

District Recycling Coordinator Monthly Board Report

November 2025

October Recycling Market and Operations Report Update

In November, the preliminary single-stream recycling rate with Republic Services was calculated at -88.72 per ton, reflecting a \$2.59 increase from the previous month's finalized rate of -\$86.13.

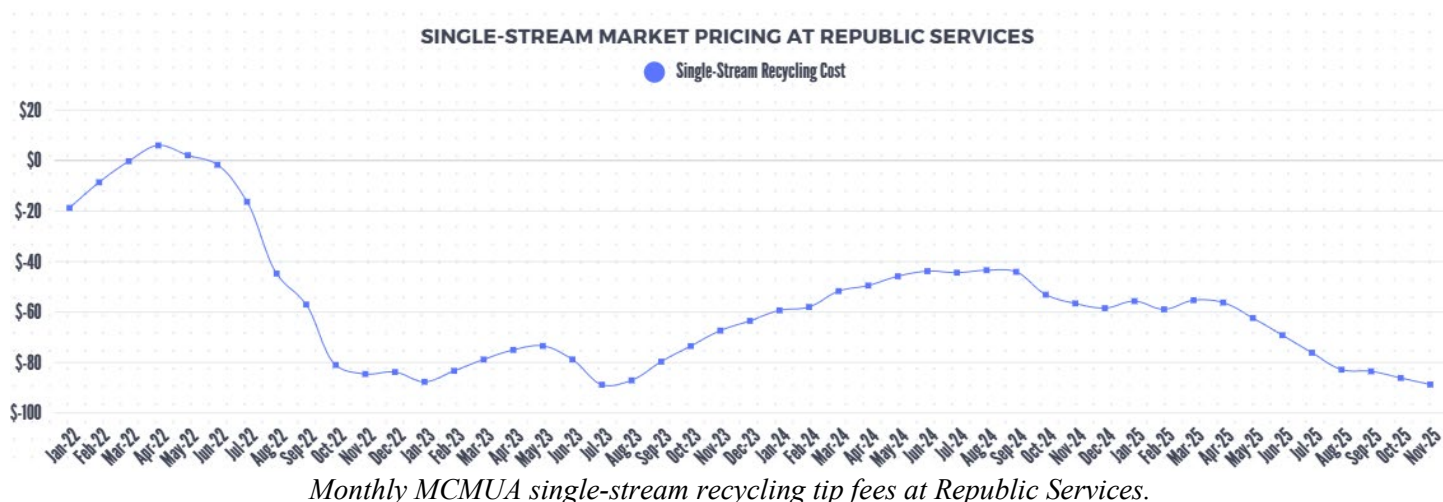
Recycling markets in November were relatively stable across all commodity categories, except for fiber, which once again experienced a price drop after an unstable October.

In November, the fiber markets saw another decline, with prices for both cardboard and paper decreasing by \$5 per ton. This downturn continues the trend observed in recent months. Capacity cuts are affecting fiber markets due to weak demand, and the price reductions are primarily driven by oversupply. This oversupply can be attributed to changes in consumer behavior and economic challenges in both domestic and international markets. Market experts are predicting a slow rebound for these commodities in the coming months following the late first to early second quarter.

Meanwhile, the domestic recycled plastic scrap and resin markets remained relatively stable in November, though some baled commodities rebounded after a period of widespread softness. Overall demand is steady to soft, with specific markets still experiencing slower seasonal trends. Ongoing uncertainty surrounding domestic trade policy continues to delay contract negotiations, particularly in weak virgin markets where buyers currently have the upper hand. For 2026, market experts forecast that the contracted volumes of recycled content will remain flat or decline, as companies adhere to regulatory requirements for recycled materials. However, many companies not bound by these regulations are reducing their voluntary use of recycled content in favor of virgin materials. As we move into early December, prices for all plastic commodities remain steady, with no significant fluctuations.

Regarding metal and glass commodities, experts report continued weak demand, and mills appear to be well-stocked with materials through the end of the year. Seasonal factors, such as winter weather and full mill order books, continue to influence market conditions.

Experts remain confident in their recovery timeline for late 2026, as companies are postponing significant investments until the new year, further increasing demand for recycled materials.



