



## Recycling & Sustainability News for the Town of Secaucus

### Newsletter Mission:

*The purpose of our inaugural newsletter is to keep our residents aware of Secaucus' recycling and sustainability goals, green tips and environmental achievements.*

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and Town Council

**Gary Jeffas**

**Robert Costantino**

**James Clancy**

**Mark Dehnert**

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## What Is Recycling?

Recycling is a 3 step process that starts with collecting used materials such as plastics, glass, aluminum, wood, and even fabric. The second step is using recovered materials to manufacture new recycled products. Giving a second life to recyclable materials is a crucial way to reducing emissions and

extraction of new non-renewable materials such as oil and gas. The last step includes purchasing and using the recycled products. There are many different products that you can buy that are made of recycled materials. Be an environmentally conscious buyer and look for products that

have been given a second chance!



## Why Recycle?

Recycling has significant environmental, social, and economic benefits. Environmental - It reduces waste and keeps plastic out of landfills, oceans, rivers, and roads. It saves natural resources, energy required in product manufacturing, and reduces the need for additional solid waste facilities "Landfills". Recycling

also leads to reductions in water and air pollution including reductions in greenhouse gas generation which is tied to global warming. Social - It's the LAW. NJ has enacted "The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act" of 1987. Look for organizations in the local area that can raise money off of bottle caps and soda

tabs.

Economic - Recycling benefits the economy in many ways! Recycling adds almost 6 billion dollars per year to our state economy and is responsible for over 27,000 jobs in NJ. It saves us money and reduces taxes for residents. There is a huge economic benefit to being a town that has a high recycling rate like Secaucus.



Recycling Symbols

*“Recycling adds almost 6 billion dollars per year to our state economy and is responsible for over 27,000 jobs in NJ.”*

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Visit us on the Web!  
[www.secaucusnj.org](http://www.secaucusnj.org)

There are many ways that municipalities can recycle (more to follow in future issues), but Secaucus endorses source separation recycling. This means separating your recycling from your trash. The town of Secaucus recycles plastics with the number 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. Look for the symbol (examples to the left) to find out what you can and cannot recycle. In addition to plastic, please include all glass, bottles, and cans. If possible, rinse first. Secaucus also recycles mixed paper goods. This includes magazines, stationary

## How to Recycle

paper, newspapers, milk and beverage cartons, cereal boxes, junk mail, and more. In addition, please refer to your town calendar and town flyer for additional materials. Paper should not be placed in plastic bags. Recycle plastic bags at participating grocery stores instead. Anything that is placed in plastic bags will have an adverse effect on recycling. Plastic bags jam up the recycling equipment which delays the recycling process and wastes energy and labor. Paper can be recycled in cardboard boxes and paper bags or tied together with string.

The town of Secaucus also recycles used motor oil, spent oil filters and antifreeze. Containers are available at the DPW offices located at 370 Secaucus Road. You may bring these items to this location. Please call 201-330-2080 before drop off. Hours of operation is between 7:00 AM and 2:30 PM. Electronic Waste, white goods (washing machine, refrigerators, etc.) and bulk rubbish (old furniture, mattresses, etc.) are also picked up by the DPW at your home; please call the DPW for pick-up times at 201-330-2080.

## Some Tips on Recycling and Going Green

- Cut it and Leave it! Leave grass clippings on your lawn and use it as mulch for your grass and plants. It prevents your grass from burning in the sun and brings nutrients to your soil. It also keeps it out of landfills.
- Compost! Most of the garbage we generate can either be recycled, or composted. All of your household's kitchen waste, can breakdown and turn into rich fertile soil for your backyard or lawn. Just obtain a compost bin and start saving your food scraps! It's another waste that would have otherwise ended in a landfill.
- Rethink bottled water! Almost 90% of plastic water bottles are not recycled. It has lasting negative impacts on the environment and your health.
- Recycle Newspapers! There are 63 million newspapers printed each day in the U.S. Just recycling the Sunday papers could save half a million trees every week!

## Go Green and Save Green

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*"..bottled water is actually filtered tap water with 250 - 10,000 times the actual cost of water that you can filter out of your own faucet."*

It is a complete myth that going green means having to spend more money on products.

Here are some quick tips to go green and save money!

1. Styrofoam is one of the worst environmental pollutants. From the oil that is extracted to make it to the process of getting it to consumers and disposing of it, it is a big environmental hazard. When going to your favorite coffee shop, bring a reusable mug and many places will offer a discount! In fact, consider brewing your own coffee at home and save an average of \$450 a year!

2. Clothing is something

we don't think of as being an issue environmentally. But buying "fast fashion" clothing is as much of an environmental issue as it is a human rights issue because of how some clothes are made. Try to opt for well-made clothes that will last longer and therefore will reduce the amount of money you spend yearly on clothing. Also, don't forget to check out a thrift shop for unique clothing! We have a great one in town!

3. We mentioned before that bottled water is a terrible choice. Did you know that bottled water is actually filtered tap water with 250- 10,000

times the actual cost of water that you can filter out of your own faucet? Your tap water costs you 1 cent per gallon while bottled water adds up to \$8 per gallon! Families can save about \$300 a year and our nation would save \$5.8 million a month (which is the cost to dispose of bottled water).

4. Consider buying less altogether. Before you purchase something, take a minute to think of how much you really need that item. Sometimes tricky marketing schemes make us think we need more than we actually do.

## GO GREEN SPOTLIGHT



A crew from Schneider Electric (Left) and Metlife Stadium (Right) both enjoyed a day of clean ups and tree planting on highway embankments and at the Secaucus Duck Pond on Earth Day in April. They altogether collected over 250 lbs of trash! Thank you Metlife Stadium and Schneider Electric!

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# Secaucus Is an Award Winning Sustainable Community



Solar panels at Secaucus Town Hall!

The Town of Secaucus is a Bronze Level Certified Community with Sustainable Jersey since 2013. Some of the things we have accomplished include:

- We plant hundreds of trees each year and have been a Tree City for 21 years!
- We are also actively switching our fleet trucks and cars to hybrids, electrics, and higher efficiency vehicles, to reduce our carbon footprint!

- Our Environmental Committee won an Environmental Achievement Award from ANJEC for banning the use of Styrofoam (recycling symbol #6).
- We have solar panels on our municipal buildings including our High School/Middle School.
- We have created 2 Community Gardens.
- Secaucus' recycling rates consistently rank at the top portion of all

Hudson County towns.

- We organize annual clean-ups with our corporate community and schools.
- We have created a landscaping policy that mandates at least 30% of any new development in town to be green.
- We are currently working on a Green Restaurant Initiative to help restaurants go green!



Secaucus Community Garden!

### *Secaucus Go Green Mission...*

Secaucus is committed to the protection and preservation of our local environment and is dedicated to enhancing environmental sustainability within our town and the state of

New Jersey. We understand the responsibility we have towards the planet and adopt and amend policy that reflects this mission.

Published by the Recycling and Environmental Department. Sponsored by Town of Secaucus Mayor Gonnelli and Town Council.

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