

2026 NEW JERSEY

SUSTAINABILITY

SUMMIT



State Legislation + Local Action = Collective Impact

May 15, 2026



Panel Speakers



Asw. Alixon Collazos-Gill, LD27



**Lois Kraus,
Beyond Plastics NJ**



**Michael Van Clef,
Friends of Hopewell
Valley Open Space**



**Alessia Eramo,
Morris County MUA**



SKIP THE STUFF!

“Accessories Upon Request”

Lois Kraus



Spring 2026 Sustainable Jersey Summit



We Did it! Celebrating Our Success

- Local Action Drives Statewide Change
 - 60+ municipalities ordinances
 - Grassroots advocacy
- Collaboration with environmental nonprofits
- Strong government support
- Effective social media / tabling events



Lets Leverage this Winning Model!

- Construction Containment Act
- Artificial Turf
- Balloon Releases and more



SIERRA CLUB
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER





Skip the Stuff Law
“Accessories Upon
Request “
S3195/A5157



*Each year, more than **40 billion** throwaway plastic utensils are handed out in the U.S.*

WIN Business – Save inventory & labor costs

WIN Customer – Save trash costs & clutter

WIN Municipality – Reduce litter & save trash costs



Municipal Engagement Key



60+ towns passed ordinances or resolutions
(2023-2025)

Grassroots lobbying in Trenton Senate &
Assembly Committees; signed into law by
Governor Murphy on January 20, 2026

Red Bank case study demonstrated significant
financial/waste savings





Skip the Stuff - Opt-in for Delivery/Takeout

Makes the following single-use accessories opt-in vs. automatically provided for delivery & takeout ONLY

- **Utensils - forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks**
- **Napkins**
- **Condiments - sauces, sweeteners, seasonings, spices**
- **Applies to meal orders placed in person, over the phone or online**



Skip the Stuff - Dine In

Reusable utensils required for full service restaurants with seating capacity for 10 or more with wait staff





Additional Law Info



- Effective August 1, 2026
- 180 day education campaign
- Law preempts existing ordinances
- Noncompliance - Warning, \$100 fine, \$250
- Enforcement County Environmental Health Officers/
 - Local health officers / BOH can provide support
- Food courts have a 2 year exemption
- Law only applicable to food service businesses

IT'S TIME TO EDUCATE!!!

Advocates Educational Materials available
NJ Clean Communities funds can be used



Key Provisions
Store signage
Employee instructions
Tip Cards

 **LITTER FREE NJ**

WE KINDLY ASK THAT
YOU REQUEST ONLY THE
ACCESSORIES
THAT YOU NEED.



Westfield Green Team



Beyond Plastics NJ

Ask me how to Skip The Stuff

Thank you!



Skip the Stuff!

Need single-use utensils and condiments?

Just ask!



What's New?

To reduce waste and save costs, restaurants no longer give single-use utensils or condiments automatically for take-out orders, but they're *still available upon request!*

The Solution

Don't need it? *Skip it.*
 Need it? *Just ask!*

New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law – Effective 9/1/2026

NEED STUFF?

Single-use items will only be provided upon request for take-out orders.



JUST ASK!

Please only ask for the number of items you need!



THANK YOU!

For complying with New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can your customers receive single-use condiments and utensils under New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law?

For Take-Out Orders:

- Single-use items provided upon request.
- In person: Business may ask the customer if utensils are needed, or the customer can ask for them.
 - You can also offer utensil dispensers (one item at a time)
- Online: orders must ask the customer if they want single-use utensils and condiments
 - The default assumption must be "no" unless requested.

For Dine-In:


- Full-service restaurants (10+ seats with wait staff):
 - Business must provide reusable utensils
- Casual dining restaurants
 - Single-use utensils and condiments may be provided upon request

What are single-use utensils and condiments?

- Items designed to be discarded after one use
- Utensils: Forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks
- Condiments: Sauces, seasonings, sweeteners, spices

For more information, please visit... ?

Educational Materials Available



**SIMPLE SWAPS:
SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES FOR
RESTAURANTS!**

YES, YOU CAN ACCEPT REUSABLE ITEMS!

Why It Matters:
Single-use plastics contribute to pollution, harm wildlife, and can leach harmful chemicals into food and drinks. By welcoming reusable items, your restaurant saves money, reduces waste, protects the environment, and supports customers making sustainable choices.

Did You Know?
In New Jersey, restaurants are allowed to accept clean, reusable containers, cups, and utensils from customers. Participating in sustainable practices can attract eco-conscious customers and reduce your waste disposal costs.

ALLOW REUSABLE COFFEE MUGS	ACCEPT REUSABLE CONTAINERS FOR LEFTOVERS	ENCOURAGE REUSABLE UTENSILS & DRINKWARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Customers can bring their own clean coffee mugs for refills.Encourage customers to label their mug size.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Customers can provide clean containers for staff to pack leftovers at the table.Customers can request their takeout orders be packed in their own clean containers outside the kitchen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Let customers know they can bring their own straws, cups, and cutlery.Offer an option to skip single-use utensils in takeout and delivery orders.
SAVE ~\$13,000+ ANNUALLY	SAVE ~\$4,000+ ANNUALLY	SAVE ~\$2,500+ ANNUALLY

ANJEC | STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM | BEYOND PLASTICS



LITTER FREE NJ

PSA's

Skip The STUFF - Take Out



SKIP THE STUFF

ReThink Disposable
STOP TRASH BEFORE IT STARTS

CLEAN WATER ACTION | CLEAN WATER FUND

**SKIP THE STUFF CASE STUDY:
Borough of Red Bank**
Restaurants providing single-use cutlery and condiments upon request only



STS - Amplify Message to Government & Businesses

- Update your town council
 - Key Provisions / FAQs
- Educate your eating establishments/ Chamber of Commerce/ Downtown Business Districts
 - Restaurant Signage
 - FAQs
- Post implementation Survey - is the law working??



STS - Amplify Message to Residents

- Sample articles / Op-Eds
- Social Media
- Host a free “Plastic Detox” screening
- Tabling Events for Plastics Free July
- Social Media
- TIP Cards



STS: Model Best Practices

- Refuse single-use items at your local restaurants and tell friends to the same
- Educate restaurant owners, friends and family members why SUPs are problematic
- Bring your reusable containers (for leftovers)
- Host Zero Waste Events



Questions? Visit us at Tables 44
beyondplasticsnj@gmail.com
nchecko@anjec.org



Instagram: **@BEYONDPLASTICSNJ**

@ANJECPOSTS

Cleanwater.org/skip-stuff-toolkit

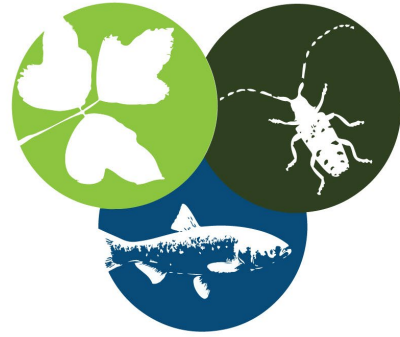


The New Jersey Invasive Species Management Act



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team
A PROGRAM OF
FoHVOS

Presented by Michael Van Clef, PhD,
Strike Team Program Director



NJ Invasive Species Strike Team

A PROGRAM OF

FoHVoS

Our Mission

We work to protect natural lands, with their full abundance and diversity of native plants and animals, from future damage through coordinated strategic invasive species management. Active mapping, data analysis, engaging in community outreach and training, and practicing early detection and rapid response (ED/RR) to new threats; we are the only entity solely dedicated to protecting rare species and special places from invasive species throughout New Jersey.

STEWARDSHIP = *Mitigation of human impacts on natural systems*

A very long road...but we have no time to dwell

Early Stuff

- 1900's - 1940's - Several western states act (rangeland weeds) and Hawaii's laws
- 1950's - Only notable invasive in NJ is Japanese Honeysuckle
- 1958 - Charles Elton writes "The Ecology of Invasion by Plants and Animals"
- 1960's - Federal government distributes millions of Multiflora Rose and Autumn Olive
- 1970's through 1990's - Academia studies invasion ecology and impacts

Near the Millenium

- 1998 - Wilcove et al. say invasive species second only to habitat destruction for biodiversity
- 1999 - Australia enacts national invasive species legislation
- 1999 - President Clinton establishes National Invasive Species Council
- 2001 - St. Louis Declaration on Invasive Species - academia, nursery industry, landscape architects, botanic gardens, etc. make pledges
- 2002 - Environmental Law Institute's "Halting the Invasion" to stimulate new laws
- 2004 - Connecticut passes legislation, more northeastern states follow over next decade+. *[[By 2023, only NJ and RI have not acted in the northeast and nearly all states across the nation have at least some legislation.]]*

New Jersey

- 2004 - Governor McGreevy signs Executive Order #97 establishes NJ Invasive Species Council charging with preparing a statewide plan (initiated in 2005)
- 2008 - Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and Raritan Headwaters Association create "New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team"
- 2009 - NJ-ISC publishes "Strategic Management Plan for Invasive Species" – signed by Governor Corzine...Governor Christie disbands Council about one month later...
- 2024 - New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan approved

Collaborative Legislative Development

- 2018: Senator Greenstein introduces legislation
 - Stakeholder organizations including NJ Nursery and Landscape Association, Native Plant Society of New Jersey, and NJ Forestry Association provided testimony on proposed legislation, but bill does not progress to a vote.
- 2022-2025: Senators Greenstein and Smith re-introduce legislation
 - Over nearly 2 years, Senator Smith's Forest Task Force Invasive Species Workgroup collaborate, suggesting significant revisions through thoughtful negotiation; recommendations provided to the Senators.
 - Workgroup consists of conservation groups, nursery operators, landscape professionals, NJ Farm Bureau
 - Passed in December 2023 (unanimous bipartisan support), Vetoed by Governor Murphy in January 2024
 - In 2024 & 2025, revisions on regulatory coordination with NJDEP and NJDA led to passage (again), Governor signs

The approach validates a collaborative, science-based approach to environmental policy that respects both ecological necessity and economic reality.

