



Recycling/Clean Communities Education, Inspections, and Customer Service Support September 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 September 2026. This supplements the Recycling Coordinator's Report for the MCMUA's October 2026 Board Meeting.

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

MCMUA, County Recycling Coordinator, and the New Jersey Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) Joint Efforts:

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

In September, Marrone, chair of the ANJR "New Professionals Network" subcommittee, met with members to plan educational opportunities. The group continued coordinating visits to recycling facilities across the state to meet MRCs' tonnage grant requirements. On September 29, the group held a successful tour of the Circular Services MRF in Jersey City, focusing on recovery, glass processing, and barge transport. Chavanne attended, along with other county and municipal recycling professionals and private partners. Another tour of Ocean County's MRF in Lakewood, operated by Atlantic Coast Recycling, is scheduled for October 16, with more tours planned. A tour of Interstate Waste Services' (IWS's) MRF in North Arlington is being scheduled for later this year.

Regarding the Planning subcommittee, Marrone continued work with Atlantic County's recycling coordinator to revise the ANJR website, www.ANJR.com, to provide relevant information. Together, a working group was formed 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 after the new developer, under contract to carry over all current information to the new platform, makes the preliminary changes. Additionally, Marrone and ANJR worked together to plan and finalize this year's fall symposium and NJDEP awards luncheon on October 28. The agenda includes NJDEP and legislative updates, recycling education basics, adaptation of smart technology in the solid waste industry, EPR compliance, and market and industry updates.

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. After the summer slump, the legislature is back in session, and the Senate Environment and Energy Committee will consider 10 bills, with an 11th up for discussion at its Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2026. ANJR representatives will testify on behalf of several bills. The following bills of note to be considered are:

- [S676](#) (Smith/McKeon) - Requires a filtration system to capture microfibers and microplastics on washing machines sold on or after January 1, 2030.
- [S681](#) (Smith/Vitale) - "Electronic Cigarette Extended Producer Responsibility Act," would require producers of electronic cigarettes and their component parts to form a producer responsibility

organization (PRO) and develop and implement a plan to provide for the sound disposal of e-cigarettes.

- [S2359](#) (McKeon) - "Mattress Stewardship Act;" requires mattress producers to join a stewardship organization and implement a mattress stewardship program.
- [S4656](#) (Smith) - "Protect our Health from Plastics Act."
 - This newly introduced bill would require plastic producers to reduce packaging annually and ban certain toxic substances, and must register with the NJDEP, pay fees, and report production levels as a baseline, with a goal of a 50% reduction in 10 years. The bill bans packaging with toxic substances like antimony, arsenic, and cadmium, and directs the NJDEP to prohibit 10 more within five years, with reviews every three years.

On September 22, Marrone and Clenord participated in the ANJR Legislative Committee meeting to review [P.L. 2025, c.389](#), which introduces a new statewide scrap tire management program. The law requires all scrap tire haulers to obtain a license from the Department. Facilities that store, collect, or dispose of scrap tires must also obtain permits and maintain a manifest for reporting purposes, submitting specific documentation each month to the Department. While some exemptions exist, they do not cover most government programs that collect littered tires or certain recycling initiatives, making compliance burdensome for municipal and county programs and may lead to discontinuation without legal revisions. Additionally, the "Motor Vehicle Tire Fee" continues to impose a \$1.50 charge on new tire sales, with revenues intended for a dedicated "Tire Management and Cleanup Fund" managed by DEP. However, the DOT has diverted these funds to snow removal instead of their designated purpose. DEP Solid Waste aims to reverse this shift, especially considering the new law and potential funding needs for programs that might shut down. ANJR plans to lobby for an amendment to fully exempt government entities, as this was not initially considered.

MCMUA Attends and Presents at the Third County Recycling Coordinator & Monthly ANJR Board Meeting – Ocean County Recycling Complex:

On September 15, Marrone attended the County Recycling Coordinator meeting and the ANJR Board meeting in Ocean County. The County Coordinator meeting covered topics like the REA grant, municipal tonnage grants, legislative updates, and NJDEP information. A key focus was N.J.S.A. 13:1E-227.1 et seq., which mandates solid waste districts to create strategies to reduce food waste by 50% by 2035, with plans due to NJDEP by January 12, 2028. Morris County shared its recent initiatives and its completed food rescue assessment. Presenters included the NJ Department of Agriculture on farm food waste management; the NJ Food Security Advocate on food donations; NJDEP on laws including the County Food Waste Planning Law and tire recycling; and updates on e-waste and polypropylene recycling. The agenda also featured a general coordinator discussion. Marrone and Middlesex County's Principal Planner proposed more regular meetings beyond the three annual in-person sessions, including additional virtual ones to be discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20 and will focus on strategies to reduce food waste in our Administrative Actions and discuss multi-family recycling.

At the ANJR meeting immediately after, attendees discussed member outreach, upcoming events, market reports, committee efforts, work with the New Professionals Committee, and additional legislative updates. The group focused on [P.L. 2025, c.389](#), which establishes a new statewide scrap tire management program, and the need to revise it with governmental entities and littered tires.

