

Updated Solid Waste Management Plan

The plan amendment incorporates the required provisions of the State Plan and reaffirms several ongoing solid waste management practices for Bergen County. The following provides a brief summary of the plan amendment:

- The County Plan is amendment to reaffirm the designation of the Bergen County Utilities Authority as the agency empowered to supervise the implementation of the County Plan.
- During 2003 the Bergen County Utilities Authority conducted a waste quantification study to estimate the quantities of type-10 and type-13 solid waste generated in Bergen County. In accordance with this study, the following table details the estimated quantity of solid waste generated within the Bergen County solid waste district from 2006 – 2015.

Year	Type-10 Waste Requiring Disposal	Type-13 Waste Requiring Disposal	Total Waste
2006	691,125.00	252,658.00	943,783.00
2007	695,715.00	254,684.00	950,399.00
2008	700,305.00	256,741.00	957,046.00
2009	704,894.00	258,796.00	963,690.00
2010	709,484.00	260,851.00	970,335.00
2011	714,186.00	262,905.00	977,091.00
2012	718,887.00	264,957.00	983,844.00
2013	723,589.00	267,064.00	990,653.00
2014	728,290.00	269,134.00	997,424.00
2015	732,992.00	271,202.00	1,004,194.00

- Since the Atlantic Coast II decision, the Bergen County Solid Waste District (District) has adopted a strategy in which solid waste generated within the District may be disposed of at any duly permitted and licensed solid waste facility, regardless of the location of such facility. The BCUA has determined that the continuation of this strategy would be the more beneficial strategy for Bergen County. Therefore, the County Plan is hereby amended to reaffirm the open market solid waste disposal strategy in which solid waste generated within the District may be disposed of at any duly permitted and licensed solid waste facility, regardless of the location of such facility.
- Over the past eighteen years, Bergen County has established an aggressive, comprehensive, and successful recycling program. All seventy Bergen County municipalities have implemented curb-side residential recycling programs. Recycling depots have been established in fifty-one municipalities and include the collection of materials ranging from traditional recyclables such as glass and paper to non-traditional recyclables such as batteries and computers.

In addition to each municipality's individual recycling program, the BCUA has implemented specific recycling, source reduction, and special waste programs to assist the District in maximizing its recycling potential, decreasing its waste generation, and ensuring the proper management of its solid waste stream.

- In order to increase the tonnage of paper recycled, a comprehensive enforcement program will be implemented and additional materials will be designated for recycling. In this regard, the County Plan is amended to include corrugated cardboard and mixed paper as a residential sector designated recyclable. Each Bergen County municipality shall be required to amend their recycling ordinance to reflect these additional designated recyclable materials. It is expected that an expansion of the recycling enforcement program and the designation of corrugated cardboard and mixed paper as a mandatory recyclable will provide for an increase in recycling that will meet or exceed the state mandatory requirement.
- The State Plan requires the establishment of a communications program that informs generators of their source separation and recycling responsibilities. In this regard, the BCUA has developed a communication and education program that incorporates the distribution of several BCUA developed publications, newspaper advertising, education programs for schools and civic groups, a BCUA maintained web site, an environmental programs hotline, distribution of recycling and source reduction promotional materials, and the procurement of a public relations consultant to provide recycling publicity services.
- The BCUA will perform a detailed yearly compliance review of each municipality to ensure that each municipality is in compliance with state and county recycling requirements. In this regard, the BCUA has created a compliance tracking database application that incorporates comprehensive data on municipal ordinance requirements, county and state requirements, tonnage grant data, and actual program information. This database will enable the BCUA to easily track municipal recycling program information to ensure that municipalities are in compliance with their local ordinance, County Plan and the State Plan.
- If a municipality is found to be in violation of its local ordinance, County Plan and the State Plan, the BCUA will provide written notification to the municipal recycling coordinator and allow for the municipality correct the violation. If subsequent review of the municipality determines that the violation has not been corrected, the municipality may be fined in accordance with the fines set forth in the May 3, 1989, Solid Waste Plan Amendment certified by the NJDEP on July 14, 1989, and the April 17, 1991, and June 5, 1991, solid waste management plan amendment certified by the NJDEP on October 20, 1991. In addition, the BCUA will also rely on the NJDEP to perform its enforcement responsibilities as set forth in the Solid Waste Management Act.