

X. Recycling Plan

Introduction

The Mandatory Statewide Source Separation and Recycling Act of 1987 requires the establishment of a recycling component to municipal master plans.

In 1976, the Township of Bloomfield established a program for the collection of used and/or old newspapers, commonly referred to as “newsprint,” from residences of the Township for the purpose of recycling. During 1987, it then became mandatory for all residents to separate leaves, glass bottles, newspapers and aluminum cans from all other waste and to place these items in suitable containers or at a designated drop-off site for recycling.

Bloomfield also appointed a Recycling Coordinator, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council, who establishes and promulgates the rules and regulations for the days and times of collection, sorting, transportation, sale and/or marketing of recyclable material in order to encourage the preservation of material resources, while minimizing the cost of the recycling program to the Township.

Recycling Process

Bloomfield has two separate material collections during each month on alternating weeks managed by the Township, but hauled by individual contractors. One collection is for newspapers, which must be tied in bundles and are picked up at curbside. A second collection is for glass, which is separated by color, and picked up along with aluminum cans.

The Township also established a recycling program for leaves, tree wood, Christmas trees and asphalt millings prior to resurfacing separately, managed by the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Commission. In addition, during the period from October 1 through December 15 and from April 1 through May 15 of each year, leaves may be placed in piles or bags along the curblines of the street for pickup.

The Essex County Utilities Authority holds a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day once a year. During May of 2000, there was a drop-off location which collected paint, batteries and propane tanks at the Fleet Management Garage in Verona.

In total, Bloomfield recycled 2,756 tons of materials including glass, aluminum and newspapers during 2000. The following table provides a break-

down of these materials with their individual tonnage. This amount represents a recycling rate of 25 percent of the Township's total waste stream, which meets the State recycling goal set forth in the State Recycling Act and County Recycling Plan.

Table X-1 Annual Recycling Tonnage- 2000 Township of Bloomfield N.J.	
Item	Tons
Glass	565
Aluminum	30
Newspaper	2,160
Source: Township of Bloomfield	

Recycling is also taking place within all municipal buildings and schools throughout the Township. A separate contractor picks up all office paper within the Civic Center, Public Library and schools.

Issues

The following recycling issues have been identified by Township officials and the public:

1. The need to continually reassess and reevaluate the recycling system to address the waste stream, disposal and recycling market.
2. The need to recycle additional materials such as tin cans, plastic and cardboard.
3. The need for a recycling depot to drop-off materials.

Recommendations

1. The Township should provide for the pickup of additional items, such as tin cans, plastic and cardboard.
2. The Township should consider a recycling depot where residents can bring a number of different recyclable items to one location. The depot should be developed in conjunction with consolidation of DPW facilities.
3. The Township should increase the recycling awareness throughout the municipality through school programs, outreach and increased recycling containers in high traffic areas such as business districts.