

VII. RECYCLING PLAN ELEMENT

The New Jersey Source Separation and Recycling Act adopted in 1987 and the Municipal Land Use Law require that municipal master plans include a Recycling Plan Element. In addition, specific tasks are delegated to counties and municipalities in order to achieve the State Recycling Plan goals.

Solid Waste disposal and recycling in New Jersey is regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection under N.J.A.C. 7:26 pursuant to the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et. seq. The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act and the subsequent regulations provide a comprehensive system for management of solid waste in New Jersey. The act designated all 21 Counties and the Hackensack Meadowlands District as Solid Waste Management Districts and mandated the Boards of Chosen Freeholders in each of the Counties to develop comprehensive plans for waste management in their district. The Middlesex County District Solids Waste Management Plan was approved on July 29, 1980. The County Plan was amended on December 12, 1997 to address solid waste flow control.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Department of Public Works contains the following agencies responsible for collection of solid waste and recyclable materials for the City's residents:

- o *Bureau of Recycling* – Administers the City's recycling program including the curbside collection program.
- o *Division of Sanitation* – Responsible for the curbside collection of municipal residential and commercial solid waste.

Business and industry in the City are responsible for their own refuse disposal via independent waste haulers.

New Brunswick consistently meets the statewide recycling goal of 60 percent or better. The City of New Brunswick recycles numerous materials for the benefit of the community. Materials that are collected by the City from residents at the curb every other week include the following: Corrugated cardboard; newspapers; mixed paper; glass bottles and jars, aluminum, steel and tin cans, plastic containers, and textiles.

The recycling or disposal of the following materials are also handled by the City:

- o Brush Recycling - Brush (e.g. branches & woody plants no greater than 5 inches in diameter), is collected by appointment.
- o Leaf Composting - New Brunswick will collect leaves curbside for composting in April, May, November and December.
- o Christmas Tree Recycling - Christmas trees are collected curbside for composting in January. Residents are requested to place bare Christmas trees curbside on their first regular trash collection day of the week by 6:00am.
- o Tire Recycling - Tires must be recycled. Middlesex County residents can bring tires to four County Tire Recycling Centers located in East Brunswick, Metuchen, Plainsboro and Woodbridge.
- o Household Hazardous Waste - Household hazardous waste items should be disposed of at a Middlesex County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
- o Waste Oil Recycling - Used motor oil must be recycled. Up to 10 quarts of used motor oil is accepted per year per resident at the Department of Public Works Central Garage at 400 Jersey Avenue.
- o Appliances & Scrap Metal Recycling - New Brunswick Dept of Public Works collects appliances (white goods such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc) and scrap metal curbside by appointment.
- o Middlesex County Residential Paint Recycling Program - Middlesex County residents can bring paint and paint-related products to Dunellen, East Brunswick, Helmetta, Middlesex, New Brunswick, Old Bridge, South Brunswick, South Plainfield, and Woodbridge for proper disposal.

In addition, residents may bring tires, textiles, batteries and used motor oil to the DPW for recycling. The City also participates in the County Hazardous Waste Program. Household hazardous wastes, such as paints, thinners, chemicals and batteries may be brought to the Woodbridge Recycling Center in Keasbey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- o Recycling Provisions within Subdivisions and Site Plan Regulations. Require each application for residential development of fifty (50) or more units of single-family housing or twenty-five (25) or more units of multi-family housing to provide adequate provisions for the collection, disposition, and recycling of recyclable materials, as required by the Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act. Further, require each application for a nonresidential use in excess of 1,000 square feet to include provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials, as required by the Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act.