What the Law Does

The New Jersey Invasive Species Management Act:

- Prohibits unregulated sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation of prohibited invasive species
- Establishes a permanent NJ Invasive Species Council to guide policy, research, and education
 - Former Council created via Executive Order allowing a future Governor to eliminate it
- Council will make recommendations to the NJDEP Commissioner and Secretary of Agriculture regarding invasive species
- Provides technical assistance and educational resources for industry transition
- Creates mechanisms for ongoing species assessment and permit applications

The framework balances environmental protection with workable industry timelines.

Initially Prohibited (“Banned”) Species Designated in the Act

- (1) Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)
- (2) tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- (3) mimosa tree or Persian silk tree (*Albizia julibrissin*)
- (4) porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata*)
- (5) Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*)
- (6) Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- (7) Japanese clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)
- (8) autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
- (9) weeping lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)
- (10) winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
- (11) English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- (12) Japanese hop (*Humulus japonicus*)
- (13) European privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
- (14) Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- (15) Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*)
- (16) purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- (17) Japanese crabapple (*Malus toringo*)
- (18) Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)
- (19) Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- (20) Oriental photinia (*Photinia villosa*)
- (21) Callery or Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- (22) common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
- (23) jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*)
- (24) multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- (25) European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)
- (26) Siebold's arrowwood (*Viburnum sieboldii*)
- (27) Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)
- (28) Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
- (29) sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
- (30) running bamboo (*Phyllostachys*)
- (31) Additional species can be added...see next slide

Invasive vs. Prohibited Invasive

- Invasive if...
 - Considered by the Council to cause / may cause economic or environmental harm, harm to human health, or threatens / may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources
 - Factors include: Likelihood of introduction to the state -- Likelihood of naturalization – Magnitude of potential adverse impacts – Ability to eradicate or control spread
 - Provide threat level and categorize current NJ population as “potential”, “emerging” or “established”
 - Identify any sterile cultivars or varieties
- Prohibited Invasive if...
 - 1) Considered invasive and recommended for addition to the prohibited species list by the Council, 2) accepted by NJDEP and NJDA, and 3) moved through the Administrative Procedure Act at the discretion of the Governor.

Phase-In of Prohibitions

Allowance for nursery industry to avoid undue economic harm (e.g., allows preparation for change, selling of existing inventory)

- Propagation prohibited at 1 year following signature into law (approximately February 2027)
- Sales prohibited at 4 years following signature into law (approximately February 2030)

Note: Official dates will be promulgated during rulemaking within 12 months of effective date of legislation.

Cultivar Exemptions

(1) Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*):

Aurea, UCONNBTCP4N, UCONNBTB113, UCONNBTB048, UCONNBTB039

(2) Chinese Silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*):

NCMS1, Tift M77

(3) any additional cultivars or varieties exempted following consideration of the Council and acceptance by NJDEP and NJDA.

Note 1: The invasive species working group recommended cultivars that were scientifically vetted and appear in NY state legislation as exempted.

Note 2: Exemptions shall expire two years after the effective date of this act, unless NJDEP, in consultation with the Council and NJDA, adopts rules and regulations to continue the exemptions.

Invasive Species Council

The council shall consist of 19 members as follows:

- (1) Commissioner of Environmental Protection (ex-officio)
- (2) Secretary of Agriculture (ex-officio)
- (3) State Treasurer (shall serve ex-officio)
- (4) Commissioner of Transportation (ex-officio)
- (5) Commissioner of Health (ex-officio)
- (6) State Forester (ex-officio)

- (7) 13 members of the public (appointed by Governor < 60 days after effective date of this act) – one of the following will be considered the “Council Chair”
 - (a) two representatives from environmental organizations
 - (b) two representatives from the food agricultural sector
 - (c) two representatives from the landscape industry
 - (d) two representatives from the nursery industry
 - (e) two representatives of New Jersey higher education institutions
 - (f) one representative from a county park system
 - (g) one representative involved in urban ecosystems
 - (h) one member of the public

Other Important Council Responsibilities

- Recommend measures necessary for State departments & agencies, cooperation with federal agencies and other states
- Identify research needs to better assess routes of introduction, threats, and methods of prevention and control for invasive species
- Review ongoing invasive species control efforts being carried out by the State, recommend new or revised measures to limit introduction and spread
- Produce or identify educational programs and materials for public distribution including threats posed by invasive species – measures to prevent introduction – control methods – encouraging use of native species (preferably propagated in NJ)
- Develop partnerships with federal, state and local government, educational institutions, non-profit and other private groups to help implement polices and recommendations of the Council
- Identify sources of funding to support the Council's research, monitoring, control recommendations, and relevant youth and community outreach programs
- Identify legislative or regulatory actions necessary to implement or further Council recommendations
- Make recommendations to the NJDEP and NJDA regarding implementation of the act
- Review applications for conditional use waivers and make recommendations to NJDEP and NJDA
- Examine and revise 2009 NJ Strategic Management Plan for Invasive Species no later than 2 years after Council is initially seated and revise every 10 years

NJDEP shall...

- Along with NJDA, enforce provisions of the act
 - NJDA for violations involving sale, offer for sale, propagation for sale, or importation of a prohibited invasive species or its seeds
 - NJDEP for any other violation
- Create a central clearinghouse of information on its website including
 - List of invasive species including how to identify them, best practices for control, and possible native alternatives for planting
 - Links to other existing categories of non-native species, their management and regulation including injurious insects, potentially dangerous animals, noxious weeds, and federally regulated species
 - Links to NJDEP native species list

Next Steps

No later than 60 days after signature into law (approximately March 2026):

- DEP and NJDA will begin formal rulemaking
- Governor will appoint the members of the New Jersey Invasive Species Council
- Once appointed, the New Jersey Invasive Species Council will convene and create the Council's rules of order, operating procedures, and priorities to guide coordination and implementation.

Within 12 months (approximately February 2027):

- DEP, in consultation with the NJDA, will adopt the administrative procedures, rules, and regulations needed to implement the law statewide. **This includes 1) list of invasive species, 2) list of prohibited invasive species, and 3) process for granting conditional use waivers for prohibited species for a specific purpose.**

Within 36 months of the effective date, and every three years thereafter (approximately February 2029):

- DEP will review the latest scientific recommendations from the Council and update the list of invasive and prohibited invasive species

Individuals and Municipalities: How can you help?

- The Act “supersedes any contradictory ordinances, resolutions, rules, or regulations...adopted at municipal, county ty, or regional levels...in association with the regulation of invasive species or permitting of activities involving the introduction, sale, import, export, etc. of prohibited invasive species.”

- Using iNaturalist...



- Record as many instances of escaped invasive species as possible – we want to document every population that exists in natural areas!
 - Join Strike Team projects for widespread and emerging species
- DO NOT include planted specimens or plants that are spreading within a yard
- Join or Create a [Volunteer Stewardship Team](#)
 - Adopt-a-Park – Stewardship Style!

Q & A

Michael Van Clef, Ph.D.

- mvanclef@fohvos.org
- 908.528.6674
- FoHVOS.org/invasive-species-strike-team/

Plants and Birds of Healthy Forests



Clockwise from top left: mountain laurel, witch-hazel, maple-leaved viburnum



Clockwise from top left: blackburnian warbler, black-throated blue warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, ovenbird

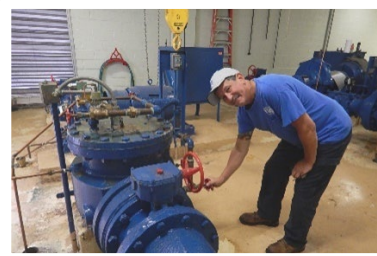
Sustainable Jersey Summit 2026

County Food Waste Planning (and Composting) Law, P.L.2025, c.228

Alessia Eramo, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

May 15, 2026

Who is the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority?



- Originally founded in 1958, the MCMUA was commissioned to write and implement the district Solid Waste Management Plan in 1987.
- Today, the MCMUA serves as Morris County's solid waste management authority and environmental resource.
- Service Areas:
 - Solid Waste Disposal Operations and Planning
 - Recycling Collection Services
 - Recycling Educational Outreach
 - Vegetative Waste Recycling and Materials Delivery
 - Hazardous / Special Wastes Disposal and Events
 - Environmental Sustainability Outreach
 - Water Distribution
 - Open Space Conservation and Land Acquisition



(Select) New Jersey Food Waste Laws



2017

Food Waste Reduction Act

(N.J.S.A. 13:1E-226 et seq.)

Established goal to reduce the amount of food waste generated annually by 50% by 2030.

Commissioned the Food Waste Reduction Plan published in 2023.



2020

Food Waste Recycling and Food Waste to Energy Production Law

(NJSA 13:1E-99.122)

Generators who generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year must source separate and recycle food waste if they are within 25 road miles of a food waste recycling facility.



2023

School Food Waste Recycling Law

(N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.115a)

Schools may collect food scraps for in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion. Allows schools to transport material to other schools with such a system.



2026

County Food Waste Planning Law

(S2464/A2090)

SWMDs must amend SWMPs with strategies for reducing food waste by at least 50% by 2035 compared to 2022 within 2 years.

Commissions the NJDEP to release guidance for SWMD within 180 days (by July 2026).

Requires the NJDEP to develop tiered regulatory structure for open-air composting.



2026

Food Waste Reduction at NJ Colleges and Universities

(S3889/A5387)

Higher-education institutions must implement a food-waste reduction program and submit annual reports detailing surplus food donations and composting efforts.



