

# RECYCLING PLAN



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## **XI. RECYCLING PLAN ELEMENT**

### **A. Introduction**

The recycling plan element incorporates the goals and objectives of both the State Recycling Plan and the Middlesex County Solid Waste Management Plan (MCSWM), including provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials designated in the Township recycling ordinance, and for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials within any development proposal for the construction of 50 or more units of single-family residential housing or 25 or more units of multi-family housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,00 square feet or more of land. These are the components of a municipal Master Plan as set forth in the M.L.U.L. 40:55D-28(12).

In 1999, the Township sent 10,971.89 tons of Type 10 (municipal waste collected from residents, businesses and institutions) material, 9,041.40 tons of Type 13 (bulky waste such as construction and demolition debris, tires, furniture, appliances, and logs) material, 1 ton of Type 23 (vegetative waste such as grass and branches) material, and 163.89 tons of Type 27 (dry non-hazardous industrial waste which must be pre-approved by the MCUA; no hazardous waste or asbestos is permitted in a landfill) material for a total of 20,178.18 tons to County landfills.

In 2006, the Township sent 13,027.25 tons of Type 10 material (municipal waste collected from residents, businesses and institutions); 8080.15 tons of Type 13 material (bulky waste such as construction and demotion debris, tires, furniture, appliances); and 135.06 tons of Type 27 material (dry non-hazardous industrial waste, which must be pre-approved by the MCUA) for a total of 21,242.46 tons to County landfills.

### **B. State and County Recycling**

In 1987 the State and County goal was to recycle 25% of municipal waste. This goal was established through the 1987 legislation, The New Jersey Statewide Source Separation and Recycling Act (P.L. 1987, c.102, hereafter "Recycling Act"). Today, the goal is to recycle 60% of total solid waste. Strategies for meeting this new goal are contained in the MCSWM Plan as prepared by the Middlesex County Department of Planning, Division of Solid Waste Management, dated November 2006.

The county recycled an average of 30% of municipal waste in 1989. The county also diverted or recycled leaves, yard waste, wood waste, concrete, and asphalt. In relation to total waste, overall recycling was 25%, or 318,000 tons. The 1989 per capita waste generation rate was 7.8 pounds per person per day. With recycled materials added, waste generation was 10.5 pounds per person per day.

In 1998, the total amount recycled in the County had increased to 1,133,615 tons or 60.46% of total waste generated. In 1999, Plainsboro Township successfully recycled 41.76% of total waste generated and that number continues to increase.

In 2006, the total amount recycled in the County increased to 1,715,885 tons or 64.46% total waste generated. The per capita waste generation rate was 6.62 pounds per person per day, and with recyclable materials added, waste generation was 18.62 pounds per day. The Township successfully recycled 43.89% of total waste generated, and increase of 2.13% from 1998

C. Township Recycling

The Township has adopted a recycling ordinance which makes it mandatory for all residents and non-residents who are owners, lessees or occupants of residential structures, businesses, offices and institutional uses located within the Township to separate used newspaper, used paper, clean corrugated cardboard, glass and aluminum cans from all other solid waste, and deliver such items to the designated drop-off point within Plainsboro or comply with whatever other regulations for such recycling by the Municipal Recycling Coordinator. The goal of the ordinance is to promote recycling in a way that is compatible with the state recycling plan and the county recycling plan, the goals of which are included in this Master Plan Element by reference.

The Township requires the following:

1. The owner, lessee and occupant of any residential, office or institutional use must place for disposal, removal or collection the following items, conforming to the following regulations:



**Trash Can and Bench**

- a. Used newspaper, used paper and clean corrugated cardboard must be bundled separately and secured in bundles not exceeding fifty (50) pounds and shall not be contained in plastic bags.
- b. Glass and aluminum cans must be contained in suitable containers supplied by owners, lessees or occupants.
- c. Before glass and aluminum containers are delivered to the designated drop-off points, they must be thoroughly rinsed.
- d. Leaves must be separated and recycled.
- e. An explanation of the method used to determine the size of the storage area is required.

