

Food Waste Updates from Morris County

Alessia Eramo & Anthony Marrone, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
County Recycling Coordinator Meeting
May 19, 2026



The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) is Morris County's solid waste management authority.



- Originally founded in 1958, the MCMUA was commissioned to write and implement the district's Solid Waste Management Plan in 1978. In 1979, our first plan was written and has been amended several times since, culminating in a full plan update in 2007. Multiple administrative actions have been taken since that time.
- Today, the MCMUA serves as Morris County's Environmental Resource.
- Service Areas:
 - Solid Waste Disposal Operations and Planning
 - Recycling Collection Services
 - Recycling Educational Outreach
 - Vegetative Waste Recycling and Materials Delivery
 - Hazardous / Special Wastes Disposal and Events
 - Environmental Sustainability Outreach
 - Water Distribution
 - Open Space Conservation and Land Acquisition

New Jersey Food Waste Legislation



2017

Food Waste Reduction Act

(N.J.S.A. 13:1E-226 et seq.)

Established goal to reduce the amount of food waste generated annually by 50% by 2030.

Commissioned the Food Waste Reduction Plan published in 2023.



2020

Food Waste Recycling and Food Waste to Energy Production Act

(NJSA 13:1E-99.122)

Generators who generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year must source separate and recycle food waste if they are within 25 road miles of a food waste recycling facility.



2023

School Food Waste Recycling Law

(N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.115a)

Schools may collect food scraps for in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion. Allows schools to transport material to other schools with such a system.



2026

County Food Waste Planning Law

(S2464/A2090)

SWMDs must amend SWMPs with strategies for reducing food waste by at least 50% by 2035 compared to 2022 within 2 years.

Commissions the NJDEP to release guidance for SWMD within 180 days (by July 2026).

Requires the NJDEP to develop tiered regulatory structure for open-air composting.



2026

Food Waste Reduction at NJ Colleges and Universities

(S3889/A5387)

Higher-education institutions must implement a food-waste reduction program and submit annual reports detailing surplus food donations and composting efforts.



2026

Community Gardens On-Site Composting Exemption

(pending)

Exempts community gardens operating on-site composting systems or other organics management systems from certain DEP permits under certain conditions.

2026 Food Waste Law

- Introduced as bill S2464/A2090
- Signed January 12, 2026
- P.L.2025, c.228



AN ACT concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. No later than two years after the effective date of this section, each solid waste management district in the State shall develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2035, the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent of the amount which was generated in the year 2022. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), or pursuant to an administrative action by the solid waste management district authorized pursuant to rules and regulations adopted for that purpose, and shall be subject to the approval of the department. Any increase in the amount of perishable food donated for human consumption, as well as any increase in the amount of food waste composted or anaerobically digested, shall count toward the food waste reduction target established pursuant to this subsection.

6. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste, the composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste and other food waste diversion methods that also reduce methane emissions, and public awareness campaigns.

c. The department shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting facilities, pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), in order to facilitate the use of organic waste recycling facilities in the State.

d. As used in this section, "food waste" means any food-derived organic waste that is disposed of in a landfill, including, but not limited to, edible food, food scraps generated by a consumer after the generator issues or sells food to the consumer, food processing waste, food processing residue generated from processing and packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and used cooking fats, oil, and grease.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1a. “No later than two years after the effective date of this section, each solid waste management district in the State shall develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2035, the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent of the amount which was generated in the year 2022. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), or pursuant to an administrative action by the solid waste management district authorized pursuant to rules and regulations adopted for that purpose, and shall be subject to the approval of the department. Any increase in the amount of perishable food donated for human consumption, as well as any increase in the amount of food waste composted or anaerobically digested, shall count toward the food waste reduction target established pursuant to this subsection.”

- Within two years, Each County/District must develop and implement a strategy for reducing food waste by 50% by 2035 using the base year of 2022.
- The strategy must be adopted as an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan of each District.

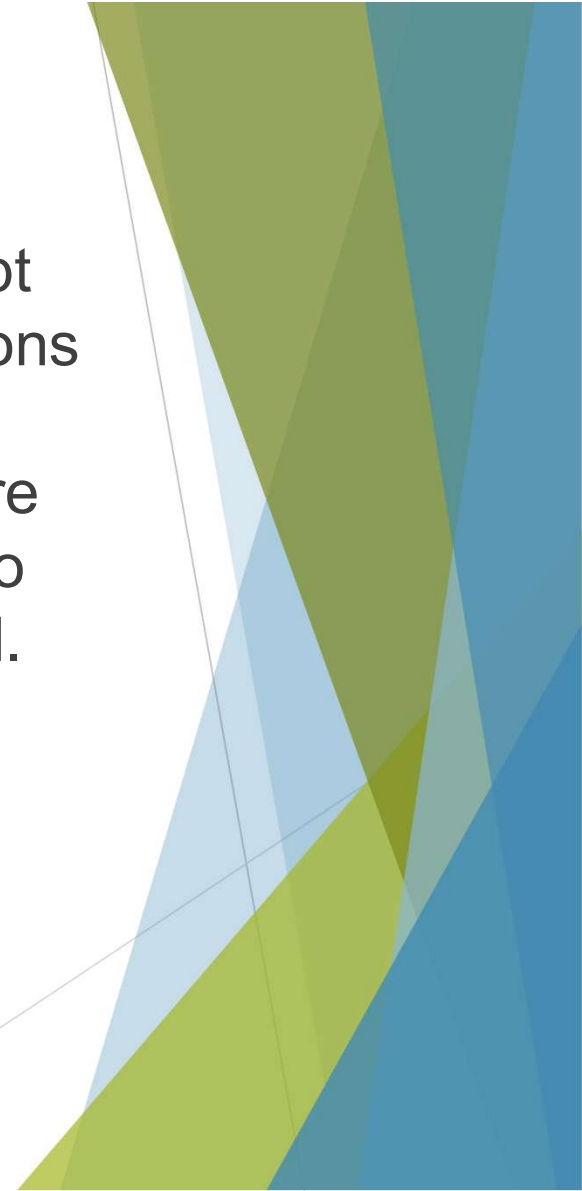
1b. “No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste, the composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste and other food waste diversion methods that also reduce methane emissions, and public awareness campaigns.”

- The DEP has six months to develop and publish online a list of measures that Districts can take to achieve the food waste reduction target of 50%.



1c. “The department shall adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting facilities, pursuant to the “Solid Waste Management Act,” P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), in order to facilitate the use of organic waste recycling facilities in the State.”

- The DEP will adopt rules and regulations to create a tiered regulatory structure for composting. No deadline indicated.



1d. “As used in this section, “food waste” means any food-derived organic waste that is disposed of in a landfill, including, but not limited to, edible food, food scraps generated by a consumer after the generator issues or sells food to the consumer, food processing waste, food processing residue generated from processing and packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from food, food product overruns, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and used cooking fats, oil, and grease.”

- Food waste includes ANY food derived organic waste.



2. “This act shall take effect immediately.”



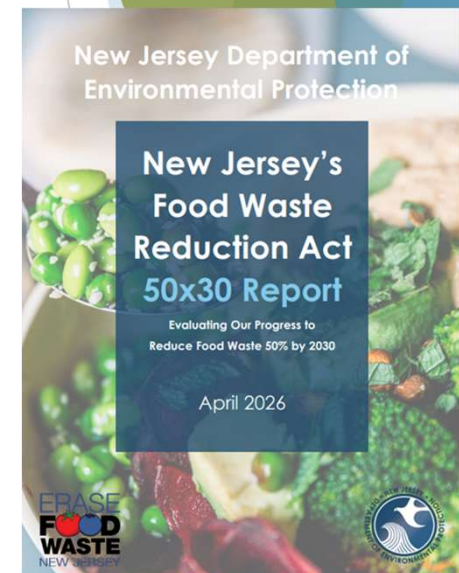
While we don't yet have the forthcoming guidance...

- Anticipated July 2026
- Per the 50x30 report: Funded by EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) and New Jersey's REA grant programs
 - Will develop food waste management planning guidance and a toolkit to encourage sustainable food waste management through prevention, recovery, and recycling.
 - Will develop a New Jersey-specific estimation tool to assist generators with estimating how much pre-consumer versus post-consumer food waste they generate.
 - Furthermore, Rutgers University and the New Jersey Composting Council have partnered to develop guidance to assist Districts with developing efficient food waste management strategies and achieve their food waste reduction targets.

... we can start by considering how much food waste is in each of our districts across the state to develop a baseline and get us started towards our food waste reduction target of 50%.



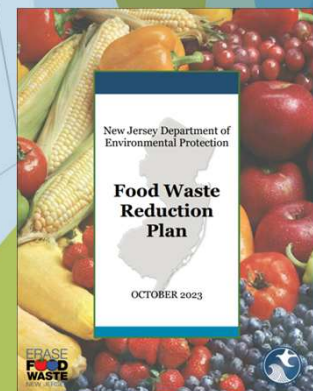
<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dshw/fw-reduction-progress-report-4.21.26.pdf>



New Jersey's Food Waste Reduction Act 50x30 Report suggests that 19% of New Jersey's MSW is comprised of food waste.



- ▶ Determined using data from the *Municipal Solid Waste Quantification and Characterization of Burlington, Mercer & Passaic Counties*
- ▶ Previous estimate was 22%
 - ▶ You may also choose to use statistics from the most recent waste audit performed.
 - ▶ Can also use a similar district's waste composition percentages as an example.
 - ▶ We are choosing to use 19% until further guidance is established from NJDEP and/or we can refine our numbers.
 - ▶ Setting a higher goal than required can be beneficial as may help overcompensate for shortfalls that may develop during implementation.



NJDEP County Rate Table indicates a baseline of approximately 303K tons of MSW generated in Morris County in 2022.

