"One Person's Trash..."

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

2018 Newsletter

Bergen County Utilities Authority
201-641-2552
www.bcua.org

BCUA awards schools more than $80,000 in local grants

The BCUA introduced an Environmental Grant Program in 2007 as a way to reinvigorate recycling and environmental awareness in Bergen County. A total of 87 applications were selected for grants in 2017 for a total of $83,589.44. Since the inception of the grant program, we have awarded $708,381.74 in grants to 745 school recipients.

More than 175 school officials, students, and family members attended the award ceremony on October 20, 2017 at Bergen Community College. The program is funded entirely by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and managed through the BCUA. Both public and private Bergen County schools may apply for grants up to $1,000. All eligible schools have an existing recycling program or have applied to use the grant funds to implement one.

This year's projects included outdoor gardens and classrooms, cafeteria recycling, creating musical instruments from recyclables, an environmental science module, a plastic bag reduction and reuse program, a recycled fashion show, enhanced recycling, food waste composting, water conservation, and much more. Congratulations to these 2017 winning schools:

- Allendale: Hillside and Northern Highlands Regional High
- Bogota: E. Roy Bixby Elementary and Lillian M. Steen Elementary
- Carlstadt: Carlstadt Public
- Cliffside Park: Cliffside Park #3 and Cliffside Park #6
- Closter: Hillside Elementary
- Cresskill: Cresskill High, Edward H. Bryan, and Merritt Memorial
- Demarest: Luther Lee Emerson
- East Rutherford: Becton Regional High
- Edgewater: Eleanor Van Gelder and George Washington Elementary
- Emerson: Emerson Jr./Sr. High, Memorial Elementary, and Patrick M. Villano Elementary
- Englewood: Dr. Leroy McCloud Elementary
- Fair Lawn: Memorial Middle
- Fairview: Academy of Our Lady of Grace
- Garfield: Christopher Columbus #8, Garfield Public Preschool Annex 3, and Woodrow Wilson #5
- Harrington Park: Harrington Park
- Hillsdale: Ann Blanche Smith
- Leonia: Anna C. Scott and Leonia Middle
- Little Ferry: Memorial
- Lodi: Lodi High and Wilson Elementary
- Lyndhurst: Columbus, Community, Franklin, Jefferson Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Lyndhurst High, Memorial Campus, Roosevelt, and Washington Elementary
- Mahwah: Betsy Ross
- Montvale: Fieldstone Middle and Saint Joseph Regional High
- New Milford: Berkley Street and The French American Academy
- North Arlington: North Arlington Middle
- Old Tappan: Charles DeWolf Middle, Northern Valley Regional High, and T. Baldwin Demarest
- Oradell: River Dell Regional High and Saint Joseph
- Palisades Park: Lindbergh Elementary and Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High
- Paramus: Bergen County Special Services – Washington, Bleshman Regional Day, Paramus High, Ridge Ranch Elementary, Stony Lane, and Visitation Academy Interparochial
- Park Ridge: East Brook Elementary, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Park Ridge High, and West Ridge Elementary
- Ramsey: Don Bosco Prep High and Eric S. Smith
- Ridgefield: Slocum Skewes Learning Center
- Ridgefield Park: Lincoln, Grant Elementary, and Thomas Jefferson Early Learning Center
- River Edge: Cherry Hill, River Dell Regional Middle, Roosevelt, and St. Peter Academy
- Rutherford: Academy at St. Mary and Lincoln Elementary
- South Hackensack: Memorial
- Tenafly: Tenafly Middle
- Teterboro: Bergen County Technical High
- Upper Saddle River: Reynolds
- Wallington: Frank W. Gavlak, Jefferson, and Wallington Jr./Sr. High
- Washington Township: Immaculate Heart Academy
- Westwood: Brookside Elementary and Primoris Academy
- Woodcliff Lake: Woodcliff Middle
- Wyckoff: Sicomac Elementary

Grass and leaves are too good to waste

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According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 13.5 percent of garbage is composed of yard waste. Thankfully, it isn't necessary to send leaves, grass, and other yard waste to a landfill since it isn't really "waste." Yard clippings are full of valuable nutrients that can be used in your yard, garden, or compost pile. When you recycle grass, leaves, wood chips, and other yard debris, you are saving yourself time and money while conserving valuable landfill space for actual "waste." In New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection estimates that composting and mulching keep two-thirds of yard waste out of landfills.

The BCUA's yard waste program is designed to further reduce the volume of yard waste through two programs that promote composting and mulching

Backyard Composting

The BCUA encourages residents to recycle yard waste by setting up a backyard compost pile. The benefits to both the homeowner and the environment are great. Composting turns grass clippings, leaves, dead garden plants, and fruit and vegetable scraps from the kitchen into something useful for your gardens.

