

Recycling/Clean Communities Education, Inspections, and Customer Service Support October 2025

This report details the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority's (MCMUA) Recycling and Clean Communities education programs, inspections, and customer service support efforts during October 2025. This supplements the Recycling Coordinator's Report for the MCMUA's November 2025 Board meeting.

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

MCMUA Attends the 20th Annual Clean Communities Expo & Awards Ceremony:

On October 8, Marrone, Toomey, and Chavanne attended the Clean Communities Awards and Expo at the Palace at Somerset, NJ. The event began with an educational expo to share ideas with municipalities and counties on how they can improve their programs creatively. This included a demonstration of a new game that can be brought to events where kids can play to tour recycling and solid waste facilities. After the expo, Clean Communities welcomed the newest Certified Clean Communities Coordinators who attended, including Chavanne, as well as coordinators from Denville Township, the Town of Morristown, Lincoln Park Borough, and Boonton Township. Everyone was announced and given a certificate. After the graduation, a celebratory dinner and awards ceremony were held, followed by a dessert and cocktail hour that ended the night.



MCMUA Presents on Morris County's Clean Communities Activities to WRWAC:

On October 9, Chavanne attended the monthly meeting of the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee (WRWAC) at the Morris County Library from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. During this meeting, Chavanne presented information on the County Clean Communities Program and introduced the new nonprofit mini-grant structure for which WRWAC is eligible. Following the presentation, there was a Q&A session where Chavanne addressed questions regarding additional funding available for non-profits and the operation of municipal Clean Communities Programs. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chavanne presented WRWAC with a fishing line recycling container to help reduce litter in the Whippany watershed.

MCMUA Attends the New Jersey Composting Council Organics Waste Management Summit:

On October 15, Marrone and Toomey attended the New Jersey Composting Council Organics Waste Management Summit at Rutgers University. The agenda featured several speakers and presentations, focusing primarily on food waste. Topics included the Linden Renewable Energy Project, in-vessel composting solutions, and food waste collection and composting initiatives in the City of Philadelphia. The Atlantic County Utilities Authority presented its Master Composter training program. New Earth Soil Solutions and Rutgers University discussed soil biology and soil health testing. Marrone, Toomey, and a few representatives from other counties participated in a discussion about a Food Waste Recycling guidance document currently being developed by the New Jersey Composting Council, Tetra Tech, and the Center for Eco Technology. These organizations received funding through the Recycling Enhancement Act Higher Education Grants for this project, which aims to help counties update their plans to include food waste management. The discussions held during this session were preliminary and focused on obtaining general feedback from attendees. The remaining sessions covered other higher education research on organics at Rutgers, Princeton, and Rowan Universities, as well as presentations by food rescue organizations such as Move for Hunger, Share My Meals, and Table to Table.

MCMUA at the Roxbury Township Schools Green Fair:

In October, Eramo collaborated with the Roxbury Township MRC to develop a new presentation for the annual school sustainability event aimed at school-aged children. This presentation is part of a joint educational program conducted annually by the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) and the town of Roxbury, which has received positive feedback from the Board of Education. This year, Eramo and Roxbury revised their presentation, incorporating information on non-Class A materials in addition to the Class A materials that students already recycle in their schools. Before the event, Eramo prepared new display boards and gathered updated materials.

The Green Fair took place on October 16. During the event, groups of students rotated through several activities, including the recycling presentation. In the newly developed program, the students first volunteered to sort various Class A materials and trash into the appropriate bins, following Roxbury's dual-stream recycling system. Depending on the students' ages, additional recycling topics were discussed, including textiles, plastic film, food waste, books, and battery/e-waste. Students learned that textiles, e-waste, and books can be recycled at the Roxbury Recycling Center. The presentation also covered food waste reduction and composting. Examples of non-recyclable plastic films were shown, and students were reminded that while these materials cannot be recycled in their curbside bins, some supermarkets accept them for recycling. Recycled products, such as decking and insulation, were available for viewing. Each group of students had a 15-minute slot for the presentation; therefore, not all recycling topics could be covered due to time constraints and students' ages or comprehension levels. At the end of each session, students were shown a storm drain and educated about the issues related to littering.

