

District Recycling Coordinator Monthly Board Report

October 2025

Recycling Tonnage and Value

October Recycling Markets and Operations Update:

In October, the preliminary single-stream recycling rate with Republic Services was calculated at -\$86.93 per ton, reflecting a \$3.43 increase from the previous month's finalized rate of -\$83.50.

Recycling markets saw significant price fluctuations in October following a relatively stable September across all commodity categories.

At the beginning of October, fiber markets declined by \$5 per ton for cardboard and paper, respectively, continuing their downward trend. North America's packaging industry is experiencing significant changes due to fluctuating demand and capacity adjustments. The containerboard market (used to make corrugated boxes for shipping) is tight following mill closures. In contrast, the boxboard sector (used for consumer product packaging such as cereal and cosmetic boxes) faces oversupply due to new capacity. Procurement professionals must navigate this complex environment with difficulty as tariffs and political decisions reshape costs for all players involved. As noted last month, capacity cuts are significantly impacting containerboard. In late 2025, mill closures, including 2.5 million tons from International Paper and Georgia-Pacific, are projected to account for the most substantial annual decline since the 2008–09 financial crisis, tightening market conditions and increasing paper prices. In contrast, the oversupply of the cardboard sector, particularly in coated and solid bleached grades, allows buyers to negotiate better terms while sellers are currently at a disadvantage. According to market projections, U.S. containerboard capacity is expected to drop by nearly 3 million tons by 2027, and prices are expected to rise. Box shipments are forecasted to hit their lowest level since 2015 in 2025, but a gradual recovery is now anticipated in late 2026 into 2027.

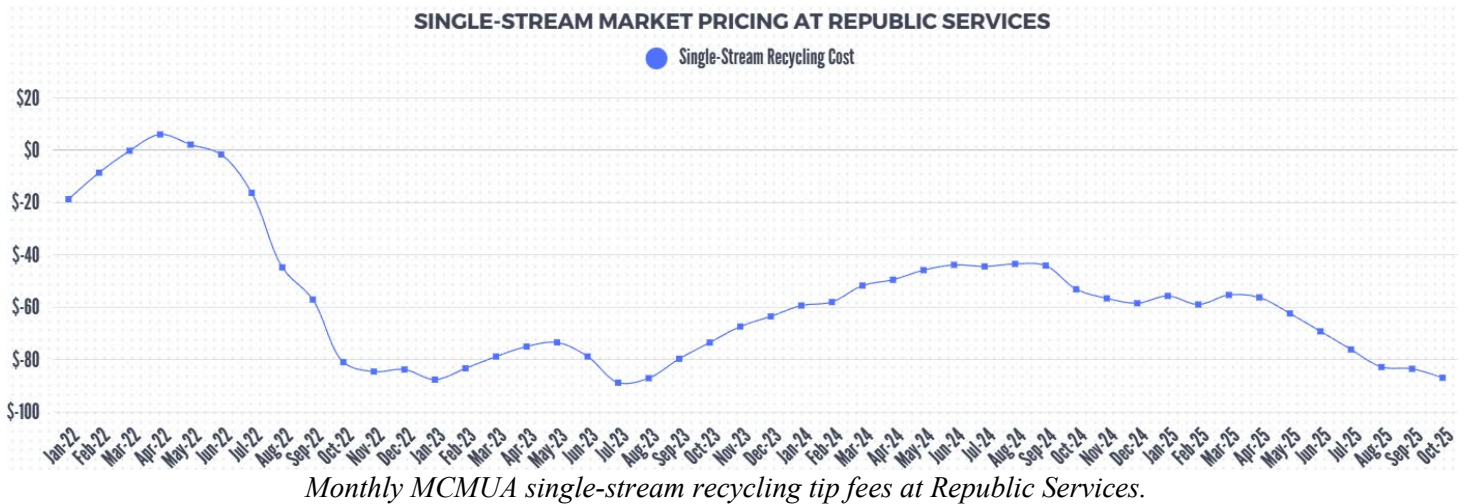
In October, the domestic recycled plastics market continued to face increasing pressure as the industry contended with rapidly shifting trade mandates, cheap resin imports from Asia undermining recycled-material pricing, and lower-cost domestic virgin materials. All of this, combined with tighter consumer spending, contributed to significant fluctuations up and down across the month for plastics #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE Natural and Colored), and #5 (Polypropylene). This trend continued into the beginning of November.

