

On April 20, 1987, Gov. Thomas Kean signed the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act. This law requires everyone to separate recyclable materials from regular trash.

Each municipality was obligated to recycle 25% of its solid waste. Middlesex County reached that 25% recycling goal in 1989.

In November of 1990, Governor James Florio accepted a report by the N.J. Solid Waste Task Force which called for a goal of 60% to be recycled by the end of 1995.

Middlesex County adopted that goal in March of 1991.

Residential recycling programs have been effective in helping the County achieve its 60% goal, but our residents cannot do it alone, businesses need to recycle, too.

## WHY RECYCLE?



There are a number of reasons including:

**First**, and most obvious, it's the law.

**Second**, your disposal costs may be stabilized or reduced by decreasing the amount of trash sent for disposal.

**Third**, your business or commercial establishment may profit from selling recyclables.

**Fourth**, by recycling, you help the municipalities increase their Tonnage Grants, which are based on the amount of materials recycled by everyone in the town.

**Fifth**, recycling helps extend the life of New Jersey's dwindling landfill space and moves us towards disposal self-sufficiency.

## MANDATED RECYCLABLES

To comply with State, County and local laws, your business, institution, government, construction site, industrial or commercial establishment is required to separate the following materials if they are generated at your location(s):

- Newspaper
- Glass Containers
- Aluminum Containers (non-foil)
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Steel Cans
- Plastics  
SPI Code #1 & #2 (PET and HDPE)
- Mixed Paper
- Motor Oil
- Leaves
- Brush (tree parts not more than 5" in diameter)
- Masonry / Paving Materials
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Textiles
- Tires
- White Goods
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Plastic Film
- Wood Scrap



## OTHER MATERIALS TO BE CONCERNED WITH

There are other items that your business may be required to recycle or dispose of properly, depending upon the amount that you generate. A Markets Directory listing companies that provide recycling or disposal services for more than 40 different items is available. Call the DSWM at 732-745-4170 for a free copy.

## DEFINITIONS

**Mixed Paper** - glossy inserts, magazines, telephone books, junk mail, colored paper, computer paper, office paper, paperboard (chipboard and pressboard), non-metallic wrapping paper, soft cover books, hard cover books with covers removed and fine paper.

**Electronics** - televisions, CPU's, monitors, laptops, and mercury-containing devices.

**Fluorescent Bulbs** - lamps that contain mercury.

**Masonry/Paving Material** - asphalt, block, brick, cinder, and concrete.

**Plastic Film** - stretch/shrink wrap, plastic shopping bags. (Applies to warehouses, retail & supermarkets with 25 or more employees)

**Rechargeable batteries** - Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead (Pb).

### ALKALINE BATTERIES

**CAN BE DISPOSED OF IN REGULAR TRASH**

**Tires** - rubber-based scrap automotive, truck, and equipment tires.

**White goods/appliances** - washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, air conditioners. Note: all devices that contain CFC's must be properly evacuated by licensed individuals and all CFC's recovered must be sent to an EPA approved reclaimer.

**Wood scrap** - Unfinished lumber from new construction projects including pallets. Unfinished shall mean non-chemically treated (not pressure treated, impregnated with preservatives, insecticides, fungicides, creosote, or other chemicals, and not painted, resin-coated or otherwise surface treated, and not laminated or bonded; and not similarly altered from its natural condition).

## INSPECTIONS

The Middlesex County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, in cooperation with the County's Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM), conducts recycling inspections to accomplish three goals:

1. Provide businesses and commercial establishments with information about recycling.
2. Ensure uniform compliance with the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act.
3. Increase the County-wide recycling rate.

Your responsibility as the owner, operator or manager of a business/commercial establishment is to ensure that a recycling system is in place. That system must provide for the separation of mandatory recyclable materials from non-recyclable trash and for the proper recycling of those materials.

You, not your trash hauler, are responsible for separating mandatory materials and keeping them out of any refuse containers holding non-recyclable trash.

