



Recycling/Clean Communities Education, Inspections, and Customer Service Support August 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 August 2026. This supplements the Recycling Coordinator's Report for the MCMUA's September 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 August, Marrone, chair of the ANJR "New Professionals Network" subcommittee, met with members to plan educational opportunities. The group finalized its summer webinar series and coordinated visits to recycling facilities across the state to meet MRCs' tonnage grant requirements. Marrone worked with the 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 Planning subcommittee, Marrone worked with Atlantic County's recycling coordinator to begin revamping the ANJR website, www.ANJR.com, which needs an update to provide relevant information. Together, they formed a task force to compile educational information and suggest changes for the new site before it moves to a new hosting company. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for later in the month to review the team's work and advance efforts.

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. However, August is typically quiet and little moves with the summer break, but it is expected to pick back up in September.

General ANJR Board Member Program Efforts:

On August 25, Marrone and representatives from the Morris County Division of Public Health (MCDPH), Joseph Schmidt, Supervisor of Investigations, and Alyssa Bryant, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, presented at the final session of the ANJR summer series webinar. This session focused on recycling initiatives, education, inspections, and enforcement. Other presenters Marrone helped bring to the webinar included Q-Star Technology, a security firm specializing in preventing illegal dumping, theft, and graffiti, and the Middlesex County Health Department, which provided an overview of its program and inspection plan under the NJDEP. Before the event, Marrone and Chavanne collaborated with MCDPH to craft a presentation highlighting their agency collaboration, recent efforts to address food waste, and their approach involving the Morris County SWMP, internal and external partnerships, MRC enforcement, educational outreach, and future steps to reduce food waste. The presentation is available at: <https://canva.link/9u72qprcta62c5b>.





Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA)

- **1958:** The MCMUA was established to protect water supplies and later expanded into solid waste management and environmental protection.
- **1979:** The Morris County SWMP was created under the Solid Waste Management Act to review waste collection and transportation routes.
- **1987:** Designated as the county's solid waste management agency to oversee disposal operations and recycling operations.
- **1988:** MCMUA becomes designated agency for implementing plan launching mandatory county recycling initiatives targeting a 15% waste reduction.
- **1993:** MCMUA amends its SWMP based on a Task Force Report, establishing the infrastructure and source-separation policies still used today, which introduced a regional disposal model, waste-flow control frameworks, prioritized transfer-station hubs in Parsippany and Mount Olive, and mandated recycling regulations.
- **2007:** Morris County SWMP was last updated in response to the NJDEP's last statewide plan update, with statewide targets to recycle 50% of the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream and 60% of the total solid waste stream.
 - The MCMUA also updated its operations and oversight, stepped up transfer station inspections for unseparated recyclables, and required municipalities to update local ordinances to match the state and county plans

Morris County MUA Role & Responsibilities

Inspection Role

- Inspections are to be conducted for educational purposes only, with findings referred to the MCDPH for follow-up and enforcement actions, if necessary.
- Participating in inspections carried out by the MCDPH is done in an effort to promote and instill compliance through educational efforts.
- Assist its MRCs during local inspections to provide education and training.
 - Local ordinances often designate the MRC as the enforcement officer, allowing them to conduct inspections and issue NOVs.
- Track recycling violations county-wide to identify repeat offenders for follow-up inspections by the MCDPH and provide targeted education by MCMUA (Section 8.7).
- Approve enforcement actions and Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by the MCDPH regarding waste flow.

Education Role

- Conduct quarterly meetings (4 per year) for recycling coordinators (section 8.5).
 - MCDPH Solid Waste Team attends all meetings and participates to assist in education efforts.
- Support MRCs and MCDPH during inspections by developing and supplying educational materials and resources, offering on-site guidance, and providing one-on-one education on various topics related to their roles when new MRCs are appointed, intermittently, and as needed or requested.
- MCDPH appoints one inspector to assist MCMUA with ANJR education efforts and special projects.
 - MCMUA reciprocates by providing educators to their events and initiatives.