2026

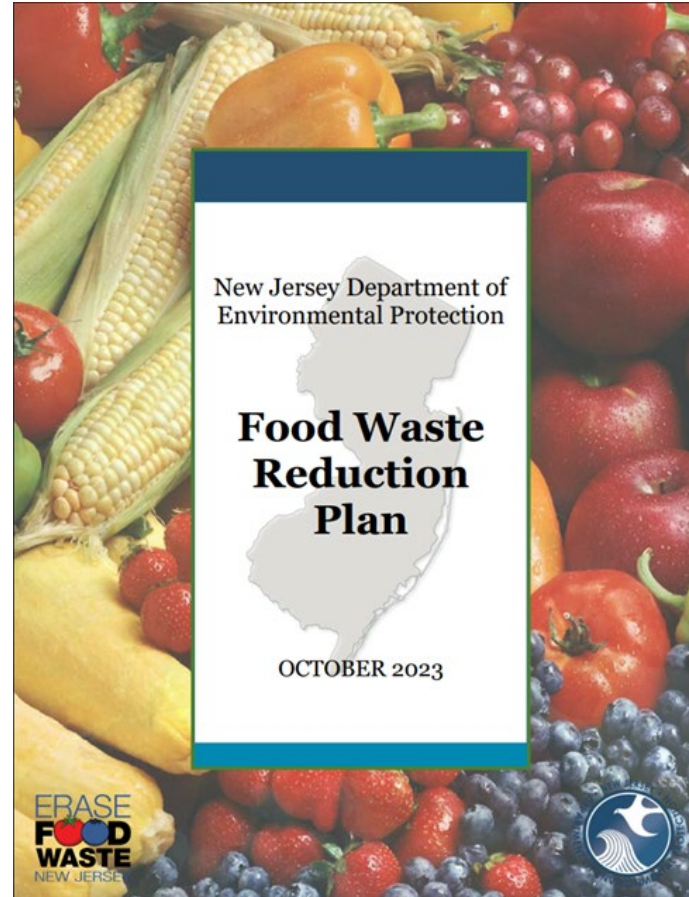
Community Gardens On-Site Composting Exemption

(Pending)

Exempts community gardens operating on-site composting systems or other organics management systems from certain DEP permits under certain conditions.

Background

- The Food Waste Reduction Act (P.L. 2017, c. 136) passed in 2017.
 - Established the goal to reduce the amount of food waste in the State by 50% by 2030 compared to 2017 amounts.
 - Commissioned Food Waste Reduction Plan
 - Laid the foundation for subsequent actions and campaigns regarding food waste.



2026 Food Waste Law

- Introduced as bill S2464/A2090
- Signed January 12, 2026
- P.L.2025, c.228



AN ACT concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. No later than two years after the effective date of this section, each solid waste management district in the State shall develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2035, the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent of the amount which was generated in the year 2022. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), or pursuant to an administrative action by the solid waste management district authorized pursuant to rules and regulations adopted for that purpose, and shall be subject to the approval of the department. Any increase in the amount of perishable food donated for human consumption, as well as any increase in the amount of food waste composted or anaerobically digested, shall count toward the food waste reduction target established pursuant to this subsection.

b. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste, the composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste and other food waste diversion methods that also reduce methane emissions, and public awareness campaigns.

c. The department shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting facilities, pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), in order to facilitate the use of organic waste recycling facilities in the State.

d. As used in this section, "food waste" means any food-derived organic waste that is disposed of in a landfill, including, but not limited to, edible food, food scraps generated by a consumer after the generator issues or sells food to the consumer, food processing waste, food processing residue generated from processing and packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and used cooking fats, oil, and grease.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1a. *“No later than two years after the effective date of this section, each solid waste management district in the State shall develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2035, the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent of the amount which was generated in the year 2022. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), or pursuant to an administrative action by the solid waste management district authorized pursuant to rules and regulations adopted for that purpose, and shall be subject to the approval of the department. Any increase in the amount of perishable food donated for human consumption, as well as any increase in the amount of food waste composted or*

- Within two years, Each County/District must develop and implement a strategy for reducing food waste by 50% by 2035 using the base year of 2022.
- The strategy must be adopted as an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan of each District.

1b. “No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste, the composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste and other food waste diversion methods

- The DEP has six months to develop and publish online a list of measures that Districts can take to achieve the food waste reduction target of 50%.

1c. “The department shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting facilities, pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), in order to facilitate the use of organic waste recycling facilities in the State.”

- The DEP will adopt rules and regulations to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting. No deadline indicated.

1d. “As used in this section, “food waste” means any food-derived organic waste that is disposed of in a landfill, including, but not limited to, edible food, food scraps generated by a consumer after the generator issues or sells food to the consumer, food processing waste, food processing residue generated from processing and packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and used cooking fats, oil, and grease.”

- Food waste includes ANY food derived organic waste.

2. “This act shall take effect immediately.”

What does this mean?

- All Counties will have a strategy for reducing food waste.
- Responsibility of executing the state goal of 50% food waste reduction assigned to the Counties.
 - The directive of the law is to Solid Waste Management Districts
- Major efforts must be expended to redirect the amount of food waste represented by 50%.
 - Counties will likely work with municipalities to develop a strategy.



How much food waste is 50%?



A recent progress report on the New Jersey Food Waste Reduction Act estimated food waste as 19% of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

- In 2022, Morris County disposed of 303,456.62 tons of MSW.

2022 GENERATION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING RATES IN NEW JERSEY (Tons)										
COUNTY	POPULATION	GENERATION		DISPOSAL			RECYCLING			
		2022 Estimate	Disposal and Recycling	MSW	Non-MSW	TOTAL	MSW %	Total Recycled w/Add-ons	Total % Recycled	
Atlantic	275,213	548,294	211,414.24	123,977.19	335,391.43	98,414.48	32%	212,902.75	39%	
Bergen	957,736	1,942,767	657,222.03	388,868.32	1,046,090.35	386,267.32	37%	896,676.83	46%	
Burlington	469,167	1,131,721	326,104.50	161,799.32	487,903.82	215,115.35	40%	643,817.33	57%	
Camden	527,196	981,620	344,156.58	256,137.33	600,293.91	169,224.80	33%	381,325.63	39%	
Cape May	94,610	399,733	91,156.02	96,392.19	187,548.21	64,788.73	42%	212,184.58	53%	
Cumberland	152,326	475,859	96,752.78	114,275.66	211,028.44	165,996.36	63%	264,830.57	56%	
Essex	851,117	1,696,023	436,751.50	337,181.87	773,933.37	190,294.33	30%	922,089.16	54%	
Gloucester	308,423	1,031,760	182,136.71	180,384.01	362,520.72	199,145.22	52%	669,238.90	65%	
Hudson	705,472	1,012,382	401,801.68	168,390.64	570,192.32	145,981.98	27%	442,189.23	44%	
Hunterdon	130,183	309,274	61,450.04	45,259.59	106,709.63	35,853.43	37%	202,564.77	66%	
Mercer	381,671	848,017	238,068.78	111,224.58	349,293.36	178,107.21	43%	498,723.16	59%	
Middlesex	863,623	2,839,135	547,315.51	301,738.37	849,053.88	543,754.35	50%	1,990,080.74	70%	
Monmouth	642,799	1,598,749	443,609.34	307,790.61	751,399.95	313,064.30	41%	847,349.09	53%	
Morris	514,423	1,266,064	303,456.52	175,799.01	479,255.53	262,046.10	46%	786,808.09	62%	
Ocean	659,197	1,143,601	438,693.78	257,716.52	696,410.30	169,506.41	28%	447,190.58	39%	
Passaic	513,395	1,269,703	416,392.20	250,485.17	666,877.37	158,208.74	28%	602,825.85	47%	
Salem	65,338	197,154	40,421.91	72,866.63	113,288.54	22,164.43	35%	83,865.23	43%	
Somerset	348,842	676,823	255,998.87	164,259.74	420,258.61	77,764.90	23%	256,564.88	38%	
Sussex	146,132	308,904	75,505.11	37,839.03	113,344.14	54,543.24	42%	195,559.67	63%	
Union	572,726	1,441,380	325,145.38	341,228.28	666,373.66	155,725.63	32%	775,006.20	54%	
Warren	111,252	160,411	27,398.27	36,956.90	64,355.17	23,739.84	46%	96,056.19	60%	
TOTAL	9,290,841	21,279,372	5,920,952	3,930,571	9,851,523	3,629,707	38%	11,427,849	54%	

MSW recycled includes all paper and beverage containers, anti-freeze, motor oil, brush, grass, leaves, consumer electronics, food waste, dry cell batteries, other glass, other plastic and textiles when they are generated by a non-industrial generator. 10% of total metal has been included as non-industrial.
Street sweepings are no longer counted as a recyclable due to their management as a BUD. (NJAC 7:26A-1.3)

