

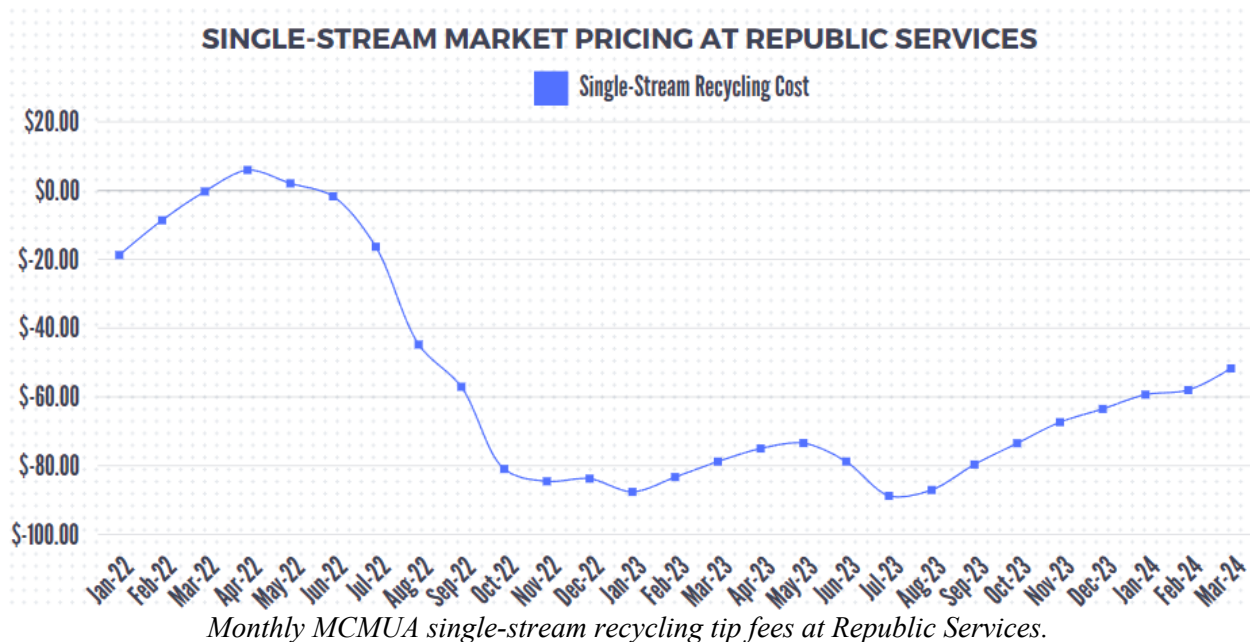
District Recycling Coordinator Monthly Board Report

March 2024

Recycling Tonnage and Value

March Recycling Update:

In March 2024, the preliminary rate for single-stream recycling was -\$51.71, a positive increase of \$6.30 per ton from the previous month. Entering Spring, curbside grades are slowly improving, with March marking the eighth consecutive month of an overall positive trend. Fiber markets remain the highlight, with cardboard and paper commodities leading the way in favorable pricing for the entire single-stream mix. Cardboard pricing has exceeded \$100 per ton this month, while residential papers average around \$85 per ton. Pricing for curbside plastic materials has also increased over the past month due to a limited post-consumer recycled resin supply, which has become a critical constraint for buyers. This follows last month's similar report for fiber markets, which also showed the same issues in finding suitable, clean, and sustained recycled content streams in manufacturing new content. According to market experts, many plastics manufacturing companies across the country have reported an average of 9.4% post-consumer recycled resin in their products last year. This percentage is inadequate for meeting the minimum recycled content standards required by New Jersey's Recycled Content Law (P.L. 2021, c. 391), which came into effect earlier this year. Therefore, with scarcity of supply continuing to drive up pricing as the year progresses to meet these requirements, it is expected that this will also play a role in continued recovery.



Resolution(s) for Board Consideration

A resolution will be presented to the Board for its consideration at the April meeting authorizing the purchase of four (4) 30 yard roll off containers and two (2) 40 yard roll off containers through the Sourcewell Cooperative Pricing System in the aggregate amount of \$38,682.00. |

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Resolution 2024-043 will be presented to the Board for its consideration authorizing the purchase of new GPS, video cameras and routing services for the MCMUA Curbside Recycling and Vegetative Waste Programs. For the past several years, the MCMUA has been utilizing GPS and on-truck video services provided by Verizon's Reveal service. After using it for this amount of time, the MCMUA realized it would best serve our collection and delivery trucks to improve the GPS service beyond the capabilities of our existing Verizon system. Utilizing the capabilities of Eagle Wireless's GPS services, which is available through an approved Sourcwell cooperative purchasing program, will afford the MCMUA the ability to significantly improve its video coverage while also developing new smart routing capabilities for the recycling collection routes to make collection more efficient and reliable. With frequent turn-over of drivers it would serve the MCMUA's collection program to develop improved routing and mapping capabilities for our drivers so they work better as a team while completing their routes from block to block and from town to town.