MCMUA Assists in Shaping New Jersey's County Food Waste Reduction Guidance Document:

On September 29, Marrone and representatives from all 21 counties convened for a second working session focused on funding needs to fulfill New Jersey's food waste mandate and on follow-up steps to develop a guidance document. Hosted by Rutgers University and the New Jersey Composting Council, this meeting was part of an initiative supported by an NJDEP REA Higher Education Grant. The grant aims to help counties and stakeholders update their solid waste management plans to include food waste reduction and recycling, in line with the new legislation. Key issues discussed included concerns from several counties about losing revenue from food waste disposal, as the new mandate might divert waste from their facilities and decrease disposal income. Additionally, without extra state capital to support this law, progress may be slow, with a focus on education, prevention, and donation, since recycling infrastructure is currently limited. At least two counties, including Sussex County with Waste Connections, have begun partnering with businesses to develop regional Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) plants that capture biogas from organic waste and convert it into pipeline-quality biomethane. The discussion also emphasized the need for the DEP to relax regulations to promote infrastructure growth, such as permits for community garden composting and municipal food waste drop-off points, which are currently regulatory gray areas. Overall, the meeting provided an important platform for leading waste reduction and recycling officials in the state to collaborate on common goals. The insights and outcomes from this session will guide Rutgers and the Composting Council in creating the guidance document and providing essential resources to achieve these objectives.

MCMUA, NJDEP, and NJDA Work to Create Food Waste Recycling Regulatory Education:

After the County Food Waste Planning Law was signed in January, Marrone researched existing and upcoming food waste regulations. Collaborating with County Coordinators and State Agencies to develop a guidance document clarifying regulations and promoting collaboration, Marrone launched our mini-grant program for municipal environmental commissions, which raised questions about compliance, expanding drop-off sites, managing micro haulers, residential pickups, and disposal locations. Marrone engaged with NJDEP officials and the NJ Department of Agriculture to understand regulations related to the "Right-to-Farm Act," farmland preservation, and farm food waste. He also coordinated with Middlesex County, Rutgers, and the NJ Composting Council to include findings in the County Food Waste Planning Guidance Document. Discussions revealed limited awareness of food waste activities, especially municipal drop-off programs expanding into towns and private locations. Towns requested clearer guidance, which Marrone communicated to state agencies. The growth of food waste recycling uncovered issues with a micro hauler delivering material to an unpermitted farm for composting and feeding food scraps to animals without permits, raising regulatory concerns. It became clear that Departments need to collaborate to understand current operations, develop educational materials, and amend regulations to support or restrict efforts to meet state recycling goals. Marrone organized a forum on September 2 with Department representatives, the Morris County Division of Public Health, and MCMUA, emphasizing collaboration and education. Each department shared expertise, leading to discussions on program improvements. NJDEP and NJDA announced they will form a working group and scheduled a follow-up meeting for September 29. At the September 29 meeting, all parties presented current projects and future goals related to the need for clearer guidelines and a compliance advisory to support program expansion and advance food waste recycling. The DEP and the DA will continue their joint work and provide the Counties with updates when they become available. Marrone will continue to work alongside their efforts and keep both parties on track with their stated goals. Marrone is also compiling a list of food waste micro haulers for the NJDEP to help understand this network of individuals and their operations.

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

370 Richard Mine Road, Wharton, NJ 07885
Phone: (973) 285-8383 • Fax: (973) 285-8397 • E-mail: info@mcmua.com • Website: www.MCMUA.com

In September and October, Marrone continued planning the final MRC meeting of the year, to be held on October 21 and to include tours of the MCMUA's Mount Olive Transfer Station, Household Hazardous Waste Facility, and Mount Olive Vegetative Waste Recycling Facility. These visits aim to give MRCs and municipal partners a clearer understanding of MCMUA operations and how each site handles waste and recycling. The meeting will also include training to ensure participants are well informed about operations, enabling them to help residents with questions about these programs after seeing them in action.

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 students to complete 120 hours with the partner agency. In September, Glenn interned with us one day per week, reaching her 35-hour mark by the end of the month. By then, she had worked with Ouellette to create a capstone project involving educational modules on stormwater education and protection, as well as waste reduction education, while also supporting the MCMUA's school-based learning activities with guidance from the Division team. Glenn also created a game for elementary- to middle-school-aged students that can be played in the classroom and would complement a classroom presentation on waste reduction and recycling, which Glenn and Ouellette are currently creating. After a strong introduction to the MCMUA and knowledge of our programs, gained by shadowing at several outreach events and through independent research and training by MCMUA staff, her next quarter will focus on completing educational materials for presentations followed by reaching out to schools to conduct joint education with Ouellette for various school groups around the county. At the conclusion of her internship, she will present her work at an upcoming Morris County Coordinator meeting.