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Resolution(s) for Board Consideration

In November, Marrone and Toomey finalized new shared services agreements for the public entities listed below, which will expire at the end of 2025, as well as resolutions for new curbside equipment as follows:

Resolutions for (3) Recycling Shared Services Agreements:

Roxbury Township Depot Collection Agreement:

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the execution of a five-year shared services agreement between the MCMUA and the Township of Roxbury to collect recyclable materials from the municipal recycling depot, beginning January 1, 2026. The annual transportation cost per collection will depend on the market location, with increases of 2% each year.

Resolutions for (1) Sanitation Refuse Truck Body and (1) Associated Chassis:

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting two resolutions authorizing the use of the ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing System. One with Wittke Sanitation Equipment Corp. for (1) Curbside Rear load Refuse Body, and the other with International/Allegiance, for (1) associated curbside chassis. The former resolution with Wittke Sanitation Equipment Corp. is under Contract #23/24-04 for (1) Leach Model 29 Cubic Yard Rear load Refuse Body for \$156,786.13. The latter resolution is with International/Allegiance, at Northern NJ under Contract #23/24-04 for (1) Chassis for \$181,797.86.

Shared Service Agreements and Contract Activities in Progress

MCMUA Finalizes New Shared Service Agreements with Existing Partners and Brings on New Clients:

In November, Marrone and Toomey focused on finalizing the remaining shared service agreements set to expire at the end of 2025, as previously reported to the Board. Along with the resolutions that were considered for adoption above, the following additional work was accomplished this month:

Borough of Mount Arlington Recycling Depot SSA Proposal:

The Borough's Recycling Depot collection contract, set to expire at the end of 2025, is being prepared for a new five-year term. In November, Marrone and Toomey engaged in several conversations and visited the Mount Arlington recycling depot to meet with the new Municipal Recycling Coordinator and DPW personnel. They discussed updates to the collection agreement that will take effect in January, including enhanced and modified service capabilities to streamline operations at the depot.

Initially, a proposal was made to replace a municipally owned container used for rigid plastics collection with one purchased by the MCMUA, as the existing container required repairs and posed a safety concern. At the time of the initial conversation, the MCMUA indicated that they were unable to repair the container in-house. However, the Borough later requested that the MCMUA provide an alternative proposal: to repair the existing container at their own expense and restore it to usable condition, rather than purchasing a new container. This request was made due to the high price of the new container. The MCMUA also clarified that there had been price increases at their request under the last five-year agreement, including increases in personnel costs and transportation costs. With the Borough's council having already held its meeting on December 2, and this not

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being on the agenda, the next council meeting will not take place until January, where this determination will be made.

Township of Harding Recycling Depot SSA Proposal:

In September, the MCMUA was approached by Harding Township and its Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent regarding a proposal for recycling collection services at the Township's municipal recycling center. The Township currently relies on in-house staff and contracted vendors to transport materials from its depot to the market. They aim to consolidate these services under a single contract with the MCMUA to free up their Public Works staff. After several discussions, they have requested the following: a single-stream compactor, one open-top container for rigid plastics, one for scrap metal, and an additional container for overflow. These items would need to be purchased to service the site under a new contract. In late October, a finalized proposal was presented to the Township and sent to their administration for consideration and approval. In November, a second proposal was requested, which would include the cost of an MCMUA-owned compactor in addition to the items previously included in the October pricing proposal. The Township is expected to approve the latter proposal at their December 9 council meeting for adoption, and a corresponding MCMUA resolution is expected to be adopted at the January meeting.

Borough of Mendham Curbside Recycling and Depot SSA Proposal:

In November, Marrone, Toomey, and Kaletcher worked on pricing and details for the submittal of a shared services agreement proposal for their consideration regarding every-other-week curbside recycling collection. The bid opening is scheduled for Friday, December 19, with services expected to begin on February 1, 2026. The MCMUA has completed its proposal and will be present at the bid opening.

Township of Parsippany Troy-Hills Equipment and Personnel Shared Services Agreement Joint Proposal:

In November, Marrone, Toomey, Deacon, and Ross followed up on the MCMUA's shared service agreement proposal submitted to the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills. Their goal was to finalize the draft agreement regarding shared staffing and equipment services. The agreement had been stalled in the Township's finance department for several months. After persistent efforts to obtain final pricing for our use of Township equipment, a revised draft was sent back for our approval. We have now sent the final draft agreement, incorporating their edits, to the Morris County Office of Risk Management for feedback and review of specific contract language. Once finalized, we will present it to the MCMUA Board for their approval through resolution.

