

GLOUCESTER CITY MASTER PLAN

RECYCLING PLAN ELEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

With the growth of environmental and conservation awareness since the 1970s, public officials and private citizens alike have become aware of the environmental and economic benefits of recycling waste and used materials. Recycling makes good environmental sense because it conserves increasingly valuable landfill space as well as renewable and non-renewable resources. Recycling makes good economic sense because it helps reduce the cost, both to the municipality and ultimately the taxpayer, of placing waste in a landfill.

The State of New Jersey has recognized the importance of recycling and has adopted a State Recycling Plan which provides target levels for the reduction of non-recyclable material.

This element of the Gloucester City Master Plan is intended to affirm the municipality's intent to meet and exceed the state-wide goals and to expand the local scope of recycling. Specifically, the goals and objectives of this element are:

- To reduce municipal expenditures for solid waste disposal by reducing the amount of waste either disposed of in sanitary landfills or through incineration;
- To promote the conservation, recovery, and reuse of valuable resources;
- To promote the conservation of energy;
- To adopt any goals of the New Jersey Recycling Act not specifically noted herein;
- To adopt any goals of the Camden County Recycling Plan not specifically noted herein;
- To achieve the percentage of municipal waste that is being recycled to the amount stipulated under the New Jersey Recycling Act.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made to expand the scope of recycling in Gloucester City to encourage compliance with the Statewide Recycling Act requirements:

A. Require Recycling Plans for New, Larger Developments

The City should amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Land Use Procedures and Development Review Ordinance to require any application for a single-family residential development containing 50 or more dwelling units, any multi-family development containing more than 25 dwelling units, or any commercial or industrial development in excess of 1,000 sq. ft. to include plans for the collection and disposition of recyclable materials.

B. Food Waste Recycling

The City should coordinate with the county recycling staff to determine whether there is a market for recycling of food waste generated by local restaurants and comparable facilities. If such a market is identified, then the Recycling Ordinance should be amended to require food waste recycling.

C. Public/Private Partnerships

The City should explore the potential for expanding recycling options through public/private partnerships such as the Compost America facility.

D. Road Paving with Recycled Materials

The City should adopt a policy applicable to all road paving projects that requires paving to include recycled materials, such as, but not limited to, asphalt, glass, and rubber.

E. City Government Recycling Plan

The City should adopt a policy requiring all municipal departments and agencies to utilize paper and other products made from recycled materials. Particular emphasis should be placed on the use of products manufactured from post-consumer recycled materials.