2022 GENERATION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING RATES IN NEW JERSEY (Tons)										
COUNTY	POPULATION	GENERATION	DISPOSAL			RECYCLING				
	2022 Estimate	Disposal and Recycling	MSW	Non-MSW	TOTAL	MSW	MSW %	Total Recycled w/Add-ons	Total % Recycled	
Atlantic	275,213	548,294	211,414.24	123,977.19	335,391.43	98,414.48	32%	212,902.75	39%	
Bergen	957,736	1,942,767	657,222.03	388,868.32	1,046,090.35	386,267.32	37%	896,676.83	46%	
Burlington	469,167	1,131,721	326,104.50	161,799.32	487,903.82	215,115.35	40%	643,817.33	57%	
Camden	527,196	981,620	344,156.58	256,137.33	600,293.91	169,224.80	33%	381,325.63	39%	
Cape May	94,610	399,733	91,156.02	96,392.19	187,548.21	64,788.73	42%	212,184.58	53%	
Cumberland	152,326	475,859	96,752.78	114,275.66	211,028.44	165,996.36	63%	264,830.57	56%	
Essex	851,117	1,696,023	436,751.50	337,181.87	773,933.37	190,294.33	30%	922,089.16	54%	
Gloucester	308,423	1,031,760	182,136.71	180,384.01	362,520.72	199,145.22	52%	669,238.90	65%	
Hudson	705,472	1,012,382	401,801.68	168,390.64	570,192.32	145,981.98	27%	442,189.23	44%	
Hunterdon	130,183	309,274	61,450.04	45,259.59	106,709.63	35,853.43	37%	202,564.77	66%	
Mercer	381,671	848,017	238,068.78	111,224.58	349,293.36	178,107.21	43%	498,723.16	59%	
Middlesex	863,623	2,839,135	547,315.51	301,738.37	849,053.88	543,754.35	50%	1,990,080.74	70%	
Monmouth	642,799	1,598,749	443,609.34	307,790.61	751,399.95	313,064.30	41%	847,349.09	53%	
Morris	514,423	1,266,064	303,456.52	175,799.01	479,255.53	262,046.10	46%	786,808.09	62%	
Ocean	659,197	1,143,601	438,693.78	257,716.52	696,410.30	169,506.41	28%	447,190.58	39%	
Passaic	513,395	1,269,703	416,392.20	250,485.17	666,877.37	158,208.74	28%	602,825.85	47%	
Salem	65,338	197,154	40,421.91	72,866.63	113,288.54	22,164.43	35%	83,865.23	43%	
Somerset	348,842	676,823	255,998.87	164,259.74	420,258.61	77,764.90	23%	256,564.88	38%	
Sussex	146,132	308,904	75,505.11	37,839.03	113,344.14	54,543.24	42%	195,559.67	63%	
Union	572,726	1,441,380	325,145.38	341,228.28	666,373.66	155,725.63	32%	775,006.20	54%	
Warren	111,252	160,411	27,398.27	36,956.90	64,355.17	23,739.84	46%	96,056.19	60%	
TOTAL	9,290,841	21,279,372	5,920,952	3,930,571	9,851,523	3,629,707	38%	11,427,849	54%	
MSW recycled includes all paper and beverage containers, anti-freeze, motor oil, brush, grass, leaves, consumer electronics, food waste, dry cell batteries, other glass, other plastic and textiles when they are generated by a non-industrial generator. 10% of total metal has been included as non-industrial.										
Street sweepings are no longer counted as a recyclable due to their management as a BUD. (NJAC 7:26A-1.3)										
NOTES: Totals subject to rounding. Last Updated on 02/11/25										

<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dshw/2022disposalrates.pdf>

What is the status of food waste recycling In Morris County?

- In 2023, Morris County municipalities documented approximately 6,847 tons of food waste recycling (30-day desk audit)
 - Compared to ~29,000 tons required reduction
 - Food waste stats are published with approximately a 3-year lag.
 - They follow the same reporting period as the [New Jersey Generation, Disposal, and Recycling Statistics](#)
- How much do we recycle now?
 - That is not always easy to find
 - Tonnage reports for recycling, and in some cases, they also note donation (*cannot count donation in MTG*)
 - Much of food waste is hauled out of state since the infrastructure in NJ is currently behind, as regulations have been limiting growth in this sector for composting and recycling.
 - The County obtained tonnage reports for 2025, amounting to ~6,000 tons of food waste - municipalities collect additional tonnage reports, which can be added to our total.
- How much food waste recycling will occur in 2035?
 - Document all recycling: new + existing, which will require collaboration amongst coordinators at the municipal and county levels, as well as between coordinators and the NJDEP to collect contact info and distribute reports, since recycling does not stop where your jurisdiction ends.

Where to find your County's food waste?

- Municipal Tonnage Reports
 - Ensure that food establishments are providing reports
 - Municipalities are at the front line and we need to work with them to get a better grasp of what's out there through reporting.
 - Fat and Bone/Rendering, Food Waste Composting, Cooking Oil Collection, Grease Trap Collection, Food Donation
- Large amounts of material (food waste/cooking oil) are going out of state
 - E.g, Organix Recycling LLC., Divert Inc., Agri-Cycle, Specialty Disposal Services Inc., Wind River Environmental
 - Can we work together to build a landscape of haulers and end markets? Can the NJDEP help build that database?
- A lot of it is going to biodiesel, waste cooking oil, etc.
 - Municipal drop-off sites make money and encourage recycling.
 - Most restaurants should provide waste cooking oil/grease trap tonnage reports.
 - **Find out from health departments who is recycling and where it's going. Send out a survey to their licensees? Educate on the topic?**
 - Should Counties mandate cooking grease or food waste recycling?
 - Are there sufficient outlets for this to be effective? Do enough markets exist, and are they stable enough? Will we mandate this and be able to enforce it effectively?
 - Cooking grease recycling requirements may be in municipal ordinances. Most of our municipalities have it in their health codes and mirror it in recycling regs for a year-end report.
- What we do need to do is capture what's currently being recycled
 - We need to decide if we can utilize the established recycling rules to do this?

County	Cooking grease	Corrugated cardboard or OCC	Ferrous scrap	Fluorescent bulbs	Food waste
Atlantic		R/C	R/C	R/C	
Bergen		R/C	R/C		
Burlington		R/C		R/C	C
Camden		R/C	R/C		
Cape May		R/C			
Cumberland		R/C			C
Essex		R/C	R/C		
Gloucester		C			
Hudson		R/C	R/C	C	
Hunterdon		R/C			
Mercer		R/C	R/C		
Middlesex		R/C		C	C
Monmouth		R/C	R/C	R	
Morris		R/C			
Ocean		C	C		
Passaic		R/C	R/C		
Salem		R/C			
Somerset		R/C	R	R	
Sussex		R/C	C	C	
Union		R/C		C	
Warren		R/C	R/C	R/C	

R= Residential
C= Commercial

Recycling facilities must report tonnage.

7:26A-4.4 Tonnage reporting requirements

(a) All operators of recycling centers shall provide a recycling tonnage report by March 1 of each year to the county of origin (if requested) and all municipalities from which recyclable material is received in the previous calendar year. For operators of Class A recycling centers, this report shall also be submitted to the Department. The report shall detail the amount of each source of separated recyclable material, expressed in gallons, tons or cubic yards, accepted from each municipality. Those persons specifying this information in cubic yards shall also indicate the conversion ratio of the materials from cubic yards to tons. Those persons reporting the recycling of lamps shall also report the volume of the received materials in linear feet. Non-tubular lamps may be reported as individual units. Those persons reporting on mercury-containing equipment shall also report the number of devices received. Lamps or mercury containing equipment which are shipped using a hazardous waste manifest may be reported in pounds or gallons.

(b) Except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.4(b)4, all persons operating pursuant to an exemption set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.4 shall provide recycling tonnage reports by March 1 of each year to the applicable municipalities, to the county and to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Sustainable Waste Management, Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste Management, 401 East State Street, PO Box 420, Mail Code 401-02C Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 for the previous calendar year. The report shall detail the amount of each source separated recyclable material, expressed in tons, cubic yards, cubic feet, or gallons received, stored, processed, or transferred. Those persons specifying this information in cubic yards shall also indicate the conversion ratio of the materials from cubic yards to tons. Those persons reporting the recycling of lamps shall also report the volume of the received materials in linear feet. Non-tubular lamps may be reported as individual units. Those persons reporting on mercury-containing equipment shall also report the number of devices received. Lamps or mercury containing equipment which are shipped using a hazardous waste manifest may be reported in pounds or gallons.

THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS RULE. ALL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RULES ARE COMPILED IN TITLE 7 OF THE NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

Rule	Rule Summary	Base Penalty	Type of Violation	Grace Period (days)
N.J.A.C.				-----
7:26A-4.4(a)	Failure of the operator of a recycling center to provide a recycling tonnage report by March 1 of each year	\$3,000	M	30
7:26A-4.4(b)	Failure of exempt person to submit required tonnage reports by March 1 of each year	\$3,000	M	30

FOR NJ FACILITIES TO REPORT, NOT THE HAULER.

Recycling Regulations N.J.A.C 7:26A-1 et seq.

Generators, not haulers, are also required to provide tonnage reports.

7:26A-10.3 Recordkeeping and reporting

Commercial and institutional generators including multifamily housing owners or their agents shall report the tonnage of designated recyclable materials collected for recycling from their premises, as directed in the municipal recycling ordinance.

7:26A-9.5 Civil administrative penalty determination

(a) The Department shall assess penalties under this section, and not under N.J.A.C. 7:26A-9.4, when:

1. Because of the specific circumstances of the violation, the Department determines that the penalty amount under N.J.A.C. 7:26A-9.4 would be too low to provide a sufficient deterrent effect as required by the Act; or

2. The violation is not listed under N.J.A.C. 7:26A-9.4.

IF THE HAULER DOES IT FOR THE GENERATOR THIS IS A COURTESY.

**THUS, IF NO REPORT IS PROVIDED, THE GENERATOR IS STILL IN VIOLATION.
THE EXCEPTION IS IF THE MATERIAL IS BEING BROUGHT OUT OF STATE.**

Recycling Regulations N.J.A.C 7:26A-1 et seq.

NJDEP is empowered to pursue tonnage reports from haulers of recyclables to out-of-state recycling facilities.

7:26A-8.1 Reporting requirements

All transporters of source separated recyclable materials transported to manufacturers and recycling centers located in states other than New Jersey shall provide the county(ies) of origin (if requested) and all municipalities of origin, by February 1 of each year, a recycling tonnage report covering all such source separated materials transported the previous calendar year. The report shall detail the municipality of origin, the name and location of the manufacturer or recycling center and the amount of each source separated recyclable material, expressed in gallons, tons or cubic yards, brought to each manufacturer or recycling center from each specific municipality of origin. Those persons specifying this information in cubic yards shall also indicate the conversion ratio of the materials from cubic yards to tons.