Borough of Wharton Carted Collection Feasibility Request:

After previously approving a new five-year shared services agreement, the Borough of Wharton contacted the MCMUA in November to request a switch to carted waste collection. It was determined that this request was not part of the original discussions or pricing agreements when both towns adopted their resolutions, nor was it consistent with our current operational considerations, given staffing personnel limitations and current equipment purchases. As a result, the MCMUA needs time, minimally until the third quarter of 2026, to revisit pricing for the 2027 budget, explore additional feasibility options with its collection crews, and update equipment for a townwide service switch. Should both parties reach an agreement, an amendment to the contract will be presented to the board for its approval in late 2026.

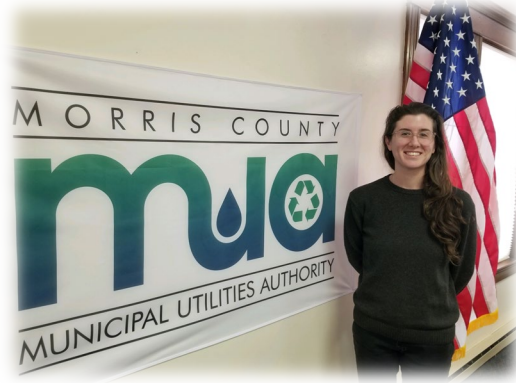
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Solid Waste Planning Division Personnel Updates

MCMUA Bids Farewell to an Exemplary Educator and Fervent Recycler:

After two years of service with the MCMUA, December 5 marked the conclusion of Mrs. Maura Toomey's chapter with the MCMUA as she transitions to a new role as an environmental educator in another County. She stands as a remarkable colleague who left a lasting impact on the recycling and Clean Communities sectors, not just within our county but with the state. Toomey was hired as the Assistant District Recycling Coordinator on November 27, 2023, to fill the vacancy created by Chris Vidal's retirement in August 2023. During her time at the MCMUA, she exceeded the division's expectations in this role.

Toomey brought a wealth of experience in program management, policy research, environmental outreach and education, curriculum development, lobbying, grant writing, and community organizing, with a particular focus on zero-waste systems and composting. She played a key role in shaping many of our educational programs, planning efforts, and service contracts. Additionally, she helped modernize the Planning Division's initiatives. She provided new directions, enhancing collaboration with our partners to achieve our shared goals of reducing waste and improving Morris County's recycling program. Her efforts have helped maintain Morris County's prominent status among its peers in recycling programs and education. Her willingness to share her knowledge, her proactive approach to volunteering for after-hours education events and opportunities, and her collaboration with colleagues made her a true asset to our team, who will be profoundly missed. The MCMUA thanks her for everything she has done for the Authority and wishes her a bright and exciting future ahead!



MCMUA Advertises a New Opening with the Division:

Recycling Outreach Coordinator & Program Assistant Position:

During the 2026 Division budgeting process, we acknowledged that all three of our current part-time staff members would likely be transitioning away from the MCMUA for personal reasons, further employment, or schooling throughout the year. Due to the anticipated changes, we have decided to eliminate the two part-time positions currently funded through the REA grant and replace them with one full-time employee during our 2026 budgeting process. This change will hopefully provide greater stability within the department by merging both job duties into a single position. Additionally, it will streamline the grant process with a set annual salary. For the new position, both Marrone and Toomey have developed a job description, which has been posted with the County Personnel Office, on our Indeed portal, and at local higher education institutions. Depending on the number of applications received, we will determine an interview schedule, which may occur just before or after the holidays.

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

Below are summaries of Recycling and Clean Communities' projects, public outreach, and education programs in November 2025. Details regarding these activities are provided in a supplemental report.

