



Recycling Center located behind Rockaway's Community Center

# RECYCLING

## Goals

1. Increase education and understanding of the importance of recycling and programs.
2. Increase recycling levels in the Borough that are consistent with statewide goals.

**Recyclable material** is residential, commercial, and industrial materials or byproducts that are set aside, handled, packaged, or offered for collection separate from garbage for the purpose of being processed and then returned to the economic mainstream in the form of commodities or products.

**Single Stream recycling** is a process where the resident/business can mix all recyclable materials in one container; making the task of recycling easy in the home or business.

Recycling benefits include a cleaner environment and healthier people, fewer emissions from landfilling and incineration, less pollution seepage into soils and groundwater, and significant cost savings.

## Introduction

The New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act of 1987 requires that Municipal Master Plans include provisions for Recycling. Per the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL), a municipality can optionally incorporate a Recycling Element that must incorporate State Recycling Plan goals, designate the provisions for the municipal recycling ordinance, and develop recycling standards for developments over 50 units of single-family residential or 25 or more units of multi-family housing and any commercial or industrial development on 1,000 square feet or more of land.

Solid waste disposal and recycling in the state of New Jersey is regulated by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), pursuant to the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act. The act designated all 21 counties as Solid Waste Management Districts, in which these jurisdictions are required to develop comprehensive plans for waste management. The Morris County District Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) was adopted by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders on December 12, 1979.

## Solid Waste

Administrative responsibility for collection and disposal of solid waste rests with the Department of Public Works (DPW). The Department currently staffs 11 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Collection of the Borough's solid waste is contracted out to a private carter, currently Blue Diamond. Pick-up occurs once a week in each area. Vegetative collection occurs every other Thursday between April and December. The Borough is responsible for waste collection at all residential buildings and large apartment buildings while most commercial establishments are responsible for their own solid waste.

## Recycling

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for various aspects of solid waste and recyclable collections and is located at 21-25 Union Street at the Public Works Yard. The Department operates the Recycling Center located at the same location, 21-25 Union Street with two (2) containers for co-mingled recyclables including paper, bottles/cans, and cardboard. There is also the availability to recycle E-waste (electronic waste), scrap metal, and rigid plastics. The Borough indicated that the Recycle Center is too small and that a larger area would allow for additional recyclables. The Borough should consider expansion of the existing Recycle Center or consider relocating it to a larger property. It is also difficult to keep the material dry in the containers. The Borough should budget for capital improvements to the yard, perhaps overhang areas above the containers.

The Recycle Center is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm and on Saturday from 9am to Noon and is manned by an employee of Public Works. Respondents of the Master Plan Survey indicated that the Recycle Center should increase its operating hours for convenience.

Each year the Department distributes *The Recycling News* to residents by mail, and additionally posts the pamphlet on the Borough's website. The comprehensive and informative pamphlet outlines the garbage, recycling, and vegetative collection

pick-up schedules. It also outlines recyclable material specifications, battery management best practices, FAQs regarding certain disposal information, stormwater pollution solutions, and even references applicable Borough ordinances. Garbage, bulk trash, lawn and garden debris, and special collection rules for large items such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners (i.e. "White Goods"), tires, appliances and scrap metals are also provided. The pamphlet provides several Morris County Recycling Resource pages on topics including single-stream recycling and electronic-waste.

In January 2018, the State of New Jersey purchased an online program to centralize recycling information for municipalities and counties in an app for smart devices and computers. The app, Recycle Coach, allows users to input their address to access information such as when to put recyclables and solid waste out for pick-up including regular and holiday collection schedules. The app also includes articles about becoming better recyclers, a section to ask questions about recycling, quizzes, educational podcasts, and the ability to receive specific communication from the town or county. While the app has not been implemented state-wide as of yet, the Borough should work with the State to ensure proper application and integration of existing resources. An education component on how to use the app and press release notifying residents of the app will also be integral to the transition.

New Jersey became the first state to require that all NJ residents and businesses recycle as per the New Jersey Recycling Act of 1987. The mandatory recyclable items are determined by individual county laws. Rockaway meets the minimum recycling standards set for residential, commercial and institutional sectors.

Rockaway uses the Morris County Municipal Authority (MCMUA) for its curb-side recycle pick-up and Recycle Center pick-up. Curbside recycling collection for the Borough occurs every other Tuesday. The MCMUA practices single-stream recycling (a "no-sort" recycling program), collecting all recyclables (bottles, cans, and paper)

in one can (not to exceed 50 pounds per can). Once the recyclables are collected, they are brought to the ReCommunity Recycling Facility located in Mine Hill, NJ, where the material is sorted, baled, and ultimately sent to recycling markets around the world.

During 2017, the MCMUA collected approximately 648 tons of single-stream recyclables in Rockaway Borough of which 525 tons (81%) was collected through curbside pick-up and 123 tons (19%) was collected from the Recycle Center. About 6 tons of large rigid plastics was collected from the Recycle Center.

Rockaway Borough received New Jersey Clean Communities grants towards recycle efforts in the past decade.

