



2024

# NOMINATION PACKET

# NJDEP

## RECYCLING AWARDS

Recognizing Excellence in Recycling  
Throughout New Jersey



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, annually recognizes excellence in recycling. Our goal is to highlight the success of agencies, businesses, individuals and others who go beyond the norm to advance recycling and to make these examples available to others who may emulate them.

**The deadline for nomination submittals is July 19, 2024**

## ELIGIBILITY

You may nominate yourself, your business/organization, or any other business, individual or organization worthy of recognition. Applicants or projects must:

- be located in New Jersey
- agree to share their project or program with others
- provide supporting documentation for a one-year period (2023)
- Award winners from the previous three years are not eligible to participate again this year
- Second party nominations must be accompanied by a written authorization from the nominated party agreeing to be considered for the award

## AWARD CATEGORIES

The categories for these awards are outlined below. You must identify only one category for each nomination on the application form on page 8. The nomination will be judged against other entries in that category.

### Institution

Any pre-school, elementary, intermediate or high school, hospital, long-term care facility, nursing home, college, university, or other institution that has implemented a recycling program or expanded an existing program.

### Business

Any large or small business that has implemented a recycling program, expanded an existing program, and/or developed and implemented a sustainability plan.

### Government

A county, municipality, or state agency/instrumentality that has expanded its recycling program.

### Leadership

County, municipal, business, school or other recycling coordinators/leaders who have implemented new recycling programs, expanded existing programs or otherwise fostered the advancement of recycling through years of dedicated service.

### Volunteer Citizen

Any New Jersey resident who has, in a voluntary capacity, assisted in the promotion and implementation of recycling in New Jersey.

### Retail Merchant

Any large or small retail merchant who has implemented a recycling program or expanded an existing program.

### Rising Star

Individuals or programs that have achieved exemplary recycling results in previously unsuccessful situations through innovation and persistence.

### Outstanding Educator/Educational Program

Any teacher, administrator, community or student group, environmental educator or individual student whose actions have resulted in increased participation in recycling.

### Recycling Industry

Any processing facility (Class A, B, C and D), manufacturer, equipment manufacturer, or collector who has contributed to the expansion of recycling in New Jersey.

### Source Reduction/Resource Management/Sustainability

Any program that has reduced waste at its source and managed its resources in a more efficient and sustainable manner.

### Recycled Products Procurement Star

Any business, institution, government agency or other organization that has implemented a post-consumer recycled products procurement program or expanded an existing post-consumer recycled products procurement program. (Note - Post-consumer recycled products are products that are made with a percentage of recycled content material that was derived from goods that were used by consumers, collected and then recycled.)

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Please document performance for 2023 using the following five criteria. The program narrative may not exceed 4 pages and the supporting documentation may not exceed 15 pages.

### 1. MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AND DOCUMENTATION

Show us, through data or documents, the following where applicable:

- the nominee's recycling rate and materials recycled;
- any improvement over time;
- all post-consumer recycled products purchased, and any written policy to do so; the percentage of your total purchase of a specific product(s) that is for a post-consumer recycled product (for example, 100% of copy paper purchased is post-consumer recycled content copy paper);
- any reduction in resources used, or any change from toxic products to non-toxic alternatives;
- how the nominee funded and budgeted their project or program;
- any enforcement activities performed.

Samples may include weigh slips, bills of lading, bid specifications, budget sheets, buy recycled policies, etc.

### 2. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

How did the nominee educate both members of their institution/organization, and visitors or clients? What costs were incurred to implement the educational program, and how was this program funded? What rewards or sanctions were used? How many people were reached? Was the nominee able to change behavior, and if so, to what extent? How was that measured?

Samples may include promotional materials, signage, published articles, etc.

### 3. COVERAGE AND REPLICABILITY

Were innovations introduced across all branches of the organization? Can others learn from and adapt the nominee's program in their own organizations?

### 4. LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

How does this program, project or individual show leadership and take steps beyond "traditional" recycling? How does this project or individual build alliances or share information to approach problems? Describe such issues as originality, effectiveness in improving existing methods and any risks that were overcome.

### 5. EXCEEDING REGULATORY STANDARDS

How has the nominee exceeded regulatory expectations? Did the nominee collect materials not required, or serve clients that they did not need to serve?

