



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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County Expands Recycling Program to Accept More Types of Plastic Bottles, Containers

As of Oct. 1, Somerset County will expand its curbside program to accept all plastic bottles and containers that are marked #1 through #7. Number designations are on the bottom of bottles and containers.

Acceptable plastic bottles and containers within the #1 through #7 range include water, soda, milk, juice, soap, detergent, bleach, shampoo and cleaning-agent bottles. Also acceptable are peanut butter, yogurt, baby-wipes containers, margarine tubs and clear plastic clamshell containers from salad bars.

Residents are encouraged to choose plastic bottles and containers when they shop that are recyclable, rather than ones that must be thrown in the trash. To increase the efficiency of plastics recycling, rinse all plastics, remove caps and crush bottles and containers to save space.

According to the most recent data from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Somerset County is falling behind other counties in recycling tonnage and citizen-participation rate.

“While recycling alone cannot solve New Jersey’s garbage problem, recycling programs have a significant effect on reducing the volume of waste going to landfills and preserving natural resources,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Robert Zaborowski, recycling liaison.

“Recycling materials equates to savings for the county. Every time residents recycle designated materials, they help raise the participation rate and help offset the costs of the recycling program. The more they recycle, the higher the recycling rate, and the less the program costs the taxpayer,” he said.

To increase the recycling rate, residents must cooperate by recycling all designated materials curbside. Curbside recycling provides the most convenient means for households to recycle a variety of materials. Always recycle valuable materials such as glass bottles, aluminum and metal cans, corrugated cardboard, chipboard, newspapers, junk mail and magazines, as well as acceptable plastic bottles and containers marked #1 through #7.

Do not recycle beer balls, plastic bags, cat litter containers, plastic toys, five-gallon containers and buckets, flower pots and plastic furniture.

For further information, call the Somerset County Recycling Center at 732-469-3363.