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Rule	Rule Summary	Base Penalty	Type of Violation	Grace Period (days)
N.J.A.C.				-----
7:26A-8.1	Failure by a transporter of recyclable materials to provide a recycling tonnage report by February 1 of each year.	\$3,000	M	30

FOR MATERIAL BEING BROUGHT OUT OF STATE, THE NJDEP WILL ENFORCE, NOT THE CEHA AGENT.

Recycling Regulations N.J.A.C 7:26A-1 et seq.

- Can the NJDEP provide assistance with education and obtaining tonnage reports for haulers transporting recycling to out-of-state facilities? Many of these materials are currently being moved out of state and are not being tracked. As a result, the municipality, county recycling office, and CEHA are unable to access this information.
- Can we work with NJDEP to issue a Compliance Advisory Alert for out-of-state facilities to assist us in obtaining reports?
- Morris is working on this now with NJDEP Enforcement and the MC Division of Public Health.

Food Waste Tonnage Reporting Example

(MUNICIPALITY) (ADD YEAR) RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT

Section 1
Type or print the following information:

Name of business/institution: Natural Upcycling, LLC
Address: 2044 Genesee Street
Pittard, NY 14533

Contact: Amanda Logsdon
Title: Director of Revenue
Phone/Fax: 585-584-3124 - 585-584-0411 fax
E-Mail: amanda@Naturalupcycling.com

Type of business/institution: Food Waste Recycling

The submission of this report is required by law. DEADLINE: March 1, (YEAR)

Section 2
Important - See the reverse side of this form for information on completing it.

ID#	Material	Tons	Company providing recycling services
01	Corrugated cardboard		
02	Mixed office paper		
03	Newspaper		
04	Other paper/magazines/junk mail		
05	Glass bottles & jars		
06	Aluminum cans		
07	Steel cans/oil filters		
08	Plastic containers		
09	Heavy iron		
10	Non-ferrous/other aluminum scrap		
11	Metal appliances & light iron		
12	Anti-freeze		
13	Batteries, lead-acid		
14	Scrap autos		
15	Tires		
16	Used motor oil		
17	Brush/tree parts		
18	Grass clippings		
19	Leaves		
20	Stumps		
21	Consumer electronics		
22	Concrete/asphalt/masonry/paving materials		
23	Food waste & cooking grease	1,558.099 LBS.	Natural Upcycling, LLC
24	Misc recyclables* (list below)		
25	Other glass		
26	Other plastic		
27	Petroleum contaminated soil		
28	Process residue		
29	Textiles		
30	Wood scraps		
	Mixed materials. List by ID # any materials that are mixed together or commingled for recycling. Use separate sheet if needed.		

*Miscellaneous recyclable materials: #23 Food Waste 155.81 TONS

MAIL OR FAX COMPLETED REPORT TO: (Add your municipality, title, address, telephone, fax #, email.)

- Both reports were received by the MUA: Natural Upcycling LLC, Trenton Renewables Power.
- The Natural Upcycling report required further investigation.
- The end destination was Trenton Renewables Power, but it was not on their report.
 - This situation highlights the importance of obtaining multiple reports, even when in theory they may be double reporting, because not all reports may be complete or accurate. Is this is reporting issue by the hauler or the facility?
 - Highlights the importance of asking questions!



The submission of this form helps advance recycling and funding for recycling programs in Morris County. Thank you for doing your part.

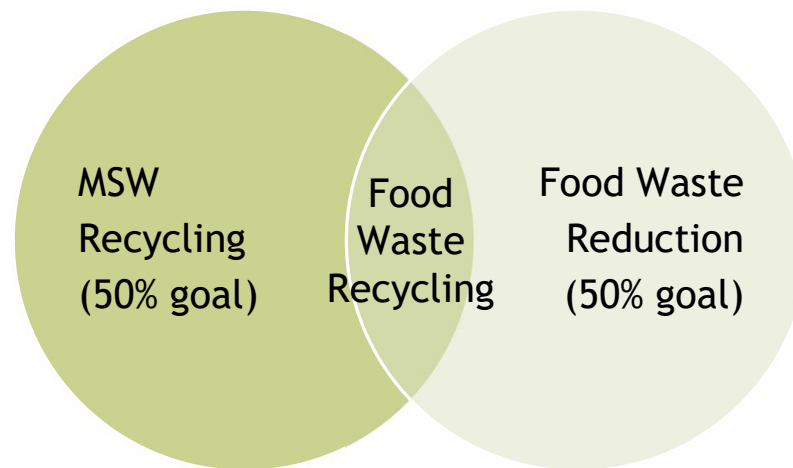
Business/Institution: Trenton Renewables Power, LLC
Address: 1600 Lambert Road Trenton NJ, 08611
Type of business/institution:
General Phone Number: 609-777-9210

Contact/Title: Brian Blair
Phone Number: 856-693-6540
Email: wblairblair@gmail.com

Municipality	Material	Amt	Units
Dover Town	Food Waste	200.7	tons
Lincoln Park Borough	Food Waste	61.95	tons

Recycle + Reuse through Donation

- Municipalities are set up to measure recycling through tonnage grant reporting.
- New law states donations also count towards the reduction target
 - How to measure donation if it's not on a report or cataloged?
 - i.e, 1 pallet of food, 1 truck of food, 1 box of food, 1 shopping cart, etc.
 - How much does it weigh, if it's not tracked at the source? Did it become waste at the receiving location after sorting? Are all donations representative of diverting excess or are they simply donations?
- Note: 50% MSW recycling goal vs. 50% MSW food waste reduction through recycling/donation
 - Two are different but can help each other in the long run.



Funding

► <https://njonestopshop.org/dashboard/>

Applied filters:Sector is Food Systems/Waste										
Incentive Name	Administrator Type	Administrator	Funding Type	Technology	Eligible Entities	Implementer	Est. Max	Considered	Link	Eligible Use Description
Economic Benefit for Municipalities with Authorized Food Waste Recycling Facilities	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Rebate (post purchase)	Anaerobic Digesters	Local Government	Available			https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/s/wpl/fw/food-waste-recycling-rules/	Any municipality within which an authorized food waste recycling facility is located is entitled to an economic benefit of not less than the equivalent of \$0.50 per ton of all food waste accepted for processing at the authorized food waste recycling facility each year. This benefit only applies to new facilities that receive a permit after the law was enacted in 2021.
Federal Incentives for Businesses to Donate Food	Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Tax Deduction (Federal)	Community Initiatives	Commercial or Industry Entity	Available		No	https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/blog/federal-incentives-businesses-donate-food	Internal Revenue Code 170(e)(3) of 2011 provides enhanced tax deductions to businesses to encourage donations of fit and wholesome food to qualified nonprofit organizations serving the poor and needy. Qualified business taxpayers can deduct the cost to produce the food and half the difference between the cost and full fair market value of the donated food. All businesses, including C-corporations, S-corporations, limited liability corporations (LLCs), partnerships, and sole proprietorships, are eligible.
Gleaning Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Agriculture	Grant (State)	Risk Management	Nonprofit Organization	Closed	\$400,000.		https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/gleaninggrants.shtml	Interested eligible nonprofit entities who are gleaning from New Jersey farms and distributing such gleaned food to New Jersey organizations to help feed New Jersey's hungry. Interested eligible nonprofit entities who are gleaning from New Jersey farms and distributing such gleaned food to New Jersey organizations to help feed New Jersey's hungry.
Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Grant (State)	Community Initiatives	Local Government	Available		No	https://dep.nj.gov/grants/ndloanprograms/municipal-recycling-tonnage-grants/	This program supports Municipal recycling programs. To be considered for grant funding, eligible New Jersey municipalities and counties must submit applications by April 30th, annually.
New Jersey Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Grant (Federal)	Risk Management, Carbon Capture	Commercial or Industry Entity, Building Owner, Nonprofit Organization, Residential Homeowner	Closed		No	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives/new-jersey/new-jersey-environmental	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concern. This voluntary conservation programs helps producers make conservation work for them. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. EQIP covers a variety of initiatives across the state.
Recycling Enhancement Act - County Grants	State	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Grant (State)	Community Initiatives	Local Government	Closed			https://dep.nj.gov/grants/ndloanprograms/recycling-enhancement-act-county-grant/	To prepare, revise and implement district solid waste management plans, implementation of the State Recycling Plan, research and education. Only county governments are eligible.
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program (SWIFR)	Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Grant (Federal)	Risk Management, Community Initiatives	Native/Tribal Entity, State Agency, Local Government	Available		No	https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program	Recycling Strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure; support improvements to local post-consumer materials management and recycling programs; and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems. The SWIFR program is divided into funding opportunities for States and Territories, Political Subdivisions, and Tribes and Tribal Consortia. EPA most recently announced funding awardees in 2025 for the second round of SWIFR for Political Subdivisions and anticipates announcing additional selections for SWIFR grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia and SWIFR grants for States and Territories in 2026.

New grant opportunity:

<https://grants.endingwastedfood.org/>

Ending Wasted Food in a Generation
Grant Program Request for Applications 2026-2030

American consumers spend more than \$762 (in and out of the home) per person every year on food that goes to waste. The Ending Wasted Food Within a Generation (EWF) program, a coalition led by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) alongside partners WRAP, the Ad Council, ReFED, the U.S. Composting Council, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, is working to empower households across the United States to change that through coordinated, evidence-based action to save American households money and prevent wasted food.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD WASTED FOOD PREVENTION PROJECT

WWF is administering community grants through the National Household Wasted Food Prevention Project (NHWFPP).

The NHWFPP will develop, launch, and implement a coordinated, nationwide effort to reduce wasted food in households by 10% per capita nationally and by 20% per capita in communities supported through grants by 2030.