## Application Requirements

Submit the following:

- Completed Application Form** (see page 8)
- Written Program Narrative** (no longer than 4 pages)
- Supporting Documentation** (no longer than 15 pages)

## Dates to Remember

**Application Due Date**

July 19, 2024

**Award Winners Notified**

September 2024

**Awards Ceremony and Luncheon**

Fall 2024

## SUBMITTALS AND DEADLINES

Award applications should include all of the following 3 components: **your completed application form (see page 8), a program narrative (no more than 4 pages) and supporting documentation (no more than 15 pages)**. Electronic submissions of the entire nomination package can be sent to [njrecycles@dep.nj.gov](mailto:njrecycles@dep.nj.gov). All applications must be received by close of business on July 19, 2024.

Award winners will be notified in September 2024. Awards will be presented during an awards ceremony and luncheon in the fall of 2024. For further information, contact Steve Rinaldi, Bureau of Sustainability, at [Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov). All entries are public information.

## SCORING/EVALUATING

A panel of judges from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers will evaluate all applications. Each applicant may be awarded up to 100 total points, distributed as per the table below:

	Institution Business Retail Merchant Government Recycling Industry	Leadership Rising Star Outstanding Educator/Program Volunteer Citizen	Source Reduction/ Resource Management/ Sustainability/Recycled Products Procurement Star
<b>Measurable Outcomes</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Education and Outreach</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Coverage and Replicability</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Leadership and Innovation</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Exceeding Standards</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>

## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY RECYCLERS

ANJR is a non-profit, non-partisan network representing public and private sectors whose mission is to promote sustainability by promoting sound resource management and recycling strategies through education, advocacy, and the enhancement of professional standards. ANJR firmly believes that New Jersey needs an integrated solid waste management plan, and will facilitate that plan with education and advocacy around the issues of recycling, source reduction, resource management, household hazardous waste management, buy recycled sustainability, composting, and litter prevention and reduction. [www.anjr.com/](http://www.anjr.com/).

## ABOUT THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is committed to providing a high quality of life for the residents of New Jersey. It is our mission to assist the residents of New Jersey in preserving, sustaining, protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure the integration of high environmental quality, public health and economic vitality. We will accomplish our mission in partnership with the general public, business, the environmental community and all levels of government. For more information on the Department, please visit [www.nj.gov/dep/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/).

# 2023 Awardees

## Business Award

### *L'Oréal USA*



L'Oréal USA operates facilities in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties, and implemented recycling and waste reduction initiatives that enabled the company to recycle or reuse 56.5 percent of the waste generated at the company's New Jersey locations in 2022. L'Oréal recycles plastics, paper, corrugated cardboard, wooden pallets, oils, batteries, IT equipment, food waste and more. As part of L'Oréal's commitment to sustainability, manufacturing site members are educated about the efficient utilization and preservation of natural resources.

## Government Award

### *Joseph Slomian, Monroe Township in Middlesex County*



Thanks to the leadership of Joseph Slomian, Recycling Coordinator for Monroe Township in Middlesex County, the community achieved a 65 percent recycling rate and anticipates an even higher rate in upcoming years. The township collects traditional curbside materials, but also accepts numerous materials at its recycling center, including paint, batteries, used motor and cooking oil, scrap metal, propane tanks, expanded polystyrene and electronics.

## Outstanding Educator/Educational Program Award

### *Marci Meixler, Rutgers University*



Marci Meixler is an Associate Teaching Professor at Rutgers University and has been teaching about recycling and sustainability since 2011. A key goal of the sustainability course that she teaches is to encourage her students to live more sustainably. A key component of the course is getting students to implement sustainability in their own lives during a three-week sustainability challenge project. Marci always joins in the challenges to demonstrate her commitment. To date, she has personally influenced about 500 students who have, in turn, influenced their families and friends.

## Rising Star Award

### *Jaime Luppino, Borough of Bergenfield*



Jaime Luppino has been the Recycling Coordinator for the Borough of Bergenfield in Bergen County for the past three years and in that time has led the program to new heights. She not only runs the recycling department, but also heads up the borough's Clean Communities initiatives. Jaime has created numerous recycling educational programs for residents and school districts, held a fundraiser at a local library where kids were asked to design a reusable bag, speaks at school assemblies, and sets up and staffs recycling information tables at special events. Jaime's passion and work ethic have also made her a premier recycling advisor for neighboring recycling coordinators.