Setting up a compost pile is easy. If you're looking for a compost bin, the BCUA offers several options. Our website offers instructions for building your own compost bin. Go to www.bcua.org. Or, if you'd like to purchase a ready-made bin, local hardware and garden stores have them for sale. Throughout the year, Earth Machine compost bins are available for purchase at a reduced price by appointment at the BCUA in Moonachie. Call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 to schedule your appointment.

Grass: Cut It and Leave It

Grass clippings are another major component of yard waste. However, they can be easily eliminated from the garbage, while producing a healthier lawn. Leave the clippings on the lawn and let nature do the recycling. The process is simple.

Most New Jersey lawns thrive when mowed to a length of about 2 to 3 inches, especially in summer. To maintain the lawn properly, avoid mowing off more than the top third of the grass blades. Short clippings will act as a natural fertilizer and also return moisture to your soil. Your lawn will be healthier. Try it this spring. Go to www.bcua.org to view the "Grass: Cut It and Leave It" brochure.

Mobile paper shredding events help protect your identity

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Privacy experts often recommend that individuals shred confidential paper documents, such as pay stubs, medical records, tax documents, bank and investment statements, and other personal paper documents which contain your Social Security number or account numbers. Shredding these confidential documents keeps them out of the hands of identity thieves. To assist residents, the BCUA offers a Mobile Paper Shredding Program. As part of this program, residents may deliver their confidential paper documents to various locations throughout Bergen County. Residents can observe their documents being shredded on site.

Acceptable documents are limited to confidential and sensitive materials only. Non-confidential materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers, should be recycled through your local municipal recycling program and will not be accepted at this event. You do not have to remove paper clips, staples, or paperboard binder covers. In an effort to accommodate all of those wishing to participate, there is a **limit of four bags or boxes of documents weighing no more than 10 pounds each.**

The BCUA offers each municipality the opportunity to host a collection event at a municipal site of its choice. In 2017, 54 municipalities opted to participate in this program, collecting 138,905 pounds of confidential papers for destruction and recycling. During 2018, many municipalities will be hosting shredding events sponsored by the BCUA. Check with your local municipal recycling coordinator or visit your municipality's website for the schedule.

In addition, the BCUA sponsors four one-day collection events at two Bergen County locations. These BCUA mobile shredding events will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine:

- Sunday, April 29 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, June 9 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, August 18 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 21 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

For more information about future events or for directions, call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit www.bcua.org.

Electronics recycling program serves residents and businesses

During 2017, the BCUA collected 193,725 pounds of computer and electronic equipment for recycling from both residents and businesses.

For Residents

The BCUA operates a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-approved Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot for all Bergen County residents. All types of computer and electronic equipment, including cell phones and televisions, are accepted for recycling. The Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot, located at the BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie, is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, please contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or go to www.bcua.org.

The BCUA also hosts one-day drop-off events for Bergen County residents only (no businesses). The one-day events are held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. No appointment is required at these events.

- Sunday, April 29 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, June 9 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, August 18, 2018 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 21 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Many municipalities also collect computer and electronic equipment for recycling. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator for a collection or drop-off schedule.

For Businesses

The Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot accepts equipment from businesses for a nominal fee. Payment must be made by check only and materials are received **by appointment only**. Contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 for complete details.

Recycle your old tires

During 2017, the BCUA collected 1,927 tires from Bergen County residents for recycling. Many municipalities collect tires. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator for a collection or drop-off schedule. The BCUA also offers one-day drop-off events for residents. These tire recycling events will be held between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., rain or shine:

- Sunday, April 29 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, June 9 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, August 18 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Sunday, October 21 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

These events are for Bergen County residents only. There is a **limit of four tires per participant**. Tires with or without rims will be accepted. No businesses may drop off tires at these events.

What to do with old medications

Police departments across the state offer options for residents to properly and safely dispose of prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs. For locations in Bergen County and future program dates, go to www.operationtakebacknj.com/bergen.html or www.americanmedicinechest.com. Information is also available on the BCUA website at www.bcua.org.

Operation Take Back NJ and the American Medicine Chest Challenge are initiatives of the New Jersey Drug Enforcement Association, the Office of the Attorney General, the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Partnership for a Drug Free America, among others.

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Get rid of household hazardous waste properly at BCUA events

In 2017, the BCUA conducted eight one-day household hazardous waste (HHW) management events. These events were held at three different locations throughout Bergen County. In all, 13,498 Bergen County households took advantage of these events to dispose of 1,222,370 pounds of unwanted hazardous waste materials. On average, each participant delivered 90 pounds of hazardous materials for safe disposal. These events continue to be the most largely attended one-day events in the State of New Jersey.