The National Household Wasted Food Prevention Project will include:

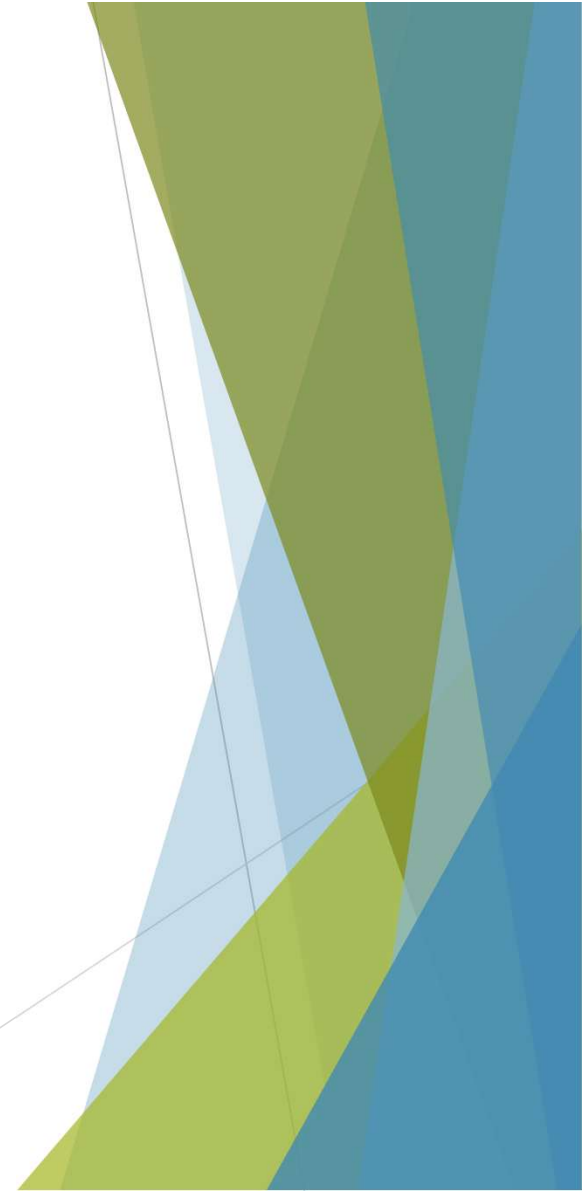
1. A national media campaign developed by the Ad Council, and
2. Community grants administered by WWF in collaboration with WRAP and ReFED.

Key Information:	
Issue Date	May 15, 2026
Informational Webinar	May 28, 2026, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET
Question Submissions Due	Questions accepted anytime and responded to on a rolling basis through August 14, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET. Responses will be posted on the FAQs on this website.
RFA Closing Date and Time	September 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET
Grant Value	Innovator Grants: \$75,000 – \$300,000 Catalyst Grants: \$300,000 – \$750,000 Average grant size: ~\$300,000
Number of Grants	Approximately 15 total grants
Project Duration	Innovator and Catalyst Grants must begin January 4, 2027, and conclude by February 28, 2030. Duration: 24–38 months.
Eligible Applicants	Nonprofits; local governments; Tribal governments; educational institutions; and others

But still more financial support is needed

Food for Thought

- ▶ Massachusetts: What they did and how it works
 - ▶ Composting tiered permits, ½ ton commercial food waste ban, full commercial food waste ban, start residential food waste ban
 - ▶ Indoor and outdoor permitting
 - ▶ 1 composting facility for every 5 towns





About Us ▾ Recycle ▾ Food ▾ Materials ▾ Reuse and Reclamation ▾ Blog ▾ 🔍

Find a Recycler

CET and MassDEP host this list to help businesses find recycling service providers. Listings are self-reported and do not imply a recommendation or endorsement by CET or MassDEP.

List your business

Fats, Oils & Greases ▾

Enter location
50 mi



Pick Up/Drop Off ▾

OR, try a keyword or biz name 🔍



<https://recyclingworksma.com/find-a-recycler-tool/>

Summary of Impactful Actions for Counties

- Document all the recycling that is happening, especially mandated/common food waste recycling, i.e., cooking oil, grease traps, renderings, composting, etc.
 - Seek support for a database of food waste vendors
 - Look to make sure you are not double-counting efforts, look at end markets vs. hauler reports.
- Utilize local/county public health departments
 - Collaborate with partners during joint meetings to align goals and include a survey in their license renewal paperwork.
- Support large-scale projects like area-wide curbside pickup or smaller drop-off sites.
- Get communities educated, aware of the need for waste diversion/recycling, and excited
- Make the business case for reducing food waste
- Collect metrics; can't reduce what you don't measure
- Work together

Morris County's Food Waste Initiatives



Morris County's Approach to Food Waste

- Phase I: SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis
- Phase II: Morris County Food Rescue Assessment
 - Evaluate opportunities for food rescue
 - Address gaps and limitations
 - Focus efforts on redistributing excess food to address food insecurity
- Phase III: Food Waste Business Challenge



Takeaways from Morris County Food Rescue Assessment

- Robust food assistance landscape
- Many opportunities for food rescue.
- Rescue framework is not optimized.
 - Misalignment between available surplus and needs/wants of recipient organizations.
 - Secondary waste exists (but some food assistance organizations compost)
 - Logistical challenges posed by lack of storage, transportation, labor, and an overabundance items that are difficult to repurpose through food assistance.
- Donation cannot be relied on as sole solution.
 - Not all wasted food is fit for donation and the amount of wasted food generated in the U.S. far outweighs the needs of food-insecure Americans (U.S. EPA 2021)



How should donation be measured for compliance with new law?

Get health departments involved!

- Resources and collaborations between Morris County MUA and Division of Public Health
 - MCDPH Donation Guidelines
 - NACCHO
 - Morris County Collaborative Meeting
 - DPH to send survey along with food licensure renewals, and to share information and increase the amount of tonnage reports we receive
- Opportunities to educate on food waste during food safety inspections and food waste recycling audits.

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
P.O. Box 900, Morristown, NJ 07963
P: (973) 631-5484 F: (973) 631-5490
Health Officer: Carlos Perez, Jr., Ph.D.

Is the Large Food Waste Generator located within 25 miles of a Class C Food Waste Recycling Facility?	YES	NO
If so, name and address of the Class C Food Waste Recycling Facility.		
Approximately how much food waste is generated per week?		
Where does Large Food Waste Generator dispose of food waste?		
Is all food waste separated from other forms of solid waste?		
How is food waste stored on the property? Describe.		
If not taken to facility within 25 miles of Generator, how is food waste being handled on site? Describe.		



DONATING FOOD? KEEP FOOD SAFETY IN MIND



Food donations are a vital resource for many individuals and families in need. However, ensuring the safety of donated food is critical to prevent foodborne illnesses. Here are some essential tips for proper food safety when donating food.

1. Understand Donation Guidelines
Many food banks and pantries have specific requirements for the types of food they accept. Check with the organization to confirm their needs and restrictions. Typically, they prefer:

- Non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry pasta, and rice.
- Unopened, undamaged packaging with clear expiration dates.

2. Check Expiration Dates
Expired food can pose a health risk. Ensure all donated items are within their "best by" or "use by" dates.

3. Inspect Packaging
Damaged or compromised packaging can lead to contamination. Avoid donating items with:

- Broken seals.
- Bulging or dented cans.
- Torn or punctured bags.

4. Avoid Home-Prepared Foods
While homemade meals and canned goods are prepared with good intentions, they are often not accepted due to safety concerns. Commercially prepared and packaged items are safer choices.

5. Store and Transport Food Safely
If donating perishable items (when allowed):

- Use insulated coolers with ice packs to maintain proper temperatures.
- Keep refrigerated items below 40°F and frozen items at 0°F until delivery.

6. Label Clearly
Clearly label food items with contents and ingredients, especially if donating bulk items. This is vital for individuals with allergies or dietary restrictions.

7. Practice Personal Hygiene
When handling food donations:

- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Avoid donating if you are sick or have open wounds.

8. Know the Rules for Prepared Foods
If donating prepared foods from an event or commercial kitchen, ensure they meet your local health department standards. Food should:

- Be prepared in a licensed facility.
- Be stored at proper temperatures during transport.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOOD SAFETY TIPS WHEN DONATING FOOD



SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL MORRIS COUNTY FOOD PANTRY



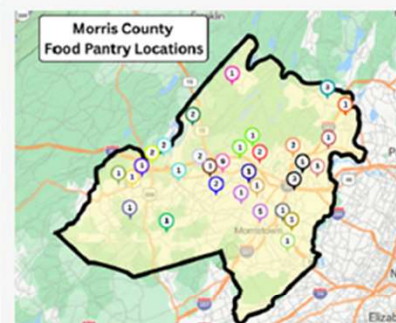


County of Morris
Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900
(973) 631-5184





READY TO DONATE OR COMPOST YOUR FOOD WASTE?



KEY

- Boonton - Butler - Chester - Denville - Dover	- Florham Park - Hackettstown - Jefferson - Lake Hopatcong - Lincoln Park - Madison - Parippany	- Mine Hill - Montville - Morris Plains - Mount Olive - Netcong - Shawarston - Pompton Plains - Randolph - Rockaway - Rocky Hill - Washington
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Scan For Morris County Food Pantry Info



Why Should My Business Reduce My Food Waste?

Tax Deductions

Depending on the type of corporation your business is, you may deduct donated food inventory up to 15% of taxable income (IRC §170(e)(3)).

NJDEP Regulations

New Jersey is creating new food waste regulations that you may be required to follow. Visit <https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/kwpl/fw/> for more info.

Liability Protection

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides federal liability protection.

Help Local Food Insecurity

About 12.5% of US households suffer from food insecurity (EPA).

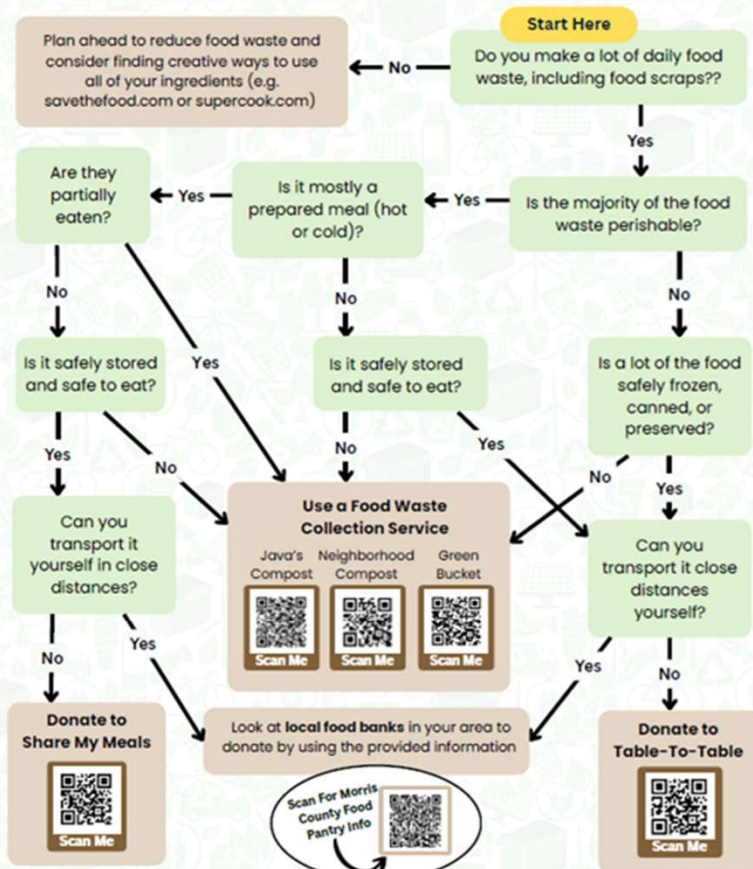
Reduce Food Waste

Did you know about 22% of NJ solid waste is food waste, some of which is edible (NJDEP).

