Five County Municipal Recycling Coordinators Meeting,
September 23, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA), Essex County Utilities Authority (ECUA), Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA), and Passaic County hosted an in person Five County Recycling Workshop on September 23, 2026, at The New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority Meadowlands Environment Center, 2 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ. The meeting was held from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and there were 107 people in attendance, with 16 specifically from Morris County. This included 38 Municipal Recycling Coordinators (MRCs), with 6 being Morris County MRCs. All MRCs are required to attend one County-held meeting per year and 0 out of Morris County's 39 MRCs met this requirement by attending this meeting. The meeting was approved for 3 CRP Classroom Credits, 1.5 CPWM Government Credits, and 1 CPWM Management Credit (Course #18200).

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees arrived, signed in, and enjoyed continental breakfast and coffee prior to the meeting start. The meeting took place in the auditorium and began with welcome and introductions. Anthony Marrone, Morris County's District Recycling Coordinator welcomed everyone to the sixth five county meeting and introduced the district coordinators, Richard Baroch from the BCUA, Carmine Graziano from the HCIA, Wayne DeFeo from ECUA, and Nina Seiden from Passaic County.

Anthony Marrone then reviewed the agenda and credits offered by this class and reminded everyone to sign in. He then introduced the first speaker, Jill Aspinwall.

NJDEP Recycling Program Update

County Food Waste Planning & Skip the Stuff Law, Jill Aspinwall, NJDEP

Jill Aspinwall from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Division of Sustainable Waste Management, presented on the recently passed County Food Waste Planning law and the "Single Use Utensils and Condiment Law".

The County Food Waste Planning information covered food waste recycling rules (N.J.A.C. 7:26K) in which food waste generators are required to source separate and recycle food waste if they 1) generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year and 2) are

located within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility. Generators can include supermarkets, resorts, restaurants, prisons, hospitals, etc. Aspinwall provided a definition of food waste, detailed food waste recycling methods, and reporting forms for large generators. Each solid waste management district must develop and implement a strategy for reducing the amount of food waste generated by 50% by 2035 based on 2022 municipal solid waste figures. Acceptable actions for waste generation reduction include: food donation, composting, and anaerobic digestion. Unacceptable methods for waste generation reduction include sending food to landfill including landfills that utilize gas- to energy- facilities.

The law further requires that within 180 days from the effective date of January 12, 2026, the Department must: 1) publish a list of measures the solid waste management districts can use to meet the 50% reduction requirement and 2) create a tiered regulatory structure for composting facilities to facilitate organic waste recycling across the State. Aspinwall shared that the DEP is meeting in focus groups to fine tune this initiative and in 2023. Tools currently in development are a Food Waste Guidance and Toolkit for Local Governments and a Food Waste Estimation Tool for Generators.

Aspinwall explained the requirements of the new Single-Use Utensils and Condiments law and its impacts. Food waste businesses include any facility or venue where meals are prepared and served to customers. Exemptions to this law include public/nonpublic K-12 schools, health care facilities licensed under New Jersey's Health Care Professional Responsibility and Reporting Enhancement Act, and all county and state correctional facilities. Food service businesses located in food courts are temporarily exempt until August 1, 2028. For food service businesses that are not exempt, the cutlery and condiment requirements depend on the type of business it is such as Full-Service versus Casual Dining. The NJDEP "Get Past Plastic" website includes these requirements based of o the business type. Both kinds of establishments using bundled utensils and condiments of any kind is prohibited. To pre-package in house your own food items with single use utensils and condiments is also prohibited. Questions included:

Q: How could Clean Communities engage with the "Single- Use Utensils and Condiments Law"?
A: Clean Communities should prioritize education on the matter using DEP provided outreach/verbiage.

Q: Who is the enforcing agency of the "Single- Use Utensils and Condiments Law"?
A: CEHA

E-Waste Update, Anna Dougherty, NJDEP

Anna Dougherty from the NJDEP presented on "Semiannual Reporting Requirements in N.J.A.C. 7:26J-4.1." Dougherty covered changes to the semiannual reporting requirements in the new E-Waste rule N.J.A.C. 7:26J-4.1 which was published in March 2025 and began implementation in 2026.

