



Recycling/Clean Communities Education, Inspections, and Customer Service Support July 2026

This report details the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority's (MCMUA) Recycling and Clean Communities education programs, inspections, and customer service support efforts during July 2026. This supplements the Recycling Coordinator's Report for the MCMUA's August 2026 Board meeting.

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

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

ANJR Board Member, New Professionals Network, Planning, and Legislative Subcommittee Efforts:

In July, Marrone, chair of the ANJR "New Professionals Network" subcommittee, met with members to plan educational opportunities. The group is organizing a summer series of webinars and coordinated visits to recycling facilities across the state to meet MRCs' tonnage grant requirements. Marrone worked with Circular Services MRF in Jersey City on a site tour on September 29, focusing on recovery, glass processing, and barge transport. Another tour of Ocean County's MRF in Lakewood, operated by Atlantic Coast Recycling, is scheduled for October 16, with more tours planned.

Regarding the summer webinar series, Marrone and fellow Planning Board chair from Atlantic County held their second webinar on July 21, focusing on recycling unconventional items, including sports gear, solar panels, wine corks, tennis balls, and textiles. In August, Marrone arranged for speakers to discuss recycling initiatives, education, inspections, and enforcement efforts. Participants will include the MCMUA and Morris County Division of Public Health (MCDPH), who will share their joint projects, NJDEP enforcement activities, and updates on recycling markets from industry experts. Other speakers will include the Middlesex Health Department and the NJDEP covering similar topics.

For the legislative subcommittee, Marrone collaborated with members throughout the month to monitor relevant bills, work with PSI and the ANJR management firm, and coordinate with other subcommittee members. Some bills of interest to watch for New Jersey include: [S 2359](#) and [A 1651](#) for mattresses, [S 2433](#), [S 666](#) and [A 3383](#) for paint, [S 681](#) for vape devices, [S 614](#), [S 673](#), and [A 3744](#) for packaging, and [A 1876](#), to amend the current battery EPR program.

General ANJR Board Member Program Efforts:

Earlier this year, the NJDEP Bureau of Sustainability asked Marrone for another year to serve as the ANJR representative to evaluate submissions for the third consecutive year of the NJDEP Recycling and Sustainability Award Nominations. By the application deadline at the end of August, more than twenty submissions from public and private entities statewide had been received. Marrone, along with two other ANJR representatives and several NJDEP representatives, graded submissions across sectors including business, government, leadership, rising star, recycling industry, and waste reduction/sustainability/resource management. Winners will be announced at the ANJR Fall Symposium. This year, several applications from Morris County nominees were reviewed, continuing

a trend from previous years. The MCMUA received a thank-you email from the program's director for assistance with this project.

MCMUA Assists Sustainable Jersey's Efforts to Reduce Food Waste in Schools:

On July 15, Marrone served as an “expert-in-attendance” at the Sustainable Cafeterias Learning & Planning Day, organized by Sustainable Jersey at the College of New Jersey. The event aimed to help schools reduce waste and improve cafeteria sustainability. Industry experts, including representatives from the MCMUA, county and state officials, and Sustainable Jersey, provided guidance on waste audits, campaigns, procurement, and cafeteria operations. This initiative builds on previous Sustainable Jersey efforts, including a food waste toolkit and new actions related to food waste in the school certification program, with additional resources introduced. Ahead of the event, Marrone and the District Recycling Coordinators for Atlantic and Middlesex Counties participated in planning meetings with Sustainable Jersey to shape the agenda.

During the training, Marrone facilitated discussions and shared resources on district grant strategies, addressing challenges, stakeholder engagement, regulatory hurdles, tools, recycling policies, contracts, composting, waste audits, and collaboration among food service providers, custodians, teachers, and students to reduce food waste. Marrone also moderated a breakout session on topics like sharing tables, donation programs, collaboration with food service companies, local produce, school gardens, cafeteria recycling, waste audits, and composting.

In February 2026, nine New Jersey school districts, including Roxbury Township, will participate in the Sustainable School Food Service & Cafeterias Initiative as part of a “Learning & Doing Cohort,” receiving training, support, and grants for practices such as waste audits, share tables, procurement, composting, and student engagement. Funding is provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Gardiner Environmental Fund.

MCMUA Attends the Washington Township Night Out Event:

On July 21, Marrone, Chavanne, and Clenord attended the Washington Township Night Out at Rock Spring Park. At the MRC's request, the MCMUA was invited back for a second year to share recycling information and provide the DPW “Clear Stream” trash and recycling bins for the event. With the Township’s MRC and DPW Supervisor recently retiring, the new MRC aims to boost recycling efforts and expand educational outreach among residents. As one of the area’s most popular events, it promotes good recycling habits to the public. The MCMUA staffed a booth, educating residents about recycling and answering questions. Kids enjoyed a guessing game on how long it takes for items to decompose. We also introduced the Food Waste Questionnaire, where residents anonymously answered four questions about food waste, helping us gauge local views on the topic. We hope that insights from these and other events across Morris County will deepen our understanding of different generations’ perspectives. Throughout the event, the MCMUA engaged hundreds of participants, and the Township MRC appreciated our involvement and ongoing support.



MCMUA Participates in New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Farm to Tray Workshop:

On July 22, Marrone attended the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Farm to Tray Workshop. This event provided practical professional development experience with various municipal, county, and state leaders.