County Recycling Coordinator Meeting and Education Efforts:

In August, Marrone continued collaborating with Middlesex County's Principal Planner to develop an agenda and educational content for the third County Recycling Coordinator meeting in Ocean County on September 15. The agenda includes four speakers: the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, discussing food waste management and reduction on farms; the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate, covering food donation options; NJDEP program updates on the County Food Waste Planning Law, Skip the Stuff, the new tire recycling law, e-waste updates, polypropylene recycling at MRFs, and several other topics; as well as a general discussion between coordinators. Furthermore, Marrone created an outline for more consistent meetings for our county group beyond the three in-person meetings held per year, which will add additional virtual meetings to be discussed further with the group.

MCMUA Conducts Research on Food Waste and Strategically Plans Its Future Initiatives:

MCMUA Food Waste Rescue Assessment Update:

In August, Marrone and Civitella finalized the MCMUA's *Morris County Food Rescue Solutions Report*. From December 2024 to April 2026, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority interviewed key stakeholders in the local food donation landscape to gain insights into food rescue and redistribution in Morris County. This report provides an overall assessment of the current state of food rescue in the county, based on conversations with food assistance organizations, grocery stores, farms, food producers, and other relevant stakeholders. A first-of-its-kind county-level study examines how surplus food moves, or fails to move, from generators to residents in need. The assessment builds directly on the 2023–2024 Center for EcoTechnology needs assessment, which surveyed more than 650 stakeholders and interviewed over 20 organizations to characterize the county's wasted-food landscape.

Methodology

MCMUA staff visited or spoke directly with at least 12 Morris County food assistance organizations, including the Interfaith Food Pantry, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Table of Hope, Table to Table, Market Street Mission, NourishNJ, and the Care Center of New Jersey. Interviews were paired with original GIS mapping of food pantry locations and food-access needs across the county, with county farms to discuss gleaning, and a countywide flowchart documenting how donated food moves through the local food-rescue ecosystem.

Five Key Themes

- Nutrition and culturally appropriate foods - the need for donated food to reflect the dietary needs and cultural preferences of the communities it serves.
- Services beyond food assistance - the role pantries and rescue organizations play in connecting residents to housing, health, and other support services.
- Technology tools for facilitating donations - gaps in digital infrastructure connecting surplus food to organizations that can use it quickly.
- Donors, gaps, and challenges - barriers faced by potential food donors (grocers, restaurants, farms) and the organizations trying to receive donations.
- Interagency networking - the need for stronger coordination among food rescue organizations, municipalities, and county agencies.

Recommendations

The assessment translated these themes into concrete, county-level policy recommendations to guide MCMUA's ongoing work and to inform the county's Solid Waste Management Plan updates required under New Jersey's new County Planning Food Waste Reduction Law. Findings and methodology were also shared with Rutgers University and the New Jersey Composting Council as part of the statewide County Food Waste Guidance Document process, Sustainable Jersey, and the NJDEP, as well as with our County Recycling Coordinators, making Morris County's approach a direct input into food waste planning across the state. The Report and appendices are available here: https://news.mcmua.com/?page_id=4566.



General MCMUA Food Waste Diversion Program Development:

Following where Eramo left off in the MCMUA's food waste diversion initiatives, Dolan began by reviewing the Authority's past efforts and identifying areas needing further research. She engaged with stakeholders involved in food waste prevention, diversion, and recycling to explore potential partnerships for shared objectives. Dolan also contacted multiple haulers and vendors to support existing programs and align with the county's overall food waste reduction goals. She is compiling a list of area composting businesses to help municipalities develop drop-off programs. In addition, Dolan has begun researching environmental commissions statewide and reviewing their food waste efforts to highlight and replicate them. She is also compiling a comprehensive list of contacts for environmental commissions and green teams in Morris County to form partnerships and further our waste reduction and recycling goals. In keeping with the division goal of creating a sustainability hub within Morris County through the Sustainable Jersey Program, Dolan aims, in the upcoming year, to create educational case studies showcasing successful EC programs, enabling other municipalities to learn from proven practices. Additionally, she plans to organize a spring 2027 event where environmental commissions can present and exchange ideas, focusing on food waste.