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

- MCMUA and MCDPH Collaborations
- MCMUA Presents on Composting at the Town of Boonton Green Team Event
- MCMUA Continues Participation in the NJDEP's Food Waste Guidance Focus Group
- MCMUA, New Jersey County Recycling Coordinator, and the New Jersey Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) Joint Efforts
- MCMUA Conducts Research on Food Waste and Strategically Plans Its Future Initiatives
- MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Recycling Professionals Course
- MCMUA Recycling Public Outreach Educational Materials and Efforts
- MCMUA and MCOC Collaborations

Solid Waste Planning Activities and Special Projects

MCMUA General Staffing Matters:

In November, the Solid Waste Planning Division prepared for Toomey's transition away from her role at the beginning of December. This preparation involved outlining her job duties and providing training on essential tasks that the department must manage until her replacement is appointed. Key responsibilities include assisting with grant management and departmental budgeting, delivering required outcomes, ensuring adherence to established goals, organizing and overseeing curbside contract matters, coordinating recycling collection outreach for our service locations, managing billing issues, and maintaining compliance with NJDEP regulations.

Toomey also drafted a standard operating procedure for creating and updating shared services agreements. Additionally, she produced a document for the Curbside Department, summarizing updates to recycling collections set to begin in 2026. This document outlines new collection locations and the containers to be purchased.

Furthermore, Toomey, Marrone, and Singewald convened to review the billing information for all contracts and non-contracted business. They decided to transition all business and multi-family collection billing to a monthly rate instead of a per-collection rate. This change aims to simplify the billing process and reduce the likelihood of errors among the Curbside, Recycling, and Finance departments. Toomey updated the 2026 billing sheet with these changes for the Finance Department.

In the interim, her duties have been redistributed among Marrone, Chavanne, and Eramo until a decision is made regarding Toomey's replacement.

NJDEP Recycling Enhancement Act (REA) Grant Efforts:

In November, Toomey prepared the necessary documents for the first and second six-month progress and financial reports for the 2024 REA grant. Currently, this grant, along with the rest of the state's county grants, is

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under final review by the NJDEP finance group and has not yet been fully executed, which is why progress reports are not available in the NJSAGE system, and the state has not distributed funding. As the full grant period approaches its end in January, Toomey authored the reports and supported documentation to ensure they are ready when the reports become available. Additionally, Toomey developed a standard operating procedure for the REA grant application and reports and provided cross-training to Chavanne on this process.

MCMUA General MCMUA Website Revisions and Efforts to Improve Its Recycling Subpages:

In November, Chavanne continued to contact each MRC for our 39 municipalities to update the MCMUA information on their curbside recycling and recycling depot for the upcoming year. Some of the information under review includes the materials they collect, their haulers and end markets for each, their curbside schedule, and their facility hours. So far, Chavanne has held phone conferences with 27 municipalities and continues to schedule times to contact the remaining municipalities in December, with others cold-called for a response. This project is expected to be completed by mid-December, allowing for the review of information on the MCMUA website. In the following steps, Chavanne will review the recycling department website and identify potential ways to restructure it to improve access for coordinators and residents. The aim is to reduce confusion among residents about recycling operations and enhance transparency among coordinators about county-wide activities.

Additionally, Marrone and Cumberton continued to review each municipality's webpages to identify outdated information, suggest improvements, and assess increases in the materials residents offered for recycling. Alongside these updates, work also focused on enhancing MCMUA's online resources and creating new educational materials to improve clarity and accessibility for both residents and facility users. This process included updating the MCMUA Materials Information Page, reviewing existing content for accuracy, acquiring new resources for facilities and residents, and ensuring that all listed facilities and instructions reflect the most current information. Outdated or unclear entries were rewritten to clarify material-specific details, making it easier for residents to understand proper disposal procedures.

Morris County Clean Communities Program

Morris County Roadway Cleanup(s) with MCMUA Contractor Adopt-A-Highway:

The 2025 Morris County road cleanups have been postponed due to the onset of the winter season and the contractor's limited availability. Currently, Chavanne is reviewing plans and preparing for the upcoming year by identifying roads with high litter levels. She is also working closely with the Sheriff's Department to strengthen the partnership between the SLAP program and our office. In addition, Chavanne is researching cleanup strategies in nearby regions and compiling information on services available in areas such as Middlesex County that may offer lower-cost road-cleanup options for Morris County. She is currently obtaining and comparing quotes from several organizations, including Adopt-A-Highway, Rebuild New Jersey, Klen Space Inc., and LN Pro Services Inc. Chavanne's long-term goals for the new year include improving Morris County's coordination with individual municipalities to ensure that all Clean Communities funding is used as efficiently as possible.