The ongoing government shutdown also continues to affect the domestic steel industry and metal prices. Stalled federal projects, delayed contracts, and budget uncertainty create challenges in domestic supply chains. With infrastructure spending on hold, producers face weaker demand and increased pressure across the broader manufacturing sector. Additionally, U.S. trade in metal scrap is becoming less attractive as contracts undergo significant adjustments. Mills and suppliers are renegotiating terms due to falling prices and shifting leverage, leading to oversupply and lower premiums. These changes are reshaping the structure of future scrap deals across North America, which includes our Northeastern pricing region, as current inventories are reported to be at average levels. Many sources indicate 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, could significantly influence market conditions in December.

Experts have revised their production recovery timeline to late 2026, changing their earlier estimate of early 2026. However, they still see a silver lining: companies postponing significant investments this year might increase demand for recycled materials. However, this will occur much more slowly as the domestic economic outlook becomes increasingly concerning.

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Resolution(s) for Board Consideration

In October, Marrone and Toomey finalized new shared services agreements for the public entities listed below, which will expire at the end of 2025.

Resolutions for (4) Recycling Shared Services Agreements:

Boonton Township

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing executing a five-year shared services agreement between the MCMUA and the Township of Boonton to collect and market recyclable materials, beginning January 1, 2026. The annual price will be \$103,784.00 for the first year, with an increase of 2% each year.

Chester Borough

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing executing a five-year shared services agreement between the MCMUA and the Borough of Chester to collect and market recyclable materials, beginning January 1, 2026. The annual price will be \$57,964.00 for the first year, with an increase of 2% each year.

East Hanover

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing executing a five-year shared services agreement between the MCMUA and the Township of East Hanover to collect and market recyclable materials, beginning January 1, 2026. The annual price will be \$234,065.00 for the first year, with an increase of 2% each year.

The Collections at Morristown Condominium Association

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Toomey received updated contract language from County Risk Management and Brad Carney to use in the agreement for The Collection at Morristown Condominium Association. They also determined the documentation that the Condo Association must provide. These were sent to the Condo Association for approval. Toomey received the completed documentation, which Carney confirmed as acceptable. This agreement is also now ready for Board approval. This protocol will be replicable for future contracts with private entities.

The MCMUA Board will be asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing executing a five-year agreement between the MCMUA and the Collections at Morristown Condominium Association to collect and market recyclable materials, beginning on or about November 18, 2025. The annual price will be \$15,945.00 for the first year, with a 2% increase each year thereafter.

Toomey also worked with the Curbside Department to determine the equipment needs for the 2026 shared services agreements to begin the purchasing process.

Shared Service Agreements and Contract Activities in Progress

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

In September, 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:

Township of Roxbury Recycling Depot SSA Proposal:

In addition to our proposal for curbside recycling collection, which the Township has not yet decided on, the MCMUA has submitted another proposal regarding a new recycling depot agreement. This agreement is set to expire at the end of the year, and the finalized proposal agreement has been added to the agenda for the Township Council meeting on November 18 for approval. Next month's board report will include an update on their decision regarding this matter.

Borough of Mount Arlington Recycling Depot SSA Proposal:

Due to expire at the end of 2026, the Borough's Recycling Depot collection contract is currently being drafted for a new 5-year term. During October, Marrone and Toomey visited the Mount Arlington recycling depot. They spoke with their new Municipal Recycling Coordinator and DPW Personnel to discuss updates to the collection agreement to begin in January, including increased and modified service capabilities to streamline operations at the depot. The MCMUA is working on pricing and will provide a new draft of our shared services agreement for their consideration.

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

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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, as no additional materials are in stock due to the recent increase in service requests. In late October, a finalized proposal was presented to the Township and sent to their administration for consideration and approval.

Borough of Mendham Curbside Recycling and Depot SSA Proposal:

In mid-October, representatives from the Borough of Mendham contacted Marrone for guidance on answering several questions related to their bid for recycling and bulk waste collection, which had been issued earlier that month. Marrone addressed their inquiries and identified mistakes in their bid that needed correction. At the same time, Marrone informed the Borough that the MCMUA, having realized they had issued the bid for these services earlier than expected, would submit a shared services proposal for their consideration regarding recycling services. Marrone also explained how our agreements operate and noted that we had previously collected recycling in the Borough in years past, also submitting a proposal five years ago, but were not awarded the contract.

The bid opening is scheduled for Friday, December 19, with services expected to begin on February 1, 2026. The MCMUA will propose a shared services agreement for bi-weekly single-stream recycling collection and an option for depot service. A draft agreement is currently being prepared.

