STARTING DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD ZERO WASTE

Municipal and community efforts to turn waste into jobs in Newark, NJ
Why Zero Waste in Newark?

• Newark has a LOT of material
  • Covanta: 2,800 tons MSW per day
  • DART: 2,650 tons MSW per day
  • Lemcor: 630 tons MSW per day
  • Evergreen; Waste Management; SIMS Metal Management: C&D, plastics, glass, metal

• Newark needs less pollution and more jobs
  • Unemployment: Almost 15 percent
  • Child poverty: 43 percent
  • Child asthma: twice the county average
Early Municipal Efforts

- Learn about Zero Waste
- Commit to Zero Waste strategy in Sustainability Action Plan
- Begin with municipal facilities
- Support Community Pilot Projects
- Spell out savings and revenue
- Study working models
- Introduce new policies
- Scale up using new business models
- Institutionalize progress
Where does City Hall’s garbage go?

This poster shows the places where your *trash & recycling* go...depending on where you throw them.

If we recycle it, we get paid & breathe easier.  
If we burn it, we pay & breathe it in.

*Poster created by Damon Rich*
Next Phase Municipal Efforts

• Policies:
  • Recycled content & Buy Local procurement
  • Construction & Demolition certification
  • Zero Waste Venue/Event Permit

• Business Pilot Projects
  • Recycling and food recovery at Business Improvement District level
  • Waste audit, reduction, and re-use challenges with universities and hospitals
  • Newark manufacturers’ re-used material project

• Adaptation of larger-scale working models
  • Social enterprise development (St Vincent de Paul of Lane County)
  • Food recovery for urban agriculture (Growing Power, Milwaukee)
Challenges

• Basic Recycling: Staffing, Education, Enforcement

• New Contracts & Procedures: Buy-in across agencies

• Large-scale behavior change: Residents, businesses, institutions

• Investment in infrastructure for materials diversion and recovery
Next Steps

• City waste disposal & recycling contracts

• Social enterprise development

• Materials Re-use Depot

• Zero Waste Policy Adoption

• Zero Waste Plan Development
Presentation to the New York State chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America

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