## Leadership Award

### *Anthony Marrone, Morris County*



Anthony Marrone, District Recycling Coordinator for Morris County, has implemented numerous successful recycling and waste reduction programs. He improved the operations of the county's household hazardous waste program, obtained NJDEP grants for equipment modernization, and addressed a curbside collection crew employee shortage by making a county-run Commercial Driver's License training program more accessible to staff. He also designed educational flyers, decals, and signs, instituted a boat shrink wrap recycling program, performed municipal curbside inspections, and assisted municipal recycling coordinators.

## Recycling Industry Award

### *Foam Pack Industries*



Foam Pack Industries in Springfield, Union County, has been recycling expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam since 1971. The company recycles 500,000 pounds of EPS foam per year and accepts material from numerous industries, municipalities, and residents. During the past 50 years, Foam Pack Industries' recycling program has kept more than 20 million pounds of EPS out of landfills. Recycled EPS is used in the production of many products and packaging and is 100 percent recyclable. Foam Pack Industries, which recently ceased operations after many years, has worked closely with municipal and county collection programs and has educated the public about the benefits of recycling EPS.

## Source Reduction, Resource Management, and Sustainability Award

### *Rutgers Cooperative Extension*



Rutgers Cooperative Extension has been advancing the cause of food waste reduction and sustainable eating in New Jersey for the past several years. Recognizing the potential for schools to educate students about waste reduction, Rutgers Cooperative Extension formed a Food Waste Team with a goal to achieve a 50 percent reduction in food waste in New Jersey by 2030. The organization helps public schools across the state implement programs to reduce, recover and recycle wasted food. The organization has also developed comprehensive toolkits and curricula for schools.

## Government Award

### *Village of Ridgefield Park*



The Bergen County community recycles traditional curbside recyclable materials and a wide variety of non-traditional recyclable materials, such as batteries, sneakers, crayons, razors, rigid plastics, bottle caps, cooking oil, expanded polystyrene and more. In addition, convenient textile and plastic bag recycling drop-off sites have been established throughout the village. Recycling and sustainability programs are promoted through various means, including the Recycle Coach system, social media, the municipal website, recycling calendars, public events, information sessions for the public and through collaborations with schools and other organizations. Reuse is promoted in Ridgefield Park through periodic Swap & Shop events, during which residents trade items they no longer need.



## Institution Award

### *Bergen New Bridge Medical Center*

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center in Paramus, Bergen County, implemented food waste reduction measures that prevented 14,562 pounds of food waste from occurring in 2022, which was the equivalent of saving 12,134 meals. The facility's food waste reduction initiative is run as an employee engagement program, which recognizes team members tracking food waste as Waste Warriors. The entire medical center was included in a campaign to raise awareness about the food waste initiative through their managers, internal communications and posters in food service locations.

Honorable Mention:

## Commissioner's Award

### *Marie Kruzan, Association of New Jersey Recyclers*



Marie Kruzan was Executive Director of ANJR for more than 34 years until her recent retirement. During her tenure, Marie was one of the architects of New Jersey's Recycling Certification Program and was instrumental in ensuring that concerns of the New Jersey recycling community were made known to state legislators. She worked closely with officials from the DEP and coordinated countless meetings, webinars, workshops, and events, including the annual Recycling Symposium. She also served on numerous recycling committees, including the Recycling Market Development Council. Marie has been a caring mentor to hundreds of municipal recycling coordinators and a well-respected and trusted source of information in the recycling community.

# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 2024 Recycling Awards Application

(Please submit this completed application form electronically along with the program narrative and supporting documentation.)

Name of Company/Association/Organization or Individual to be nominated:

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Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Responsible for Preparing Application / Title:

Nominator's  
Address:

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Nominator's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a second party nomination?  Yes  No

If Yes, please attach authorization from the nominated party.

**Category of the nomination (Select One):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institution                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Business   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Merchant              | <input type="checkbox"/> Government   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Star  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educator/Educational Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Industry                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Citizen            | <input type="checkbox"/> Source Reduction/Resource Management/ Sustainability |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Products Procurement Star                   |

**REQUIRED:**

Provide a **brief** description of the company, organization or individual nominee, identifying the nominee's contributions to New Jersey's recycling program (no more than 2 paragraphs).