

“One Person’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling



Bergen County
Utilities Authority
201-641-2552
www.bcua.org

Spring 2021

BCUA PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste

In 2020, the BCUA conducted seven, one-day household hazardous waste (HHW) management events. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, two events were cancelled and one event was moved to an alternate site. These events were held at three different locations throughout Bergen County. In all, 9,550 Bergen County households took advantage of these events to dispose of 900,235 pounds of unwanted hazardous waste materials. These events continue to be the largest attended one-day events in the State of New Jersey.

This popular BCUA program continues this year. All collections are free, but they are open to Bergen County residents only (proof of residency required). At these HHW drop-offs, we will accept a wide range of chemicals used in and around your home. Please keep all items in their original, labeled containers and store them out of reach of children and pets.

No containers, including gasoline and motor oil containers, will be returned, so please plan accordingly. We no longer accept alkaline batteries at the HHW events. Common household batteries with “alkaline” on the label are not classified as hazardous waste and can be safely thrown out in the regular garbage.



Also, no computers, electronics, or tires will be accepted at these events.

Bergen County businesses classified as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG's) may participate in this program for a nominal fee. All interested CESQGs must receive prior approval from the BCUA to participate. For further details, please contact Richard Baroch, Solid and Special Waste Program Administrator, at 201-807-8696.

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Why Are Lithium Batteries in the News?

Lithium batteries have attracted a lot of attention in recent years. Lithium batteries are commonly found in cellphones, laptops, cordless phones, household electronics, and power tools. If damaged, lithium batteries are prone to explode or start a fire. In fact, once these batteries are damaged or punctured, they're a fire waiting to happen. If you throw that type of hazardous material into a collection truck headed to a sorting facility or landfill, all of which are full of potential “fuel,” it could mean disaster.

Recently, New Jersey experienced a deep loss at a facility in nearby Passaic. The Atlantic Coast Fibers recycling facility was totally destroyed by a fire on January 29, 2021. Thankfully, no lives were lost. However, this fire had a significant impact in Bergen County because more than half of the municipalities utilized this facility to process their recyclables. The fire chief on site indicated that a lithium battery in a bale was the cause of the fire.

This is not the first fire ignited by batteries at a recycling facility. Batteries are a major problem for recycling facilities since residents mistakenly think they can toss batteries in with their recycling because a recycling symbol is often printed on the label. It is important to recycle batteries and keep them out of the

trash. However, they do NOT belong in curbside or drop-off recycling bins intended for mixed household recycling.

So what can you do?

- Tape the terminals of lithium batteries and/or place them into individual, sealed plastic bags to ensure protection against possible short circuits.
- Dispose of batteries through a special program:
 - Check with your local municipality for battery recycling options.
 - Bring your batteries to a BCUA household hazardous waste collection event (see above or visit our website).
 - Visit Call2Recycle.org for a list of battery recycling sites.



Credit: Ivan Marjanovic | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Tire Recycling

During 2020, the BCUA collected 1,096 tires from Bergen County residents for recycling. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, two events were cancelled last year.

For Residents: The BCUA hosts one-day drop-off events for tire recycling. There is a limit of four tires per participant. Tires with or without rims will be accepted. These events are for Bergen County residents only (no businesses).

Mobile Paper Shredding

Residents may deliver their confidential paper documents to various locations and observe as their documents are shredded on site. Acceptable documents are limited to confidential and sensitive materials only. Non-confidential materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers, should be recycled through your local municipal recycling program and will not be accepted. You do not have to remove paper clips, staples, or paperboard binder covers. To accommodate all of those wishing to participate, there is a limit of four (4) bags or boxes of documents weighing no more than 10 pounds each.

The BCUA offers each municipality the opportunity to host a collection event at a municipal site of its choice. In addition, the BCUA sponsors four one-day collection events at two locations in Bergen County. In 2020, 57 municipalities opted to participate in this program and the BCUA hosted two county-wide collection events (two were cancelled due to COVID-19). Through these programs, the BCUA collected a total of 345,871 pounds of confidential paper for destruction and recycling.

Computers and Electronics

During 2020, the BCUA collected 48,018 pounds of computer and electronic equipment for recycling from both residents and businesses.