NOTES: Totals subject to rounding.
Last Updated on 02/11/25

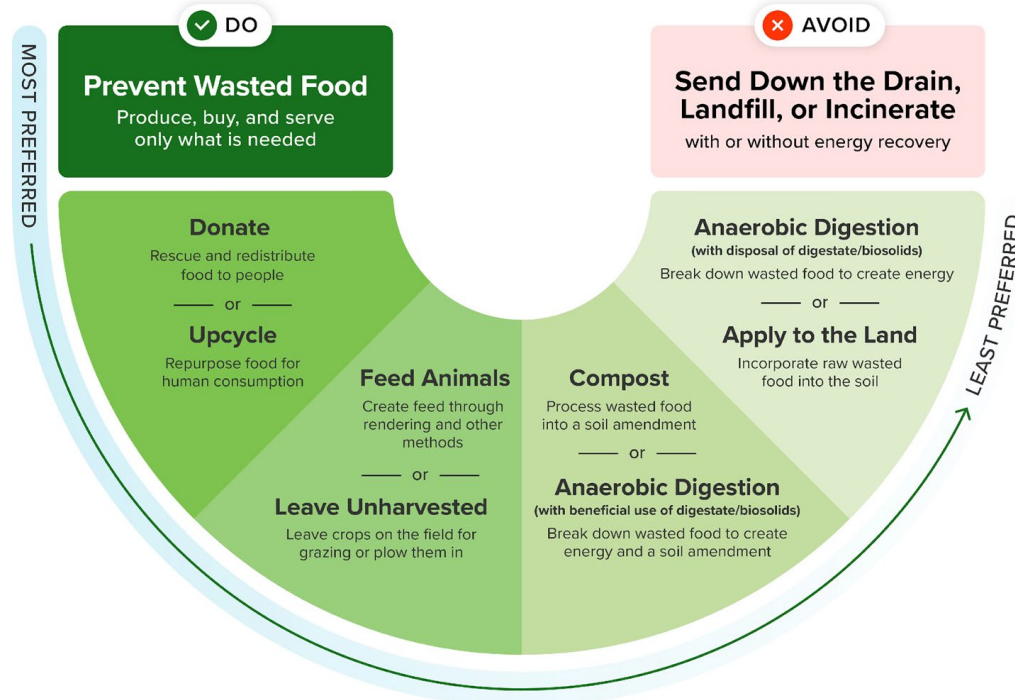
- 19% of 303,456.62 = 57,656.76 tons of food waste disposed of in 2022
- **Morris County must reduce its food waste by 28,828 tons annually by 2035.**

Diverting approximately 58 million pounds of food waste from landfills annually won't be easy!



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food

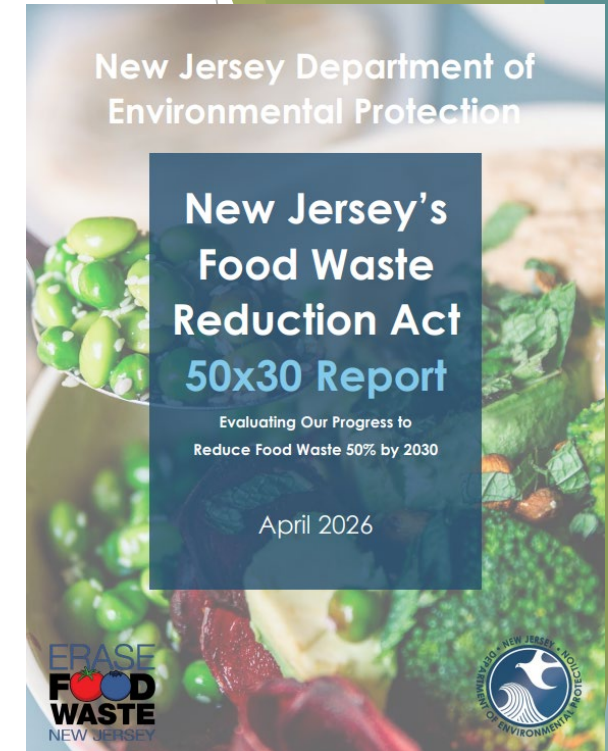


December 2025

How can Counties and municipalities make the most impact towards this target?

Expected NJDEP Guidance

- Anticipated July 2026
- Counties will not amend SWMP until after guidance is released. They have 2 years.
- What will guidance contain?
 - Per the 50x30 Report from April 2026, the forthcoming guidance will include:
 - food waste management planning guidance and a toolkit to encourage sustainable food waste management through prevention, recovery, and recycling.
 - New Jersey-specific estimation tool to assist generators with estimating how much pre-consumer versus post-consumer food waste they generate.
 - guidance to assist Districts with developing efficient food waste management strategies and achieve their food waste reduction targets, developed by Rutgers University and the NJ Composting Council.



Other NJDEP Resources Available in the Meantime:

- NJDEP Food Waste Home Page: <https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/fw/>
 - Link to Food Waste Reduction Plan
 - Link to Food Waste Progress Report
 - Links to many internal and external food waste resources, including
 - More Meals, Less Waste Campaign Save the Food Refed
 - USEPA Implementation Guide and Toolkits
 - NJDEP Food Waste Toolkit

A screenshot of the NJDEP Food Waste Toolkit website. The header features the title "Food Waste Toolkit" over a background image of green plants. Below the header, a descriptive sentence reads: "Resources to inform, authorize and fund food waste prevention and management practices at home, at work, at school or in government." A horizontal green line separates this text from a navigation menu. The menu consists of six items, each with a downward-pointing chevron icon: "Quick Links", "DEP Resources", "Programs and Organizations", "Educational Materials", "Funding Opportunities", and "Search Tools".

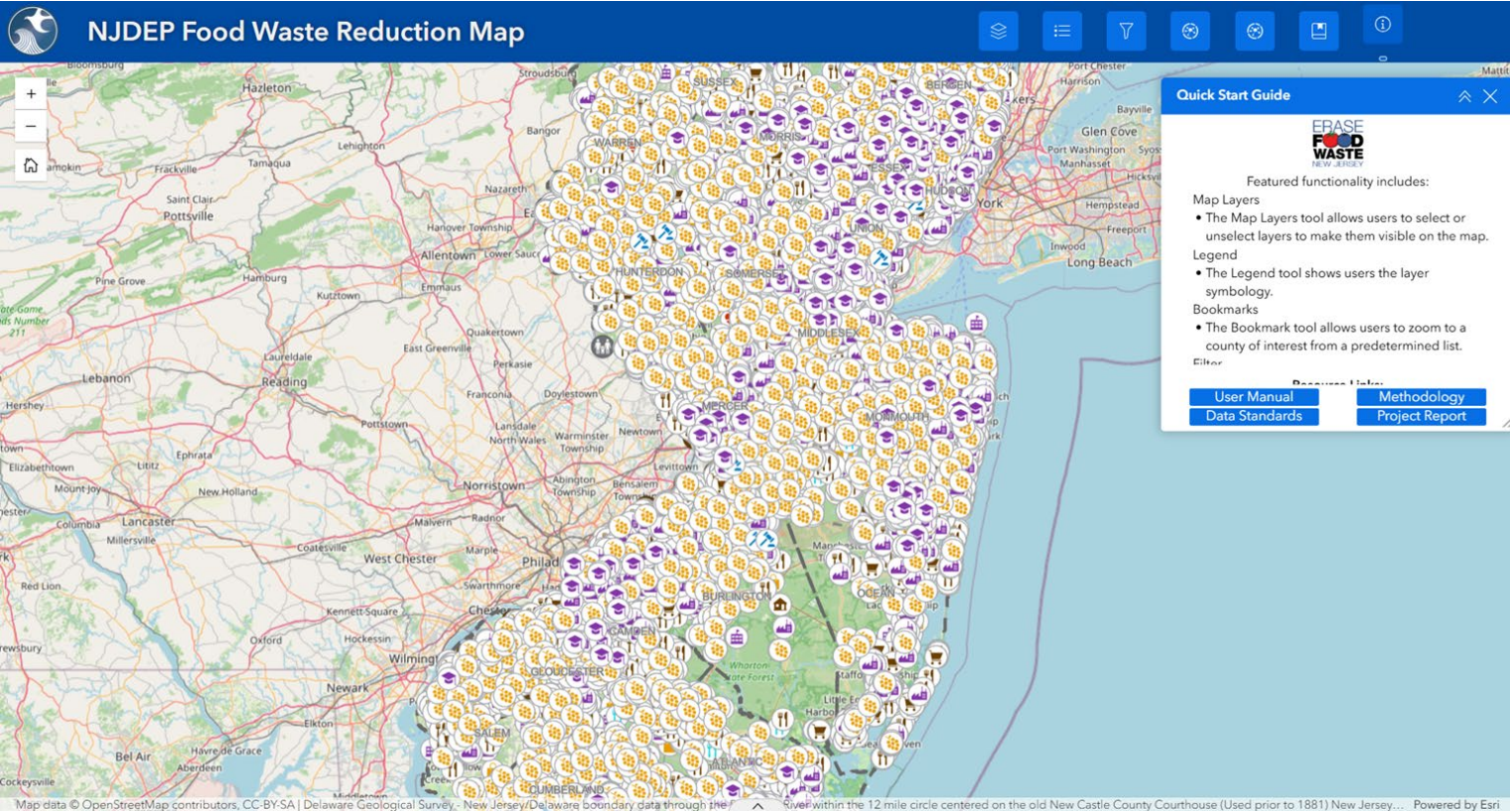
Food Waste Toolkit

Resources to inform, authorize and fund food waste prevention and management practices at home, at work, at school or in government.

