

**East Amwell Township
Recycling Committee (corrected 12/8/2020)
Quarterly Report July – September 2020
December 1, 2020**

1. Recycling Depot

- a. The Recycling Depot is held the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 12 noon and a written report is provided by the Depot Lead. The Recycling Committee opens the Grit Yard on Saturday when the Depot is held and also opened it on the third Saturday each month during Q3. See Attachment A - reports for Q3 2020.

2. Other Recycling/Material Collections:

- a. **Styrofoam** – This is collected during the Depot, stored in the “foam palace/shed” and hauled to a vendor that either reuses or safely disposes of it once a sufficient quantity is accumulated. The last clean out was in June 2020.
- b. **TREX** – Collected of plastic (bags & other specific material) had paused due to COVID-19 and began again with the July Depot. The current TREX project is being organized by the Scouts and the most recent TREX bench (our 7th) made from recycled plastic was received in October. See Attachment B - TREX flier for more information about the program.
- c. **Terra Cycle & Zero Waste Boxes** – The TerraCycle program is run by the East Amwell School and students (with parents or adult supervision) are responsible for attending the Depot to handle collection and sorting of items. The Recycling Committee has used Clean Communities funds to purchase several “zero waste boxes” for the collection of litter items such as plastic straws, caps, etc. Once filled these boxes are shipped to TerraCycle for reuse, keeping the items out of landfills and reducing litter.

3. Other items

- a. The annual Spring Clean Up event was delayed and held in June for 2020.
- b. Recycle Coach App – updates were made to this app (also available through Township website) regarding the collection of plastic bags, concrete & brick, electronics. The app content, managed by the Recycling Committee, includes dates for recycling collection (township & county), how/where to dispose of various items, tips on reducing/reusing/recycling, etc.
Check it out here: <https://www.eastamwelltownship.com/232/Recycle-Coach-App>
- c. Municipal Composting Questionnaire – The Recycling Committee worked with Mike Mills of Ag. Advisory Committee to produce and run a survey to understand residents’ interest in composting. The data collected from 100 responses indicated a strong interest (~90% of respondents) in having a community-based composting option and in attending an information session and/or participating in a pilot program.
- d. A Clean Community Flier was produced with the assistance of the Recycling Committee and mailed to all residents with the temporary tax mailing. Production of the flier and postage for the additional mailing weight were paid with Clean Community funds.

Attachment A: Depot Reports Q3 2020

Recycling Depot July 4, 2020

Thank you to the following volunteers who all did a great job.

1. Alison Castellano
2. Rick Wolfe
3. Mark Gunn
4. Suzanne Parsons
5. Will Harrison, Coard.

- Customers: ~59 - Plus the usual deliveries before and after we left.
- At end of Depot - Paper dumpster 90% full and the other dumpster was 60% full. On Sunday afternoon the paper dumpster was 105% full and the other one was 100% full.
- VIPs were distributed to many customers who needed them. I do not have a count, however.

We got a fair amount of stuff for TerraCycle but I didn't monitor it. Small amount of Styrofoam® came in today. Estimated to be about 1 cubic yard. **Weather-** Hot and Humid. Temperature was in the mid-eighties.

Comments:

1. The Dumpsters were delivered on Thursday ahead of the holiday and they opened and closed OK.
2. There were a lot of pre drop-offs which was not a problem except for a messy bag of beer bottles also containing garbage which I had to sort and discard.
3. For a holiday, we seemed quite busy most of the time. A number of people thanked us for serving.
4. Attention, everyone: I continue to be dismayed at the amount of contaminants that are brought to the depot, along with containers that are not washed or even rinsed. Also, many people neglect to properly collapse boxes. I spoke to some folks explaining why it is essential that boxes be collapsed. We had a couple of large bags of flower pots which were delivered to Rutgers.
5. On Sunday, the container dumpster was topped off, largely with corrugated, indicating that the advisory signs I stuck over each sign seemed to work.
6. Although it takes some extra work, I am urging my colleagues to utilize the folks from our volunteer list. If we neglect these folks this resource may dry up leaving only the Recycling Committee members showing up each month. This may seem like an easy short-term practice but long-term, you guys may find yourselves burning out.

Recycling Depot August 1, 2020

Attendants:

1. Mark Castellano
2. Rick Wolfe
3. MarkGunn
4. Kevin Ostrander
5. Sandy Ostrander
6. Sue Kadlec, depot coordinator

-71 cars on Saturday

-Approximately 23 VIP distributed

- . -As of Saturday morning there was Tiex and Teracycling just left in the dumpsters.
- Sandy Ostrander coordinated the work in the "Foam Palace". THANKS
- The Grit Yard was open from approximately 8am-3pm
- By Sunday afternoon the dumpsters were at full capacity. (98-100%)

The day was hot and humid. There were some minor complaints about the website not showing that we no longer take "chip bags".

Attachment A: Depot Reports Q3 2020 (con't)

Recycling Depot September 5, 2020

The weather was warm and sunny with little wind. Both dumpsters were delivered before 3:00 pm on Friday and they were in good condition. The depot and Grit yard were opened around 8:30. The Grit yard was closed at 3:00 pm. On Saturday morning the Glass/Plastic container was about 25% full and the paper container was about 35% full from overnight drop offs. At the end of Saturday it was 75% and 75%.

Attendees:

Allison Castellano Mark Gunn

Township Committee Volunteers- Rick Wolfe and Mark Castellano

By the Numbers:

63 Cars

0 Commercial Vehicles

25 Terracycling

45 Trex

About 30 VIP's distributed

About 30 terracycling instructions distributed 10-11 Styrofoam
drop offs

Comments:

Monday morning the dumpsters were both 105% full. I broke down several boxes that were not flattened and redistributed contents to try and have them even. Someone left two lawn chairs that I moved to the garbage dumpster.

Mark Gunn



Recycle your Clean, Dry, Empty Plastic Bags and Film Packaging!

Plastics to Collect:

- LDPE / HDPE Films
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Bread Bags
- Product Wrap
- Cereal Liners
- Food Storage Bags
- Ice Bags

- Pellet Bags
- Produce Bags
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Grocery Bags
- Case Overwrap
- Packaging Air Pillows
- Salt Bags