For Residents: The BCUA operates the Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot for all Bergen County residents at the BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie. This depot is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The BCUA also hosts one-day drop-off events for Bergen County residents only (no businesses).

For Businesses: The Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot accepts equipment from businesses for a nominal fee. Payment must be made by check only and materials must be received by appointment only. Contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 for complete details.



For more information about BCUA programs and events, please contact the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825 or visit www.bcu.org.

2021 BCUA Program Event Dates

HHW Events

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine

Saturday, May 15 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Sunday, June 13 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus

Saturday, July 10 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Saturday, September 11 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Sunday, October 17 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus

Saturday, November 13 – BCUA, Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie

Paper Shredding*, Tire Recycling, and Computers & Electronics Events

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine

Sunday, April 25 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus

Saturday, June 5 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

Saturday, August 7 – Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus

Sunday, October 3 – Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah

**The shredding program will end prior to 2 p.m. in the event the trucks reach capacity.*

Many municipalities host paper shredding, tire recycling, and computer and electronics recycling events or programs, as well. Residents should check with their local municipal recycling coordinator or visit their municipal website for a schedule.

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING INFORMATION

Municipality	Recycling Coordinator Phone	Municipal Website
Allendale	201-818-4411	www.allendalenj.gov
Alpine	201-784-2900	www.alpinenj07620.org
Bergenfield	201-387-4055, ext. 3	www.bergenfield.com
Bogota	201-342-1736, ext. 267	www.bogotaonline.org
Carlstadt	201-939-2857	www.carlstadtnj.us
Cliffside Park	201-943-3456	www.cliffsideparknj.gov
Closter	201-784-0753	www.closterboro.com
Cresskill	201-569-5400	www.cresskillboro.com
Demarest	201-768-0167	www.demarestnj.net
Dumont	201-387-5022	www.dumontnj.gov
East Rutherford	201-729-9751, ext. 277	www.eastrutherfordnj.net
Edgewater	201-943-1700, ext. 5004	www.edgewaternj.org
Elmwood Park	201-796-1833	www.elmwoodparknj.us
Emerson	201-262-8199	www.emersonnj.org
Englewood	201-568-3401	www.cityofenglewood.org
Englewood Cliffs	201-568-0242	www.englewoodcliffsnj.org
Fair Lawn	201-794-5341	www.fairlawn.org
Fairview	201-943-3300	www.fairviewborough.com
Fort Lee	201-592-3570	www.fortleenj.org
Franklin Lakes	201-891-0048	www.franklinlakes.org
Garfield	973-546-2200	www.garfieldnj.org
Glen Rock	201-670-3990	www.glenrocknj.net
Hackensack	201-646-3980	www.hackensack.org
Harrington Park	201-768-0944	www.harringtonparknj.gov
Hasbrouck Heights	201-288-1072	www.hasbrouck-heightsnj.org
Haworth	201-384-1037	www.haworthnj.org
Hillsdale	201-666-5053	www.hillsdalenj.org
Ho-Ho-Kus	201-445-8161	www.ho-ho-kusboro.com
Leonia	201-592-5771	www.leonianj.gov
Little Ferry	201-641-0023	www.littleferrynj.org
Lodi	973-365-4005	www.lodi-nj.org
Lyndhurst	201-438-5478	www.lyndhurstnj.org
Mahwah	201-529-3344	www.mahwahtwp.org
Maywood	201-845-2900, ext. 208	www.maywoodnj.com
Midland Park	201-445-5720	www.midlandparknj.org
Montvale	201-391-5706	www.montvale.org
Moonachie	201-935-2344	www.moonachie.us
New Milford	201-967-8172	www.newmilfordboro.com
North Arlington	201-955-5665	www.northarlington.org
Northvale	201-767-0210	www.boroughofnorthvale.com
Norwood	201-768-7200	www.norwoodboro.org
Oakland	201-337-8104, ext. 3007	www.oakland-nj.org
Old Tappan	201-664-4438	www.oldtappan.net
Oradell	201-261-8200, ext. 268	www.oradell.org
Palisades Park	201-585-4133	www.mypalisadespark.com
Paramus	201-265-2100, ext. 658	www.paramusborough.org
Park Ridge	201-391-3933	www.parkridgeboro.com
Ramsey	201-825-3400, ext. 229	www.ramseynj.com
Ridgefield	201-945-5319	www.ridgefieldboro.com
Ridgefield Park	201-440-4860	www.ridgefieldpark.org
Ridgewood	201-670-5579	www.ridgewoodnj.net
River Edge	201-599-6275	www.riveredgenj.org
River Vale	201-664-2346, ext. 4	www.rivervalenj.org
Rochelle Park	201-587-7752	www.rochelleparknj.gov
Rockleigh	201-768-4217	www.rockleighnj.org
Rutherford	201-460-3000, ext. 4000	www.rutherford-nj.com
Saddle Brook	201-587-2903	www.saddlebrooknj.us
Saddle River	201-327-2609	www.saddleriver.org
South Hackensack	201-440-3283	www.southhackensacknj.org
Teaneck	201-837-1600	www.teanecknj.gov
Tenafly	201-568-4134	www.tenaflynj.org
Teterboro	201-288-1202	www.teterboronj.org
Upper Saddle River	201-327-2196	www.usrtoday.org
Waldwick	201-652-5300, ext. 227	www.waldwicknj.org
Wallington	973-777-0318	www.wallingtonnj.org
Washington Twp.	201-664-4404	www.twpofwashington.us
Westwood	201-664-2349	www.westwoodnj.gov
Woodcliff Lake	201-391-4977	www.wclnj.com
Wood-Ridge	201-939-0202	www.njwoodridge.org
Wyckoff	201-891-7000, ext. 118	www.wyckoff-nj.com