Topics included the importance of local food in classrooms, the relationship between food, agriculture, and land, seasonal local foods, and how local agriculture links to school meals and education. The course featured interactive activities to explore the food system, food waste, and sustainability, emphasizing the value of strong Farm-to-School partnerships. Participants exchanged ideas, resources, challenges, and opportunities. Marrone found the workshop highly valuable for understanding the interconnected roles within the food service industry, learning from different districts' success stories and pitfalls, and making networking connections to support food waste reduction efforts in Morris County with our schools.

MCMUA Attends the Morris County 4-H Fair Event:

On July 24, at their annual request, Chavanne and Clenord attended the Morris County 4-H Fair at High View Farms in Mount Olive Township. Last year, the MCMUA was a featured sponsor and created a paper-making activity that was well received by the public. This year, they presented a recycling sorting and litter timeline game, incorporating education for the Clean Communities Program, which was also very popular. The fair lasts three days, with the MCMUA participating during working hours on Friday and sponsoring recycling education on Saturday and Sunday when staff is not present. On Friday, many camp and recreation groups visited during the day, while families attended in the evening after work. The MCMUA also showcased our Food Waste Questionnaire, where residents could anonymously answer four questions about food waste. Participants received a produce bag, reusable utensils, and a food waste magnet as prizes. The responses will help us develop practical, appealing, and feasible solutions tailored for Morris County communities.



MCMUA Attends the NJDEP Clean Communities Update (Webinar):

On July 29, Marrone, Chavanne, and Clenord attended the New Jersey Clean Communities Council's Program Update Webinar. The program was put together in conjunction with the NJDEP, Rutgers, and the American Public Works Association to cover statistical reporting, ask questions regarding the program, and provide a last-minute update on the new "Skip the Stuff" Law.

MCMUA Plans for its Fourth MRC Meeting of the 2026 Calendar Year:

In July, Marrone continued work on planning our fourth MRC meeting, the 5-county recycling meeting, in conjunction with Bergen, Essex, Passaic, and Hudson counties. The regional recycling coordinator meeting will be held once again at the NJSEA located at 1 DeKorte Park Plaza in Lyndhurst, NJ 07071, in the old environmental center's auditorium. This year's gathering is set for Wednesday, September 23, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Marrone held two follow-up meetings with the four other county coordinators to confirm speakers and finalize the agenda for publication. The list of potential speakers includes the NJDEP, which will provide updates on the new County Food Waste Planning Law/Tiered Composting; the Scrap Tire Recycling Law; E-Waste Reporting Forms; and the Skip the Stuff (Cut the Cutlery) Campaign, along with recycling market and legislative updates, ANJR updates, presentations from the Flooring Foundation on its new recycling facility in Somerset County, information on food waste recycling programs from Montclair and Leonia Townships, and an update from the Meadowlands Environmental Commission on its school field trips and programs.

Food Waste Questionnaire for Public Participation:

In July, Chavanne and Clenord developed an anonymous questionnaire for the MCMUA team to use at outreach events. The goal is to understand residents' perspectives on food waste reduction and identify feasible strategies for implementation. The survey includes the following four questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being very important), how important is food waste reduction to you?
2. What food waste reduction strategies would you be willing to implement at home?
3. How much are you willing to spend per month on food waste reduction strategies?
4. What barriers are preventing you from implementing food waste reduction strategies?

Participants complete the questionnaire by writing their answers on color-coded sticky notes corresponding to their age range (0-25, 26-50, 50+). They are also asked to write down their town to collect spatial data. The sticky notes are then pinned on a board to monitor responses. Currently, the MCMUA has collected 149 responses from two separate events. The responses are as follows:



The MCMUA will continue to collect responses from its events and use these as a baseline to understand what solutions are feasible and how to guide our efforts for future projects to reduce food waste in Morris County.

MCMUA Open Space Properties Activities:

In July, Civitella collaborated with GIS specialists from the Morris County Office of Information Technology to develop a customized application using ArcGIS Field Maps. This application aims to enhance

the documentation and tracking of field monitoring visits for our open space properties. With the new application, staff can record monitoring routes and collect georeferenced data points directly in the field. For each data point, users can enter descriptions, attach photographs, and document other relevant observations to create a comprehensive record of site conditions. Once collected, the monitoring paths and data points are automatically integrated into the County's GIS platform, making them accessible through the county's GIS website. This system offers an organized and interactive record of monitoring activities that can be shared among staff and referenced over time. Additionally, mapped information serves as a long-term repository for monitoring data and can be exported as images for inclusion in monitoring reports and other documentation.

MCMUA, MCDPH, & NJDEP Collaborations:

On July 28, Clenord, Chavanne, and Marrone, along with newer MCDPH members, attended the NJDEP Virtual Compliance Assistance Workshop. The session covered the regulations governing the solid waste industry, including A-901 licensing, its history, compliance conditions, and filing procedures. It also addressed the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application process, annual reporting, and petitions for asset sales. Participants learned how to register decals through Data Miner, understood vehicle registration and leasing regulations, and gained awareness of enforcement practices related to enforcement inspections, waste flow rules, typical violations and penalties, illegal dumping, and solid waste inspections. This training provided a solid foundation for both the MCMUA and MCDPH and the education and preparation that haulers need before starting operations in the solid waste sector.