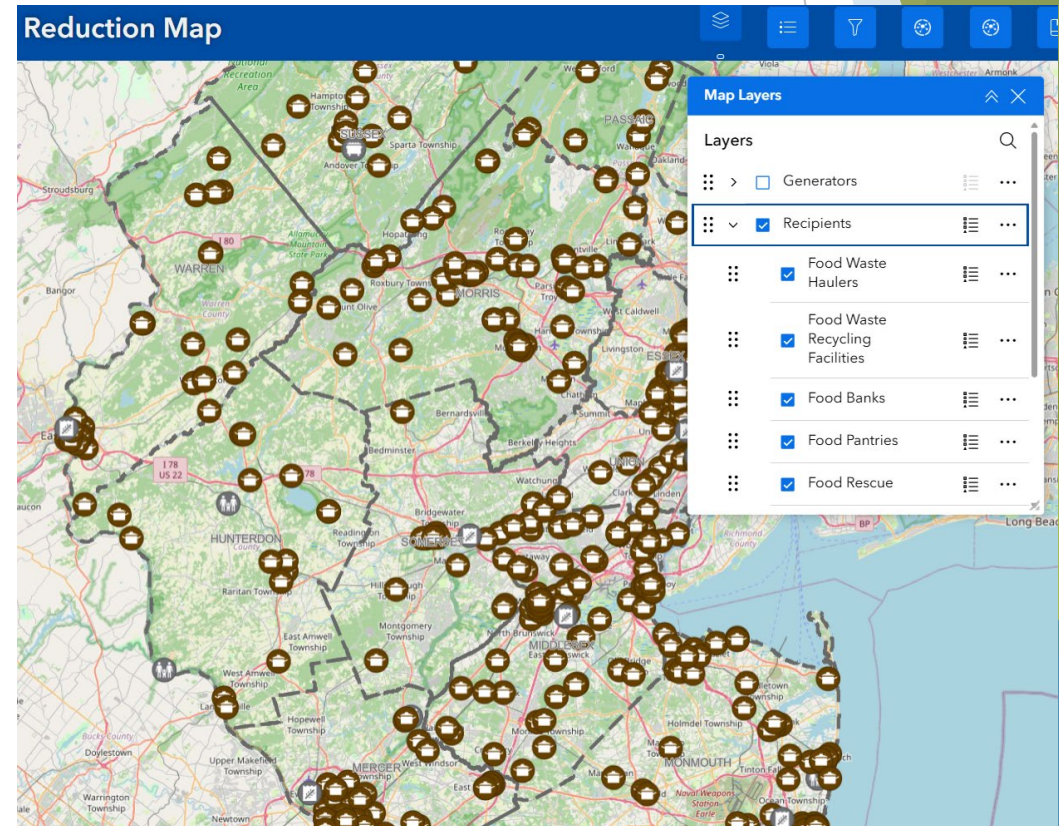
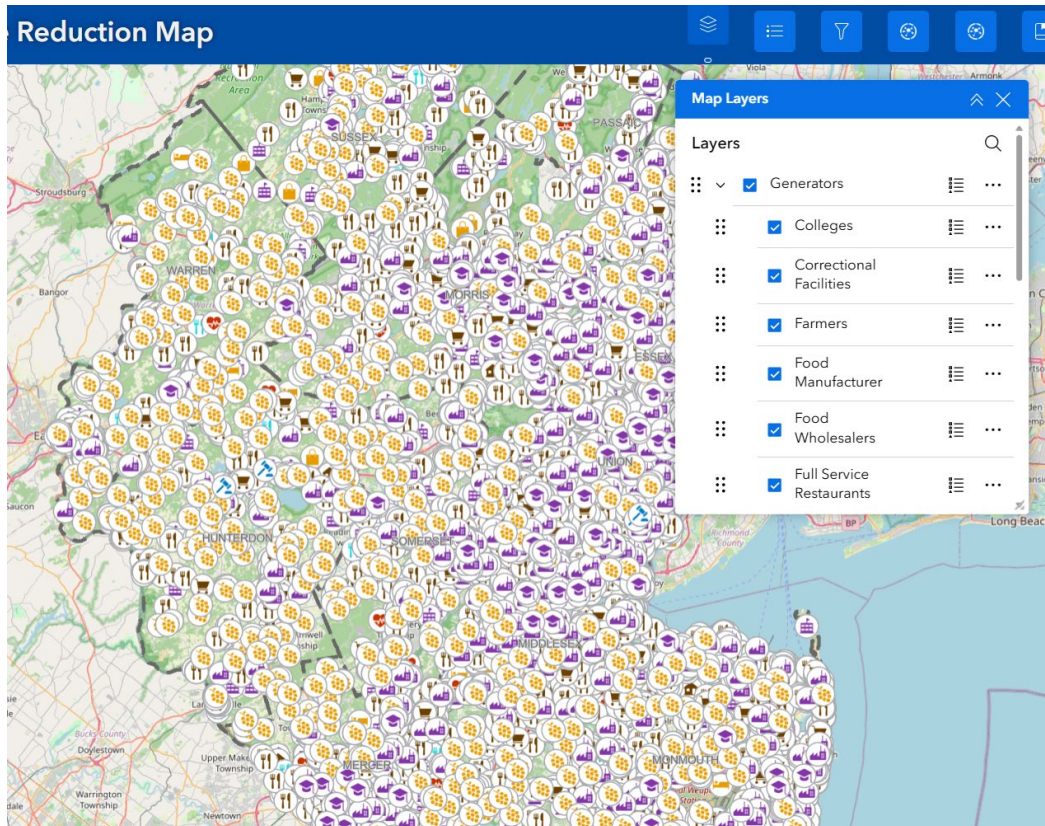
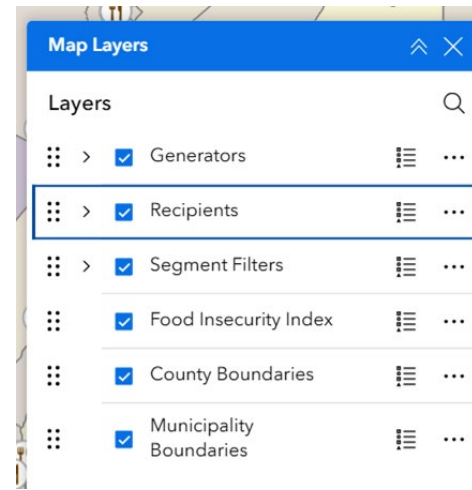
- Quick Links
- DEP Resources
- Programs and Organizations
- Educational Materials
- Funding Opportunities
- Search Tools

NJDEP Food Waste Reduction Map

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ac8ce8bb55524201bc272121e5672fde>



Map layers demonstrate excess food opportunities



Examples of Morris County Generators

A map of Morris County, New Jersey, showing various towns and geographical features. An information popup is displayed over the map, providing details for the Apple Montessori School of Randolph. The popup includes a search bar, a zoom control, and a table of key information.

Apple Montessori School of Randolph	
Phone	9733287737
Average excess food inventory estimated by EPA model (tons/year)	1.270000
GlobalID	0ce60c6d-b5c3-4ba4-aa79-2fe2e092aa80

A map of Morris County, New Jersey, showing various towns and geographical features. An information popup is displayed over the map, providing details for Anthony & Sons Bakery. The popup includes a search bar, a zoom control, and a table of key information.

Anthony & Sons Bakery	
Phone	(773) 623-2323
Website	
Average excess food inventory estimated by EPA model (tons/year)	645.335000
GlobalID	5f7104fb-261d-4c9c-99f8-03edd00778ca

A map of Morris County, New Jersey, showing various towns and geographical features. An information popup is displayed over the map, providing details for SUBWAY. The popup includes a search bar, a zoom control, and a table of key information.

SUBWAY	
Phone	(773) 366-8767
Website	Subway.Com
Average excess food inventory estimated by EPA model (tons/year)	2.751000
GlobalID	8685d3ec-25c7-49e6-8f14-1712309a8e13

Quantifying food waste reduction will be critical: cannot reduce what you can't measure

How to Measure Food Waste

Food Waste 🏠

Reduction Plan

Flyers

Food Waste Recycling Rules

Resources

Topics ▾

Contact

The Food Waste Recycling rules, [N.J.A.C. 7:26K](#), require large food waste generators that generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year to source separate and recycle their food waste if they are located within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility.

It is the large food waste generator's responsibility to estimate the amount of food waste they project will be generated on an annual basis to determine whether they are subject to the rule's requirements. As such, individual establishments are encouraged to measure their food waste using the following list of tools to help determine whether they must source separate and recycle their food waste. Please note that other measuring tools can be used as well.

- [A Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment | USEPA](#)
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published a guide to conducting a food waste assessment.
- [Tools for Preventing and Diverting Wasted Food | USEPA](#)
USEPA created a website with various tools for preventing and diverting wasted food, including how to measure food waste.
- [Tools and Resources | Food Loss and Waste Protocol](#)
The Food Loss and Waste Protocol, which is a global multi-stakeholder partnership aiming to reduce food waste, developed a technical and comprehensive measuring tool.
- [School Food Waste Guidelines | NJDEP](#)
The NJDEP developed guidelines to help K-12 schools and higher education institutions reduce, recover, and recycle food waste. These guidelines also discuss how to implement food waste audits in schools.
- [Wasted Food Estimation Guide | RecyclingWorks Massachusetts](#)
Massachusetts DEP developed sector-specific food waste estimation guides to help businesses and institutions determine whether they are subject to the Massachusetts Food Waste Disposal Ban; however, New Jersey food waste generators may still find these guides useful in estimating food waste generation to help determine whether they are subject to the source separation and recycling requirements of the Food Waste Recycling rules.

Please be aware that these tools may define "food waste" differently from one another and that these definitions do not necessarily represent food waste as defined by the Food Waste Recycling rules. NJDEP has been awarded a USEPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant to develop a food waste estimation tool that more accurately estimates a business's or institution's food waste generation that is subject to source separation and recycling requirements under these rules. This tool is currently under development and will be posted here when available.