Credit: curtaicarto | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Plastic Bag Ban

Governor Murphy has signed into law a bill banning plastic bags. The law prohibits the provision or sale of single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags, and expanded polystyrene foam food service products. It also limits provision of single-use plastic straws and appropriates monies from the Clean Communities Program Fund for public education.

The new rules for plastic and paper bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene containers will become effective in May 2022. There are exemptions for some disposable items, including:

- Bags wrapping raw meat
- Polystyrene butcher trays
- Bags used for loose items, like produce
- Bags that hold fish or insects from pet stores
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bags carrying prescription drugs

Dozens of cities, towns, and counties across New Jersey have already passed some form of restriction on plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene food containers. (Many of those local rules have been put on hold by the coronavirus pandemic.) The new law allows those existing measures to remain in place until the new statewide regulations take effect.



BCUA Awards Grants to Schools

One area hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic was the education sector. As the emergency unfolded last year, forcing the closure of many schools, educators had to create alternative teaching methods. Globally, more than 1.2 billion children were out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with a notable rise in e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. Teachers across the country have risen to the occasion and the BCUA joined them in this endeavor by offering virtual education programming, as well as continuing the Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant Program.

Program applications were sent to multiple school representatives in more than 370 public and private schools. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the BCUA extended the application submittal deadline from May to December 2020. The BCUA received 29 grant applications. After reviewing each application, the BCUA awarded a total of \$27,379.98 in grants to these 28 schools:

Allendale: Hillside School and Northern Highlands Regional High School
 Bergenfield: Bergenfield High School
 Bogota: E. Roy Bixby Elementary School and Lillian M. Steen School
 Cresskill: Merritt Memorial Elementary School
 Demarest: County Road School
 East Rutherford: Becton Regional High School
 Englewood: The Elisabeth Morrow School
 Fair Lawn: Lyncrest Elementary School
 Hasbrouck Heights: Euclid School, Hasbrouck Heights Middle School, and Lincoln School
 Lodi: Lodi High School
 Lyndhurst: Washington Elementary School
 Montvale: Fieldstone Middle School and Memorial Elementary School

New Milford: The French American Academy
 North Arlington: North Arlington High School
 Old Tappan: Northern Valley Regional High School
 Park Ridge: Our Lady of Mercy Academy
 Ridgeland: Shaler Academy
 River Edge: Stepping Stone Learning Center
 Saddle River: Wandell School
 Wallington: Frank W. Gavlak School and Jefferson School Annex
 Westwood: Primoris Academy
 Wyckoff: Coolidge Elementary School

This grant program began in 2007 to reinvigorate recycling and environmental awareness in Bergen County schools. The BCUA dedicated NJDEP grant funds toward sponsoring an Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant Program.



Bergen County Utilities Authority

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**BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline:
 201-807-5825**

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