MCMUA · DISTRICT RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

November 10, 2026

Prepared by: Anthony Marrone, District Recycling Coordinator

Reporting period: October 2026 (project status through November 10, 2026)

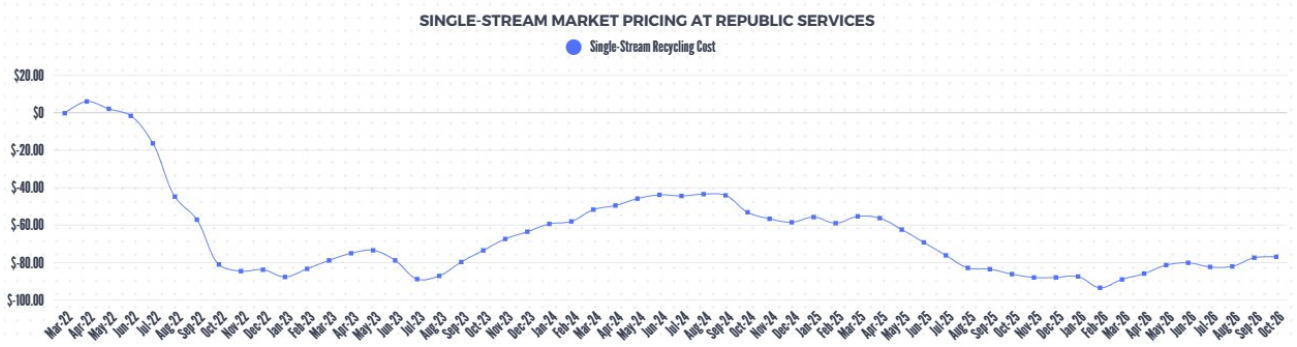
1. Highlights for the Board

- In October, the preliminary single-stream recycling rate with Republic Services was negative $76.89 per ton, a $0.49 increase in value from the previous month's finalized rate of negative $77.38 per ton.
- Town of Boonton Curbside and Depot Collection SSA Renewal was approved at the Town's November 2 Mayor & Council Meeting and is before the MCMUA Board for its consideration at the November 10 meeting.
- On October 23, the NJDEP officially approved the 2025 REA Grant, allowing the state to release the funding promised in this year's allocation for operations and educational expenses, as outlined in the grant guide: $364,500 split between activities and education. Finance and progress reports are being prepared for submission.
- On October 21, the MCMUA held its fifth and final in-person Municipal Recycling Coordinator meeting of 2026 at the Mount Olive Transfer Station. A total of 27 people from 13 towns attended.
- At the NJ Clean Communities Council's 21st Annual Fall Litter Summit & Awards Ceremony (October 8–9), Chavanne received the 2026 County Clean Communities Coordinator award. The Morristown Coordinator was also recognized as this year's Municipal Clean Communities Coordinator.
- Morris Township will officially open its food waste drop-off site on November 6 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony; the MCMUA was invited to participate.
- Clean Communities mini-grant application deadlines: School Cleanup January 29, 2027; Non-Profit Cleanup February 26, 2027; Educational Grant March 5, 2027 (rolling). To date, one public education grant application and 4 inquiries have been received.

2. Operations & Activity

Recycling Market and Operations Report Update

In October, the preliminary single-stream recycling rate with Republic Services was negative $76.89 per ton, a $0.49 increase in value from the previous month's finalized rate of negative $77.38 per ton.



In October and early November, Northeast recycling markets changed little from September: paper and metals prices remained high, while plastic markets stayed deeply depressed and stagnant. Forecasts suggest that demand pressures vary widely by material. According to the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), recycled commodity

prices in the region continued to recover for a second consecutive quarter after hitting lows in late 2025, although performance varied significantly by material type.

Fiber remains the foundation of regional MRF volume, helping stabilize volatile supply chains. Strong fall performance supports recycling finances as paper and cardboard markets rebound. Regional containerboard demand and rising e-commerce packaging activity ahead of the holidays keep high-density industrial bundling profitable. Paper prices edged down as stricter domestic mill specifications for prohibited materials, such as plastic food coatings and chemical laminates, forced regional MRFs to slow sorting belts and absorb higher processing costs.