<https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/fw/food-waste-recycling-rules/htmfw/>



Morris County's Approach to Food Waste

- Phase I: SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis
- Phase II: Morris County Food Rescue Assessment
 - Evaluate opportunities for food rescue and address gaps and limitations.
 - Focus efforts on redistributing excess food to address food insecurity.
- Phase III: Food Waste Business Challenge



Morris County Food Rescue Assessment

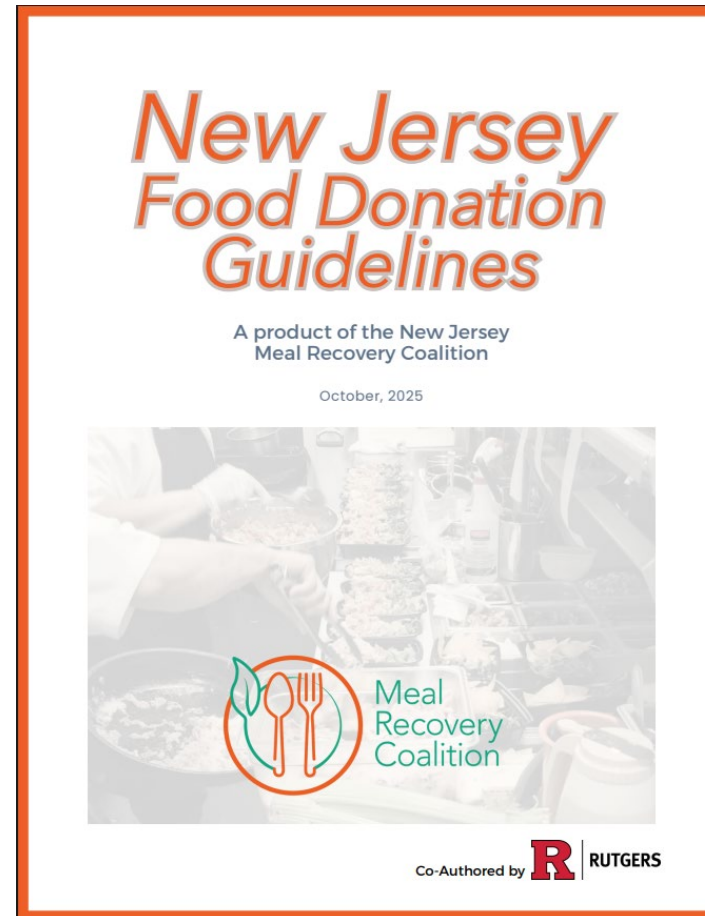
- Robust food assistance landscape
- Many opportunities for food rescue.
- Rescue framework is not optimized.
 - Misalignment between available surplus and needs/wants of recipient organizations.
 - Secondary waste exists
 - Logistical challenges posed by lack of storage, transportation, labor, and an overabundance items that are difficult to repurpose through food assistance.
- Donation cannot be relied on as sole solution.
 - Not all wasted food is fit for donation and the amount of wasted food generated in the U.S. far outweighs the needs of food-insecure Americans (U.S. EPA 2021)



How should donation be measured for compliance with new law?

Recent state initiatives align with Morris County approach of redirecting excess to people in need.

- NJ Donation Map
- Office of the Food Security Advocate
- Meal Recovery Coalition
 - Food Donation Guidelines



NEW JERSEY FOOD DONATION



Why Donate Food?

The US EPA's Wasted Food Scale ranks feeding hungry people as a top strategy for reducing food waste. While food donation does not solve the root causes of food insecurity, it is critical for channeling appropriate food to people in need.



The United States wastes up to 40% of food it produces.*



In 2017, 22% of New Jersey's municipal solid waste stream was food waste.

There are 47 million people, including 13 million children, who face food insecurity in the U.S.**

More than 994,000 people, including more than 263,000 children, experienced food insecurity in NJ.***

In September 2015, the first-ever national food loss and waste goal in the U.S. was launched, calling for 50% reduction by 2030.

In July 2017, NJ's Food Waste Reduction Act established a statewide goal to reduce annual food waste generation by 50% of 2017 levels by 2030 (50x30 Goal).



Licensed food establishments are protected under food donation laws and liability protections

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S.C. § 1791) encourages food donations by providing liability protections for businesses that donate 'apparently wholesome' food in 'good faith' to nonprofit organizations. Extensive legal research does not indicate even a single legal case related to food donation liability.

New Jersey has also passed legislation to provide additional liability protection for donors. These laws protect donors that donate food to nonprofits unless the donor "knew or had reasonable grounds to believe" that the food was not fit for human consumption.

Food donations may qualify for an enhanced tax deduction for your business

According to the Federal Tax Code, eligible businesses can deduct the lesser of either (a) twice the cost of acquiring the donated food or (b) the cost of acquiring the donated food plus half the food's expected profit margin if it were sold at fair market value. Businesses should contact their tax preparer to determine any application to their business.

Labeling

All donations need to be labeled as "Donated Food - Not for Resale."

Transporting

Licensed food facilities need to take all reasonable and necessary steps to maintain the integrity of the food that is being donated. If food cannot be delivered at proper temperatures, is adulterated, or is compromised in any way, then the food must be composted or discarded. Local health inspectors should be contacted for any questions on maintaining product.

We encourage you to do your part to support your municipality by reducing food waste and supporting food security. Start today and reach out to your local emergency food provider and see what they will accept.



The Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Center for EcoTechnology (CET), and Sustainable Jersey have worked together to develop this guidance document. This 2022 document provides guidance for New Jersey food waste generators on opportunities to donate food. The document consolidates federal and state regulations, including information on liability protection, health codes, and more.



Foods That Can Be Donated

- Hot Food not served and kept at temperature and/or cooled properly
 - entrees, soups
- Cold Food not served and kept at temperature
 - sandwiches, yogurt parfaits, salads
- Whole or Cut Produce
 - strawberries, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, herbs
- Foods past "best by"/"sell by" dates but that are fit for consumption
- Beverages
 - juice, bottled water, lemonade, tea
- Packaged Shelf Stable Items
 - dry pasta, canned vegetables, pudding
- Pasteurized Dairy Products
 - sour cream, milk, yogurt, cheese
- Raw Meat (beef, chicken, pork)
- Foods that are past its "best by" or other open date but still fit for consumption
 - "packed on," "sell by"

Foods That Cannot Be Donated

- Previously served food such as from a buffet
- Distressed foods
 - foods damaged by flood, fire, smoke
- Food in sharply dented or rusty cans
- Food in opened or torn containers
- Foods with an expiration date or "do not use after" date

Remember to Follow Food Safety Guidelines

Food that requires Time Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) needs to be handled with care to ensure it is still fit for human consumption. Proper time and temperature control practices must be followed.

Food Temperatures

Hot foods must be kept at 135°F or above

Cold foods must be kept at 41°F or below

Cooked food must be cooled rapidly to a safe temperature.

Examples of Foods That May Require TCS

Cut produce (cut tomatoes, melon, and lettuce)

Dairy, meat, and seafood

Many food rescue organizations can provide businesses with containers, pick up foods on a regular schedule, and provide businesses with documentation records. It matters to those who need it no matter the size or frequency of the donation.



<https://mealrecoverycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NJ-Food-Donation-Guidelines.pdf>



Get health departments involved!

- Other resources created by Morris County
 - MCDPH Donation Guidelines
- Opportunities to educate on food waste during food safety inspections and food waste recycling audits.

COUNTY OF MORRIS
 DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
 DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 P.O. Box 900, Morristown, NJ 07963
 P: (973) 631-5484 F: (973) 631-5490
 Health Officer: Carlos Perez, Jr., Ph.D.

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING SURVEY

Is the Large Food Waste Generator located within 25 miles of a Class C Food Waste Recycling Facility?	YES	NO
If so, name and address of the Class C Food Waste Recycling Facility.		
Approximately how much food waste is generated per week?		
Where does Large Food Waste Generator dispose of food waste?		
Is all food waste separated from other forms of solid waste?		
How is food waste stored on the property? Describe.		
If not taken to facility within 25 miles of Generator, how is food waste being handled on site? Describe.		



DONATING FOOD? KEEP FOOD SAFETY IN MIND



Food donations are a vital resource for many individuals and families in need. However, ensuring the safety of donated food is critical to prevent foodborne illnesses. Here are some essential tips for proper food safety when donating food:

1. Understand Donation Guidelines

Many food banks and pantries have specific requirements for the types of food they accept. Check with the organization to confirm their needs and restrictions. Typically, they prefer:

- Non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry pasta, and rice.
- Unopened, undamaged packaging with clear expiration dates.

2. Check Expiration Dates

Expired food can pose a health risk. Ensure all donated items are within their "best by" or "use by" dates.

3. Inspect Packaging

Damaged or compromised packaging can lead to contamination. Avoid donating items with:

- Broken seals.
- Bulging or dented cans.
- Torn or punctured bags.

4. Avoid Home-Prepared Foods

While homemade meals and canned goods are prepared with good intentions, they are often not accepted due to safety concerns. Commercially prepared and packaged items are safer choices.



5. Store and Transport Food Safely

If donating perishable items (when allowed):

- Use insulated coolers with ice packs to maintain proper temperatures.
- Keep refrigerated items below 40°F and frozen items at 0°F until delivery

6. Label Clearly

Clearly label food items with contents and ingredients, especially if donating bulk items. This is vital for individuals with allergies or dietary restrictions.

7. Practice Personal Hygiene

When handling food donations:

- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Avoid donating if you are sick or have open wounds.

8. Know the Rules for Prepared Foods

If donating prepared foods from an event or commercial kitchen, ensure they meet your local health department standards. Food should:

- Be prepared in a licensed facility.
- Be stored at proper temperatures during transport.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOOD SAFETY TIPS WHEN DONATING FOOD



SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL MORRIS COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

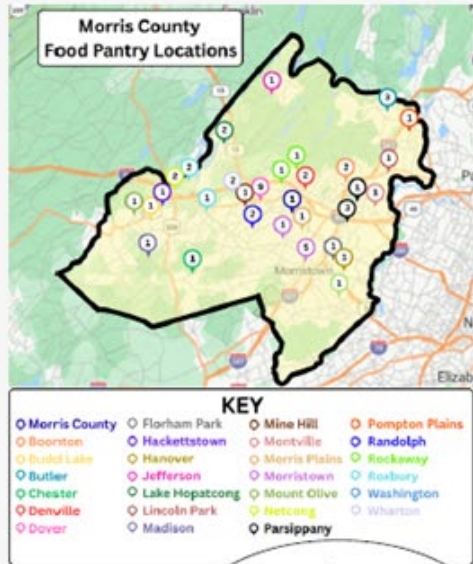


County of Morris
 Department of Law & Public Safety
 Division of Public Health
 P.O. Box 900
 Morristown, NJ 07963-0900
 (973) 631-5184





READY TO DONATE OR COMPOST YOUR FOOD WASTE?