MCMUA Attends and Presents at the 2025 Morris County Employee Health Fair:

On October 17, the MCMUA Solid Waste Planning Team attended and tabled at the Morris County Health Fair. The event attracted a good turnout of participants and vendors. The MCMUA was represented at the event, where our table featured educational materials on recycling and disposal, relevant to the County Offices' trash and recycling collection programs. We also offered decals and other giveaways for those who wanted to test their recycling knowledge. The event provided us with a valuable opportunity to interact with our fellow County

coworkers and answer questions directly. The MCMUA engaged with attendees throughout the day, addressing various inquiries about recycling, composting, and waste reduction. The MCMUA was also asked to participate in new-employee training as part of their educational sessions every other month, as part of our ongoing educational efforts. At the end of the event, the County expressed gratitude for our participation and ongoing support, as well as appreciation for everyone who visited our table and engaged with our team.

MCMUA Attends and Presents at the Borough of Morris Plains Wellness Day:

During the summer, the MCMUA was invited to participate in an upcoming Family Wellness Day by providing information about recycling. On October 18, Eramo represented the organization at this event and engaged several attendees regarding recycling issues and questions. Although this event had lower attendance than others, it allowed for more meaningful conversations about recycling. Most visitors to the table showed a strong interest in the information provided by the environmental guides. We also distributed food waste insulated bags and other giveaways.

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

ANJR New Professionals Network Subcommittee Efforts:

In October, Marrone organized and conducted several ANJR NPN meetings to discuss ongoing training, upcoming events, and the Committee's initiatives. Some of the projects we are currently working on include continued tours of member facilities, networking events for members, the development of an educational toolkit for school recycling, and updates to the ANJR webpage to highlight examples and news from our members. One notable event was the tour of Interstate Waste Services' (IWS) new Materials Recovery Facility in North Arlington on October 3. This tour provided the MCMUA with valuable insights into another company's operations and offered specialized training for our MCMUA team and fellow municipal coordinators. The partnership also aligned with another MRF interested in processing our recyclable materials for our upcoming RFP. Additionally, Marrone collaborated with other NPN members on multiple occasions to host a warehouse tour and a holiday networking event at Helpsy textile recycling in Eatontown, NJ. This event is scheduled for December 12 and is open to the state's recycling professionals at no cost. It also serves as a last-minute opportunity for attendees to earn professional license credits before the year ends.

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

In October, Eramo continued working on finalizing the Morris County Food Rescue Report, which summarizes findings from visits to food pantries and research on food rescue initiatives. During the month, several sites were identified that will provide valuable information for the developing toolkit, and interviews were scheduled for November. The insights gathered will be incorporated into the toolkit and a dedicated subpage on the website, with the final report expected to be published by the end of November.

MCMUA Attends the Rutgers Certified Clean Communities Professionals Course:

On October 3, Chavanne completed the final day of her Clean Communities Certification course. The last class took place in Bordentown and featured speakers who reviewed various educational, cleanup, and enforcement activities that can be implemented in each program, as well as an overview of the statistical report.

After lunch, each group delivered its final presentation to its classmates. Chavanne's group focused on a 6-week educational program designed to be held in a school or library setting. The program covered different topics to help students learn more about litter awareness. One example was a composting activity in which students created two identical compost bins: one with litter and the other without. This hands-on experience allowed students to grasp how long it takes for litter to decompose naturally.

MCMUA Recycling Public Outreach Educational Materials and Efforts:

In October, the Solid Waste Planning Division completed work on several educational materials for implementation with its recycling outreach operations.

MCMUA works with Harding Township DPW to Update and Further Improve its Recycling Education:

In October, Marrone and Civitella, at the Township of Harding's request, collaborated with the Township to enhance the educational materials distributed to the public on recycling. Following the retirement of their long-serving Municipal Recycling Coordinator, the new MRC and alternate were eager to revamp the recycling program and engage the public to recycle more frequently and correctly. Throughout the month, both parties worked together to update the public recycling calendar, signage, and educational information in newsletters and to enhance depot services, as highlighted in the main coordinator's report. After their close collaboration, the Township's administration expressed gratitude to the MCMUA for its dedication and efforts towards improving recycling initiatives.