The post-consumer plastics industry remains sharply divided between highly optimized rigid polymers and severely distressed consumer packaging lines. Natural HDPE prices continue to rise, driven by structural supply deficits in post-consumer recycled content for consumer-packaged goods. Domestic consumer-brand mandates for 2025–2030 sustainability targets provide a lasting price floor for natural blow-molded bottles (e.g., milk jugs). Color HDPE surged as regional heavy industry and infrastructure applications, such as non-potable drainage pipes and construction drums, fully absorbed secondary color-matched pellet supplies. PET prices began to plummet again amid a severe oversupply of cheap, virgin prime PET resin imports, combined with seasonal declines in beverage container collection volumes.

Steel and aluminum scrap provide predictable cash flow across the Northeast, supported by industrial demand and low inventories. Beverage containers and steel cans have held their highs since early spring, while strong domestic mill demand and low processing overhead make them highly attractive, profitable curbside materials.

The remainder of 2026 is expected to bring a stabilizing but fragmented Northeast market. Strong paper and metals markets will provide a baseline, while seasonal pressures and weakness in select plastics persist through December. OCC is forecast to rise, supported by holiday e-commerce volumes and steady mill demand. Mixed paper prices should flatten as holiday mailers and boxes will boost volume, but moisture limits and strict mill tolerances will constrain gains. PET is expected to remain near its cyclical low as cheap virgin resin imports are likely to delay a recovery. Natural HDPE and polypropylene should remain resilient, as brands' PCR mandates keep demand for clear, high-purity rigid plastics above MRF output. Aluminum and steel scrap should retain premium prices, supported by infrastructure and automotive demand, with regional EAFs continuing to buy local MRF metals. High Northeast operating costs will keep MRFs focused on technology upgrades, including secondary optical sorting, to improve margins on lower-grade residential materials.

Ongoing Shared Service Agreements and Contract Activities

In October and November, Marrone and Chavanne continued follow-up conversations regarding the adoption of shared service agreements for the following towns and their respective contracts for their consideration:

- Town of Boonton – Curbside and Depot Collection SSA Renewal. Approved at the Town's November 2 Mayor & Council Meeting. Before the MCMUA Board for its consideration at our November 10 meeting.
- Township of Washington First Amendment to Depot Collection SSA – Scrap Metal Container Addition. Draft pending with Township for their consideration.
- Township of Harding – Depot Collection SSA. Draft pending with Township for their consideration.
- Township of Mendham – First Amendment to SSA – Brush Container Temporary Collection Event Addition on a Quarterly Basis. No update was provided prior to the November MCMUA Board Meeting.
- County College of Morris – Mixed Paper Recycling. Draft pending with the College.

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

Below are summaries of Recycling and Clean Communities' projects, public outreach, and education programs in October 2026. Details regarding these activities are provided in a supplemental report.

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

- MCMUA Presents at the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials on Food Waste
- New Jersey Plastics Advisory Council Member Activities
- Marrone Attends CCM Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
- MCMUA, County Recycling Coordinator, and ANJR Joint Efforts
- MCMUA at the Morristown Festival on the Green
- MCMUA Prepares to Speak at the 2026 NJ League of Municipalities
- MCMUA at the Roxbury Township Schools Green Fair
- MCMUA Attends the Northern NJ Rivers Conference
- MCMUA and ANJEC Partner to Advance Morris County Food Recovery
- MCMUA Sponsored Internship with Morris County's Higher Learning Institutions
- MCMUA Provides Recycling Education at the Morris Plains Health Fair Event
- MCMUA and Republic Services Continue Joint Tours of the Mine Hill MRF Site
- MCMUA Supports and Participates in the Roxbury Repair Café
- MCMUA Attends and Tables at the Morris County Employee Health Fair
- MCMUA Attends the Meal Recovery Coalition's Value of a Meal Event
- Marrone Attends the NJ County Administrator Certificate Program Course
- MCMUA Sits for an Interview with a Senior Student and Teacher from Morris Knolls High School
- MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Recycling Professionals Course

Solid Waste Planning Activities and Special Projects

2025 REA Grant Update:

On October 23, the NJDEP officially approved the 2025 REA Grant, allowing the state to release the funding promised in this year's allocation for operations and educational expenses, as outlined in the grant guide: $364,500 split between activities and education. With our application approved, the state has opened the finance and progress reports for us to complete, and we are now preparing them for submission. During the first six months, we spent Task 1 funding on HHW operations.

