



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Solid and Hazardous Waste Program
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

May, 2008

Dear New Jersey Businessperson,

The "New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act" (Recycling Act), N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.11 et seq., which was signed in 1987, mandates recycling in the residential, commercial and institutional sectors. Among other things, the Recycling Act required counties to develop recycling plans and municipalities to adopt recycling ordinances based upon the applicable county plan. Thus, New Jersey businesses have been required by law to source separate and recycle those recyclable materials specified in the applicable municipal recycling ordinance for over 21 years. While enforcement of municipal recycling ordinances in the commercial sector varies throughout the state, New Jersey businesses should anticipate an increase in recycling enforcement efforts at the local level. This is due primarily to the recent passage of the "Recycling Enhancement Act", which will provide funds to counties and municipalities for recycling program implementation, including enforcement of recycling ordinances, as well as the requirement that counties update their recycling plans to include specific recycling enforcement strategies.

Besides being a legal requirement, recycling saves natural resources, energy required in product manufacturing, and reduces the need for additional solid waste disposal facilities. Recycling also leads to reductions in air and water pollution, including reductions in greenhouse gas generation, which is tied to global warming. You may not be aware that recycling benefits the economy in many ways, as well. Recycling adds almost \$6 billion per year to our state economy and is responsible for over 27,000 jobs in New Jersey. It has also been proven to be an economically sound business practice that helps reduce costs for companies.

In addition to establishing and maintaining a recycling program in their locations, New Jersey businesses are urged to work cooperatively with their local recycling officials in regard to compliance with all recycling requirements. Not only is such an approach critical to the success of our state's recycling efforts, but it will foster good relations between the business sector, local officials and the general public.

Sincerely,

Guy Watson, Chief
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Recycling and Planning