!



Here are some tips about simple, easy-to-make choices that can make a big difference in and around your home:

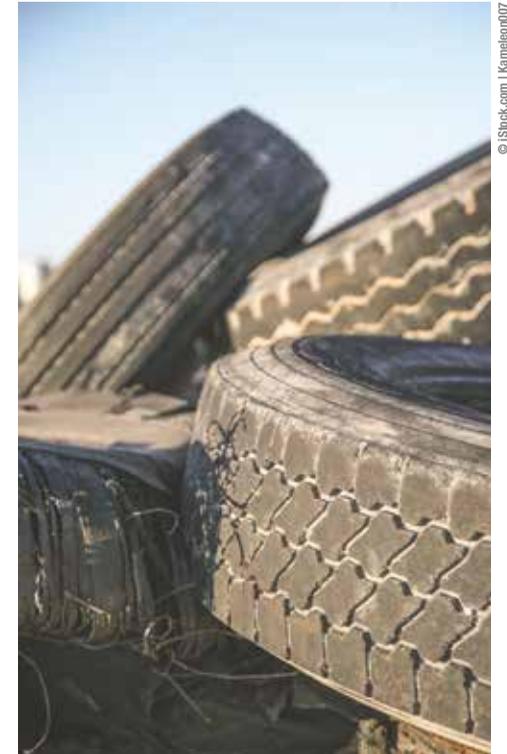
- Buy organic and locally grown products as much as possible.
- Reduce waste by avoiding over-packaged products.
- Choose recyclable packaging, and avoid single-use, disposable items.
- Plan shopping trips to minimize driving and maximize effectiveness of the trip.
- Take your own shopping bags.

- Know what your community recycles.
- Buy only what you need.
- Repair items, rather than buying new ones.

For more ideas, go to [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org) to view the “Bergen County Environmental Shopping Guide.”

The BCUA also offers Environmental Shopping and Backyard Composting classes for adults. For information about these programs, please contact Angela Bonanno-Lynch at 201-807-5821 or [abonanno-lynch@bcua.org](mailto:abonanno-lynch@bcua.org).

## Tire recycling improves environment and protects public health



Since 1995, the BCUA has sponsored a Municipal Tire Recycling Program. The goal of this program is to keep tires out of landfills, to ensure that they are recycled into useful products, and to protect public health. When discarded tires pile up, they create nesting grounds for rodents and mosquitoes, which can carry and spread diseases, including West Nile Virus, that are harmful to humans.

The Municipal Tire Recycling Program consists of four, one-day tire amnesty collection days held throughout the county to allow residents to drop off tires for recycling free of charge. During 2015, 2,141 tires were collected for recycling at the four regional recycling collection events.

The BCUA's one-day drop-offs are for Bergen County residents only. (No businesses may drop off tires at these events.) There is a limit of four tires per participant. Tires with or without metal rims will be accepted. The remaining 2016 events will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, on these dates:

- Saturday, June 4 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, August 21 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 23 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Many municipalities collect tires. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator (see page 4) for a collection or drop-off schedule.

## Grass and leaves are too good to waste



According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 13.5 percent of garbage is composed of yard waste. Thankfully, it isn't necessary to send leaves, grass, and other yard waste to a landfill since it isn't really “waste.” Yard clippings are full of valuable nutrients that can be used in your yard, garden, or compost pile. When you recycle grass, leaves, wood chips, and other yard debris, you are saving yourself time and money while conserving valuable landfill space for actual “waste.” In New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection estimates that composting and mulching keep two-thirds of yard waste out of landfills.

The BCUA's yard waste program is designed to further reduce the volume of yard waste through two initiatives that promote composting and mulching.

### Backyard Composting

The BCUA encourages residents to recycle yard waste by setting up a backyard compost pile. The benefits to both the homeowner and the environment are great. Composting turns grass clippings, leaves, dead garden plants, and fruit and vegetable scraps from the kitchen into something useful for your gardens.



Setting up a compost pile is easy. If you're looking for a compost bin, the BCUA offers several options. Our website offers instructions to build your own compost bin; simply go to [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org). Or, if you'd like to purchase a ready-made bin, local hardware and garden stores have them for sale. Throughout the year, “Earth Machine” compost bins are available for purchase at a reduced price by appointment at the BCUA in Moonachie. Call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 to schedule your appointment.

### Grass: Cut It and Leave It

Grass clippings are another major component of yard waste. However, they can be easily eliminated from the garbage while producing a healthier lawn. Leave the clippings on the lawn and let nature do the recycling. The process is simple.

Most New Jersey lawns thrive when mowed to a length of about 2 to 3 inches, especially in summer. To maintain the lawn properly, avoid mowing off more than the top third of the grass blades. Short clippings will act as a natural fertilizer and also return moisture to your soil. Your lawn will be healthier. Try it this spring and summer.

Go to [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org) to view the “Grass: Cut it and Leave it” brochure.