MCMUA Hosts its Fifth MRC Meeting of the 2026 Calendar Year:



On October 21, the MCMUA held its fifth and final in-person Municipal Recycling Coordinator meeting at the MCMUA Mount Olive Transfer Station. A total of 27 people from 13 towns attended, and the meeting covered operations and best practices for the transfer stations, household hazardous waste, and vegetative waste recycling facilities. The meeting aimed to help our coordinators understand how these facilities work and engage the public more effectively when answering questions and when municipalities use our sites. The tour covered rules and regulations for these locations, each site's capabilities, how to schedule appointments, and accepted and prohibited materials. While touring each site, attendees asked several in-depth questions on various hot topics for the industry. Many of the tour attendees expressed appreciation for the tour and education. The Solid Waste Planning Division would like to thank Solid Waste Coordinator Deacon, Hazardous and

Vegetative Waste Manager Adams, and Mount Olive Transfer Station Manager Doyle for their assistance and for presenting at this meeting to make it informative and engaging for our coordinators.

As a follow-up to this meeting, step-by-step guides to share with all our towns, including instructions for scheduling an HHW facility appointment, an HHW facility map, and a disposal guide for the Mount Olive Transfer Station, are included below and are still being finalized.

2026 MCMUA Enhances Partnerships with Morris County Environmental Commissions:

After selecting five municipalities to receive our Recycling Enhancement Mini-Grant awards for Environmental Commissions, we've seen awardees actively pursue their waste diversion goals. Throughout October, Marrone and Dolan regularly consulted with first-round recipients, offering guidance and support. Notably, Morris Township will officially open its food waste drop-off site on November 6 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and the MCMUA was invited to participate in a photo opportunity and give a speech. The team is also exploring additional municipal waste reduction and recycling projects that could receive future funding. To that end, Dolan began developing an announcement and paperwork for rolling mini-grant applications to help municipalities and environmental commissions launch or expand food waste diversion programs in their communities. Municipalities we spoke with have expressed interest in adding food waste drop-off options to existing recycling depots. Follow-up conversations have focused on building interest, answering questions, and working directly with local environmental commissions to determine how these projects could work. Conversations this month included the following:

- Randolph Township's Environmental Commission had heard about the success in Morris Township and Morristown with their programs, is looking to start their own program with Township approval, and would require MCMUA startup funding.
- Boonton Town's Environmental Commission/ Green Team already has an existing seasonal pumpkin recycling program and would like to expand on this to a permanent food waste drop-off site at the Town's Depot. The project is pending approval from Town administration and would require MCMUA startup funding.
- Chatham Borough's Administration is looking to apply for a mini-grant for food recovery/donation. Their grant will increase awareness of and support for their ongoing food pantry and weekly distribution efforts through a partner church.
- Chatham Township's Environmental Commission/ Green Team is still awaiting a decision from their Administration on their previously proposed food waste drop-off program in the Township.

In addition to these projects, Dolan plans to dedicate a section of the MCMUA quarterly newsletter to information for Environmental Commissions. Dolan is also planning a spring 2027 gathering where environmental commissions can share ideas and develop a sustainability hub with regular biannual meetings for environmental commission and Green Team members. Meanwhile, Dolan continues to partner with Environmental Commissions and Green Teams across the county to explore collaborations and establish shared goals.

Morris County Clean Communities Program

New Jersey Clean Communities Council Hosts its 21st Annual Fall Litter Summit & Awards Ceremony:



On October 8 and 9, Marrone and Chavanne attended the 21st Annual Fall Litter Summit & Awards Ceremony, hosted by the NJ Clean Communities Council (NJCCC). The first day took place at The Mainland in Manahawkin and featured a NJ Clean Communities Workshop and Educational Expo. The program focused largely on emerging Clean Communities initiatives and efforts by

towns and organizations to reduce litter and improve statewide water quality. It also included a graduation ceremony for recent Clean Communities Coordinators. Morris County coordinators certified through Morris County include Clenord, Deacon, Dolan, Ouellette, and the municipal coordinators from Montville, Chatham Borough, and Morris Township. Following graduation, Chavanne received the 2026 County Clean Communities Coordinator award for her dedication to expanding the Morris County program and creating resources used across the state. The Morristown Coordinator was also recognized as this year's Municipal Clean Communities Coordinator. On the second day, the litter summit continued with a tour of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. Attendees learned about the site's history, the importance of marshes and protecting waterways, the local ecosystem, and ways to educate and communicate with students about commonly littered items and their impact on animals. As a general note to the board, Marrone provided a write-up of both awards and their background and accomplishments to the County Administrator's Office for further acknowledgment and information release.