MCMUA Sponsored Internship with Morris County's Higher Learning Institutions:

On August 3, the Solid Waste Planning Division welcomed Julia Glenn as its newest intern for the 2026-2027 school year. The internship program requires the student to complete 120 hours with the partner agency.

Glenn will intern with us one day per week until she reaches her total hours and has already begun working with Ouellette to create a capstone project involving educational modules on stormwater education and protection, while also supporting the MCMUA's school-based learning activities with guidance from the Division team. At the conclusion of her internship, she will present her work at an upcoming Morris County Clean Communities Coordinator meeting. During the month, Glenn has been shadowing Ouellette, and they have been creating educational information for their joint school presentations to provide to Morris County Schools.

MCMUA Attends the Rockaway Borough Night Out Event:

On August 4, Marrone, Ouellette, and Intern Glenn participated in the Rockaway Borough Night Out event at the MRC's request. The team tabled and educated attendees, from young children to elders, with handouts and giveaways, fielded questions, and let guests spin our game wheel for a chance to answer a solid waste-related question for a prize. Additionally, the event served as training for Ouellette and Glenn by Marrone to understand community resources available in Morris County, the MCMUA's function and environmental resources to the County, and to be introduced firsthand to our educational events, as it was their first week with the MCMUA. The event also served as a networking opportunity, allowing Marrone to connect with the Borough's environmental commission, understand its function, goals, and priorities, and speak with its governing body about available resources. As a result of this event and the ensuing conversations, Marrone and Dolan are working with the Borough on a Styrofoam recycling collection pilot between the town's DPW, which will handle collection and transportation to a market, and its Environmental Commission, which will assist with education. The program is currently being worked out for implementation before the end of the year. It may expand to Rockaway Township, with all collected materials being brought to the Long Hill DPW for processing with its extruder. Additionally, Marrone connected with the General Manager of the Parsippany Whole Foods, who expressed interest in recycling and wanted to set up training for her staff with the MCMUA on best practices and to improve her store's services with an MCMUA walkthrough. That training is set up for September 14.



MCMUA Attends the Tri-Town (Boonton Town, Boonton Township, Mountain Lakes Borough) Night Out Event:

On August 4, Clenord and Chavanne participated in the Tri-Town Night Out Event at RVA Fields in Boonton Township. At the MRC's request, the MCMUA was invited to attend to provide recycling information. The MCMUA educated hundreds of participants and consistently engaged with the public. One interactive activity the MCMUA provided was its trash vs. recycling sorting game, which was highly engaging for young children. At the event's conclusion, the Township MRC expressed gratitude for our involvement and continued support.



MCMUA Attends the NJDEP Sustainability Speaker Series (S3) on Restaurant Sustainability:

On August 7, Marrone, Ouellette, and Dolan attended the NJDEP Sustainability Speaker Series, which focused on Restaurant Sustainability. The event provided an understanding of New Jersey's waste reduction laws that apply to food service, offered strategies for food waste reduction, donation, and recycling in the food service sector, offered practical ways restaurants can lower waste reduction costs, and provided access to organizations providing grants, rebates, and other incentives for businesses that reduce their waste, along with networking with sustainability professionals and industry partners. The training provided insight into another avenue for the MCMUA to explore

MCMUA Assists with Education and Compliance for Curbside Recycling in Hanover Township:

On August 12, Marrone was contacted by the Curbside Recycling Division regarding non-compliant recycling setouts at Sterling Parc Housing Complex in Hanover Township. Several locations, especially the senior complex, had bagged recyclables mixed with trash in collection dumpsters. Marrone called the property manager, explained the issue, and noted that our crew hand-separated the materials and left the trash on the curb for maintenance to collect so we could collect recycling that week. He provided education on proper recycling procedures and followed up via email, copying the MRC for the Township. An in-person visit was scheduled to educate the maintenance crew, relabel dumpsters, and distribute signage and recycling bags.



On August 14, Clenord and Ouellette visited the complex, met with property management, and explained the situation and solutions, providing educational materials. They also inspected and relabeled several recycling and trash receptacles. Ouellette summarized the visit and shared additional online educational resources.

