

Municipal Recycling Programs Held to Higher Standards

JANUARY 2012

Municipal recycling programs will experience another regulatory twist in 2012, with the introduction of the requirement that each town appoint a Certified Recycling Professional (CRP). The requirement, originally scheduled to become effective in 2010 by the passage of the 2008 Recycling Enhancement Act ("REA") (P.L. 2007, c. 311) and the revised Recycling Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:26A, was postponed to January 13, 2012, in order to allow sufficient time for municipalities to comply. Bills introduced in 2009 and 2010 to remove this requirement from the REA were unsuccessful.

In the commentary to the proposed revision to the Recycling Rule, the NJDEP states that "...the use of untrained coordinators is a barrier to effective support of recycling." Certified Recycling Professionals must either undergo 21 days of classroom and field-based training, or possess years of applicable experience and pass a written exam. The certification program is administered by Rutgers University (www.cpe.rutgers.edu/programs/recycling_solid_waste.html). CRPs are also required to augment their training with 20 credits of continuing education, earned biennially. As a result, CRPs can bring new ideas to a stagnating program and can provide assistance with education, budgeting, purchasing and management.

Although a CRP is not required to operate or supervise the day-to-day or overall recycling program, beginning in 2012, each municipality is required to have their Recycling Tonnage Report approved and signed by a CRP. The consequence for improper submission of a Recycling Tonnage Report (i.e. no CRP signature) is forfeiture of a town's Recycling Grant for that year and possible administrative penalties.

Municipalities may use their own designated recycling coordinator if that person is certified. Otherwise, towns may share CRP services

with other towns or Counties, or hire other professionals that have graduated from the certification program. The Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) has developed model Shared Services Agreements for CRP Services and Tonnage Grant Only CRP Services, and made them available on their website (www.anjr.com). Towns and Counties may use general funds or Tonnage Grant funds to send their designated recycling coordinator through the certification program or to hire a CRP.

Anticipated Tonnage Cycle Deadlines:

- **March 1, 2012** – Submission of 2011 Tonnage Reports by Generators, Haulers and/or Facilities to Municipality, County and/or NJDEP, as applicable.
- **April 30, 2012** – Submission of 2011 Tonnage Report/Grant Application, 2012 Municipal Resolution and 2011 REA Tax Statement by Municipalities and Counties to NJDEP.
- **Winter 2012** – Distribution and verification of the 30-Day Desk Audit for 2011 Data.
- **Fall 2013** – Disbursement of NJDEP Grant Funding for 2011 Data.

Additional Resources:

- Recycling Enhancement Act (2008): www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/PL07/311_.PDF
- Recycling Rules (2009): www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/2009%20RULES/26A%20RECYCLING.pdf
- Environmental Alert: Renewed NJDEP Focus on Recycling (2009): tinyurl.com/EJIF-alerts
- EJIF Regulatory Guidance: tinyurl.com/EJIF-envregs



For more information and assistance with your recycling program, please contact:

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