Clean Communities Mini-Grants, Updates:

Chavanne updated the Clean Communities Program's school cleanup, nonprofit cleanup, and litter education mini-grants, including their new deadlines. The information is now posted on the Clean Communities Public Grants MCMUA News page. Application deadlines are as follows:

- School Cleanup Grant: January 29, 2027
- Non-Profit Cleanup Grant: February 26, 2027
- Educational Grant: March 5, 2027 (rolling acceptance)

So far, the program has received one application for the public education grant and 4 inquiries about the application process. The MCMUA expects to officially announce its call for applications period within the coming weeks. Chavanne is also considering ways to further expand the school cleanup grant for the 2027-2028 school year, in line with the NJCCC's new campaign, "Love Where You Learn." Under this campaign, schools that hold two cleanups can receive publicity designating them as a "litter-free" school zone. They would receive litter-free school zone signage and a press release.

MCMUA and GOATOTE Explore NJ Clean Communities Pilot Programs:

On July 22, 2025, Governor Murphy signed S-3511, enacting P.L. 2025, c. 106. The law permanently allocates $500,000 annually from the "Clean Communities Program Fund" to the Department of Environmental Protection for public outreach on reducing single-use plastics. The fund receives fees from manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers of litter-producing products, as well as penalties and donations. Until 2023, it supported education and enforcement of the single-use plastics ban, including a program that redistributed collected reusable bags to food banks, pantries, and food programs. Effective immediately, the law prompted the NJCCC and NJDEP to expand eligible Clean Communities expenses in spring 2026 to include bag collection and reuse programs, following an increase in discarded reusable bags. Small-scale collection programs have operated statewide since the law was signed. The NJ Clean Communities Council is now looking to launch several pilot drop-off programs at permanent sites. With several vendors now offering bags unsuitable for donation, the MCMUA is considering state-supported funding for either a temporary collection event or a permanent drop-off at the Interfaith Food Pantry and Resource Center in Parsippany.

On October 23, Marrone and Dolan met with the CEO of GOATOTE, a company that collects, cleans, and recirculates reusable shopping bags through public and private programs, to learn about her process and assess how the model could fit into Morris County's current Clean Communities Program. During the conversation, they learned about her service area, program model, capabilities, and services currently offered to Morris County municipalities. They discussed a potential project to promote food donations and emphasized that all reusable bags returned at the same time would be processed for reuse and, if unsuitable for use, recycled afterward. Marrone also connected GOATOTE with Ultra Poly Corporation, which currently operates reusable bag return programs for recycling and serves as the MCMUA's recycler for its boat shrink wrap program. This potential

partnership could provide a local vendor that accepts a wider range of plastic resin-coated bag types, allowing more materials to be reused rather than disposed of. At the meeting's conclusion, the MCMUA agreed to arrange a meeting with Interfaith in the coming weeks to review project ideas and coordinate efforts. Marrone also requested quotations for GOATOTE's three main project types: permanent drop-off programs, manned one-day collection events, and unmanned one-day collection events, along with an informational program flyer. This information was reviewed and subsequently sent to Clean Communities coordinators, who may also be exploring potential project ideas.

Morris County Clean Communities Sponsored County Roadway Cleanup(s):

In October, the Morris County Clean Communities Litter Abatement Program continued its efforts to remove litter from county roads, collaborating with the contractor Adopt-A-Highway. Throughout the month, Division Team Members conducted on-road searches in several areas previously identified as having increased litter. However, based on this year's on-site observations of historically cleaned roads, these roads do not have enough litter to justify contracting with Adopt-A-Highway.

The team evaluated and marked several roadway sections for potential future cleanups. On October 27, the team cleared litter around the Mount Olive Transfer Station and nearby roads for a second time this year, with 5 volunteers covering 2.5 miles. They collected 22 bags of trash and 14 bags of recyclables. They also disposed of about 15 pounds of miscellaneous materials, including 1 car tire.