Reduce Water Usage

Food waste accounts for at least 21% of US agricultural water use (NRDC).

Picking The Right Organization



****Note: this is for educational purposes only. You may use these or other services at your discretion****

Other Morris County Outreach and Resources

- County E-Newsletter
- MCMUA website
- Social Media
- Informational Giveaways
- Environmental Guide
- Flyers and Information
- Recycling Coordinator Meetings
- NJDEP Focus Group
- MRC Grants
- Environmental Commission Grants



FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Did you know that approximately 22% of solid waste in NJ consists of food waste?



40% of the food supply in the US is wasted.



About 12.5% of US households suffer from food insecurity.



Food waste in landfills produces the same CO2 emissions as 42 coal-fired power plants!

Reducing food waste saves resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces landfill methane. Donating excess food helps increase food access. Recycling food waste returns nutrients to soils and supports a circular economy.

WASTE LESS, SAVE MONEY

Eliminate food waste with these simple steps:

Shop smart

- Stick to the list. Refrain from overbuying, which can lead to wasted food and money.
- Double-check your pantry before purchasing something you may already have.

Food storage and use

- Store foods at their safe temperature.
- Use groceries in the order they will expire.
- Find recipes to use up scrap food.
- Freeze or donate surplus food.

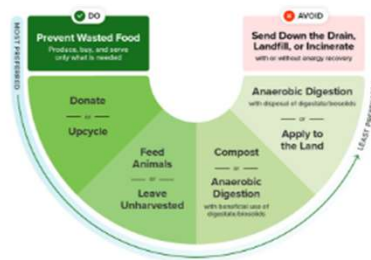
Understand date labeling terms.

- "Best if used by" is when a product has the best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- "Sell by" informs the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- "Use by" is the last date recommended for product use at peak quality. It is not a safety date unless used on infant formula.
- "Packed on" indicates when food was packed. Food is usually safe to eat past this date.



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



FOOD DONATION

Scan the QR code for a full listing of food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency food services in Morris County.



ELIMINATE WASTE, COMPOST AT HOME

A large portion of garbage that goes to landfill is organic and yard waste, some of which can be composted instead! According to the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, composting is a natural process where organic materials decompose and are recycled into a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling soil amendment known as "compost."

CREATING COMPOST

Follow these basic steps to get started!

1. Find a container for your compost. Make it yourself or purchase specialty compost bins.
2. Make sure your container has a lid to avoid pests and smells.
3. Mix 1 part green materials and 3 parts brown materials.
4. If needed, chop up larger materials into smaller pieces about 2 inches or less in size.
5. Stir the mixture regularly to maintain oxygen levels for beneficial microbes and insects.
6. If the mixture is dry, add water from your garden hose. The compost mixture should be moist but not dripping wet. If you accidentally overwater, just add some dry brown materials.
7. If your mixture gets hot, this is a good sign! This means your decomposers are active.
8. Sift out finished compost and add this to your soil for a healthy garden or lawn.



3 parts Browns:

Carbon-rich, dry materials

- Dry leaves and pinecones
- Shells of nuts & eggs
- Woodchips and sawdust
- Dry flowers, grass, & garden clippings
- Straw
- Corn cobs
- Newspaper and shredded cardboard



1 part Greens:

Nitrogen-rich, moist materials

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Peelings
- Coffee & tea
- Fresh grass & garden trimmings
- Horse manures



BENEFITS OF COMPOST

Amending your soil or lawn with finished compost has many benefits:

- Provides plant nutrients in a stable organic form
- It helps soil retain water
- Promotes the development of healthy plant roots
- Reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides
- Reduces erosion
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon
- Improves the physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil.

Do Not Compost

- Pet waste
- Meat scraps
- Bones
- Dairy
- Fats/oils or foods cooked in oils
- Diseased plant material
- Packaging products labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable." These are designed for industrial-scale compost systems and do not compost well in your backyard bin.



Composting Made Easy



What To Compost

(2 parts) Browns: Carbon-rich, dry materials

- Dry leaves and pinecones
- Shells of nuts & eggs
- Woodchips and sawdust
- Dry flowers, grass, & garden clippings
- Straw
- Corn cobs
- Newspaper and shredded cardboard

(1 part) Greens: Nitrogen-rich, fresh and moist materials

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Peelings
- Coffee & tea
- Fresh grass & garden trimmings

What Not To Compost

- Diseased, pesticide-treated, or pest-infected plants
- Poison ivy
- Invasive weeds or weeds with seeds
- Large branches
- Meat or fish scraps
- Dairy products
- Fats, grease, or oil
- Pet feces or kitty litter
- Colored or glossy paper
- Sawdust made from pressure-treated plywood or lumber
- Coal or charcoal ashes
- Non-compostable materials such as plastics, metal, glass, sand, or construction debris

To create compost, mix two parts of brown materials and one part of green materials from the above list. It is recommended to cut or break your materials into smaller pieces so they can break down quicker. Still, keeping some bulkier materials and size diversity is essential to maintain airflow through the pile. Compost bins can be bought or made at home using an aerated container (e.g., bin and lid with drilled holes). An ideal pile is about 3 feet wide by 3 feet high and is turned regularly. When your compost is ready to use, it will be brown and crumbly with an earthy aroma.

How To Use Compost

Compost can be used as an alternative to fertilizer or mulch in your lawn and garden to add nutrients and strengthen your plants. This not only puts your food waste to good use, but saves money on fertilizers and lawn treatments. This can be done by mixing compost with your soil, applying in a thick mulch-like layer or a thin layer over your lawn, or by creating a "compost tea" with compost and water to nourish your indoor or outdoor plants.

Morris County's Compost Facility offers up to 2 Cubic yards of compost free to Morris County residents picking up at the Parsippany or Mount Olive facilities. Larger quantities can also be ordered and delivered to residents.



Compost Troubleshooting

Symptom	Problem	Solution
Rotten-egg Odor	Excess moisture, not enough air	Check the bin has proper drainage Add brown materials Turn pile more frequently and remove lid for added airflow
Ammonia Odor	Excess green materials & moisture	Add brown materials
Slow decomposition	Lack of moisture, air, or nitrogen	Add water to improve moisture Turn or aerate the pile to improve airflow Add more green materials to increase nitrogen and balance out excess browns
Unwanted Pests	Exposed food scraps, incorrect materials added, or overexposure	Make sure food scraps are covered by brown materials Do not add meat, dairy, or fatty foods Add a screen or cloth to reduce pests' access to your pile Turn your pile more frequently to increase its temperature and disturb nesting pests

To order large quantities of recycled vegetative waste materials such as double-ground wood mulch, wood chips, and unscreened and screened compost, visit us at www.MCMUA.com or scan the QR Code.

All MCMUA-produced compost materials adhere to NJDEP testing regulations and are certified through the US Composting Councils Seal of Testing Assurance and the Organic Materials Review Institute OMRI Listed programs.



Pumpkin RECYCLING

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE UNITED STATES 13.8 MILLION PUMPKINS WILL GO TO WASTE AFTER THIS HALLOWEEN?

SCARE AWAY FOOD WASTE WITH THESE TIPS:

- **DONATE PUMPKINS TO A LOCAL FARM:** MANY FARMS WILL USE PUMPKINS TO FEED THEIR ANIMALS OR COMPOST THEM FOR THEIR CROPS. LOOK FOR A LOCAL FARM NEAR YOU.
[HTTPS://PUMPKINSFORPIGS.ORG/#](https://pumpkinsforpigs.org/#)
- **UTILIZE THE WHOLE PUMPKIN:** PUMPKIN SEEDS CAN BE A DELICIOUS SNACK OR EVEN PLANTED AGAIN FOR NEW PUMPKINS NEXT YEAR. THERE ARE MANY TASTY FALL RECIPES WITH PUMPKIN AS THE STAR OF THE DISH.
[HTTPS://WWW.FOODNETWORK.COM/EN-DISH/RECIPES/2015/10/THE-5-BEST-RECIPES-FOR-COOKING-WITH-FRESH-PUMPKIN](https://www.foodnetwork.com/en-dish/recipes/2015/10/the-5-best-recipes-for-cooking-with-fresh-pumpkin)
- **COMPOST OR BURY YOUR PUMPKIN:** PUMPKINS CONTAIN MANY NUTRIENTS AND WATER AND MAKE GREAT COMPOST. *NOTE* PAINTED PUMPKINS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING. WASH OFF THE PAINT BEFORE COMPOSTING.
- **UPCYCLE:** IS YOUR PUMPKIN STILL IN GOOD CONDITION? UPCYCLE YOUR PUMPKIN INTO A BIRD FEEDER OR PLANTER. USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND CREATE NEW WAYS TO USE YOUR PUMPKIN!

PLEASE COMPLY WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES REGARDING FEEDING WILDLIFE.