Resolution 2024-044 will be presented to the Board for its consideration authorizing the purchase of new recycling roll-off containers. During the 2024 budgeting process, the MCMUA assessed the need with its current and prospective future contracts and it was determined newer containers were needed to maintain operations effectively with our Curbside Recycling Division and meet the proposed demand for newer agreements forecasted for the new year. The proposed containers will replace those currently in rotation, no longer able to be feasibly maintained, and have reached the end of their useful life. The proposed purchase is for four (4) x 30 cubic yard rectangular open top roll off dumpsters and two (2) x 40 cubic yard roll off dumpsters.

Recycling Contract Customer Service Efforts and Education

Town of Boonton Recycling Inspection Preparation and Shared Services Agreement Work:

In March 2024, Marrone met with the Town of Boonton DPW Director to discuss the previous month's compiled list of recommendations and edits following our joint meeting in February on recycling. Marrone was advised that the current agreement will now include the addition of (1) 40 CY open roll-off container for tree parts/brush, which will be brought to our vegetative waste recycling facilities into the current contract. Following this discussion, Marrone arranged for (2) A-Frame educational signs to be delivered to the depot for grass and leaves and another for brush to provide onsite education following the new change. Marrone will follow up again in April to see if any other changes or assistance is needed.

Township of Washington Shared Services Agreement Work:

In March 2024, Marrone and Toomey finalized the MCMUA updated shared services agreement for servicing the Township of Washington's municipal depot, expiring on June 30, 2024, and scheduled to meet with the Township representatives on March 25. During the meeting, Marrone provided an overview of the proposal and informed the Township of the MCMUA requirement that all new contracts be established for five years. At the time of discussion, Marrone presented the opportunity for the depot to reduce costs and streamline operations by amending recycling operations and redesignating current containers as dedicated commodity types. For example, one of the current three 30 cubic yard rectangular open-top roll-off dumpsters designated for single-

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stream recyclables will become a dedicated cardboard container, allowing the municipality to generate revenue from the material. The MCMUA and the Township will then revisit the issue once again in six months to see how the public is fairing and audit the material once again to determine the composition and see if a second single-stream container could be replaced with one for a mixed paper container which is also fetching a revenue per ton. This would make the remaining single-stream container the only item at a cost, a comingled container for bottles and cans with a lower cost for recycling. With prices able to offset the cost of recycling once again, the MCMUA will push the possibility of allowing open access to the depot as a free resource to residents and no longer by paid subscription. The contract will also resume services of (1) 30 cubic yard rectangular enclosed dumpsters to recycle rigid plastics. The Township was amendable to these changes and will make a final decision on the proposal at the next Council meeting and inform the MCMUA of their willingness to move forward with a signed shared services agreement to continue with a new contract.

In addition to discussing the proposal, Marrone made several additional suggestions for the depot and their DPW operations for future discussion to reduce costs and optimize operations. After the meeting, Marrone and Toomey met with the DPW director to discuss the municipal tonnage grant reporting process and aided with tracking down additional tonnage to report on. With Washington Township previously being a town with one of the lowest recycling rates, our continued efforts to assist with recycling operations have made the MCMUA a welcomed and respected resource with the DPW staff at the Township was open to and highly appreciative of the assistance provided on our part.

Morris County Vocational School District Shared Services Agreement Proposal:

On March 28, 2024, Marrone was alerted to Morris County Vocational School District's (MCVSD) posted bid for trash and recycling collection and hauling services at their Denville location at 400 East Main Street. After reviewing the bid specifications and discussing the matter internally, Marrone and Toomey contacted MCVSD via phone to alert them to the MCMUA's interest in responding to their service inquiry. At that time, the School Business Administrators' office was informed of our interest in responding through a shared services agreement for their request, and we were educated on our resume of service and our exemption from bidding requirements under the local public contracts law. Moreover, Marrone requested the opportunity for the MCMUA to meet and review their specific needs and work out a service agreement for their operation. The MCVSD was pleased with the information provided and valued the call, informing us that they would get back to us with a date to set up a subsequent meeting after the holiday. After the call, Marrone provided the MCVSD with an email outlining several points of conversation and a written statement of our intention to present a proposal for consideration and a requested meeting. On Wednesday,

Recycling/Clean Communities Education, Inspections, and Customer Service Support

Below are summaries of Recycling and Clean Communities' projects, public outreach, and education programs during March 2024. This month's correspondence provides details regarding these activities as a separate report.