This popular BCUA program began in March and continues throughout 2018. All collections are free, but they are open to Bergen County residents only (proof of residency is required). The hours for all of the HHW events are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Mark your calendar with these upcoming events:

- Sunday, April 15 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, May 12 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, June 24 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, July 21 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Saturday, September 8 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah
- Sunday, October 14 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus
- Saturday, November 17 – BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie

At these HHW drop-offs, we will accept a wide range of materials used in and around your home. Please keep all chemicals in their original, labeled containers and store them out of reach of children and pets. For a complete list of materials accepted and other details, please call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit www.bcua.org.

Please note: We no longer accept alkaline batteries at the HHW events. Common household batteries with "alkaline" on the label are not classified as hazardous waste and can be thrown out in the regular garbage. Also, no computers, electronics, or tires will be accepted at these events.

Bergen County businesses classified as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) may participate in this program for a nominal fee. All interested CESQGs must receive prior approval from the BCUA to participate. For further details, please contact Richard Baroch, Solid and Special Waste Program Administrator, at 201-807-8696.

Tips for using and storing chemicals safely

- Always read labels carefully before buying and using hazardous products. Be aware of their uses and dangers. If directions are unclear, contact the manufacturer before using.
- Buy alternative household products that are not toxic. Look for "non-toxic" on the label.
- Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable. Knowing the contents could be a lifesaver in case of a spill or accidental poisoning.
- Store hazardous materials in a place inaccessible to children and pets.
- Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only materials you need and will use.
- Avoid mixing different products. Mixing can sometimes cause explosions, fires, or poisonous chemical reactions.
- Always use hazardous products in well-ventilated areas. Wear protective gloves when warranted. Many hazardous products have dangerous fumes that can burn your skin or irritate your eyes, nose, and throat.
- Look up the phone number of the poison control center and place it near or on your phone in case of actual or suspected poisoning.

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Be sharps smart

The New Jersey Hospital Association, together with local hospitals, offers a program to help residents safely and responsibly dispose of syringes, needles, and lancets used for medical care. Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a small one-time fee to individuals who are injection-dependent. To learn more about the Safe Syringe Disposal Program, contact the New Jersey Hospital Association at 609-275-4058 or visit www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/phss/syringe.pdf or www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/phss/safe_syringe_disposal.pdf.

For more information about the safe disposal of syringes in Bergen County or to request a copy of the "Safe Syringe Disposal Guide for Home Generated Medical Waste," please contact the Bergen County Department of Health Services at 201-634-2780.

Public education available for all ages and interests

The Solid Waste Education Department provides a variety of education programs, free of charge, to Bergen County schools and civic groups. These programs include classroom recycling and waste reduction programs for all grade levels, including pre-K.

Solid Waste Presentations

Roxy the Recycling Raccoon (Pre-K to Grade 4) – Through the use of a raccoon puppet, garbage can, and recycling bin, children experience a visual as well as verbal explanation about what materials can be recycled. Students become "garbage detectives" in order to help Roxy eliminate "recyclables in the garbage." This program is approximately 30 minutes long.

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Wonderful Working Worms (Grades 3 to 8) – A traveling composting bin, complete with red worms, helps students explore the world of composting and examines the difference between worm composting (which can be done indoors) and outdoor composting. After the presentation, classroom teachers will be able to request worms from this bin in order to begin their own worm bin. This program is approximately 30 minutes long.

Environmental Shopping (Adults) – This program shows the average consumer how to shop with the environment in mind, such as selecting minimal packaging, choosing recyclable packages, and more.

Backyard Composting (Adults) – This program teaches the basics of backyard composting.

Education Assistance

The BCUA education staff members are available to assist students, teachers, administrators, and entire school districts by providing educational materials and resources on recycling and other solid waste management issues or assisting in initiating or enhancing a recycling and waste reduction program. For information about any of these programs, please contact Angela Bonanno-Lynch at 201-807-5821 or abonanno-lynch@bcua.org.

Green Shopping Guide

This 8-page guide for residents has practical, everyday tips about simple, easy-to-make choices that can make a big difference in and around your home. Go to www.bcua.org to view the "Bergen County Environmental Shopping Guide."