General Municipal Recycling Services New SSA Updates:

In September, Marrone and Toomey followed up on their submitted shared service agreement proposals and continued discussions with the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills to finalize their draft agreement involving the shared staffing and equipment services. This agreement is still stuck with the Township's finance department, but is being pursued for approval by the Township's MRC and DPW Director.

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 2025. Details regarding these activities are provided in a supplemental report.

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

- MCMUA Attends the 20th Annual Clean Communities Expo & Awards Ceremony
- MCMUA Presents on Morris County's Clean Communities Activities to WRWAC
- MCMUA Attends the New Jersey Composting Council Organics Waste Management Summit
- MCMUA at the Roxbury Township Schools Green Fair
- MCMUA Attends and Presents at the 2025 Morris County Employee Health Fair
- MCMUA Attends and Presents at the Borough of Morris Plains Wellness Day
- 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 Clean Communities Professionals Course
- MCMUA Recycling Public Outreach Educational Materials and Efforts
- MCMUA and MCOC Collaborations

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Solid Waste Planning Activities and Special Projects

MCMUA Announces Call for Submissions for its Municipal Recycling Enhancement Mini Grants:

On October 2, the Solid Waste Planning Division announced a call for applications for new recycling education and outreach projects to increase the collection rates of recyclable materials and decrease the disposal rates of municipal solid waste. Funded through the MCMUA's own REA grant funds, the MCMUA is offering mini-grants of up to \$3,000 to three municipalities for recycling and waste prevention projects to support this initiative. This funding can cover either part of a project or the entire project. The Municipal Recycling Coordinators of each town will be responsible for developing project proposals, which must be approved by the municipal business administrator or mayor before submission to the MCMUA for consideration. All projects must be completed within the 2025 calendar year, although extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. For this project, municipalities will initially cover project expenses and will later bill the MCMUA for reimbursement upon providing proof of payment.

Proposals for new recycling projects were due by October 31 to be eligible for a grant. Throughout October, several towns contacted the MCMUA regarding potential project ideas and funding suggestions. They also sought advice on how to move forward with these projects if funding were approved. Some towns mentioned that, since the grant period did not align with their budgeting timelines, they would apply earlier to secure the financing of other projects. By the grant deadline, the MCMUA received two applications for approval from the Townships of Long Hill and Roxbury. Long Hill's proposal seeks funding to expand the recycling center's footprint to accommodate additional recyclable materials in accordance with the MCMUA's new Shared Services Agreement. This expansion will include space for rigid plastics collection and an extra container for corrugated cardboard, which the MCMUA will add to its current collection services, as well as provision for new services from other vendors, such as cooking oil, motor oil, and batteries. Roxbury's proposal requests funding to help cover the cost of a digital sign for their recycling depot. The sign will display recycling tips, educational messages, and depot information that aligns with the MCMUA's communication strategy. Both towns plan to utilize their municipal tonnage grant and departmental funding to cover the remaining costs, along with in-kind support.

On Monday, November 10, both municipalities will be officially informed that each has been selected to receive \$3,000 upon completion of their projects, to be reimbursed by the MCMUA. Once completed, a press release will be written and distributed throughout the County.

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

In October, Chavanne contacted 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 over 10 municipalities and is setting up times to contact the rest in the first two weeks of November. Chavanne hopes to have contacted all MRCs by the end of November to begin reviewing the 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. We aim to reduce confusion among residents about recycling operations and enhance transparency among coordinators about county-wide activities.

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In addition, Marrone and Cumberton are reviewing each municipality's webpages for outdated information, suggestions for site improvements, and increases in the materials offered for recycling by residents.

MCMUA's Fourth and Final Municipal Recycling Coordinator Meeting of 2025:

In October, the Solid Waste Planning Division prepared for its final MRC meeting of 2025. Planning for this meeting began months in advance, and the Recycling Department initially arranged to charter a bus to GreenChip Recycling in Brooklyn. Unfortunately, in mid-October, GreenChip notified the MCMUA that they needed to cancel the tour due to an upcoming audit. Fortunately, Marrone found an alternative facility through his ANJR connections and arranged a tour of Circular Services in Brooklyn, formerly known as SIMS Recycling, which allowed the meeting to proceed. However, on the morning of the meeting, October 30, the bus broke down en route to pick up the participants due to mechanical issues, forcing the service to be canceled. Since the attendees had already gathered at the Florham Park DPW, the MCMUA held an abbreviated meeting to provide educational information, including a recycling trivia game that was prepared for the bus ride. The tours of GreenChip and Circular Services have already been rescheduled for 2026, and a different bus company will be contracted for transportation. The MCMUA extends its gratitude to the Borough of Florham Park for its hospitality, which helped make the meeting a success despite these unfortunate circumstances.