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Recycling and Clean Communities Projects, Public Outreach, Education, and Inspections:

- Parsippany Troy-Hills High School Student Education
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Food Matters Monthly Meeting
- MCMUA Schedules Class A Recycling Facility Tours for MRCs
- MCMUA Recycling Education Outreach with our Morris County Municipal Depots
- MCMUA Sponsored Internship with Morris County Vocational School District
- MCMUA and MCDPH Joint Recycling Education and Compliance Inspections
- MCMUA and Morris County Office of Communications Collaborations

Solid Waste Planning Activities and Special Projects

MCMUA Welcomes its New Recycling Program Education and Training Administrator to its Team:

On Monday, March 18, 2024, the Solid Waste Planning Team welcomed Alessia Eramo to the MCMUA as its new part-time Recycling Program Education and Training Administrator. Eramo holds a doctorate in civil and environmental engineering and has worked as an environmental consultant with expertise in a wide range of environmental issues, including water and solid waste management. Her experience will be a valued asset to the Authority. In addition to her work experience and education, she has a keen involvement in local government, serving on several boards and commissions within her municipality of residence. Already working on various projects, she is eager to learn about the MCMUA's existing efforts and where to improve them. We look forward to working with her and the new direction she will bring to reduce waste further and improve Morris County's recycling program. We are confident in her ability to do well and can expect great things from her soon!



Dr. Alessia Eramo, MCMUA's new Recycling Program Education and Training Administrator

MCMUA Municipal Tonnage Grant Efforts:

During March 2024, Marrone and Birmingham continued assisting our Morris County municipalities by soliciting for and collecting recycling reports from end facilities, distributing them to municipal recycling coordinators, and posting them to the MCMUA webpage for the 2023

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Municipal Tonnage Grant (MTG) reporting period. The MCMUA has received a significant increase in reports from previous years, with more expected into the latter part of the month. In addition, the MCMUA also offered personalized assistance to four municipal coordinators in answering questions regarding reporting, filing, and cataloging information obtained. These municipalities that received direct one-on-one assistance and training from the MCMUA were Chatham Borough, Chester Township, Hanover Township, and Mendham Borough, all of which had new coordinators during this timeframe. Each had an MRC retire during the timescale of Municipal Tonnage Grant reporting, and an MCMUA employee who is licensed as a Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) will be required to sign off on their reports for them to be accepted by the NJDEP. The MCMUA currently has four employees who hold and maintain a CRP license: Marrone, Birmingham, McNulty, and Wilson. Toomey and Eramo are on the wait list along with the three municipal coordinators seeking to maintain their licenses with the Rutgers class, which is currently on a two-year waiting list. Providing this resource to our municipalities is valuable to ensuring recycling is reported and sustained in Morris County while also being a much-welcomed relief to our municipalities. With these municipalities considering paying an outside agent to prepare and sign off on each tonnage report, the MCMUA stepped in and offered to train the new replacements in the role and sign off on their reports, saving each the cost which can still be utilized to run their recycling programs. Moreover, the understood agreement is that they would apply their education to their new roles, actively soliciting recycling reports and visiting generators to collect as much recycling tonnage as possible. These would bolster their grants and garner a higher recycling rate, tasks the hired consultant would charge a premium for or not take on at all.

MCMUA and the New Jersey Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) Joint Efforts:

Morris County Assistance with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers:

On March 6-8, 2024, Marrone and Birmingham attended the Sustainability in Motion Conference held in Atlantic City. Both actively participated in preparing, setting up, and running the conference in its second year. The conference is a partnership between the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council to bring together participants from both fields and learn to better work with sustainability at the forefront of decision-making. Educational content focused on sustainability, recycling, litter abatement, materials management, and other environmental concerns.

Throughout March 2024, Marrone attended, participated in, and helped organize several education and planning efforts for the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) as an Executive Board Member. In addition, Marrone created several promotional and educational pieces for ANJR to garner and utilize support for the organization moving forward. The MCMUA also offered to host the 2024 ANJR “Swap and Share” educational event this year for a second year at the Morris County Library on May 9, 2024. At that time, the MCMUA will present effective education strategies and tips for improving municipal recycling programs.