On a global level, how recyclable materials are handled is changing and is resulting with local impacts to municipalities nationwide. China is the largest foreign buyer of U.S. recyclables, but with the country's new "National Sword" policy aimed at cleaning up the nation's environmental problems, China is no longer accepting certain recyclable commodity imports and accepts recyclable

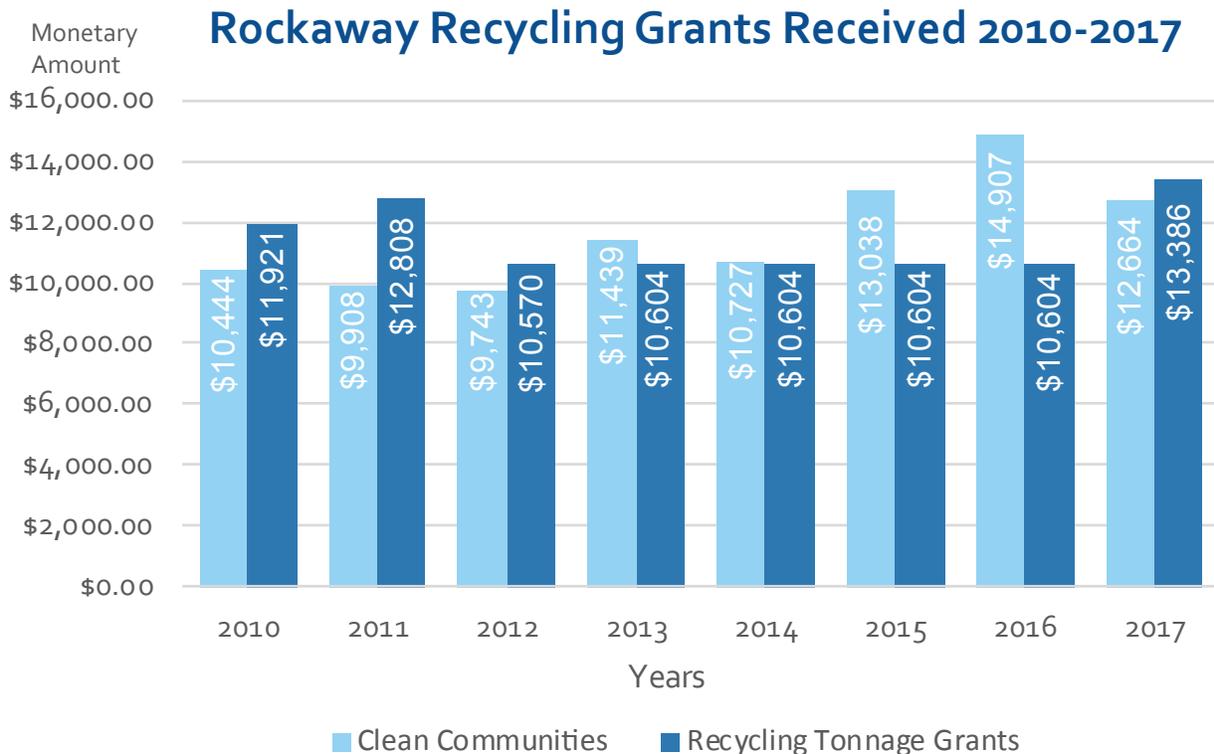
materials with lower limits of contamination, or non-recyclable scrap metals. Local municipalities and their recycling partners should prepare for higher recycling costs and should educate recyclers on the new standards for accepted recyclable materials.

## Recycling Funding Sources

While recycling activities are typically funded through the Borough's Operating Budget, other funding sources (i.e. grants, programs) are available.

### New Jersey Clean Communities

New Jersey Clean Communities is non-profit organization that works closely with NJ DEP to administer the Clean Communities program, a litter-abatement program. The program focuses on cleanup, enforcement, and education. Municipalities and counties accepting grant funding should designate a Clean Communities Coordinator, organize volunteer cleanups, adopt and enforce anti-littering ordinances, develop public information and education program, and recycle recyclable litter.



Source: NJDEP & NJ Clean Communities

# Recycling Element Strategy Plan

## Directions

“Check off” a completed Strategy and mark the year of completion as a way to measure progress.

**Priority 1:** complete in 1-2 years; **Priority 2:** complete in 3-5 years; **Priority 3:** complete in 10+ years.

### Recycling Element Strategy Plan

	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Implementing Party</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Year Completed</i>
<b>General</b>					
1	Continue to follow State Recycling Plan goals.	Public Works	Priority 1		
2	Encourage recycling Borough-wide through education and recycling events.	Public Works	Priority 1		
3	Continue to post <i>The Recycling News</i> on the Borough website and send via mail.	Public Works	Priority 1		
4	Continue to pursue grants from the state Recycling Enhancement Act's New Jersey Clean Communities program.	Public Works	Priority 1		
5	In order to be eligible for Sustainable Jersey certification, update the Borough's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).	Planning Board	Priority 2		
6	Begin the application process for Sustainable Jersey certification to become eligible for additional grants.	Public Works, Borough Council	Priority 3		
7	Perform an inventory of commercial and institutional establishments and categorize the types of generators and identify targeted recycling opportunities.	Public Works	Priority 1		
8	Establish a method of tracking Recycling Education and Enforcement Initiatives.	Public Works	Priority 1		
9	Explore the inclusion of other non-mandated recyclable materials into the Borough's Recycling Ordinance (i.e. Food Waste).	Public Works, Planning Board	Priority 2		
10	Improve communication about the recycling schedule via the Borough's website, and via the mobile app Recycle Coach, made available for free by the State.	Public Works	Priority 1		
11	Develop recycling standards in the Borough Code for developments with 50+ single-family residential units or 25+ multi-family housing units and any commercial or industrial development on 1,000+ square feet of land.	Planning Board, Borough Council	Priority 1		
12	Budget for capital improvements to the Recycle Center.	Public Works, Borough Council	Priority 1		
13	Consider expansion of the Recycle Center, either at its current location or through re-location or consider consolidation or joining a recycling consortium of neighboring municipalities.	Public Works, Borough Council	Priority 2		