NJDEP 30-Day Audit for submitted 2023 Municipal Tonnage Grant Data:

In September, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) notified the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) that it had completed its review of the municipalities' data sets for the 2023 Municipal Tonnage Grant applications. This included disposal data from each of New Jersey's disposal facilities for that year. After the initial data entry was completed, our municipalities were given a 30-day review period to verify the compiled data for accuracy and submit any discrepancies, along with supporting documentation, to the NJDEP by October 23. During this period, the MCMUA assisted more than half of Morris County's municipalities by answering questions and clarifying information about their reviews. Additionally, Marrone conducted an audit of the disposal and recycling data for all municipalities to ensure accurate recycling rates, which will positively impact grant funding allocations in the coming year. Through this review, several discrepancies were identified and reported to the NJDEP for correction, which would have otherwise negatively affected our rates and grant payouts among municipalities next year.

Morris County Clean Communities Program

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

On October 20, Civitella and Chavanne organized a county road cleanup in collaboration with Adopt-A-Highway, MCMUA's cleanup contractor. The event took place on West Hanover Avenue, with four participants. Over a 2.5-mile stretch on both sides of the road, they collected 17 bags of litter, 5 bags of recyclable materials, 5 pounds of wood, and 5 pounds of scrap metal. The cleanup covered areas within Randolph Township, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township.

On October 27th, Civitella and Chavanne organized a county road cleanup in collaboration with Adopt-A-Highway, MCMUA's cleanup contractor. The event took place on the roads surrounding the Parsippany Transfer Station, primarily on New Road and Ridgedale Avenue in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township and East Hanover Township, respectively. Over a 2.5-mile stretch on both sides of the road, they collected 39 bags of litter,

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13 bags of recyclable materials, 10 pounds of wood, and 10 pounds of scrap metal. The trash collected was delivered directly to the Parsippany Transfer Station by Civitella and Chavanne with the help of Parsippany Transfer Station Manager Brett Snyder.

2025 Morris County Clean Communities Poster Artwork Contest Winners:

In October, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) announced the winners of Morris County's Clean Communities Artwork Contest. Two of the four winners were from the same school. On October 24, Chavanne attended an afternoon assembly at All Saints Academy, where she presented awards to the two students and delivered a brief speech. The bins received positive feedback from both the students and teachers in attendance. Chavanne plans to distribute the remaining two bins and present the students' awards in the upcoming weeks. The other two contest winners were from Fusion Academy and Brooklawn Middle School in Parsippany.



MCMUA General Program Revisions and Efforts to Improve the Clean Communities Program:

Morris County Clean Communities Program Updates:

In October, Chavanne completed the Morris County Clean Communities Coordinator Handbook. This handbook is now available to the public and all coordinators through the new MCMUA Clean Communities website, where it can be found here: [CCC-Handbook.pdf](#). The handbook includes information on the history of Clean Communities at both the state and county levels, county activities, the responsibilities of the Clean Communities Coordinator, the role of the Clean Communities Coordinator Alternate, funding opportunities, the statistical report, and more. Chavanne used this handbook as her final project for the Clean Communities certification. It will also be adopted at the state level through the NJCCC, allowing all statewide coordinators to utilize it for their own programs.

Morris County Clean Communities Program Clean Communities Art Contest:

Chavanne is creating the guidelines for the Morris County Art contest for the spring of 2026. Currently, the art categories are as follows:

- Multi-Media Art Design: intended for 3D and unique art forms (i.e., embroidery, sculptures, etc.).
- Recycled Art Design: intended for students to reuse common household recyclables in their artwork.
- Littered Art Design: intended for students to use commonly littered items in the artwork.
- 2D Art Design: intended for all drawing, painting, and charcoal submissions on a flat surface.

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- Sticker Design Category: a category for students to design stickers that the MCMUA can use in the future and distribute to the public.
- Elementary Design: a participatory category for elementary-level students.

The art contest will have two in-person events:

- February 7 (2-4:30 pm): a workshop day for students to meet and work on their artwork together.
- May 14 (6:30 – 7:30 pm): a small awards ceremony.

Both will take place at the Morris County Library, where rooms have already been reserved.