Why Should My Business Reduce My Food Waste?

Tax Deductions

Depending on the type of corporation your business is, you may deduct donated food inventory up to 15% of taxable income ([IRC §170\(e\)\(3\)](#)).

NJDEP Regulations

New Jersey is creating new food waste regulations that you may be required to follow.

Visit <https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/fw/> for more info.

Liability Protection

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides federal liability protection.

Help Local Food Insecurity

About 12.5% of US households suffer from food insecurity (EPA).

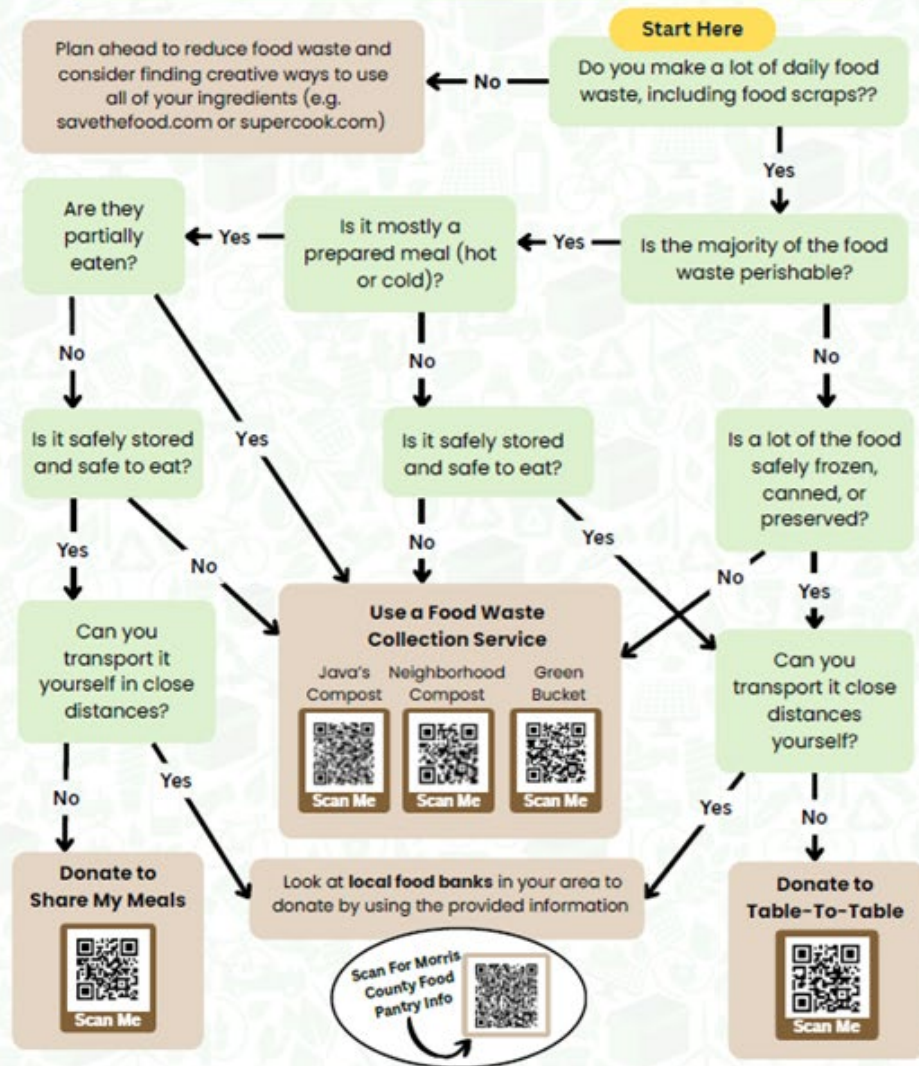
Reduce Food Waste

Did you know about 22% of NJ solid waste is food waste, some of which is edible (NJDEP).

Reduce Water Usage

Food waste accounts for at least 21% of US agricultural water use (NRDC).

Picking The Right Organization



Note: this is for educational purposes only. You may use these or other services at your discretion

Other Morris County Outreach

- County E-Newsletter
- MCMUA website
- Social Media
- Informational Giveaways
- Environmental Guide
- Flyers and Information
- Recycling Coordinator Meetings



SHOPPING LIST

✓ Reusable Bags

WASTE LESS, SAVE MONEY

Eliminate food waste with these simple steps:

- **Stick to the list.** Avoid overbuying by sticking to your list. Overbuying leads to wasted food and money.
- Be sure to double check your pantry before purchasing something you may already have.
- Freeze or donate surplus food so it isn't wasted.
- Use groceries in the order they will expire.
- Avoid waste by storing food at their safe temperatures. Learn how by scanning the following QR code:

Understanding date labeling terms can lead to less food waste. Confusion surrounding the interpretation around date labels leads to the disposal of perfectly edible food.

Below are some common phrases found on food packaging:

- **"Best if Used By":** indicates when a product is of best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- **"Sell By":** date tells the **store** how long to display the product for sale for their inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- **"Use By":** date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except when used in an infant formula.
- **"Packed On":** This date indicates when the food was packed. Usually food is safe to eat past the packed on date.

www.MCMUA.com

MORRIS COUNTY
MUA
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Scan the QR Code for more information on preventing food waste.

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Did you know that approximately 22% of solid waste in NJ consists of food waste?



40% of the food supply in the US is wasted.



About 12.5% of US households suffer from food insecurity.



Food waste in landfills produces the same CO2 emissions as 42 coal-fired power plants!

Reducing food waste saves resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces landfill methane. Donating excess food helps increase food access. Recycling food waste returns nutrients to soils and supports a circular economy.

WASTE LESS, SAVE MONEY

Eliminate food waste with these simple steps:

Shop smart

- Stick to the list. Refrain from overbuying, which can lead to wasted food and money.
- Double-check your pantry before purchasing something you may already have.

Food storage and use

- Store foods at their safe temperature.
- Use groceries in the order they will expire.
- Find recipes to use up scrap food.
- Freeze or donate surplus food.

Understand date labeling terms.

- “Best if used by” is when a product has the best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- “Sell by” informs the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- “Use by” is the last date recommended for product use at peak quality. It is not a safety date unless used on infant formula.
- “Packed on” indicates when food was packed. Food is usually safe to eat past this date.



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



FOOD DONATION



Scan the QR code for a full listing of food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency food services in Morris County:



ELIMINATE WASTE, COMPOST AT HOME

A large portion of garbage that goes to landfill is organic and yard waste, some of which can be composted instead! According to the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, composting is a natural process where organic materials decompose and are recycled into a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling soil amendment known as “compost.”

CREATING COMPOST

Follow these basic steps to get started!

1. Find a container for your compost. Make it yourself or purchase specialty compost bins.
2. Make sure your container has a lid to avoid pests and smells.
3. Mix 1 part green materials and 3 parts brown materials.
4. If needed, chop up larger materials into smaller pieces about 2 inches or less in size.
5. Stir the mixture regularly to maintain oxygen levels for beneficial microbes and insects.
6. If the mixture is dry, add water from your garden hose. The compost mixture should be moist but not dripping wet. If you accidentally overwater, just add some dry brown materials.
7. If your mixture gets hot, this is a good sign! This means your decomposers are active.
8. Sift out finished compost and add this to your soil for a healthy garden or lawn.



3 parts Browns:

Carbon-rich, dry materials

- Dry leaves and pinecones
- Shells of nuts & eggs
- Woodchips and sawdust
- Dry flowers, grass, & garden clippings
- Straw
- Corn cobs
- Newspaper and shredded cardboard



1 part Greens:

Nitrogen-rich, moist materials

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Peelings
- Coffee & tea
- Fresh grass & garden trimmings
- Horse manures



BENEFITS OF COMPOST

Amending your soil or lawn with finished compost has many benefits:

- Provides plant nutrients in a stable organic form
- It helps soil retain water
- Promotes the development of healthy plant roots
- Reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides
- Reduces erosion
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon
- Improves the physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil.

Do Not Compost

- Pet waste
- Meat scraps
- Bones
- Dairy
- Fats/ oils or foods cooked in oils
- Diseased plant material
- Packaging products labeled “biodegradable” or “compostable.” These are designed for industrial-scale compost systems and do not compost well in your backyard bin.



Composting Made Easy



What To Compost

(2 parts) **Browns:** Carbon-rich, dry materials

- Dry leaves and pinecones
- Shells of nuts & eggs
- Woodchips and sawdust
- Dry flowers, grass, & garden clippings
- Straw
- Corn cobs
- Newspaper and shredded cardboard

(1 part) **Greens:** Nitrogen-rich, fresh and moist materials

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Peelings
- Coffee & tea
- Fresh grass & garden trimmings

What Not To Compost

- Diseased, pesticide-treated, or pest-infected plants
- Poison ivy
- Invasive weeds or weeds with seeds
- Large branches
- Meat or fish scraps
- Dairy products
- Fats, grease, or oil
- Pet feces or kitty litter
- Colored or glossy paper
- Sawdust made from pressure-treated plywood or lumber
- Coal or charcoal ashes
- Non-compostable materials such as plastics, metal, glass, sand, or construction debris

To create compost, mix two parts of brown materials and one part of green materials from the above list. It is recommended to cut or break your materials into smaller pieces so they can break down quicker. Still, keeping some bulkier materials and size diversity is essential to maintain airflow through the pile. Compost bins can be bought or made at home using an aerated container (e.g., bin and lid with drilled holes). An ideal pile is about 3 feet wide by 3 feet high and is turned regularly. When your compost is ready to use, it will be brown and crumbly with an earthy aroma.