The following changes were discussed 1) The Authorized Recycler semiannual report was updated to meet new rule requirements. 2) Group Plan Administrators are required to submit semiannual reports. 3) Manufacturer report includes additional recycler contact information. 4) Non-Local

Government Unit (private) collection sites will submit a new form. 5) Local Government Unit (LGU) form includes additional recycler contact information.

Additionally, Dougherty provided a walkthrough of how to find and fill out the beforementioned forms. No questions were asked following the presentation

New Scrap Tire Law (P.L. 2025, c.389), Victoria Hyland, NJDEP

Victora Hyland from the NJDEP summarized the Scrap Tire Law (P.L. 2025, c.389) that was enacted on January 20, 2026. This law tasks the NJDEP to administer "New Jersey's scrap tire management program, including oversight of the collection & transportation, storage, reuse, recycling and proper disposal of scrap tires."

Haulers are required to have a DEP license, maintain a manifest to track tire movement, and only transport tires to approved facilities. Facilities do not currently need to turn away haulers without temporary registrations.

Currently, the NJDEP has a temporary registration and manifest system. To register, haulers should email completed forms (found on the NJDEP website) to scraptire@dep.nj.gov. Temporary manifest forms should be submitted by the 20th of every month. The NJDEP is currently looking into the enactment of certain exemptions as specified in the law.

Going forward the NJDEP will be creating a permanent program based off of feedback they received.

The attendees expressed concern over how this will be impacting local programs and cleanups held through the Clean Communities Program. The NJDEP informed attendees that they value feedback while they determine how to structure their permanent program. DeFeo also informed attendees that an effective way of expressing their concerns is writing letters to their local representatives.

Recycling Market Update

Q4 2026 & 2027 NJ Recycling Market Outlook, Ron Grinold (IWS)

Ron Grinold gave an NJ recycling market outlook for the fourth quarter of 2026 according to Interstate Waste Services records. His presentation included the following summaries:

- Fiber overall is up. (OCC is up $90/ton vs $67 year ago and Mixed Paper $35–40/ton vs. $31 the year prior
- Plastic markets are mixed due to market impacted by virgin resin economics and processing capacity. PET: Down to 2.61¢/lb (Sept. 2026), and Natural HDPE is down 36.50¢/lb (Sept. 2026).
- Aluminum and steel cans are both up 96.56¢/lb and $198/ton, respectfully.

Grinold mentioned the importance of AI and technological innovation to further improve market rates in the future. Moreover, contamination at the residential level continues to be a hidden market variable and we were given insight on the IWS infrastructure at the North Arlington Location. Questions included:

Q: Is there a concise list you can provide to residents on what is accepted?
A: Let's set up a meeting about that, it can vary, and we are working on it with ANJAR.

Q: How can we help the stores you service to comply?
A: They should consult their service sales representative.

Jim Lawler (Circular Servies)

Jim Lawler from Circular Services introduced their organization and gave an overview about the recycling market as it pertains to them. Circular Services is a recycling facility that operates across the USA. They largely focus on municipal recycling services. The following are the market breakdowns as outlined in the presentation:

Metal:

- Primary Aluminum: overall slightly higher pricing compared to September of 2025. Drivers include 50% section 232 tariffs on aluminum imports and about 9% of global smelting capacity being in the Middle East
- Virgin Steel: Overall slight higher pricing compared to September 2025. Drivers include growth of electric-arc furnaces and customer push for "Green Steel"

Plastic

- #1 PET: Overall pricing is lower compared to September 2025. Drivers include failed legislation to push for bottles to be made of recycled content, influx of cheap virgin plastics, and 6/30 PET reclaimers closed.
- #2 HPDE: Natural HPDE is priced slightly lower while Color HDPE is priced significantly higher compared to September 2025.
- #5 PP: PP pricing is roughly the same or slightly higher compared to September 2025. Drivers include geopolitical disruptions and demand from Europe, limited domestic supply, and packaging shifts from PE to PP.

Floorcycle Reclamation Program

Corey Cormican, Flooring Foundation

Cory Cormican from the Floorcycle Foundation gave an overview about their organization and operations. Floorcycle is a company that removes and recycles different flooring materials, including carpets, LVT, and rubber. These materials get sent to material-specific destinations to be processed. For example, carpets are palletized, wrapped, documented, and sent to partners in New York.