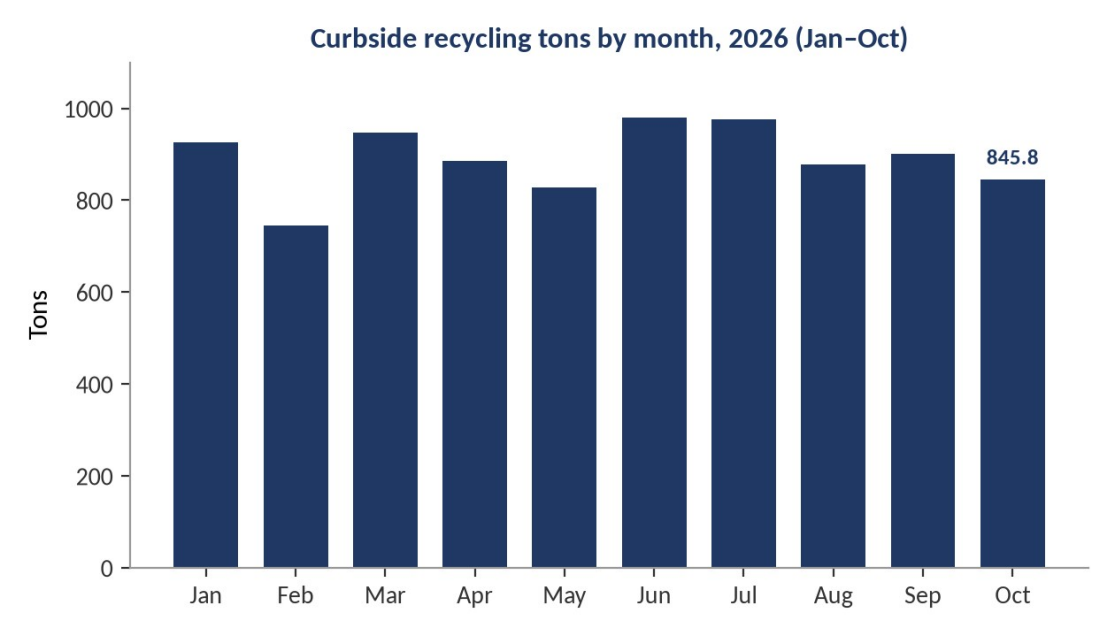
3. Key Metrics

Metric	Period	Value	Comparator	Notes
Single-stream recycling tip fee (Republic Services)	Oct 2026 (preliminary)	-$76.89 per ton	Prior month finalized: -$77.38 per ton	+$0.49 in value
Curbside recycling total (all materials)	Oct 2026	845.8 tons	Oct 2025: 893.9 tons	Morris County Curbside Recycling Program — Material Collected for 2026
Curbside recycling total (all materials), year-to-date	Jan–Oct 2026	8,912.9 tons	2025 YTD: 9,064.5 (customer table); 9,064.4 (Previous Five Year-to-Date Totals)	Same data report prints both 2025 figures
Single-stream material	Oct 2026	821.2 tons	Not stated in this report	Morris County Curbside Recycling Program — Material Collected for 2026
Single-stream material, year-to-date	Jan–Oct 2026	8,608.7 tons	Not stated in this report	Morris County Curbside Recycling Program — Material Collected for 2026
REA Task 2 spend — employee salaries	First six months	$13,209.35	Not stated in this report	
MRC meeting attendance	Oct 21, 2026	27 people / 13 towns	Not stated in this report	Fifth and final 2026 in-person MRC meeting
Roadway cleanup — volunteers / miles	Oct 27, 2026	5 volunteers / 2.5 miles	Not stated in this report	Mount Olive Transfer Station area
Roadway cleanup — bags collected	Oct 27, 2026	22 trash / 14 recyclables	Not stated in this report	Plus ~15 lbs miscellaneous, including 1 car tire
Clean Communities mini-grant applications / inquiries	To date	1 application / 4 inquiries	Not stated in this report	Public education grant application

Source: District Recycling Coordinator's Report (October 2026); Morris County Curbside Recycling Program — Material Collected for 2026.

