



The RAG Times

The MCMUA's "Recycling and Garbage" Times

Fall 1996

Volume 14, No. 2

Judge rules waste flow control will remain in effect for two more years

The solid waste industry has been "abuzz" with speculation ever since Atlantic Coast Demolition and Recycling, Inc. v. Board of Chosen Freeholders of Atlantic County, et al., entered the court system. Atlantic Coast tested the validity of New Jersey's system of waste flow control, which determines disposal patterns for solid waste on a county-by-county basis. Morris County, for example, has required that all solid waste be "flowed" through one of its two transfer stations since 1988.

On July 15, 1996, the United States District Court for the State of New Jersey finally entered a Decision in this case. The Honorable Joseph E. Irenas ruled that New Jersey's system of waste flow control was unconstitutional because it violated the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. The Court issued an injunction against the enforcement of New Jersey's waste flow rules to the extent that they discriminated against interstate commerce. Judge Irenas stayed the

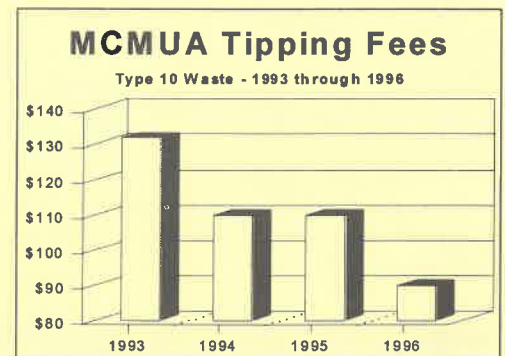
implementation of this injunction for two years following the date on which the case was no longer subject to an appeal in order to insure that New Jersey's solid waste management system is not sent into a state of total chaos. The NJDEP, through the attorney general's office, is currently appealing this ruling.

During both the appeals process and the two-year stay, the NJDEP and the MCMUA will continue to enforce current waste flow regulations to the extent allowable by law. In the meantime, however, the MCMUA is preparing for the eventual demise of waste flow control by aggressively attracting waste to the transfer stations through lowered tipping fees. (Please see related article to the right.)

Either by dangling a carrot of lowered tipping fees or wielding a stick of active enforcement, the MCMUA is dedicated to operating its transfer stations efficiently, economically, and in an environmentally-sound manner.

Morris County residents and businesses save million\$

On August 1, 1996, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) lowered the solid waste tipping fees by approximately 18%. This rate reduction applies to all solid waste disposed of through either of the two Morris County transfer stations. The rate for Type 10 waste, known as municipal solid waste (MSW), is now \$89.90 per ton.



Other waste types accepted at the MCMUA transfer stations experienced similar rate reductions. The tipping fee for Type 10C (non-regulated medical) waste was lowered to \$119.90 per ton. Type 13 waste (bulky) has a new lower tipping fee of \$89.90 per ton, and the tipping fee for Type 27 (non-hazardous dry industrial) is \$119.90 per ton. The tipping fee for Type 13C waste (construction & demolition debris) was lowered earlier in 1996 to \$85.00 per ton.

Since early 1994 when the MCMUA purchased and took control of the two transfer stations, transfer station customers have enjoyed two significant price reductions. Based on these reductions, Morris County waste generators saved an estimated \$6.6 million in 1994 and \$6.9 million in 1995; they should save \$8.0 million in 1996.



MCCRP

Morris County Curbside Recycling Program



Allow the Morris County Curbside Recycling Program to boost your recycling tonnage and reduce garbage costs with commingled collection of more materials!

Call the Morris County M.U.A. at (201) 285-8392.

Down in the dumps? Let us pick you up!

For \$22.10/household/year MCCRP provides 26 curbside collections of the following 10 materials:

- ✓ newspaper
- ✓ corrugated cardboard
- ✓ mixed paper/magazines
- ✓ chipboard/paperboard
- ✓ gable-top milk/juice cartons
- ✓ brown paper bags

commingled:

- ✓ plastic bottles - #1 & #2
- ✓ aluminum cans and plates
- ✓ glass bottles and jars
- ✓ steel cans - including empty paint and aerosol cans

MCMUA to operate county's first permanent household hazardous waste facility



Future site of Morris County's permanent household hazardous waste facility.