- f. The outdoor storage area shall be conveniently located for disposition of recyclables, preferably near, but clearly separated from a refuse dumpster. The outdoor area must be enclosed on three (3) sides by a six (6) foot tall solid wall or fence, and landscaping must be provided around the fence.
  2. The owners or managers of all businesses, offices and institutional uses located within the Township must meet the following additional recycling requirements:
    - a. A recycling system must be established for all mandated materials.
    - b. Recycling containers must be clearly marked and adequate to hold materials between collections.
    - c. The owner/manager is responsible for arranging for recyclables to be removed from the premises and assuring that they are marketed.
    - d. The owner/manager must provide notice to employees and customers if they are impacted by the recycling system.
    - e. The owner/manager must arrange for reports of recycling materials and tonnage information to be submitted to Plainsboro Township on a quarterly basis.
  3. The owners or managers of all multi-family uses within the Township must meet the following additional recycling requirements:
    - a. Drop-off or curbside collection must be provided for all mandated materials.
    - b. Drop-off containers must be clearly marked and adequate to hold materials between collections.
    - c. The management is responsible for arranging for recyclables to be removed from the premises and assuring that they are marketed.
    - d. Management must issue notifications to tenants every three (3) months.
    - e. Management must arrange for reports of recycling tonnage information to be submitted to Plainsboro Township on a quarterly basis.

In addition to implementing these ordinance provisions, the Township provides for the collection and disposition of recycling materials by operating a drop-off facility at the Township's Environmental Center (Block 11, Lot 27.01), located off Grovers Mill Road. The drop-off facility accepts all recyclables as required by the Township. The facility is open Monday and Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Winter hours are

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Materials are collected by the MCIA every 2 months.

The Township has also included requirements in its Subdivision and Site Plan Review Ordinance to address the adequate provision for the collection and disposal and, where possible, the recycling of garbage, trash and solid waste as generated in the PMUD and PCD zones. It is recommended that the Township Code be amended to require the submission of recycling plans for all applications for single family developments in excess of 50 dwelling units and multi-family developments in excess of 25 dwelling units. Furthermore, any commercial development in excess of 1,000 sq. ft. should also include provisions for recycling.



**Trash Can**

The Township will investigate other ways in which to increase recycling by placing recycling containers at public facilities and parks, requiring that those seeking construction and building permits provide information about how materials will be properly recycled, and work with Middlesex County to continue to meet recycling tonnage targets.

The following recycling procedures and standards are required in the Township as described in detail on Table 22.

**D. Action Plan**

1. The Township should examine its current ordinances that deal with recycling to ensure that they are up to date.
2. The Township should continue to promote recycling through educational methods and through the development approval process.

## Table 22 Recycling Procedures

### **Definitions:**

Aluminum – Includes all recyclable aluminum cans.

Brush – Branches, woody plants, and other like vegetative material not exceeding five inches in diameter, and Christmas trees. Brush does not include leaves and grass clippings.

Clean Corrugated Cardboard – Nonfood containers constructed of layered cardboard with a center that is shaped into ridges, folds or grooves (such as shipping boxes and the packaging for most appliances or larger household items.)

Electronics – Televisions, CPUs, monitors, laptops and mercury-containing devices.

Fluorescent Bulbs – Lamps that contain mercury.

Glass – Includes all products made from silica or sand, soda ash and limestone; the product being transparent or translucent and being used for packaging or bottling various matter and all other materials commonly known as “glass,” excluding, blue and flat glass commonly known as “window glass.”

Masonry/Paving Materials – Asphalt, block, brick, cinder and concrete.

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.

Plastic Containers – Soda bottles made of PETE (SPI code #1) and milk, water and laundry product bottles made of HDPE (SPI code #2). Excluding products containing or that contained household hazardous waste.

Plastic Film – Stretch/shrink wrap, plastic shopping bags for warehouses, retail establishments and 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).

Solid Waste – Includes all garbage and rubbish normally collected for the residents, institutional and commercial occupants of Plainsboro Township.

Steel Cans – Tin plated, bi-metal, and other ferrous food and beverage containers.

Textiles – Clean, dry clothing or other fabric measuring at least one foot by one foot in size.

Tires – Rubber-based scrap automotive, truck and equipment tires.

Used Newspaper – Includes paper of the type commonly referred to as “newsprint” and distributed at stated intervals, usually daily or weekly, having printed thereon news and opinions and containing advertisements and other matters of public interest.

White Goods – Washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, dehumidifiers and 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).

### **Recycling Procedures:**

In an effort to promote savings and subsidies the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) created a shared-services partnership in 1995, for the curbside collection of recyclables. As of 2008, Plainsboro Township was one of the 16 participating municipalities within the county. The MCIA provides a comprehensive website ([www.mciath.com](http://www.mciath.com)) listing recyclable materials and the proper way to recycle them. An individual can contact the MCIA directly at 101 Interchange Plaza, Cranbury, 08512, or by calling (609) 655-5141.