Municipal Recycling Information

Municipality	Municipal Recycling Coordinator Phone	Municipal Website
Allendale	201-818-4410	www.allendalenj.gov
Alpine	201-768-6942	www.alpinenj07620.org
Bergenfield	201-387-4055, ext. 3	www.bergenfield.com
Bogota	201-342-1736, ext. 267	www.bogotaonline.org
Carlstadt	201-939-2857	www.carlstadtnj.us
Cliffside Park	201-943-3456	www.cliffsideparknj.gov
Closter	201-784-0753	www.closterboro.com
Cresskill	201-569-5400	www.cresskillboro.com
Demarest	201-768-0167	www.demarestnj.net
Dumont	201-387-5022	www.dumontnj.gov
East Rutherford	201-729-9751, ext. 277	www.eastrutherfordnj.net
Edgewater	201-943-1700, ext. 5004	www.edgewaternj.org
Elmwood Park	201-703-2207	www.elmwoodparknj.us
Emerson	201-262-5077	www.emersonnj.org
Englewood	201-568-3401	www.cityofenglewood.org
Englewood Cliffs	201-568-0242	www.englewoodcliffsnj.org
Fair Lawn	201-794-5341	www.fairlawn.org
Fairview	201-943-3300	www.fairviewborough.com
Fort Lee	201-592-3634	www.fortleenj.org
Franklin Lakes	201-891-4333	www.franklinlakes.org
Garfield	973-546-2200	www.garfieldnj.org
Glen Rock	201-670-3990	www.glenrocknj.net
Hackensack	201-646-3955	www.hackensack.org
Harrington Park	201-768-0944	www.harringtonparknj.gov
Hasbrouck Heights	201-288-1072	www.hasbrouck-heightsnj.org
Haworth	201-384-1037	www.haworthnj.org
Hillsdale	201-666-4800	www.hillsdalenj.org
Ho-Ho-Kus	201-445-8161	www.ho-ho-kusboro.com
Leonia	201-592-5771	www.leonianj.gov
Little Ferry	201-641-0023	www.littleferrynj.org
Lodi	973-365-4005, ext. 400	www.lodi-nj.org
Lyndhurst	201-438-5478	www.lyndhurstnj.org
Mahwah	201-529-3344	www.mahwahtwp.org
Maywood	201-845-2900, ext. 208	www.maywoodnj.com
Midland Park	201-445-5720	www.midlandparknj.org
Montvale	201-391-5706	www.montvale.org
Moonachie	201-935-2344	www.moonachie.us
New Milford	201-967-8172	www.newmilfordboro.com
North Arlington	201-955-5665	www.northarlington.org
Northvale	201-767-0210	www.boroughofnorthvale.com
Norwood	201-768-4152	www.norwoodboro.org
Oakland	201-405-7732	www.oakland-nj.org
Old Tappan	201-664-4438	www.oldtappan.net
Oradell	201-261-8200, ext. 268	www.oradell.org
Palisades Park	201-585-4133	www.palisadesparknj.us
Paramus	201-265-2100, ext. 658	www.paramusborough.org
Park Ridge	201-391-3933	www.parkridgeboro.com
Ramsey	201-825-3400, ext. 229	www.ramseynj.com
Ridgefield	201-945-5319	www.ridgefieldboro.com
Ridgefield Park	201-440-4860	www.ridgefieldpark.org
Ridgewood	201-670-5521	www.ridgewoodnj.net
River Edge	201-599-6275	www.riveredgenj.org
River Vale	201-664-2346, ext. 4	www.rivervalenj.org
Rochelle Park	201-587-7752	www.rochelleparknj.gov
Rockleigh	201-768-4217	www.rockleighnj.org
Rutherford	201-460-3038	www.rutherford-nj.com
Saddle Brook	201-587-2903	www.saddlebrooknj.us
Saddle River	201-327-2609	www.saddleriver.org
South Hackensack	201-440-3283	www.southhackensacknj.org
Teaneck	201-837-1600	www.teanecknj.gov
Tenafly	201-568-4134	www.tenaflynj.org
Teterboro	201-288-1202	www.teterboronj.org
Upper Saddle River	201-327-2196	www.usrtoday.org
Waldwick	201-652-5300, ext. 227	www.waldwicknj.org
Wallington	973-777-0318	www.wallingtonnj.org
Washington Township	201-664-1734	www.twpofwashington.us
Westwood	201-664-2349	www.westwoodnj.gov
Woodcliff Lake	201-391-3172	www.wclnj.com
Wood-Ridge	201-939-4658	www.njwoodridge.org
Wyckoff	201-891-7000, ext. 118	www.wyckoff-nj.com

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What can I recycle?

The following residential materials may be recycled in your community. To find out what materials are mandated for your municipality, contact your municipality's recycling coordinator.

- Aluminum Cans
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Ferrous Scrap
- Glass Beverage Containers
- Grass
- Leaves
- Mixed Paper
- Newspaper
- Plastic Bottles, Jugs and Containers (types 1 and 2)
- Tin Cans
- White Goods
- Construction and Demolition Debris (concrete, brick, tree parts, nonferrous/ferrous metal, asphalt, corrugated cardboard; where practical)

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We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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Please recycle after reading.