The MCMUA recently received NJDEP approval to operate and maintain a permanent HHW facility at its Mt. Olive Transfer Station site.

This facility, tentatively scheduled to be operational in 1997, will be available to Morris County pre-registered residential and small quantity commercial HHW generators by appointment only on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Items that will be accepted at the facility include automotive fluids, herbicides, pesticides, oil-based paints, paint thinners, batteries, pool chemicals, darkroom chemicals, small quantities of asbestos (under 100 lbs.) and driveway sealer.

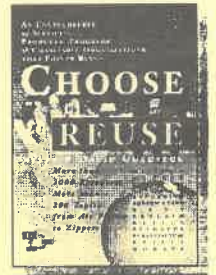
In addition, the MCMUA will continue to conduct periodic HHW disposal days, primarily in the eastern portion of the county.



Ron Hutchinson, president of the Association of N.J. Recyclers (ANJR), r., congratulates Terry Crump, MCMUA driver, for winning first place in the Roll-Off Division at the June 27, 1996 ANJR Rodeo.

Lollygagging at the library . . .

Recommended: A fairly new reference book which Niki Conway of the Harding Township Recycling Committee has called "an enormous help":



Choose to Reuse: An Encyclopedia of Services, Businesses, Tools & Charitable Programs That Facilitate Reuse, by Nikki and David Goldbeck, Ceres Press, Woodstock, NY, 1995.

Believe it or not, this book even addresses the topic of dumpster diving: "the name given to the activity of climbing into these giant garbage containers in order to rummage through other people's trash" (p. 409).

Whether you're looking for a way to reuse automobiles, air filters or zippers (or anything between "a" and "z"), this book may be just your cup of tea.





Morris County Shade Tree Commission

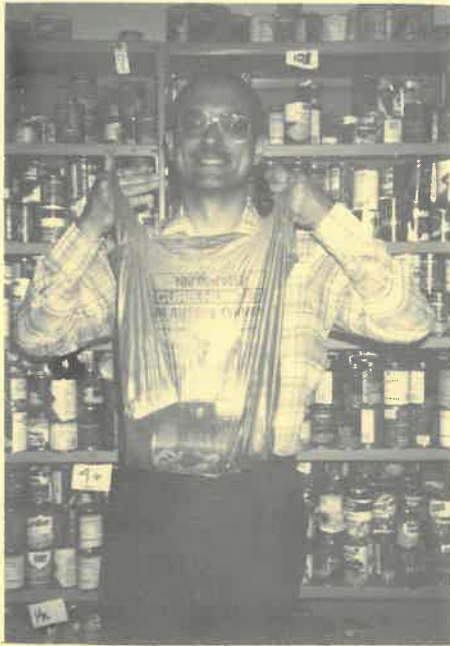
Serving Morris County's Composting Needs

The compost sites located in Parsippany and Mount Olive accept leaves, grass and separated brush from municipalities.

For more information, call (201) 285-2930.



Several agencies join forces to help assuage hunger pangs



Mark Spezzaferro of the Morris County Board of Social Services poses at the Morris County Food Cottage with a Curb Hunger bag full of canned goods.

Late in the spring, United Parcel collected 288 cartons of non-perishable food from 15 Morris County schools. The food has been distributed to Morris County residents through the Interfaith Food Pantry run by the First Baptist Church, Morristown, and the food cottage operated by the Morris County Board of Social Services.

Participating schools were Black River, Bragg and Dickerson schools in the Chesters; the Academy Street School, Dover; the Frank J. Smith School, East Hanover; Hilltop and Mountain View schools, Mendham Borough; Mountain Way and Borough schools, Morris Plains; Mountain View School, Mt. Olive; Nixon, Franklin, Kennedy, Jefferson and Lincoln/Roosevelt schools in Roxbury.