In late March, the Association informed Marrone that the Executive Board chose to nominate him for an elected position within the organization due to his past and present achievements and future goals for the organization. Those elected positions typically provide guidance, set strategy, and oversee management for the organization. The official election will occur at the ANJR Annual

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Meeting on April 23rd. The slate of nominations and a biography of each nominee will be sent to the entire membership along with other notices during the first week of April 2024 to be voted on.



Marrone with fellow ANJR Board Members at the Sustainability in Motion Conference.

MCMUA Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Stewardship Efforts:

In March 2024, Marrone continued work on planning for, gauging interest in, and developing a program to recycle boat shrink wrap generated within the County of Morris for a second year. Over the month, Marrone worked with various public and private parties, the owner of Ultra-Poly Corporation, who will recycle the collected materials, and the non-profit Lake Hopatcong Foundation (LHF) to finalize details for implementing the 2024 pilot boat shrink-wrap recycling program with an April 1st start date.

Once again, this program will be offered free of charge for both residents and businesses due to the combined efforts of all individuals involved in the program solely by leveraging a managed, dedicated, and sustained stream of a premium product to be recycled directly with the recycler and cutting out the intermediary processor who will also gain a profit off of the sale of the “recyclate” with other manufacturers to meet their minimum recycled content goals.

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2024 BOAT SHRINK WRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR MORRIS & SUSSEX COUNTY MARINAS

THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

**MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION'S
LEE'S COUNTY PARK MARINA**
419 HOWARD BOULEVARD,
MT. ARLINGTON, NJ 07856

**TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON'S
HEALTH CENTER**
57 MINNISINK ROAD,
LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ 07849

**SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA)
RECYCLING CENTER**
34 SOUTH, ROUTE 94, LAFAYETTE, NJ 07848

THIS FREE RECYCLING DROP-OFF PROGRAM IS ONLY OPEN TO MARINAS, WHO HAVE PRE-REGISTERED FOR SEASONAL APPROVAL AND RECYCLING INSTRUCTIONS.
TO ACCESS THE MT. ARLINGTON AND LAKE HOPATCONG LOCATIONS CONTACT THE LAKE HOPATCONG FOUNDATION.
TO ACCESS THE LAFAYETTE SITE, CONTACT THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA).

LAKE HOPATCONG FOUNDATION:
125 LANDING ROAD LANDING, NJ 07850
(973) 663-2500
INFO@LAKEHOPATCONGFOUNDATION.ORG

SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY:
34 ROUTE 94S, LAFAYETTE, NJ 07848
(973) 579-6998
INFO@SCMUA.ORG

HOW TO PROPERLY PREPARE YOUR PLASTIC BOAT WRAP FOR RECYCLING OPEN TO MORRIS & SUSSEX COUNTY MARINAS ONLY

- KEEP SHRINK WRAP CLEAN AND DRY.**
- REMOVE ALL WOOD, STRAPS, ZIPPERS, VENTS, ROPE, TAPE, ETC.**
- PLACE ONLY WRAP IN THE DESIGNATED CONTAINER.**
- BUNDLE AND TIE TIGHTLY WITH EXCESS WRAP FOR RECYCLING.**
- PLACE TIED WRAP AS FAR BACK AND HIGH AS POSSIBLE INTO THE CONTAINER TO SAVE ROOM.**

(1) Fold the film into a width of 4-5 feet, roll the film up and then cut off a strip of film from the end of the roll.

(2) Use the strip of film to tie the bundle.

Plastic straps

Zippered docks

Plastic vents

MCMUA's Second Municipal Recycling Coordinator (MRC) Meeting of 2024:

In February, Morris County and four neighboring counties met several times to coordinate a jointly held municipal recycling coordinator workshop to share information and learn about hot topics in the industry. The five counties hosting the meeting are Morris, Bergen, Essex, Passaic, and Hudson, to be held in West Orange.

On March 27, 2024, the five counties' recycling coordinators hosted a combined municipal recycling coordinator meeting for their MRCs. Of the topics discussed, which included market, recycling facility, and legislative updates, Marrone presented on behalf of the MCMUA on how to improve and ensure the accuracy of content housed on municipal websites. An REA grant requirement to cover, Marrone discussed certain areas such as how to make educational materials conveyed easy to find, follow, and understand for the public, ensure it adheres to the guidelines of the materials recycling facility where materials are brought, updated to possess the correct information, ensure externally linked information is also accurate for any event flyers and materials, and other tips for creating new educational materials. The event allowed enhanced participation and discussions with a larger group in a personable setting. Morris County had 16 of its MRCs present at this meeting. After the meeting, several out-of-county municipalities approached the MCMUA to utilize our household hazardous waste services for out-of-county residents and vegetative waste drop-off services for our vegetative waste recycling facilities. They also asked for general advice on recycling matters.