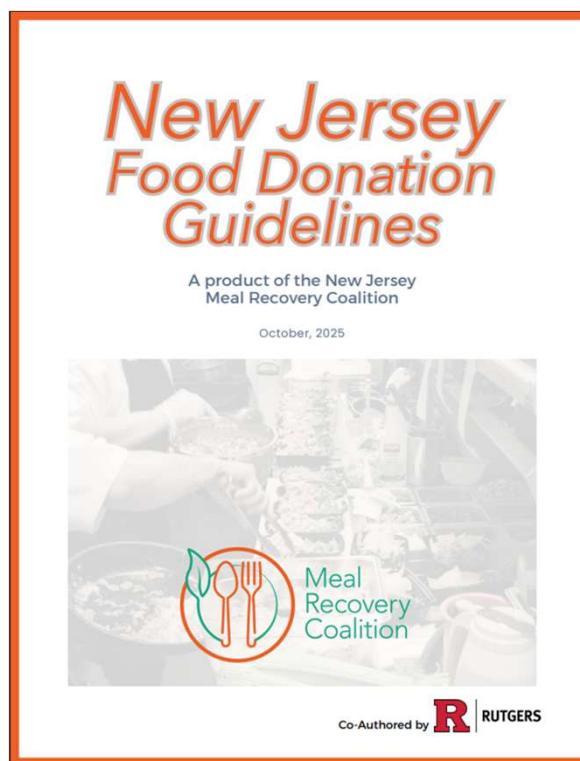
www.MCMUA.com

New NJ Resources



Recent state initiatives align with Morris County focus on redirecting excess to people in need.

- NJ Donation Map
- Office of the Food Security Advocate
- Meal Recovery Coalition
 - Food Donation Guidelines



<https://mealrecoverycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NJ-Food-Donation-Guidelines.pdf>

NEW JERSEY FOOD DONATION



Why Donate Food?

The US EPA's Wasted Food Scale ranks feeding hungry people as a top strategy for reducing food waste. While food donation does not solve the root causes of food insecurity, it is critical for channeling appropriate food to people in need.

The United States wastes up to 40% of food it produces.*

In 2017, 22% of New Jersey's municipal solid waste stream was food waste.

There are 47 million people, including 13 million children, who face food insecurity in the U.S.**

More than 994,000 people, including more than 263,000 children, experienced food insecurity in NJ.***

In September 2015, the first-ever national food loss and waste goal in the U.S. was launched, calling for 50% reduction by 2030.

In July 2017, NJ's Food Waste Reduction Act established a statewide goal to reduce annual food waste generation by 50% of 2017 levels by 2030 (50x30 Goal).

Licensed food establishments are protected under food donation laws and liability protections

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S.C. § 1791) encourages food donations by providing liability protections for businesses that donate "apparently wholesome" food in "good faith" to nonprofit organizations. Extensive legal research does not indicate even a single legal case related to food donation liability.

New Jersey has also passed legislation to provide additional liability protection for donors. These laws protect donors that donate food to nonprofits unless the donor "knew or had reasonable grounds to believe" that the food was not fit for human consumption.

Food donations may qualify for an enhanced tax deduction for your business

According to the Federal Tax Code, eligible businesses can deduct the lesser of either (a) twice the cost of acquiring the donated food or (b) the cost of acquiring the donated food plus half the food's expected profit margin if it were sold at fair market value. Businesses should contact their tax preparer to determine any application to their business.

Labeling

All donations need to be labeled as "Donated Food - Not for Resale."

Transporting

Licensed food facilities need to take all reasonable and necessary steps to maintain the integrity of the food that is being donated. If food cannot be delivered at proper temperatures, is adulterated, or is compromised in any way, then the food must be composted or discarded. Local health inspectors should be contacted for any questions on maintaining product.

We encourage you to do your part to support your municipality by reducing food waste and supporting food security. Start today and reach out to your local emergency food provider and see what they will accept.



The Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Center for EcoTechnology (CET), and Sustainable Jersey have worked together to develop this guidance document. This 2022 document provides guidance for New Jersey food waste generators on opportunities to donate food. The document consolidates federal and state regulations, including information on liability protection, health codes, and more.



Foods That Can Be Donated

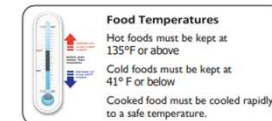
- Hot Food not served and kept at temperature and/or cooled properly
 - entrees, soups
- Cold Food not served and kept at temperature
 - sandwiches, yogurt parfaits, salads
- Whole or Cut Produce
 - strawberries, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, herbs
- Foods past "best by"/"sell by" dates but that are fit for consumption
- Beverages
 - juice, bottled water, lemonade, tea
- Packaged Shelf Stable Items
 - dry pasta, canned vegetables, pudding
- Pasteurized Dairy Products
 - sour cream, milk, yogurt, cheese
- Raw Meat (beef, chicken, pork)
- Foods that are past its "best by" or other open date but still fit for consumption
 - "packed on," "sell by"

Foods That Cannot Be Donated

- Previously served food such as from a buffet
- Distressed foods
 - foods damaged by flood, fire, smoke
- Food in sharply dented or rusty cans
- Food in opened or torn containers
- Foods with an expiration date or "do not use after" date

Remember to Follow Food Safety Guidelines

Food that requires Time Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) needs to be handled with care to ensure it is still fit for human consumption. Proper time and temperature control practices must be followed.



Examples of Foods That May Require TCS

Cut produce (cut tomatoes, melon, and lettuce)

Dairy, meat, and seafood



Many food rescue organizations can provide businesses with containers, pick up foods on a regular schedule, and provide businesses with documentation records. It matters to those who need it no matter the size or frequency of the donation.

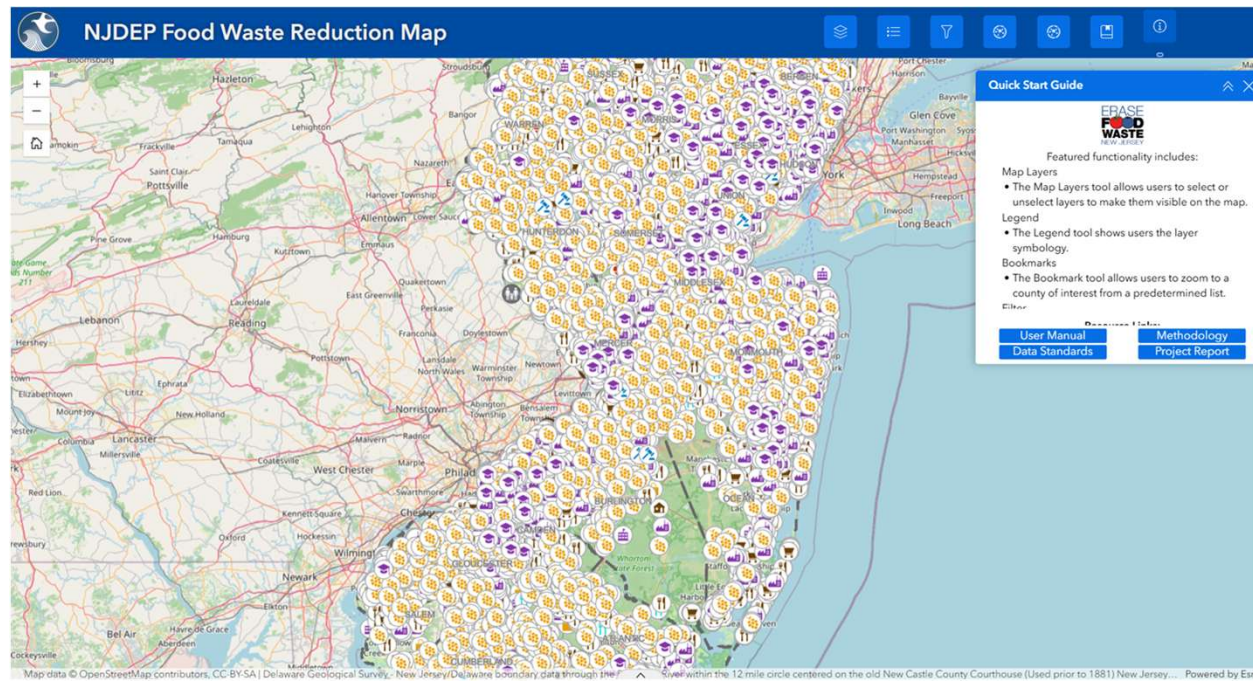


<https://mealrecoverycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NJ-Food-Donation-Guidelines.pdf>

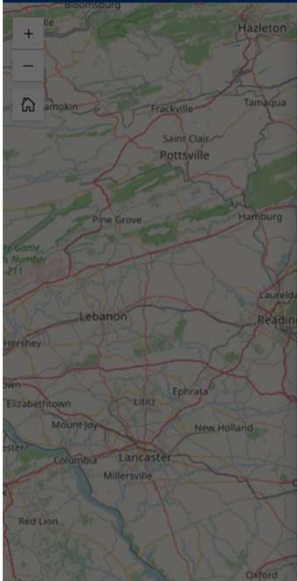


NJDEP Food Waste Reduction Map

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ac8ce8bb55524201bc272121e5672fde>



NJDEP Food Waste Reduction Map



Thank you for visiting the NJ Food Asset Map! The map displays businesses and organizations that generate excess food/ and food waste. It displays organizations that can - with the correct conditions - accept excess food for distribution to NJ communities. The map also contains information about food insecurity in New Jersey. When the "Food Insecurity Index" layer is enabled, users can see which areas of the state are the most impacted by food insecurity and would benefit from healthy, nutritious food donations from generators of excess food. The Segment Filters layer gives a deeper look into why food insecurity may be occurring for users also looking to develop data-driven solutions. To learn more about the Food Security Index developed by the Trenton Health Team, visit their website [HERE](#)

Please note: This tool helps facilitate connections between generators and potential recipients of excess food to help combat food waste generated in New Jersey. However, it is not intended to help food waste generators determine whether they must comply with source separation and recycling requirements under the Food Waste Recycling rules, N.J.A.C. 7:26K. The food waste generation estimates provided reflect a combination of food waste as well as "plate waste," which is not subject to these requirements. For more information about how a food waste generator can measure food waste, please visit NJDEP's website at <https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/tw/food-waste-recycling-rules/htmfw/>.