On October 2, Marrone and Ouellette, along with Glenn, hosted a scheduled site visit from the Work Based Learning Coordinator for the Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) to check on her learning progress at our site and learn about her internship plans for the remainder of the year. The MCMUA reviewed her work plan and outlined her past, present, and future goals. The MCVSD was excited to hear about her progress and the education she had already received as part of her internship. The school's next check-in will be prior to the end of the year.

MCMUA Attends the Denville Farmer's Market and Educational Green Fair Event:

On September 13, Ouellette and Chavanne tabled at the Denville Farmer's Market in downtown Denville. Despite subpar weather, the public still attended, and the event served as an environmental resource for community members. At the event, the MCMUA educated the public on recycling and proper waste disposal while providing educational materials/giveaways. The MCMUA also networked with members of the town's green team on possible partnerships and with fellow vendors.

MCMUA Provides Recycling Education at the Parsippany Whole Foods Employee Appreciation Event.

On September 14, Ouellette, Clenord, and intern Glenn staffed a booth at Parsippany Whole Foods during their Staff Appreciation Day. Before the event, Ouellette and Clenord visited the store to understand its recycling logistics. During the walkthrough, they learned about the store's back-end recycling efforts, including their haulers' specifications for commercial composting, garbage, and recycling. The store also participates in plastic film recycling and food donation programs. With this information, Ouellette and Clenord customized their outreach materials and questions to meet the store's needs. The main activity was a prize-and-question wheel,

where participants answered waste-related questions to win giveaways. Incorrect answers created opportunities for further education. The event drew a strong crowd and provided education not only at the Parsippany location but also to participants at other stores. This was the second tabling event for our intern Glenn, gaining practice and experience in outreach and public speaking.

MCMUA Attends and Networks at the 5th Annual Morris County Community Exchange Event:

On September 18, the MCMUA was invited by the Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate (NJOFSa) to participate in the 5th annual Morris County Community Exchange Event at Executive Drive in Parsippany, near the Interfaith Food Pantry and the Morris County Nonprofit Mall on Central Avenue. The invitation came as Marrone and NJOFSa Executive Director Mark Dinglasan discussed possible partnerships ahead of strengthening County efforts to donate and recover food under the food waste planning law. Ouellette and Civitella attended the event, which featured over 45 service providers dedicated to community aid, to share information with public officials and build connections with community leaders so residents can access assistance when needed. Dinglasan was the keynote speaker and delivered an inspiring speech on food security. Ouellette and Civitella attended to gain a comprehensive understanding of local resources, which will help the MCMUA incorporate these into our recommendations for food donation. Notably, all participating groups received the MCMUA food waste resource guide Civitella curated, and the event provided an opportunity to network and hand out our food rescue report. Continued conversations with Dinglasan will develop over the next few months.

MCMUA Participates in the Sustainability Fair of the Chatham's:

On September 19, Clenord and Wilson attended the annual Sustainability Fair hosted by the Environmental Commission/Green Team for both the Township and Borough of Chatham. The event had a good turnout of participants and vendors. With the MCMUA represented, the table featured educational recycling and disposal information for Chatham, along with decals and other giveaways for those who chose to test their recycling knowledge. With the MCMUA collecting recyclables from both municipalities, the event allowed us to interact with the public and answer questions directly. After the event, the Environmental Commission for the Borough sent the MCMUA a thank-you letter for their participation and the education they provided to residents.



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. Throughout the month, 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 Recycling Public Outreach Educational Materials and Efforts:

370 Richard Mine Road, Wharton, NJ 07885
Phone: (973) 285-8383 • Fax: (973) 285-8397 • E-mail: info@mcmua.com • Website: www.MCMUA.com

In September, Chavanne and Ouellette developed a Litter & Recycling Bingo game ahead of this month's Clean Communities Meeting. The game is designed for residents and children at events to encourage them to identify litter in their communities. This interactive approach raises awareness about litter and helps residents pay closer attention to cleanliness issues in their neighborhoods.



MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Recycling Professionals Course:

Dolan, Clenord, and Ouellette began the Certified Recycling Professional certification course and completed the first two class days. Day 1 included a primer introducing the course and core recycling concepts, along with training on safety precautions for working around recycling and solid waste operations. Day 2 covered recycling contamination and quality inspection, NJDEP compliance inspections, recycling exemptions, and waste audits, giving a clearer understanding of the regulatory framework behind inspections.

MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Clean Communities Coordinator Course:

In September, Deacon, Dolan, Clenord, and Ouellette completed a three-day NJ Clean Communities Coordinator Certification course. The NJ Clean Communities Council offered the program in partnership with Rutgers' Office of Continuing Professional Education. It included online sessions on September 10 and 17, and an in-person session on September 30 at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown. The training covered topics such as community cleanups, program guidelines, statistical reporting, grant management, enforcement, and public education on litter abatement. Participants also collaborated on a class project to complete their certification. In addition to the MCMUA, several other Morris County CCCs enrolled in the class. With this certification, all Planning Division Members are now certified coordinators registered with the program.