Both the Office of the Morris County Superintendent of Schools and the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority helped to coordinate the food drive.

"While promoting the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) is our primary task, contributing to the betterment of our physical and social environment ranks high," stated Vince Novak, Morris County

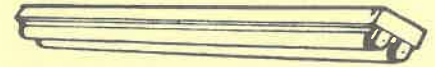


The Rev. Paul Clinger of the First Baptist Church, Morristown, rolls some cartons of food into the Interfaith Food Pantry warehouse.

district recycling coordinator, who was reflecting on the Curb Hunger Program.

"I think it's wonderful that we received the kind of response which we did, and if the Curb Hunger Program continues, I look forward to the collection of even more food to help the needy," said Mark Spezzaferro, food distribution coordinator for the Morris County Board of Social Services.

Recycle your fluorescent bulbs with the MCMUA



Fluorescent light bulbs are considered hazardous materials because they contain elemental mercury in the "phosphor powder" which coats the inside of the glass tube. A typical four-foot fluorescent bulb contains approximately thirty milligrams of mercury.

The MCMUA now provides fluorescent light bulb recycling for Morris County municipalities that choose to participate in this program. Upon request, each municipality will be provided with up to five free boxes (each box holds up to 30 four-foot bulbs).

Full boxes of bulbs can be delivered to the MCMUA Recycling Consolidation Center in Dover, or the MCMUA can pick up the boxes for a fee of \$25.00.

Once the five free boxes are used up, the cost of recycling the bulbs is just \$18.00 per box (equivalent to \$0.60 per bulb). The MCMUA simply requests that all bulb boxes are stored in a safe, dry place where the bulbs are not likely to get broken.

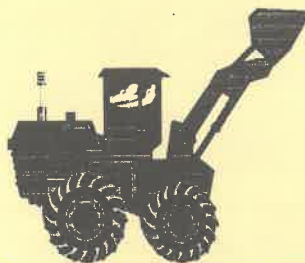
For more information about this program, please contact Laura Osborne at (201) 829-8006.



Morris County Recycling Consolidation Center

22 Richboynton Avenue, Dover, NJ (201) 361-3665

Morris County's #1 Paper Recycler



Materials accepted include:

- ✓ newspaper
- ✓ corrugated cardboard
- ✓ chipboard/paperboard
- ✓ mixed paper/magazines
- ✓ gable top milk/juice cartons
- ✓ brown bags

Call the Morris County M.U.A. at (201) 361-3665.

\$ \$ \$

Deliver materials to the Center to receive a portion of revenues earned.

\$ \$ \$



Totally tubular

by G. Jean Atwood-Waller
Founder/Director of CreArtz
Creative Environmental Artz, Inc.

When I looked at the large plastic bag of computer component tubes, I thought to myself, "They aren't at all what I imagined!" However, almost as quickly as one can say "totally tubular," I managed to pile nearly 1,000 tubes into the back of my car.

The CreArtz mission is "to create ARTZ environments that develop, encourage, and promote creative expression as a means of building bridges for art, community, and environmental/resource efficiency." This mission was aptly evidenced by my tubular challenge.

Working with plastic computer tubing and cardboard tubing from fabric and carpet companies, in addition to other eco-materials from dressmakers, wallpaper stores, and quarries, EcoStix were formed. One might ask, "Just what are EcoStix?" They are vibrant, colorful sound tubes of varying sizes which are made from non-recyclable components. Their inspiration came from the Native American rainsticks, which are made from cacti and are filled with a material that produces a rain-like sound when the sticks are turned over. The EcoStix concept is brought to fairs and festivals throughout the tri-state area where individuals are encouraged to express themselves visually through painting, collaging, writing and coloring on the EcoStix.