IMPORTANT: Before you think about donating food from your

Start Guide

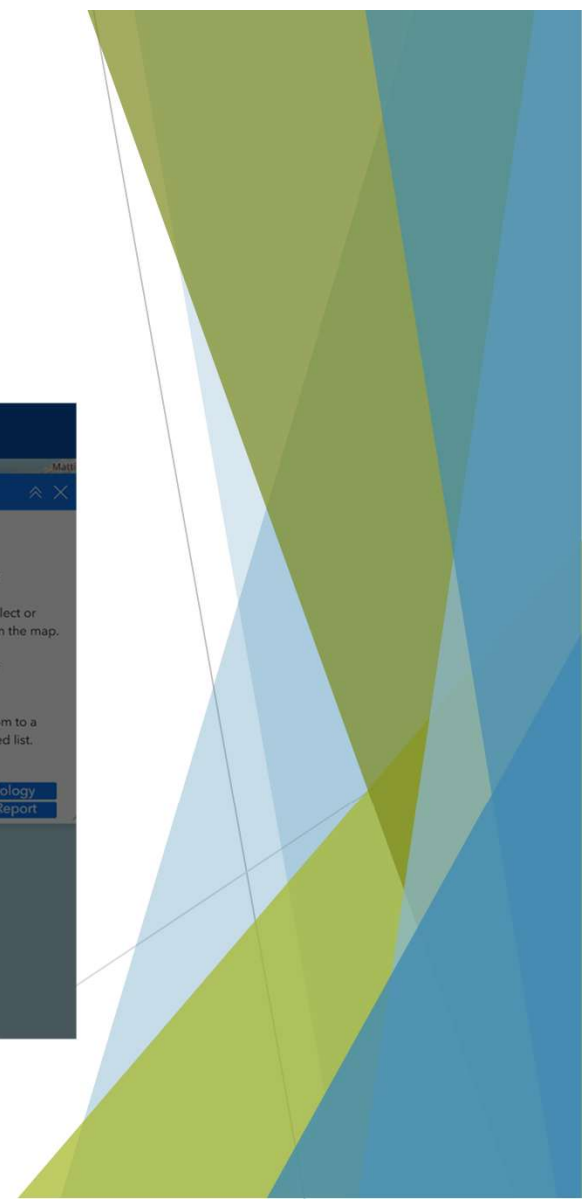


Featured functionality includes:

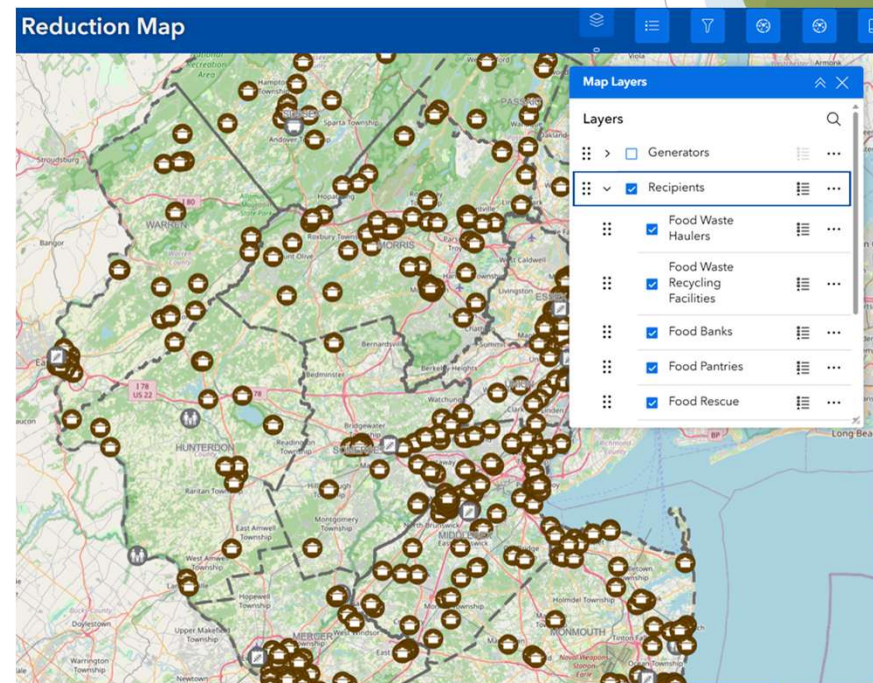
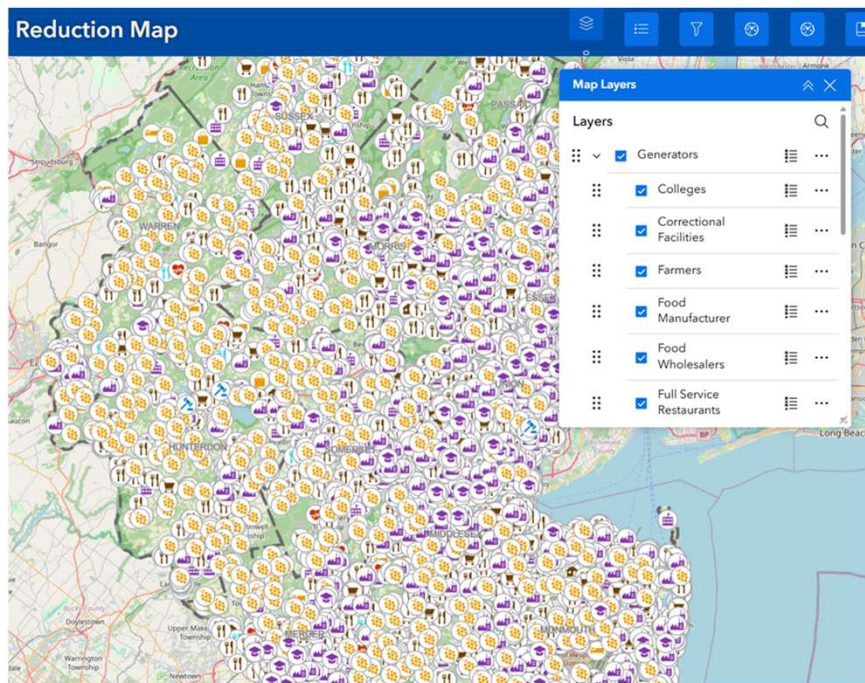
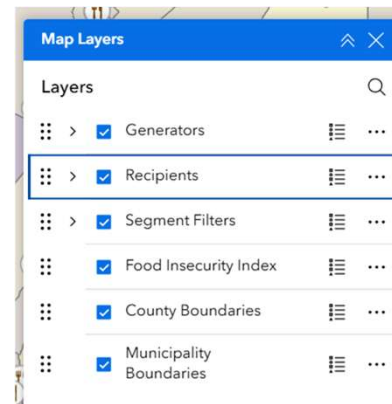
- Map Layers
- The Map Layers tool allows users to select or deselect layers to make them visible on the map.
- Legend
- The Legend tool shows users the layer symbology.
- Bookmarks
- The Bookmark tool allows users to zoom to a county of interest from a predetermined list.

Resource Hub

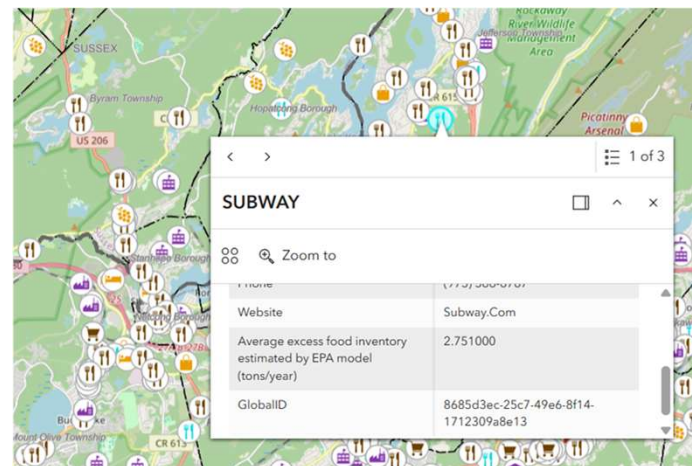
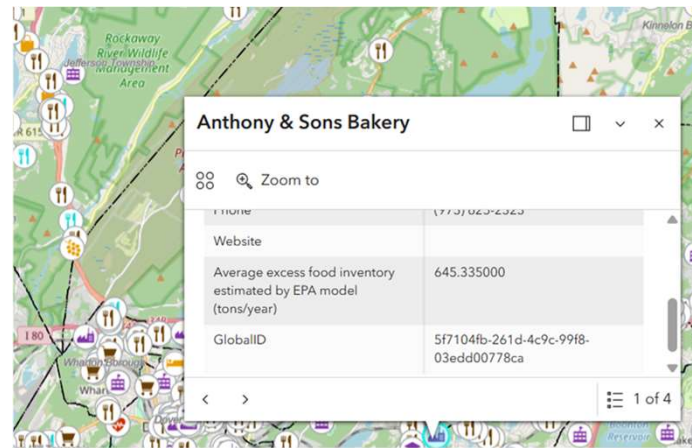
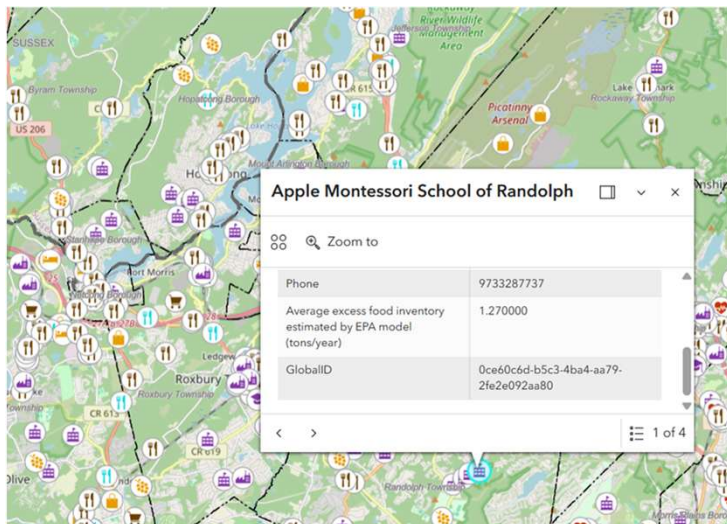
- User Manual
- Methodology
- Data Standards
- Project Report