Website Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

In October, Civitella developed a series of fall-themed sustainability social media posts for the county's communications departments' use. One post shares a creative idea for using excess fall produce and vegetables; another encourages followers to thrift or DIY their Halloween costumes instead of buying new ones; and the final post promotes the "leave the leaves" practice, highlighting the environmental benefits of letting fallen leaves remain on the ground.

Morris County Clean Communities Program Vendor Flyers:

In October, Civitella created informational flyers to showcase the various educational vendors available to schools approved through our Morris County Clean Communities Program. Each flyer features a brief description of the vendor, the target age group, and contact information. These materials are designed to help schools receiving Clean Communities funding easily identify and connect with approved educational vendors that best meet their program needs. These flyers, along with our school's recycling toolkit and other program-related resources, will be provided in a single package in December.

MCMUA School Recycling Toolkit:

In October, Civitella continued developing the School Recycling Toolkit, a resource to help schools establish and maintain effective recycling programs. This toolkit includes details on mandated recyclable materials, enforcement procedures, and common violations to ensure compliance with both state and local recycling requirements. Additionally, it offers guidance on recycling infrastructure and setup, providing best practices for bin placement, signage, and collection processes. The toolkit also features role-based recycling guides tailored for teachers, custodians, and principals, outlining specific responsibilities and strategies to support

school-wide recycling efforts. The teacher's guide focuses on classroom strategies for teaching students about recycling and includes a variety of resources. The custodian guide emphasizes checking for contamination, addressing common issues, and organizing recycling audits. The principal guide discusses establishing contracts with haulers and ensuring compliance with local and state recycling laws. Furthermore, the toolkit includes practical tools and resources, such as templates, checklists, and educational materials, as well as additional resources related to the Clean Communities program. The final version is expected to be completed by the end of the new year and will be accompanied by a new resource subpage for schools on the MCMUA website. This information will be provided to the Morris County Superintendent of Schools Office of Education for distribution to all public and private schools throughout Morris County.

Morris County Fall Newsletter for Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinators:

In October, the Solid Waste Planning Division collaborated to publish its Fall edition of the “Reduce Reuse Review” Newsletter. This edition highlights various seasonal topics and initiatives from our MRCs and CCCs, all focused on promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. Featured articles include information on pumpkin recycling, updates from the Clean Communities program, and details on managing vegetative waste related to fall leaf collection. The newsletter also spotlights the New Jersey School of Conservation, showcasing their environmental education programs and a recap of the recent Clean Communities Coordinators Meeting. Additional content addresses the ecological benefits of leaving fallen leaves on the ground, creative uses for excess apples, updates on food waste legislation, recycling market trends, and progress on county road cleanup efforts. The final version, updated from the October board meeting, can be found at the following [LINK](#).

Morris County Recycling Depot and Convenience Center Signage:

In October, Cumberton created new signage for the municipal recycling depots and convenience centers in Morris County. These signs will provide clear instructions on how to properly dispose of specific waste materials, including appliances containing freon, mixed fiber, household trash, textiles, and electronic waste. The goal is to develop consistent, visually clear signage that helps the public accurately sort and dispose of their items while maintaining a professional, educational tone.

MCMUA and MCOC Collaborations:

MCMUA and MCOC Social Media and Newsletter Collaborations:

In October, Marrone worked with the Morris County Office of Communications (MCOC) and Digital Media representatives to plan future topics and create a schedule for media releases. Several posts were provided to the MCOC and published in the Morris County newsletter below.



National Prescription Drug Takeback Day is Tomorrow

Law enforcement will accept unwanted prescription medications for proper disposal tomorrow as part of National Prescription Drug Takeback Day, an effort to reduce abuse and misuse of pharmaceuticals. The public may anonymously drop off unused, unwanted or expired prescription medicine at three supermarkets located in Randolph, Morris Plains and Cedar Knolls.

[Read More](#)



Don't Toss It: Fix It!

Bring household items in need of repair to two Repair Cafes this month. Items can include bicycles, lamps, appliances, electronics, computers, textiles and more.
— [Madison Repair Cafe](#) will be held at Grace Church on Oct. 11. Service is first-come, first-served.
— [Roxbury Repair Cafe](#) will be held at Roxbury Fire Department Co. #2 in Landing. Appointments are recommended.

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