# Safe disposal options

More and more medical care happens at home. This means that residents are dealing with unused portions of and expired medications, as well as used syringes, lancets, and other medical sharps. To protect the health and safety of workers who handle trash, as well as water supplies, unneeded medications and sharps should NOT be disposed with household garbage.

## Unwanted Prescription Medications

Police departments across the state offer options for residents to properly and safely dispose of prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs. For locations in Bergen County and future program collection dates, go to [www.operationtakebacknj.com/bergen.html](http://www.operationtakebacknj.com/bergen.html). For a listing of police departments that host a permanent collection site, please visit [www.americanmedicinechest.com](http://www.americanmedicinechest.com). Information is also available on the BCUA website at [www.bcu.org](http://www.bcu.org).

Operation Take Back NJ and the American Medicine Chest Challenge are initiatives of the New Jersey Drug Enforcement Association, the Office of the Attorney



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General, the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Partnership for a Drug Free America, among others.

## Sharps

The New Jersey Hospital Association, together with local hospitals, offers a program to safely and responsibly dispose of syringes, needles, and lancets used in the home.

Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a small one-time fee to individuals who are injection-dependent. To learn more about the Safe Syringe Disposal Program, contact the New Jersey Hospital Association at 609-275-4058 or visit: [www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf) or [www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/safe\\_syringe\\_disposal.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/safe_syringe_disposal.pdf).

For further information regarding the safe disposal of syringes in Bergen County or to request a copy of the "Safe

Syringe Disposal Guide for Home Generated Medical Waste," please contact the Bergen County Department of Health Services at 201-634-2780.



## Electronics recycling program for residents and businesses

The BCUA Computer and Electronics Recycling Program consists of a permanent collection center located at the BCUA Little Ferry facility and four regional collection programs conducted throughout the year. During 2015, a total of 137,780 pounds of computers and electronics were collected for recycling, of which 114,960 pounds were collected at the four regional events.

### For Residents

All types of computer and electronic equipment, including cell phones and televisions, are accepted for recycling at no charge at the BCUA Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot. This is located at the BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie, and is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or go to [www.bcu.org](http://www.bcu.org).

The BCUA also hosts one-day drop-off events for Bergen County residents only (no businesses). The one-day events are held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. No

appointment is required at these events and electronics recycling is free. These are the remaining collection dates for 2016:

- Saturday, June 4 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, August 21 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 23 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Many municipalities also collect computer and electronic equipment for recycling. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator for a collection or drop-off schedule.

### For Businesses

The Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot accepts equipment from businesses 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.

## Protect your identity

Shredding confidential, personal papers, such as tax forms, pay stubs, medical records, bank and investment statements, credit card bills, and anything that contains

recycling program and will not be accepted at this event. You do not have to remove paper clips, staples, or paperboard binder covers. In an effort to accommodate all of those who wish to participate, there is a limit of 4 bags or boxes of documents, weighing no more than 10 pounds each.

The BCUA offers each municipality the opportunity to host a collection event at a municipal site of its choice. In addition, the BCUA sponsors four, one-day collection events at two locations in Bergen County. During 2015, 50 municipalities participated in the mobile shredding program to shred and recycle 247,142 pounds of paper documents. At the BCUA's four regional shredding events, an additional 108,295 pounds of paper documents were collected. 2015 was the most successful year for this program since its inception.

The BCUA will host one-day mobile shredding events from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, on these dates:

- Saturday, June 4 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, August 21 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 23 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

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

Many municipalities are hosting shredding events sponsored by the BCUA. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator or visit their municipal website for a schedule (see page 4).



your Social Security Number, can help protect your identity from thieves. To assist residents, the BCUA offers a Mobile Paper Shredding Program. Through this program, residents may deliver their confidential paper documents to various locations throughout Bergen County and observe as their documents are shredded on site.

Acceptable documents are limited to confidential and sensitive materials only. Non-confidential materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers, should be recycled through your local municipal