Map layers demonstrate excess food opportunities



Examples of Morris County Generators



Insights from Morris County Division of Public Health

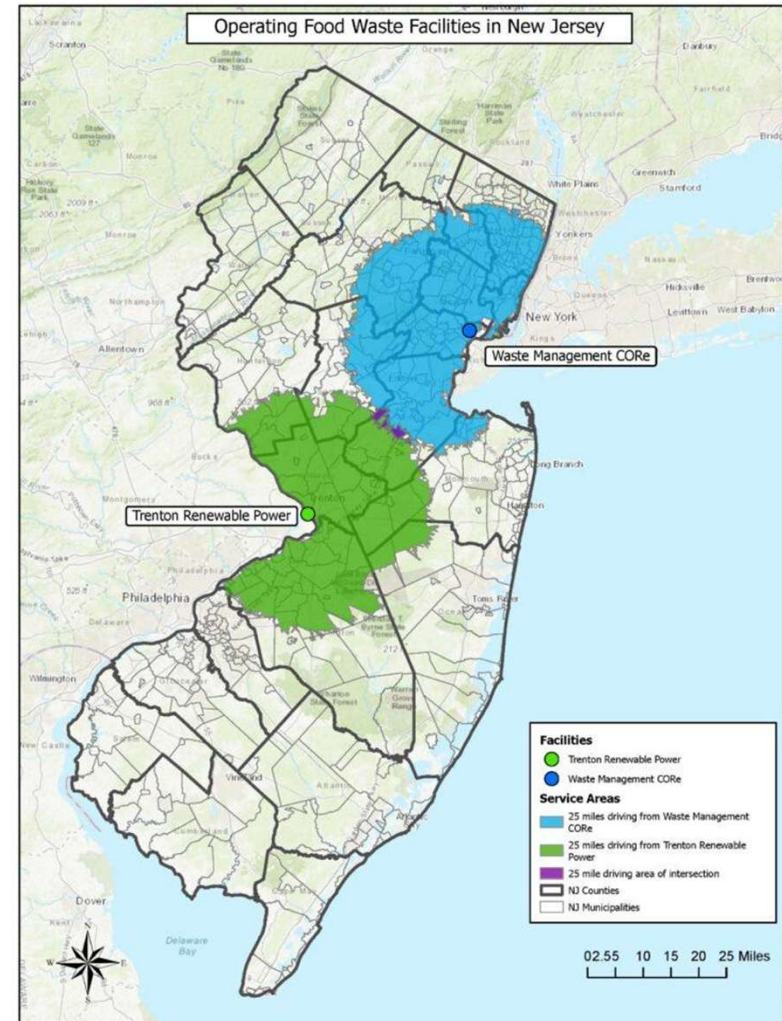
Alyssa Bryant, REHS Specialist



Public Health[®]
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Choosing a place

- ▶ These inspections are random
- ▶ Best to choose facilities that are:
 - ▶ Within 25 road miles
 - ▶ Produce a lot of food waste



Enforcement

- ▶ NJDEP has provided guidance on ways that you *CAN* calculate food waste tonnage, but there is no specific way that you *SHALL* calculate it
 - ▶ Therefore, it is easy for establishments to say they produce under 52 tons of food waste per year
 - ▶ Therefore, I treat these as surveys not inspections

(c) An individual establishment shall determine whether it generates an average projected weight of 52 or more tons of food waste per calendar year, as follows:

1. The individual establishment shall estimate the average projected weight of food waste generated per year based on the weight of the food waste prior to processing in a dehydrator or by any other treatment method that reduces the weight of the food waste;
2. The individual establishment shall estimate the average projected weight of food waste generated per year based on the weight of food waste after it has been removed from its packaging; and
3. Plate waste and donated food shall not be included in food waste generation estimates.

(d) The Department's website, as listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26K-1.3, provides a list of resources to assist the individual establishment with the following:

1. Estimating and measuring food waste generation; and
2. Identifying actions that can reduce the amount of food waste it generates to a level below 52 tons per year.

It is the large food waste generator's responsibility to estimate the amount of food waste they project will be generated on an annual basis to determine whether they are subject to the rule's requirements. As such, individual establishments are encouraged to measure their food waste using the following list of tools to help determine whether they must source separate and recycle their food waste. Please note that other measuring tools can be used as well.

<https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/fw/food-waste-recycling-rules/htmlfw/>

How to Measure Food Waste

[Food Waste](#)  [Reduction Plan](#) [Flyers](#) [Food Waste Recycling Rules](#) [Resources](#) [Topics](#) [Contact](#)

The Food Waste Recycling rules, [N.J.A.C. 7:26K](#), require large food waste generators that generate an average projected volume of 52 tons of food waste or more per year to source separate and recycle their food waste if they are located within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility.

It is the large food waste generator's responsibility to estimate the amount of food waste they project will be generated on an annual basis to determine whether they are subject to the rule's requirements. As such, individual establishments are encouraged to measure their food waste using the following list of tools to help determine whether they must source separate and recycle their food waste. Please note that other measuring tools can be used as well.

- [A Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment | USEPA](#)
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published a guide to conducting a food waste assessment.
- [Tools for Preventing and Diverting Wasted Food | USEPA](#)
USEPA created a website with various tools for preventing and diverting wasted food, including how to measure food waste.
- [Tools and Resources | Food Loss and Waste Protocol](#)
The Food Loss and Waste Protocol, which is a global multi-stakeholder partnership aiming to reduce food waste, developed a technical and comprehensive measuring tool.
- [School Food Waste Guidelines | NJDEP](#)
The NJDEP developed guidelines to help K-12 schools and higher education institutions reduce, recover, and recycle food waste. These guidelines also discuss how to implement food waste audits in schools.
- [Wasted Food Estimation Guide | RecyclingWorks Massachusetts](#)
Massachusetts DEP developed sector-specific food waste estimation guides to help businesses and institutions determine whether they are subject to the Massachusetts Food Waste Disposal Ban; however, New Jersey food waste generators may still find these guides useful in estimating food waste generation to help determine whether they are subject to the source separation and recycling requirements of the Food Waste Recycling rules.

Please be aware that these tools may define "food waste" differently from one another and that these definitions do not necessarily represent food waste as defined by the Food Waste Recycling rules. NJDEP has been awarded a USEPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant to develop a food waste estimation tool that more accurately estimates a business's or institution's food waste generation that is subject to source separation and recycling requirements under these rules. This tool is currently under development and will be posted here when available.



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Walk-through

- ▶ Inside:
- ▶ Walk through the prep areas and check the garbage bins
 - ▶ Is food waste mixed with regular solid waste?
 - ▶ **note if mandated recyclables are mixed in** - this tells me to also complete a Generator Recycling inspection
- ▶ Walk through the dining areas
 - ▶ Is there a buffet?
- ▶ If the establishment donates or composts, ask to see that location and their process
- ▶ Outside:
- ▶ Check all the following (if applicable) for commingling:
 - ▶ Containers
 - ▶ Compactors
 - ▶ Grase traps/containers
 - ▶ Donation/compost bins
- ▶ This will give you the best idea of the food's "end life" prior to leaving the establishment

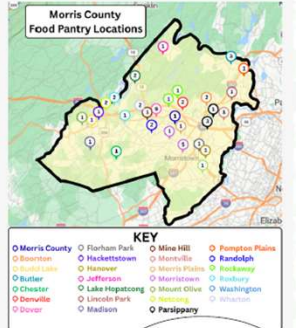


Completing the inspection

- ▶ Ask for:
 - ▶ Tonnage reports for solid waste, recycling, food waste (including grease)
 - ▶ I don't always receive all this information, but I can usually at least get grease tonnage
 - ▶ Information regarding donations/composting if applicable
- ▶ Give an educational flyer and ensure the establishment understands what may be required of them in the future



READY TO DONATE OR COMPOST YOUR FOOD WASTE?

KEY

○ Morris County	○ Florham Park	○ Mine Hill	○ Pompton Plains
○ Blairstown	○ Hackettstown	○ Monticello	○ Randolph
○ Budd Lake	○ Haverhill	○ Morris Plains	○ Rockaway
○ Butler	○ Jefferson	○ Monticello	○ Rockway
○ Chester	○ Lake Hopatcong	○ Mount Olive	○ Washington
○ Dover	○ Lincoln Park	○ Newburg	○ Scotch Plains
	○ Madison	○ Parsippany	

Scan For Morris County Food Pantry Info

Why Should My Business Reduce My Food Waste?

Tax Deductions
Depending on the type of corporation your business is, you may deduct donated food inventory up to 15% of taxable income (IRC 6170(a)(3)).

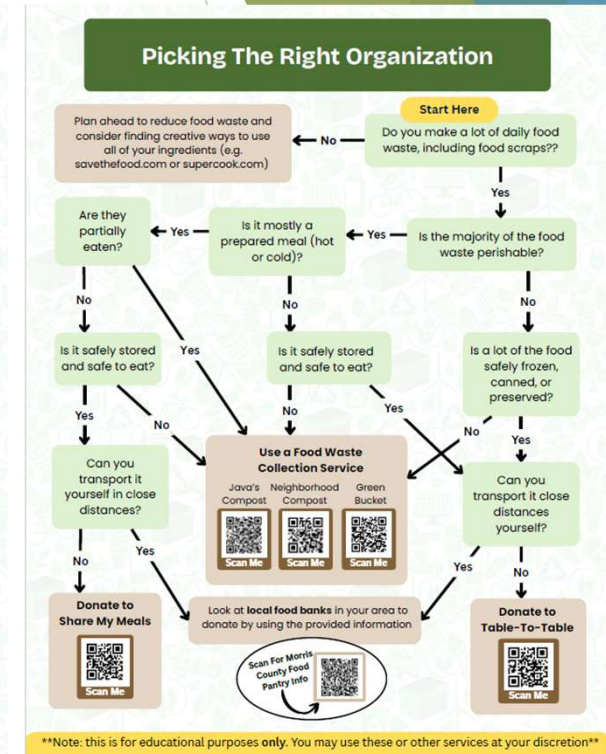
NJDEP Regulations
New Jersey is creating new food waste regulations that you may be required to follow. Visit <https://dep.nj.gov/dshwswpl/fwy/> for more info.

Liability Protection
The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides federal liability protection.

Help Local Food Insecurity
About 12.5% of US households suffer from food insecurity (EPA).

Reduce Food Waste
Did you know about 22% of NJ solid waste is food waste, some of which is edible (NJDEP).

Reduce Water Usage
Food waste accounts for at least 21% of US agricultural water use (NRDC).



Container labeled



Contents inside not commingled. Recycling company removes packaging



Container for food waste only. No commingling



Example of establishment who does not separate food waste from other solid waste



Color coded container for food waste



Contents of food waste only bin. No commingling



Establishment does separate food waste from other solid waste