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2022 Recycling Enhancement Act (REA) Tax Fund Deliverables:

After a significant waiting period, the NJDEP opened the reporting requirements for submitting the 2022 REA Tax Fund Grant financial reporting deliverables. Marrone and Toomey worked on compiling the financial documents required for the REA Grant financial reports and successfully submitted these materials to the NJDEP for review and approval. However, the NJDEP System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) reporting system is still experiencing several issues, which have delayed submitting progress reports and financial reports. Marrone and Toomey have continuously communicated with the NJDEP staff to work through these issues and are prepared to complete the REA grant reports as soon as the problems have been resolved within the State reporting system. Due to these issues experienced for all County submittals, the 2023 REA Grant application process has been delayed and is still unavailable until these issues are corrected.

Morris County Clean Communities Program

Morris County Clean Communities Sponsored County Roadway Cleanups:

The Morris County Clean Communities Litter Abatement Program is on hold until April 2024 with the cleanup contractor, Adopt-A-Highway. During this month, planning efforts were performed, and on-site visits to several hotspot areas for illegal dumping and littering were completed in preparation for cleanup efforts in the coming months. As a result, three cleanups are planned for on Morris County Roadways, with two around our Transfer Stations, pending the contractor's schedule. Birmingham also visited Berkshire Valley Road in Roxbury, West Dewey Ave. in Wharton, and Hillsdale Ave. in Flanders, scheduled to be cleaned in May 2024.

2024 Morris County School Litter and Artwork Contest:

In March 2024, Birmingham worked on revising the mini-grant applications from last year's litter cleanup and artwork contest program for Morris County's public and private schools. This program is a part of the MCMUA's Clean Communities Program. One significant change for this year's applications is the inclusion of private schools and an expanded artwork contest for the public. Additionally, schools wishing their students to participate in the program can request funding through the MCMUA Clean Communities program to purchase art supplies to ensure students can easily participate while gathering submissions. The school application packets were mailed in late March, and the submission deadline is June 30th.

MCMUA's Award Nomination for the 2024 NJ Clean Communities Awards:

In January 2024, Donna Macalle-Holly, the Grants and Program Director at Lake Hopatcong Foundation, was nominated for the NJ Clean Waterway/Stormwater award and selected by the NJ Clean Communities Council based on her past and present experiences. On March 7, 2024, during the 2024 Sustainability in Motion Conference in Atlantic City, she was presented with her award, and both Birmingham and Marrone were in attendance to accept her award. Following the event, the MCMUA provided a press release on the ceremony to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, which was featured in its weekly newsletter on March 15, 2024.

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Recognizing Donna Macalle-Holly, a champion for clean waterways

March 15, 2024 Community, Education, Environment, People

By: Holly Odgers

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our own grants and program director, Donna Macalle-Holly, whose outstanding dedication to environmental stewardship has earned her the esteemed 2024 NJ Clean Communities Clean Waterways Award.

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) nominated Donna for this prestigious award, recognizing her exceptional leadership in coordinating our November 4, 2023, Lake-Wide Community Cleanup on Lake Hopatcong. The success of this cleanup effort, which involved nearly 500 volunteers and the removal of 28,000 pounds of trash, including more than 900 tires, is a testament to Donna's dedication and hard work.

While the Lake-Wide Community Cleanup is truly a community effort, it was conceived by Donna in 2013. She recognized the 5-foot drawdown held every five years on Lake Hopatcong as a unique opportunity to clear litter from the shores and exposed lakebed. Last year marked the third iteration of this impactful initiative, led each time by Donna, a testament to her ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

Congratulations, Donna, on this well-deserved honor! Your commitment to reducing litter and promoting environmental education has made a profound impact on Lake Hopatcong and throughout our community!

Photo: (left to right) New Jersey Clean Communities (NJCC) Vice Chairman John Wohlhab, LHF Grants and Program Director Donna Macalle-Holly, NJCC Chair Linda Daherty, and NJCC Executive Director JoAnn Gammadin

Pictured above right is Macalle-Holly with Birmingham and Marrone. Above left is the article in the newsletter describing her achievements and celebrating her award.