

Recycling Update

September 2020

Bergen County Utilities Authority • Foot of Mehrhof Road, Little Ferry, NJ 07643

BCUA Electronics Depot Back in Business!

The BCUA reopened their Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot on 8/20/20!

The BCUA operates a NJDEP approved Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot for all Bergen County residents. All types of computer and electronic equipment are collected for recycling. The Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot is open Monday through Friday by appointment between the hours of 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 for more information.

Please inform your residents that they must follow all COVID-19 safety restrictions. Masks must be worn.

The final BCUA Electronics/Tires/Paper Shredding Event of 2020 will be held on Sunday, October 4th, Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Go to www.bcua.org for additional information. Please advise your residents that wait times may be extensive due to COVID-19 safety restrictions.

Governor's budget proposal impacts recycling

Governor Murphy's budget proposal shifts millions from the Recycling Fund to the State Parks Department as part of a revised fiscal plan to weather COVID-19 crisis.

ANJR has learned that Governor Murphy's budget proposes to shift \$12 million of recycling and \$10 million of Clean Communities monies to the State Parks Department budget. [Click here for detailed budget proposal.](#)

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Register today for this exciting event!

WasteExpo – a large waste and recycling event has been reimagined this year. Register now for WasteExpo Together Online! (P.S. It's free!) Separate registration and costs only apply toward the Business Leadership Forum on September 14 and the Food Recovery Forum on September 15.

It promises to deliver an exciting virtual conference through their new platform [WasteExpo Together Online](#). A keynote address will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 15th. They plan on offering an insight into Atlanta's city-wide [Feet on the Street anti-contamination program](#). Take this opportunity to hear about the program's inception, execution and success, as well as how all stakeholders worked together to bring the 2017 pilot to every neighborhood in the city over the past year.

Register Now for WasteExpo Together Online <https://events1.social27.com/wasteexpo/auth/register>.

Plastics Pact Shows Promise for Future!

A program called U.S. Plastics Pact will pursue strategies to eliminate unnecessary packaging, increase recyclability, and ensure packaging contains recycled plastic. It has more than 60 industry backers.

This collaborative effort is being led by The Recycling Partnership and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In the U.S., dozens of brand owners, retailers, government agencies and nonprofit groups have joined the U.S.



Plastics Pact. With more than 60 members, the pact has the following 2025 goals: Eliminate problematic or unnecessary packaging; ensure 100% of plastic packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable; undertake actions to recycle or compost 50% of plastic packaging; and boost average recycled or bio-based content in plastic packaging to 30%.

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Plastics (continued)

“Together, through the U.S. Plastics Pact, we will ignite systems change to accelerate progress toward a circular economy,” Sarah Dearman, vice president of circular ventures for The Recycling Partnership, stated in a press release. “As the lead organization that engages the full supply chain to advance circularity in the U.S., it’s a natural fit for The Recycling Partnership to further collaborative action with other industry leaders to create substantial, long-lasting change for the betterment of our planet.”



Progress toward achieving the four targets will be tracked by WWF’s ReSource: Plastic Footprint Tracker, and the results will be publicly reported each year.

In June, WWF’s platform published a plastic waste report on five large corporations that are members of its ReSource: Plastic project. The report noted Keurig, Dr Pepper, McDonald’s, Procter & Gamble, Starbucks and The Coca-Cola Company together used 8% post-consumer resin across their consumer-facing plastic packaging. The data was published to provide a baseline to track those companies’ performance in boosting recycled content, increasing recycling rates and eliminating unnecessary packaging.

According to the press release, the U.S. Plastics Pact will receive guidance from an advisory council made up of the following 10 members: Amcor, Balcones Resources, Austin Resource Recycling (part of the city of Austin, Texas), Eureka Recycling, Grove Collaborative, Mars, Target, The Coca-Cola Company, Unilever United States and Walmart.

Market information contained in this newsletter is not meant to be an endorsement by the BCUA, and markets mentioned are not the only available to the County of Bergen.

Budget (continued)

It is not known at this time what impact that will have on our municipal and county grants. The State currently gives out approximately \$22 million in Recycling Enhancement Act (REA)/Municipal Tonnage Grants (MTG) and \$19.5 million in Clean Communities grants.



This potential shift in funding is important. As we all know recycling costs are at an all-time high, and any decrease in State grant funding that could be used to offset that cost may impact municipal and county budgets. We will update as more information becomes available.

Get plogging!

If you’ve ever picked up trash or recyclables while jogging, then congratulations! You’re not only a responsible person, you’re also a Plogger! Plogging has been around for a few years. And it’s even more impactful now due to the current national crisis.

Plogging is new enough in this country that there’s no website devoted to the activity. Residents should be encouraged to find out more by checking social media outlets – especially Instagram - and search the hashtag #plogging.

Plogging events have been organized in several NJ municipalities: Harrington Park, Hoboken and Watchung to name a few. Runners, joggers and fitness walkers who are tired of seeing their favorite areas marred by litter are carrying trash bags and scoop up items carelessly discarded by others.

Get plogging, virtually! Your residents may be interested in joining the 2nd annual Keep America Beautiful® TrashDash plogging event on Sept. 20, 2020.

This event takes place in Connecticut, but can be

done virtually! [Click here](#) for more information about the September 20th Event.