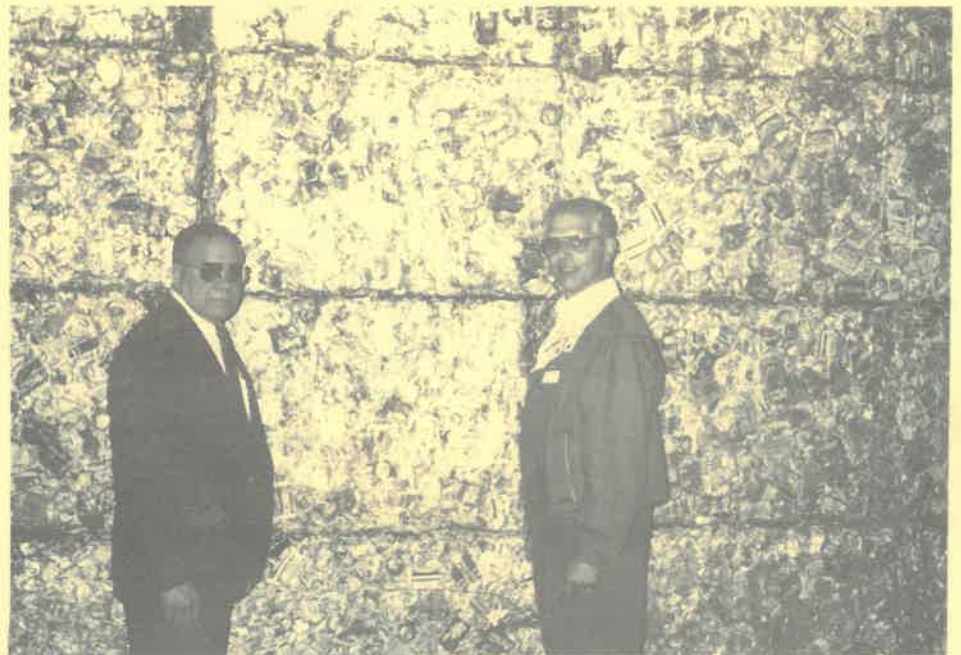
Community participation is crucial. The eco-creative process allows for both self-expression through the arts and the use of non-toxic, non-hazardous materials. These non-recyclable tubes would have had a negative impact on the environment if they were disposed instead of reused.

Everyone's help, however, is needed; CreArtz is seeking EcoArtz materials and resources to be used at workshops and community events. It is also seeking exhibition space throughout the area to display EcoArtz. Any business or individual willing to donate some of these materials — i.e., tubes of all sorts and sizes, fabrics, paints, etc., should contact CreArtz by telephone at (908) 689-9284 (x. 4) or e-mail at creartz@world2u.com.

FCR Morris, Inc., located in Mine Hill Twp., hosts grand opening on May 10



Dignitaries assemble for the ribbon-cutting, l. to r.: Rocco Mitchell, plant manager; Frank Druetzler, freeholder; Glenn Schweizer, executive director, MCMUA; Joan Bramhall, freeholder; Hy Nadel, chairman, MCMUA board; Don Hertel, chairman, Morris County Solid Waste Advisory Committee; Lou Crnarich, mayor, Mine Hill Twp., Paul Woyciechowski, director of sales and marketing, FCR.



Lou Crnarich (l.) and Joe Giordano (a Mine Hill resident who serves as assistant recycling coordinator in Morris Twp.) pause on their tour through the FCR facility to pose in front of some bales of aluminum cans.

The MCMUA rides the fiber market rollercoaster



The maxim "What goes up must come down" was aptly demonstrated between April 1994 and June 1995 as prices for fiber materials (newspaper, corrugated, mixed paper) hit all-time highs. The sky was the limit for many haulers and markets who scrambled to sign agreements with counties and towns; several of the latter were fortunate to sign lucrative long-term contracts. Then, faster than the prices escalated, they fell. By the end of March 1996, many prices had fallen back to or below those of 1994, and as a result some markets couldn't pay the contracted prices. One company declared bankruptcy. Several markets began charging fees to accept paper, and if the various types of paper were commingled, recycling became more difficult and costly.

