

NEWS RELEASE

Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECYCLING, STAY THE COURSE

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The Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority (CMCMUA) is continuing to successfully process and market recyclable materials collected from municipalities, businesses, and institutions throughout Cape May County. Markets for recycled consumer products have recently experienced a rapid price decline due to the global economic crisis. This crisis has resulted in a lower demand for all consumer products, including recycled commodities which are used in place of virgin materials to make a wide range of new products. The media has recently reported that the dramatic economic downturn has also negatively influenced recycling markets, resulting in stockpiles of recyclable materials that have not been processed or sold in some locations outside of Cape May County. Nationwide, some municipally sponsored recycling programs are considering suspending collections rather than pay processors or markets to accept source separated materials.

According to the CMCMUA, Cape May County's regional recycling program continues to market all materials collected and is receiving a revenue without having to stockpile processed or unprocessed recyclable materials. "Although these are certainly difficult times for recycling, we have operated our regional recycling program in poor recycling market conditions before," said Bridget O'Connor, CMCMUA Recycling Coordinator. "The CMCMUA is able and fully committed to continuing to operate our longstanding program and we urge our residents and businesses to keep recycling," continued O'Connor.

According to John Baron, CMCMUA Solid Waste Program Manager, "while we are now getting paid a lot less to sell our recyclables, we are still able to

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market our high quality materials. Through operation of the Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF) which sorts, processes, densifies and transports high quality products, and as a result of long-term marketing arrangements with FCR, the IPF operator, the CMCMUA has positioned itself to be able to market recyclables in both strong and weak market conditions in order to sustain our regional recycling program,” continued Baron. The CMCMUA and all sixteen Cape May County municipalities are partners in the regional recycling program that was established in mid-1980. “While recycling may no longer generate the market revenue we have seen over the past couple of years, it is still vitally important to continue to recycle from both a solid waste management and environmental perspective. Every ton of material recycled saves the municipality \$63.00 per ton which is the disposal rate that would have been charged at the landfill,” said George Betts, Chairman of the CMCMUA Board of Directors.

“When the CMCMUA created the first regional recycling program in the State of New Jersey in mid-1980, we did so because recycling was important from an environmental perspective,” stated Charles M. Norkis, P.E., CMCMUA Executive Director. “At that time, recycling markets were weak and source separation and recycling had not yet been mandated by the State. However, the CMCMUA and our County’s municipalities recognized the importance of conserving natural resources and landfill space by recycling. Despite the current economic climate, the CMCMUA remains committed to using its best efforts to comply with New Jersey law, which now which requires that 50% of the municipal solid waste stream and 60% of the total solid waste stream be source separated and recycled. While we anticipate that our recycling programs will not be financially lucrative in 2009, they continue to successfully operate and we need to recognize that recycling represents a long-term investment in the environment that we must continue to support,” continued Norkis.

The CMCMUA encourages all residents, businesses, and institutions to continue to source separate and recycle their waste. “In doing so, we will keep recyclable materials out of the landfill, conserve natural resources, ensure the stability of our recycling infrastructure, and Cape May County’s recycling program will be ready to benefit economically once the economy does rebound,” said Bridget O’Connor.

Any individuals or businesses with questions about what or how to recycle should contact the CMCMUA at www.cmcmua.com or 609-465-9026.

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