NJ Clean Communities Grant Municipal Statistical Report Follow-ups:

In November, Chavanne reached out to 27 municipalities to remind them to complete their outstanding statistical reports. These reports detail activities and state grant funding, covering periods ranging from one to multiple years. Of the municipalities contacted, 17 did not fully submit their 2024 reports, while 19 failed to

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submit their 2022-2023 reports. Chavanne assisted four towns in resolving technical issues with their report submissions, resulting in seven additional reports being filed within two weeks. The remaining municipalities will be followed throughout December to ensure their reports are submitted, allowing program funding to continue in the future.

2026 Morris County Sustainability Art Contest and Award Ceremony:

Morris County MUA Sustainability Art Contest Categories and Guidelines:

In November, the Morris County Artwork Contest Guidelines were finalized and sent out for schools and teachers to review, enabling them to register their school as participating. The final art categories are as follows:

- Multi-Media Art Design: accounts for any 2D and 3D submission in any medium that the student wishes, so long as it follows the specified guidelines and dimensions.
- Upcycled Art Design: 2D and 3D artwork submissions are created by students, so long as they use recycled materials.
- Sticker Design: students may submit sticker designs on an 8.5x11-inch paper, where winning designs will be scaled down and used as promotional stickers in the following year.

For this program, Chavanne reserved two rooms at the Morris County Library for the contest:

- Art Contest Workshop Day: Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 2:00-4:30 pm (includes setup and cleanup)
- Award Ceremony: Thursday, May 14th, 2026, at 6:30pm

Chavanne is adding a new page to the Clean Communities website that will provide detailed information about the art contest. This page will include the contest guidelines, flyers, the school registration form, deadlines, details about the upcycled workshop day, and information about the awards ceremony. The webpage will also be linked to flyers and emails for easy access to all the information.

The finalized advertisement flyers for the art contest and workshop day will be emailed to 137 school contacts, which have been compiled by Civitella. This list includes general contacts, principals, and art teachers, as recommended by the MUA Board. The emails are scheduled to be sent out in mid-December.

To showcase submissions and award-winning projects, the library has allocated display cases and wall space to highlight participants' hard work.

Morris County MUA Sustainability Art Contest Awards Ceremony:

The awards ceremony for the art contest winners will be held on May 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Morris County Library. Chavanne has scheduled the winning artwork designs for display at the Morris County Library in May and will finalize the submission dimensions this week. At the event, the planned agenda will include a 10-minute meet-and-greet at the beginning, a 30-minute awards presentation, a photo session with the winners, and time to walk around and view the artwork on display. Light refreshments will also follow the event.

Upcycled Art Workshop:

A local artist, Dabbling Brook, was contacted to lead a Workshop Day. During this event, she will work with students to demonstrate the types of artwork that can be created from upcycled materials. Marrone and Eramo, members of the City of Clifton's Environmental Commission, are familiar with this artist's work, as she frequently

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conducts up-cycling workshops for school-aged children in collaboration with the City of Clifton Recreation Department at the town's recycling center. These classes attract a large audience and are a big hit among participants. At these workshops, she engages with the public, educating them on the importance of reducing waste, reusing, and recycling, while also helping participants create new items from everyday materials and explore the creative possibilities available in their recycling bins. We hope to engage the same enthusiasm and participation with this newly expanded program. The artist will provide basic art supplies, and the MCMUA will provide recycling materials for students. In addition to the workshop, we will also have recycled materials, objects, and games for students to interact with to learn more about recycling and litter. Attendees will be asked to RSVP before the event to obtain a headcount.



Morris County SUSTAINABILITY ART CONTEST

Join Morris County to **educate grade school students** about the importance of reducing litter for a cleaner and healthier environment through our sustainability art contest!

March 13, 2026: Last Day for Schools to Register
April 22, 2026: Last Day to Submit Artwork

Categories:

- Multi-Media Art Design (grades 5-12)
- Upcycled Art Design (grades 5-12)
- Sticker Design (grades K-12)



Register for students' winning projects to be publicly displayed, win a prize, and for a chance to be featured in the MCMUA newsletter!

Visit Our [Website](#) for Guidelines & School Registration



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