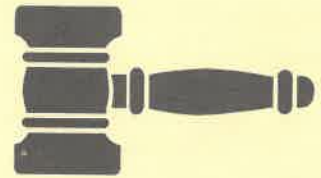
In the not-so-long run, the surge of fiber prices negatively impacted the Morris county recycling program. Prior to March 1994, few viewed recycling as a money-making endeavor but rather as a cost-avoidance measure; i.e., recycling a ton of paper was less costly than disposing of that paper at the transfer station (the

current tipping fee for depositing one ton of waste at the transfer station is \$89.90). But when the rapid price increase for fiber occurred, the concept of cost avoidance was put onto the back burner, and many expected the recycling program to pay for itself or, better yet, to turn a profit. This mindset continues even now despite the decline in prices.

When prices were unusually high, some municipalities and private haulers stopped using the Recycling Consolidation Center in order to earn more money elsewhere. Faced at the moment with the prospect of receiving lower prices or being assessed fees by the markets, however, many of them have returned.

One goal of the MCMUA is to provide a financial arrangement which normalizes the ups and downs of the fiber markets. As such, with its two service arms (the Curbside Recycling Collection Program and the Consolidation Center), the MCMUA has never charged for accepting materials. In fact, even in the worst of times (and now may be one of those), rebates have been paid.

Hopefully, prices will increase in the future, but at a more sustainable rate. Whatever the market gyrations generate, the MCMUA intends to be supportive of the municipalities as they continue to reduce the solid waste stream through recycling.



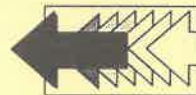
Local hauler sued for alleged waste flow violations

On October 8, 1996, the MCMUA filed a lawsuit in the Morris County Superior Court alleging that Morris County Sanitation Service, Inc. of East Hanover, one of the county's largest solid waste haulers, has been violating waste flow orders since January 1994. In the Complaint, the MCMUA charged that Morris County Sanitation Service, Inc., did not deliver approximately 61,000 tons of solid waste it collected from Morris County solid waste generators from January 1994 through September 1996 to the transfer stations. The total loss in revenue to the MCMUA, due to this alleged waste flow violation is estimated to be \$6.8 million.

According to waste flow regulations issued by the NJDEP, all nonhazardous solid waste generated within Morris County is to be transported to one of the two Morris County transfer stations. The exception to this requirement pertains to construction and demolition debris which currently has no flow restrictions associated with it.

Recent legal challenges to the validity of waste flow control have dealt with the power to direct waste to specific facilities. Since January 29, 1996, construction and demolition debris has no longer been subject to waste flow orders. In addition, on July 15, 1996, the U.S. District Court ruled that the New Jersey's waste flow control system violates the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause; however, in the same ruling, the Court also granted a stay to remain in effect until two years after the completion of the appellate process. This gives the state time to develop a nondiscriminatory plan that is constitutional. In the meantime, the MCMUA is determined to make sure that all Morris County solid waste haulers live up to the law.

**Is your home's garbage
"virtually" hazardous waste?
Find out at www.NJHazWaste.com**



The Association of New Jersey Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators (ANJHHWC) recently unveiled its new Internet web site at www.NJHazWaste.com. At this site, one can find up-to-date information on household hazardous waste disposal programs being run throughout the state. Morris County and other ANJHHWC member counties have detailed pages on the programs which they conduct. In addition, the web site provides news and technical assistance on many issues related to household hazardous waste.

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Please send all articles and/or photos
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INSIDE . . .

- The MCMUA Rides the Recycling Rollercoaster
- Permanent HHW Facility Approved by NJDEP
- MCMUA Lowers Tipping Fees . . . AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

Businesses hunger for "peanuts" and "popcorn" (packaging material, that is). To acquire the names of businesses closest to you which accept polystyrene "peanuts" and "popcorn," please call the following toll-free number: **1-800-828-2214**.

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Solid Waste Division
P.O. Box 377
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950-0377
(201) 285-8394

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