## PENALTIES

Violations of the recycling requirements may result in fines ranging from \$ 100.00 for a first offense to \$ 5,000.00 for chronic offenses. The scale of fines is established pursuant to the NJ Solid Waste Management Act.

Avoid these fines by properly establishing a recycling program for your business/commercial establishment. Proper recycling requires some effort on your part, but the results will benefit you, your community and our environment.

For more information about recycling, contact your Municipal Recycling Coordinator

## MATERIAL SERVICES EXCHANGE

Services that match generators of valuable waste and surplus goods with organizations or businesses that can reuse them are called Materials Exchanges. These exchanges prevent usable materials from becoming waste and can save businesses money that would have been spent on disposal.

A free exchange that serves our area is the Reuse Marketplace. [www.reusemarketplace.org](http://www.reusemarketplace.org)

## TIRE STORAGE

Middlesex County Solid Waste Management Plan requirements state that if you have 5 or more used tires on your site, the tires must be stored in totally enclosed structures, closed trailers, or covered roll-off containers. You are also required to properly recycle your tires.



## RECYCLABLE STORAGE

Recyclables should be temporarily stored in a clearly marked container. Each container should be large enough to hold the material you generate without overflow and must be free of non-recyclable trash.



## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Contacting your trash hauler for recycling information and associated costs is the first step. If your hauler does not provide recycling services, read "Collection" for other options. Then, establish a recycling program at your business/commercial establishment, and educate your employees and your customers on how they should participate. Your Municipal Recycling Coordinator and the staff of the DSWM are available to answer questions about a recycling system for your business/commercial establishment.

## COLLECTION

Your recyclables may be collected by a solid waste hauler, a recycling collection firm, or your municipal collection service, where available. If you generate a significant amount of recyclables, you should investigate marketing your materials directly in order to minimize costs/maximize revenue from the sale of the materials. If you generate only a small amount of recyclables, you may call your town's Recycling Coordinator to see if you are permitted to take recyclables to your town's drop-off center.

## REPORTING

Each municipality must be able to determine the amount of recycling taking place at every business/commercial establishment. You or your recycler must provide information, such as weight slips or other documentation, to your municipal recycling coordinator on an annual basis. You are ultimately responsible for ensuring that this information is provided. Each town's reporting procedures vary, so contact your local Recycling Coordinator to determine your specific municipality's requirements.

Town	Recycling Phone #
Carteret	732-541-3881
Cranbury	609-395-0900 x 229
Dunellen	732-968-5455
East Brunswick	732-432-6011
Edison	732-248-7288
Helmetta	732-521-4946
Highland Park	732-514-1277
Jamesburg	732-521-3335
Metuchen	732-632-8519
Middlesex	732-356-7953
Milltown	732-828-2100 x 135
Monroe	732-656-4575
New Brunswick	732-745-5059
North Brunswick	732-297-1134
Old Bridge	732-721-5600 x 6107
Perth Amboy	732-826-2010 x 4204
Piscataway	732-562-2390
Plainsboro	609-799-0099
Sayreville	732-390-7008
South Amboy	732-721-8100
South Brunswick	732-329-4000 x 7274
South Plainfield	908-226-7621
South River	732-257-9051
Spotswood	732-251-0700 x 822
Woodbridge	732-738-1311 x 3049

Middlesex County Dept. of Public Safety & Health  
 Division of Solid Waste Management  
 711 Jersey Ave.  
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
 732-745-4170 (phone) 732-745-3010 (fax)  
[solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us)  
[co.middlesex.nj.us](http://co.middlesex.nj.us)  
 Middlesex County Environmental Health Division  
 732-745-8480

Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
 Ronald G. Rios, Director  
 Kenneth Armwood Carol Barrett Bellante  
 Charles Kenny H. James Polos  
 Charles E. Tomaro Blanquita B. Valenti  
 John A. Pulomena  
 County Administrator

# Recycling

## A Guide for Middlesex County Businesses



Middlesex County  
 "The Greatest County In The Land"

