



MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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NJDEP Names Middlesex County as Top Recycler

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – The latest numbers are in and Middlesex County, along with Cumberland County, has earned the shared distinction as the state’s top recycler. According to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s most recent data, both counties recycled approximately 65 percent of their total generated waste in 2012. “Those statistics are always a few years behind, but that’s the most up-to-date information they have,” said Middlesex County Improvement Authority Recycling Manager Ed Windas. “It’s all based on what the state refers to as the 60-percent goal, where counties are supposed to recycle 60 percent of their total waste. It was a mandate introduced to the state in 1995.”

As of late, Middlesex County has both met and surpassed that benchmark 16 times. The information needed to confirm local participation is tracked by waste management companies and haulers, businesses, recycling coordinators and facilities, as well as the Middlesex County Solid Waste Management Division and the MCIA’s Recycling Division, which presently serves 14 municipalities.

“We’re by no means the whole story,” Windas said. “This is really a comprehensive effort by all of our residents and business owners, corporations, manufacturing facilities – everyone.”

Middlesex County officials point to one major factor that may have contributed to the uptick in recent recycling totals.

“We have been diligently working with towns to get better reporting for recycling,” said Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios. “It’s really been an ongoing problem everywhere.” Much of the items that didn’t fall into that 65-percent margin were slated for landfills and waste energy incinerators, Windas explained.

While touting the County’s fifth time clinching the state’s highest recycling rate, the MCIA has also taken steps to curb its circulation of paper products.

Starting in 2015, the recycling division has discontinued the mass production and mailing of recycling schedules.

“That translates into 90,000 brochures that will now be made available primarily online,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Carol Barrett Bellante, who serves as the liaison to the MCIA. “As we attempt to lessen our carbon footprint, we’re also trying to get the word out to residents in affected communities.”

Those impacted municipalities include: Cranbury, Dunellen, Helmetta, Jamesburg, Middlesex, Monroe, New Brunswick, Old Bridge, Piscataway, Plainsboro, Sayreville, South Amboy, South River and Spotswood.

Residents from those areas may still request a hard copy of their respective recycling schedules by calling 732-628-0221 or by dropping by the Recycling Division’s office, 55 Edgeboro Road, in East Brunswick.

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