At a Glance — Single-Stream Tip Fee and Curbside Tonnage

AT A GLANCE Single-Stream Tip Fee and Curbside Tonnage



- October preliminary single-stream tip fee at Republic Services was -$76.89 per ton, a $0.49 increase in value from the prior month's finalized -$77.38 per ton.
- October 2026 curbside recycling totaled 845.8 tons (October 2025 totaled 893.9 tons).
- 2026 year-to-date through October totaled 8,912.9 tons. The same data report prints 9,064.5 as the 2025 Year to Date total in the customer table and 9,064.4 as the 2025 Total in the Previous Five Year-to-Date Totals table.
- Single-stream material was 821.2 tons in October and 8,608.7 tons year-to-date.

Source: District Recycling Coordinator's Report (October 2026) for tip fees; Morris County Curbside Recycling Program — Material Collected for 2026 for curbside tonnage.

4. Projects & Capital Work

Project	Party	Status
Town of Boonton – Curbside and Depot Collection SSA Renewal	Town of Boonton	Approved at Town's November 2 Mayor & Council Meeting; before MCMUA Board November 10
Township of Washington – First Amendment to Depot Collection SSA (Scrap Metal Container)	Township of Washington	Draft pending with Township for their consideration
Township of Harding – Depot Collection SSA	Township of Harding	Draft pending with Township for their consideration
Township of Mendham – First Amendment to SSA (Brush Container Temporary Collection Event, quarterly)	Township of Mendham	No update was provided prior to the November MCMUA Board Meeting
County College of Morris – Mixed Paper Recycling	County College of Morris	Draft pending with the College
Recycling Enhancement Mini-Grants for Environmental Commissions	Municipal Environmental Commissions / Green Teams	Five municipalities selected; October consultations with first-round recipients; Morris Township food waste drop-off ribbon-cutting November 6

Project	Party	Status
Clean Communities Mini-Grants (school, nonprofit, educational)	Morris County Clean Communities Program	Deadlines posted; 1 education application and 4 inquiries received to date
GOATOTE reusable bag collection / reuse pilot exploration	GOATOTE; Interfaith Food Pantry (Parsippany)	October 23 meeting held; quotations requested; Interfaith meeting to be arranged

Shared Service Agreements

Status of each SSA item is summarized in the table above. Marrone and Chavanne continued follow-up conversations in October and November regarding adoption of these agreements.

Environmental Commission Mini-Grants and Partnerships

After selecting five municipalities to receive Recycling Enhancement Mini-Grant awards, Marrone and Dolan consulted with first-round recipients throughout October. Morris Township opens its food waste drop-off site on November 6. Dolan began developing rolling mini-grant application materials for food waste diversion programs. Follow-up conversations this month included Randolph Township, Boonton Town, Chatham Borough, and Chatham Township, as detailed in Section 2.

Clean Communities Mini-Grants

Updated school cleanup, nonprofit cleanup, and litter education mini-grant deadlines are posted on the Clean Communities Public Grants MCMUA News page. Application deadlines are January 29, 2027 (School Cleanup), February 26, 2027 (Non-Profit Cleanup), and March 5, 2027 (Educational Grant, rolling). One public education grant application and four inquiries have been received to date.

GOATOTE Pilot Exploration

On October 23, Marrone and Dolan met with the CEO of GOATOTE regarding reusable shopping bag collection, cleaning, and recirculation. Quotations were requested for permanent drop-off programs and manned and unmanned one-day collection events. A meeting with Interfaith Food Pantry and Resource Center in Parsippany is to be arranged. Related Clean Communities Fund statutory background is in Section 5.

5. Compliance & Regulatory

2025 REA Grant

On October 23, the NJDEP officially approved the 2025 REA Grant ($364,500 split between activities and education). With the application approved, the state has opened the finance and progress reports for completion; the MCMUA is preparing them for submission.

Clean Communities Program Fund — P.L. 2025, c. 106 (S-3511)

On July 22, 2025, Governor Murphy signed S-3511, enacting P.L. 2025, c. 106. The law permanently allocates $500,000 annually from the “Clean Communities Program Fund” to the Department of Environmental Protection for public outreach on reducing single-use plastics. Effective immediately, the law prompted the NJCCC and NJDEP to expand eligible Clean Communities expenses in spring 2026 to include bag collection and reuse programs. The MCMUA is considering state-supported funding for a temporary collection event or a permanent drop-off at the Interfaith Food Pantry and Resource Center in Parsippany, as discussed with GOATOTE on October 23.