Upcoming Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws encourage carpet recycling. New York specifically has an EPR law that incentivizes EPR Recycling. Following the flooring removal, Floorcycle will also install new flooring as selected by the client. All clients receive documentation of how much flooring was diverted and additional metrics.

For more information on this program, MRC's can visit Flooring Foundation Corp - Flooring Recycling, Carpet Waste Reduction, New Jersey Flooring Reclamation.

Food Waste Solutions

Lisa Johnson, Township of Montclair

Lisa Johnson presented Compost Montclair: Organic Waste Management Using In-Vessel Composters. Johnson outlined the project's goals of diverting food waste from incineration, reducing hauling costs and associated emission, processing organic waste locally, and producing compost for local use. She explained the importance of managing organic waste sustainably and why traditional composting methods alone may not be sufficient to meet the community's needs. Johnson also shared the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreement website. She showed pictures of the Rocket A500 in-vessel composter that was purchased and explained the functions and benefits for efficient local food waste processing. She identified school composting sites at Watchung School in the 2nd Ward and Bullock School in the 4th Ward, as well as community composting sites at Montclair Community Farms in the 3rd Ward and Northeast Earth Coalition in the 4th Ward. Lisa concluded by discussing the regulatory and permitting challenges associated with establishing composting facilities and the importance of addressing these requirements to support local organic waste management.

Karen Marx, Borough of Leonia Environmental Commission

Karen Marx presented The Benefits and Challenges of Starting a Municipal Composting Program. Marx began explaining what composting is and how composting is recycled organic matter and natural fertilizer for soil. She then explored the various benefits of composting, along with the challenges municipalities may encounter when developing, implementing, and maintaining a successful program. Karen also highlighted the Borough of Leonia's composting efforts from June 5, 2024, through September 15, 2026, sharing information on the total pounds of food waste collected and the number of subscribers participating in the program. In addition, Marx discussed the town's ongoing consideration for a potential food waste collection plan, including ways to make composting more accessible to residents, reducing landfill-bound waste, cut tipping/disposal fees, supporting regional farms, and engaging the public in sustainable practices. Karen concluded with providing insight into the opportunities and obstacles associated with municipal composting and emphasized the important of explore waste management solutions at the local level.

Heather Thompson, Table-to-Table

Table to Table operates in five counties. There are 1 million food insecure New Jerseyans. Table to Table helps bridge the gap by rescuing healthy perishable food and delivering it to people who

need it. Table to Table has six refrigerated trucks with drivers and over three hundred volunteers. They have many food donor partners, and they work with anywhere there is wasted food. The food is provided and delivered for free. Table to Table tries to match donations with the right agency. The presentation provided testimonials of people Table to Table has helped. They are 26 years strong. They also recognize the environmental impact of their work and ask for support. They have never accepted federal funding. They are currently working in all eleven schools in Bloomfield and deliver to various organizations. Sometimes they referred potential donors to Share My Meals if they are a better match. The presentation discussed ways to partner and introduced the i-rescue volunteer app they use.

A question was asked about whether they have information on their website that can be shared with potential donors. The response is there is simple application donors can fill out.

Meadowlands Environmental Center Overview & Tour, Michele Daly, MEC

Michele Daly, the Director of Disability Education at MEC, reviewed the structure and education programs offered at the Meadowlands Environmental Center (MEC). Their overall goal is to increase awareness of the local ecosystem through enjoyable and comprehensive environmental education.

Their programs are catered towards K-12 schools, homeschoolers, undergraduate and graduate students, continuing education, and people with disabilities. Currently, they partner with 80 schools districts, charter, and private schools. Their programs also satisfy the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and NJ Core Curriculum.

To run their operations, the MEC relies heavily on grant funding. Grants include the National Science Foundation, EPA, the Federal DOE, NJ DOE, and more.

Following the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to attend a tour of the Center for Environmental & Scientific education. Approximately 7 individuals participated in this activity. This tour included a walk through of their main educational building and classrooms. They also spoke with an educator on how they create their programs.