

EnviroPolitics

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NJ-DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson presents award to Dominick D'Altilio, president of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers at a ceremony on April 24 commemorating the 20-year anniversary of the state's mandatory recycling law.

At right is former Governor Jim Florio who signed a subsequent measure setting a recycling goal of 50 percent for New Jersey's municipal solid waste.

At left is State Senator Bob Smith, sponsor of a bill that would provide renewed funding for recycling programs and education.

NJ-DEP recognizes recycling success stories At a ceremony yesterday marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of New Jersey's mandatory recycling law yesterday, DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson recognized the following individuals, companies and associations for valuable contributions to the state's recycling efforts:

The Association of New Jersey Recyclers - For more than 20 years, ANJR has represented the interests of hundreds of local recycling coordinators in New Jersey. Instrumental in the development of the Certified Recycling Professionals curriculum, ANJR has produced a manual for school recycling and is an integral partner in DEP's Reinvigorating Recycling Initiative. The association recently launched a Web-based primer for recycling coordinators.

Converted Organics - DEP's statewide Solid Waste Management Plan notes that achieving a 50-percent recycling rate for municipal solid waste cannot be achieved without recycling a significant portion of the food waste stream, estimated at 1.6 million tons annually. Converted Organics was issued a permit to build and operate its facility at Bayshore Recycling Corp. in Woodbridge. Converted Organics' in-vessel digesting facility is the first of its kind on a large scale in the nation. It will take 500 tons per day of food waste and convert it into a soil amendment for farming.

Hesstech, LLC - Since its inception 10 years ago, Edison-based electronics recycler Hesstech has maintained a policy of not sending toxic materials to landfills or overseas. The company has more than tripled its processing facility, and now utilizes more than 50,000 square feet of processing space. Hesstech is currently partnering with Middlesex County College to educate the

student body on the need to properly dispose of their computers, cell phones and other obsolete electronic devices known as e-waste. They ran an e-waste collection day and plan to offer the program at colleges and other educational institutions.

PSEG - As a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WasteWise Hall-of-Fame member, PSEG has reduced waste dramatically since forming its Resource Recovery Group in 1993. PSEG has always been a premier member of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network and is a member of DEP's Reinvigorating Recycling initiative. This year, the company will expand its environmental education program by having employees serve as mentors at grant recipient schools.

Steel Recycling Institute - Steel is the most recycled material in North America, surpassing the tonnage of recycled paper, plastic, aluminum and glass combined. The Steel Recycling Institute is dedicated to lessening the environmental impact of steel production. It recently announced the results of a program to decrease energy used at steel mills and reduce by 28 percent greenhouse gas emissions per ton of steel produced. The institute has also developed a national environmental curriculum to educate the next generation in environmental stewardship.

Rutgers University - Rutgers finished in first place overall in this year's RecycleMania, a nationwide recycling competition held on more than 200 college campuses. Rutgers recycled 50 percent more than the next finisher. The university was tops in the food-service recycling category and took second place in the collection of bottles and cans. This year, participating colleges and universities diverted 41 million pounds of garbage from landfills during an eight-week period. Also representing New Jersey were Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Georgian Court University, Monmouth University, Montclair State University, Princeton University and Rowan University.

Valerie Montecalvo of Bayshore Recycling Corp. - Montecalvo started Bayshore Recycling Corporation in Woodbridge in 1995. Since that time, she has developed the company to include the Converted Organics facility; another in-vessel composting facility there is about to begin the DEP permitting process. Recycling of tires and other materials are also planned for the site.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 - EPA's regional office in New York City has assisted New Jersey's Reinvigorating Recycling initiative by dedicating the services of its WasteWise contractors to provide technical assistance to promote and refine recycling practices for businesses. Using the NJ WasteWise Business Network as a forum, technical assistance will be offered to businesses interactively through workshops.

Zozzaro Industries - Zozzaro Industries is a 65-year-old company and recycling pioneer in New Jersey. In a single shift, the Clifton facility generates more products per square foot than any other recycling plant in the country. They are already the single largest paper processor in the state, managing the paper marketing responsibilities for more than 100 New Jersey counties and municipalities. The company recently invested millions of dollars to acquire and update a facility in Carteret as part of a managed regional growth strategy aimed at doubling current production capacity. **4/25/07**