How To Use Compost



Compost can be used as an alternative to fertilizer or mulch in your lawn and garden to add nutrients and strengthen your plants. This not only puts your food waste to good use, but saves money on fertilizers and lawn treatments. This can be done by mixing compost with your soil, applying in a thick mulch-like layer or a thin layer over your lawn, or by creating a "compost tea" with compost and water to nourish your indoor or outdoor plants.

Morris County's Compost Facility offers up to 2 Cubic yards of compost free to Morris County residents picking up at the Parsippany or Mount Olive facilities. Larger quantities can also be ordered and delivered to residents.



Compost Troubleshooting

Symptom	Problem	Solution
Rotten-egg Odor	Excess moisture, not enough air	Check the bin has proper drainage Add brown materials Turn pile more frequently and remove lid for added airflow
Ammonia Odor	Excess green materials & moisture	Add brown materials
Slow decomposition	Lack of moisture, air, or nitrogen	Add water to improve moisture Turn or aerate the pile to improve airflow Add more green materials to increase nitrogen and balance out excess browns
Unwanted Pests	Exposed food scraps, incorrect materials added, or overexposure	Make sure food scraps are covered by brown materials Do not add meat, dairy, or fatty foods Add a screen or cloth to reduce pests' access to your pile Turn your pile more frequently to increase its temperature and disturb nesting pests

To order large quantities of recycled vegetative waste materials such as double-ground wood mulch, wood chips, and unscreened and screened compost, visit us at www.MCMUA.com or scan the QR Code.

All MCMUA-produced compost materials adhere to NJDEP testing regulations and are certified through the US Composting Councils Seal of Testing Assurance and the Organic Materials Review Institute OMRI Listed programs.



Pumpkin RECYCLING



DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE UNITED STATES 35.8 MILLION PUMPKINS WILL GO TO WASTE AFTER THIS HALLOWEEN?

SCARE AWAY FOOD WASTE WITH THESE TIPS:

- **DONATE PUMPKINS TO A LOCAL FARM:** MANY FARMS WILL USE PUMPKINS TO FEED THEIR ANIMALS OR COMPOST THEM FOR THEIR CROPS. LOOK FOR A LOCAL FARM NEAR YOU.
[HTTPS://PUMPKINSFORPIGS.ORG/#](https://pumpkinsforpigs.org/#)
- **UTILIZE THE WHOLE PUMPKIN:** PUMPKIN SEEDS CAN BE A DELICIOUS SNACK OR EVEN PLANTED AGAIN FOR NEW PUMPKINS NEXT YEAR. THERE ARE MANY TASTY FALL RECIPES WITH PUMPKIN AS THE STAR OF THE DISH.
[HTTPS://WWW.FOODNETWORK.COM/FN-DISH/RECIPES/2015/10/THE-5-BEST-RECIPES-FOR-COOKING-WITH-FRESH-PUMPKIN](https://www.foodnetwork.com/fn-dish/recipes/2015/10/the-5-best-recipes-for-cooking-with-fresh-pumpkin)
- **COMPOST OR BURY YOUR PUMPKIN:** PUMPKINS CONTAIN MANY NUTRIENTS AND WATER AND MAKE GREAT COMPOST. *NOTE* PAINTED PUMPKINS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING. WASH OFF THE PAINT BEFORE COMPOSTING.
- **UPCYCLE:** IS YOUR PUMPKIN STILL IN GOOD CONDITION? UPCYCLE YOUR PUMPKIN INTO A BIRD FEEDER OR PLANTER. USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND CREATE NEW WAYS TO USE YOUR PUMPKIN!

PLEASE COMPLY WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES REGARDING FEEDING WILDLIFE.



www.MCMUA.com



Other Ideas for your Community

- Sustainable Jersey Actions
 - Food Waste
 - Farmers Markets
 - Community Gardens
 - Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen
 - Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security
- For Schools
 - Sustainable Jersey Schools Toolkit for K-12
 - Rutgers New Jersey Leaves No Bite Behind
- Peer Networks
 - USEPA Too Good to Waste
 - NRDC Food Matters Network
- Many online food waste resources

Reduce, Recover & Recycle Food Waste

Sustainable Jersey Toolkit for PreK-12 Schools



Funding for food waste reduction will be important!

Some ideas for funding sources:

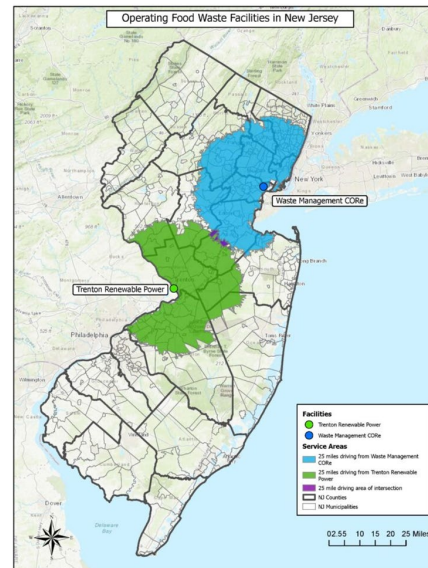
<https://njonestopshop.org/dashboard/>

Applied filters: Sector is Food Systems/Waste

Incentive Name	Administrator Type	Administrator	Funding Type	Technology	Eligible Entities	Implementer	Est. Max	Considered	Link	Eligible Use Description
Economic Benefit for Municipalities with Authorized Food Waste Recycling Facilities	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Rebate (post purchase)	Anaerobic Digesters	Local Government	Available			https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/wpl/fw/food-waste-recycling-rules/	Any municipality within which an authorized food waste recycling facility is located is entitled to an economic benefit of not less than the equivalent of \$0.50 per ton of all food waste accepted for processing at the authorized food waste recycling facility each year. This benefit only applies to new facilities that receive a permit after the law was enacted in 2021.
Federal Incentives for Businesses to Donate Food	Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Tax Deduction (Federal)	Community Initiatives	Commercial or Industry Entity	Available		No	https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/blog/federal-incentives-businesses-donate-food	Internal Revenue Code 170(e)(3) of 2011 provides enhanced tax deductions to businesses to encourage donations of fit and wholesome food to qualified nonprofit organizations serving the poor and needy. Qualified business taxpayers can deduct the cost to produce the food and half the difference between the cost and full fair market value of the donated food. All businesses, including C-corporations, S-corporations, limited liability corporations (LLCs), partnerships, and sole proprietorships, are eligible.
Gleaning Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Agriculture	Grant (State)	Risk Management	Nonprofit Organization	Closed	\$400,000.		https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/gleaninggrants.shtml	Interested eligible nonprofit entities who are gleaning from New Jersey farms and distributing such gleaned food to New Jersey organizations to help feed New Jersey's hungry. Interested eligible nonprofit entities who are gleaning from New Jersey farms and distributing such gleaned food to New Jersey organizations to help feed New Jersey's hungry.
Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Grant (State)	Community Initiatives	Local Government	Available		No	https://dep.nj.gov/grants/ndloanprograms/municipal-recycling-tonnage-grants/	This program supports Municipal recycling programs. To be considered for grant funding, eligible New Jersey municipalities and counties must submit applications by April 30th, annually.
New Jersey Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Grant (Federal)	Risk Management, Carbon Capture	Commercial or Industry Entity, Building Owner, Nonprofit Organization, Residential Homeowner	Closed		No	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives/new-jersey/new-jersey-environmental	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concern. This voluntary conservation programs helps producers make conservation work for them. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. EQIP covers a variety of initiatives across the state.
Recycling Enhancement Act - County Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Grant (State)	Community Initiatives	Local Government	Closed			https://dep.nj.gov/grants/ndloanprograms/recycling-enhancement-act-county-grant/	To prepare, revise and implement district solid waste management plans, implementation of the State Recycling Plan, research and education. Only county governments are eligible.
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program (SWIFR)	Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Grant (Federal)	Risk Management, Community Initiatives	Native/Tribal Entity, State Agency, Local Government	Available		No	https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program	Recycling Strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure; support improvements to local post-consumer materials management and recycling programs; and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems. The SWIFR program is divided into funding opportunities for States and Territories, Political Subdivisions, and Tribes and Tribal Consortia. EPA most recently announced funding awardees in 2025 for the second round of SWIFR for Political Subdivisions and anticipates announcing additional selections for SWIFR grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia and SWIFR grants for States and Territories in 2026.

Closing

- Counties will wait for NJDEP guidance per P.L.2025, c.228 to begin amending their Solid Waste Management Plans.
 - Remains to be seen how Counties' approaches will impact municipalities.
 - Food waste recycling also counts towards municipalities' 50% recycling goal.
- NJDEP new tiered composting regulations to remove some barriers.
- Needed to manage millions of pounds of food waste:
 - Infrastructure
 - Funding
 - Large-scale efforts

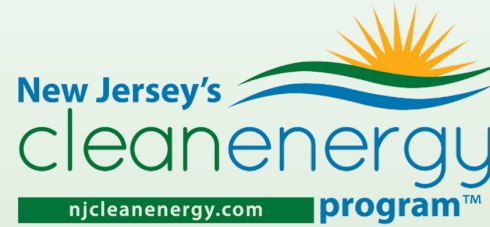


Thank You!

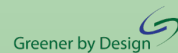
Alessia Eramo, aeramo@co.morris.nj.us
Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority



Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors



2026 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Stay Connected With Us



www.sustainablejersey.com



[@Sustainable_Jersey](https://www.instagram.com/Sustainable_Jersey)



[@SJ_Program](https://twitter.com/SJ_Program) and [@SJ_Schools](https://twitter.com/SJ_Schools)



[@SustainableJersey](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableJersey)



[@sustainable-jersey](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustainable-jersey)