QUOTES  
REQUOTED

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

Robert Swan, 1956-  
Polar explorer

Lemaire Channel, Antarctica

# Municipal Recycling Information

Municipality	Municipal Recycling Coordinator Phone	Municipal Website
Allendale.....	201-818-4410.....	www.allendalenj.gov
Alpine.....	201-768-6942.....	www.alpinenj07620.org
Bergenfield.....	201-387-4055, ext. 3.....	www.bergenfield.com
Bogota.....	201-342-1736, ext. 267.....	www.bogotaonline.org
Carlstadt.....	201-939-2857.....	www.carlstadtnj.us
Cliffside Park.....	201-943-3456.....	www.cliffsideparknj.gov
Closter.....	201-784-0753.....	www.closterboro.com
Cresskill.....	201-569-5400.....	www.cresskillboro.com
Demarest.....	201-768-0167.....	www.demarestnj.net
Dumont.....	201-387-5022.....	www.dumontnj.gov
East Rutherford.....	201-729-9751, ext. 277.....	www.eastrutherfordnj.net
Edgewater.....	201-943-1700, ext. 5004.....	www.edgewaternj.org
Elmwood Park.....	201-703-2207.....	www.elmwoodparknj.us
Emerson.....	201-262-5077.....	www.emersonnj.org
Englewood.....	201-568-3401.....	www.cityofenglewood.org
Englewood Cliffs.....	201-568-0242.....	www.englewoodcliffsnj.org
Fair Lawn.....	201-794-5341.....	www.fairlawn.org
Fairview.....	201-943-3300.....	www.fairviewborough.com
Fort Lee.....	201-592-3634.....	www.fortleenj.org
Franklin Lakes.....	201-891-4333.....	www.franklinlakes.org
Garfield.....	973-546-2200.....	www.garfieldnj.org
Glen Rock.....	201-670-3990.....	www.glenrocknj.net
Hackensack.....	201-646-3955.....	www.hackensack.org
Harrington Park.....	201-768-0944.....	www.harringtonparknj.gov
Hasbrouck Heights.....	201-288-1072.....	www.hasbrouck-heights.nj.us
Haworth.....	201-384-1037.....	www.haworthnj.org
Hillsdale.....	201-666-4800.....	www.hillsdalenj.org
Ho-Ho-Kus.....	201-445-8161.....	www.ho-ho-kusboro.com
Leonia.....	201-592-5771.....	www.leonianj.gov
Little Ferry.....	201-641-0023.....	www.littleferrynj.org
Lodi.....	973-365-4005, ext. 400.....	www.lodi-nj.org
Lyndhurst.....	201-438-5478.....	www.lyndhurstnj.org
Mahwah.....	201-529-3344.....	www.mahwahtwp.org
Maywood.....	201-845-2900, ext. 208.....	www.maywoodnj.com
Midland Park.....	201-445-5720.....	www.midlandparknj.org
Montvale.....	201-391-5706.....	www.montvale.org
Moonachie.....	201-935-2344.....	www.moonachie.us
New Milford.....	201-967-8172.....	www.newmilfordboro.com
North Arlington.....	201-955-5665.....	www.northarlington.org
Northvale.....	201-767-0210.....	www.boroughofnorthvale.com
Norwood.....	201-768-4152.....	www.norwoodboro.org
Oakland.....	201-405-7732.....	www.oakland-nj.org
Old Tappan.....	201-664-4438.....	www.oldtappan.net
Oradell.....	201-261-8200, ext. 268.....	www.oradell.org
Palisades Park.....	201-585-4133.....	www.palisadesparknj.us
Paramus.....	201-265-2100, ext. 658.....	www.paramusborough.org
Park Ridge.....	201-391-3933.....	www.parkridgeboro.com
Ramsey.....	201-825-3400, ext. 229.....	www.ramseynj.com
Ridgefield.....	201-945-5319.....	www.ridgefieldnj.gov
Ridgefield Park.....	201-440-4860.....	www.ridgefieldpark.org
Ridgewood.....	201-670-5521.....	www.ridgewoodnj.net
River Edge.....	201-599-6275.....	www.riveredgenj.org
River Vale.....	201-664-2346, ext. 4.....	www.rivervalenj.org
Rochelle Park.....	201-587-7752.....	www.rochelleparknj.gov
Rockleigh.....	201-768-4217.....	www.rockleighnj.org
Rutherford.....	201-460-3038.....	www.rutherford-nj.com
Saddle Brook.....	201-587-2903.....	www.saddlebrooknj.us
Saddle River.....	201-327-2609.....	www.saddleriver.org
South Hackensack.....	201-440-3283.....	www.southhackensacknj.org
Teaneck.....	201-837-1600.....	www.teanecknj.gov
Tenafly.....	201-568-4134.....	www.tenaflynj.org
Teterboro.....	201-288-1202.....	www.teterboro-online.com
Upper Saddle River.....	201-327-2196.....	www.usrtoday.org
Waldwick.....	201-652-5300, ext. 227.....	www.waldwicknj.org
Wallington.....	973-777-0318.....	www.wallingtonnj.org
Washington Township.....	201-664-1734.....	www.twpofwashington.us
Westwood.....	201-664-2349.....	www.westwoodnj.gov
Woodcliff Lake.....	201-391-3172.....	www.wclnj.com
Wood-Ridge.....	201-939-4658.....	www.wood-ridgenj.org
Wyckoff.....	201-891-7000, ext. 118.....	www.wyckoff-nj.com

# What can I recycle?



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. To find out what materials are mandated for your municipality, contact your municipality's recycling coordinator.



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

## Want to improve recycling at your school?

The BCUA education staff members are available to assist students, teachers, administrators, and entire school districts by providing educational materials and resources on recycling and other solid waste management issues or assisting in initiating or enhancing a recycling and waste reduction program. For information about any of these programs, please contact Angela Bonanno-Lynch at 201-807-5821 or abonanno-lynch@bcua.org.

## Bergen County Utilities Authority



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

**Bergen County Utilities Authority**

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