On August 18, while collecting recyclables at the senior center, the curbside crew observed non-compliance due to contamination and bagged recyclables, which rendered the loads non-recyclable. The MCMUA left the materials uncollected and informed Marrone. He emailed the property manager, emphasizing the need for correction and informing them that collection would resume on the next scheduled day. The email also explained that mixing trash and recyclables violates New Jersey State and local regulations, requiring separation at the source. Continued non-compliance could lead to the MCMUA refusing collection, resulting in violations and possible fines. The town was also notified, as it handles trash collection. As of this report, the site is complying.



MCMUA Hosts In-Person MRC Recycling Facility Tours for its Coordinators and Partners:

Republic Services of Mine Hill Class A Recycling Facility Tours:

On August 19, the fifth MCMUA-sponsored in-person Class A recycling facility MRF tours for our MRCs continued, scheduled in conjunction with Republic Services at the Mine Hill location. Under the Municipal Tonnage Grant (MTG) guidelines, each municipality in 2026 must tour a Class A recycling facility, either

virtually as part of a separate meeting or in person. With all MRCs now meeting their requirements, the MCMUA has opened the remaining slots to new employees, municipal partners, environmental commissions, and other recycling partners, subject to host-site approval. This meeting included three new MCMUA employees and a new employee from the Morris County Division of Public Health. October's tour is open to the Rockaway Borough Environmental Commission, which expressed interest in attending.

MCMUA & MCDPH Recycling Education and Inspections:

On August 19, Clenord shadowed the Morris County Division of Public Health (MCDPH) during a regular recycling generator inspection and provided education to the site. The inspection took place at an apartment complex in Parsippany. During this visit, the team met with the property manager and facilities representative, who showed them where the dumpsters and recycling containers are located within the complex. The MCDPH informed the property staff that the site lacked proper recycling signage and trash signage to prevent recycling contamination and advised them to correct the issue. Clenord provided examples of compliant signage for the property representatives, along with the MCMUA Environmental Guide, Multi-Family Toolkit, and Mandated Recyclable Materials Flyer for reference and compliance. At the end of the inspection, MCDPH completed the Generator Inspection Form onsite and sent a follow-up email summarizing the discussion points and sharing the reviewed materials.



Solid Waste Planning Division Assignment Update:

Due to recent personnel changes within the MCMUA and other departments, the Solid Waste Planning Division is now responsible for entering daily curbside recycling tickets into the Paradigm system. Clenord will primarily perform this task, with Ouellette as her backup. On August 31, the division received training on the Paradigm software and learned how to manage curbside recycling tickets. This training aimed to ensure a smooth transition of duties and maintain operational continuity amid personnel changes within the Administration. The session covered ticket management, procedures, follow-up actions, and routine tasks, clarifying roles, setting expectations, and answering questions to ensure continuous ticket processing.

MCMUA Attends NJ Food Waste Reduction & Composting Webinar:

On August 18th, Ouellette, Chavanne, Clenord, and the Morris County Division of Public Health attended an online seminar that focused on providing updated education on the NJ County Food Waste Planning Law, developing tiered composting legislation, what municipalities can do to further their waste reduction goals, school outreach that can be performed in schools, and presentations from micro haulers and composting companies.

MCMUA Recycling Public Outreach Educational Materials and Efforts:

In August, the Solid Waste Planning Division worked on several educational materials for implementation through its recycling outreach operations.

Clean Communities Grant Field Trip and Expenses Form:

To help schools understand how to use their Clean Communities school cleanup mini-grant funds, Chavanne and Ouellette created an interactive flyer to support towns. While these schools have generally done a good job using their funds appropriately within the grant guidelines, this educational piece will greatly improve our efforts in this area.

What Can You Buy With Your School Cleanup Award?

Litter Cleanup Safety Supplies

- Gloves
- Safety Vests
- Clip-On Safety Lights
- First-Aid Supplies
- Outdoor Water Filling Stations

Litter Cleanup Equipment

- Trash Pickers
- Trash & Recycling Bags
- Trash Baggers (from Garbo Grabbers)
- Reusable Trash Containers

Outdoor Trash & Recycling Cans

- Temporary Trash Containers
- Permanent Trash Containers
- Trash & Recycling Signage

Environmental Curriculum

Purchase environmental and science curriculum with a focus on recycling, the circular economy, and pollution

Compost Supplies

- Compost Bin
- Gardening Supplies

In relation with teaching students how plastic breaks down compared to organic material

Where Can I Buy These From?

Where you purchase materials with your school cleanup award is ultimately up to you

Below are some examples of places. Please do additional research for what works best for your school

Signage

- [Smart Sign](#)
- [Fast Signs](#)
- [Castle Printing Co.](#)

Receptacles

- [Clear Streams Recycling](#)
- [Garbo Grabbers](#)
- [Kettle Creek](#)

Safety Equipment

- [Safety Products Inc.](#)
- [Us Safety Gear](#)
- [Y-Pers](#)

Broad Product Stores

- [Decker Equipment](#)
- [Belson Outdoors](#)
- [Barco Products](#)
- [Uline](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- [Walmart](#)
- [Tractor Supply](#)

The above links are interactive. If you are having trouble scan the QR

Additionally, Chavanne is creating a separate flyer that lists field trips related to litter and sustainability education. To do so, she has reached out to local organizations and plans to work with them to include litter education in their outreach efforts. Example field trips include:

- Working with environmental non-profits and coalitions (i.e., NJSOC & Clean Ocean Action's Seaside).
- Touring an old mill or paper factory to learn about material sciences (i.e., Red Mill Museum).
- Touring a recycling, food waste, or packaging facility (i.e., NewTech Recycling – intended for high school students).
- Touring the state capital to learn about the legislative process.
- Visiting a wildlife refuge or environmental center (i.e., Lakota Wolf Preserve & Raptor Trust).

Morris County Fall Newsletter for Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinators:

In August, Civitella completed work on the Fall 2026 edition of the Morris County Reduce, Reuse, Review newsletter. This edition continues the newsletter's mission of providing guidance and resources to Municipal Recycling Coordinators, Clean Communities Coordinators, and community partners throughout Morris County. This issue features the following highlights:

- Coverage of the MCMUA's third MRC meeting.
- Program success and recycling data from the conclusion of the 2026 Boat Shrink Wrap initiative.
- Interviews with leaders of recycling and clean communities in Morris Plains Borough.



- Updates on the MCMUA's efforts to guide food waste prevention with municipal partners and in schools.
- Information and award announcements for municipal environmental commission mini-grants.
- Announcements regarding the opening of applications for the Morris County Clean Communities mini-grants.
- Educational information on New Jersey Recycling Bills.
- The latest NJDEP Recycling Statistics release and notifications about our letters to towns concerning their rewards.
- Updates on environmental legislation and recycling market trends.
- Current and upcoming programs from other coordinators.

The final copy is available at the following public link:
<https://canva.link/n1ifgav75znfhu8>



MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Recycling Professionals Course:

On August 27, as part of the Recycling Series course preparation for September, Clenord, Ouellette, and Dolan attended a virtual Zoom meet-and-greet with the series instructors. The session gave participants a chance to meet the instructors, learn more about the Recycling Series, and better understand course expectations, participation requirements, and what to expect throughout the program. Starting September 9 and running through May 2027, participants will complete the full CRP series for certification over 21 days. In addition to the MCMUA, several other Morris County MRCs are also enrolled in the class.

MCMUA Updates its Online Public Decal Order Form:

In August, Chavanne started updating its MCMUA recycling and trash decal ordering page. The site now links to a Google Docs form that Morris County Residents can use to order decals online. A Planning Division team member mails the decals to the requester. These updates make the service more efficient, as the team last revised it over a year ago when it switched to this format. The new system categorizes requests by requester type, providing a tailored view with relevant details. For instance, individual homeowners won't see dumpster decals, while schools will receive decals designed for their needs, like paper-only decals for copy rooms. Additionally, the new landing page sets maximum order limits for each category depending on the requestor type and includes updated images. The responder link for the MCMUA website is:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckkNP5CyYxFGVdb888VEwuKQANetmTipUk0qDjgJ2RpEK37Q/viewform?usp=dialog>.