

Township of Woodbridge

**Waste, Recycling,
&
Materials Management Plan**



Version I: 2024

Objective: In an effort to create a more sustainable and healthy environment, the Township is implementing measures to optimize existing and new policies, programs, and infrastructure. One significant measure is a concerted effort to reduce waste generated that would otherwise need to be transported and disposed of in landfills adding to greenhouse gas emissions. This not only helps in waste management but also significantly increases the health and well-being of the community.

Green Procurement is another initiative in implementation to reduce or potentially eliminate dependence on raw materials and non-local sources for the construction, operation, and maintenance of municipal buildings, facilities, and operations. This initiative is closely tied with the practice of collecting and storing non-hazardous materials for recycling, including paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastics, and metals.

Additionally, there is a commitment to purchase and utilize environmentally preferable products in order to minimize the use of chemicals and other toxic manufactured substances, ensuring their proper disposal when used. In 2022 the Township diverted over 275k tons from the landfill through recycling programs. A long term Township goal is to divert an additional 2% of waste from landfills to recycling centers each year through various innovative recycling and reuse programs.

As part of the Township's ambitious efforts to discover zero waste solutions, addressing single-use disposables including food ware has become a notable concern. In partnership with Perpetual Use (501 (c) (3)), an organization that implements immersive reuse systems that eliminate single-use disposables through a collective approach, the Township seeks to utilize a sustainability grant to establish a food ware reuse system for schools, local restaurants, and other businesses.

Furthermore, the Township has many different community objectives that help us educate residents, schools, and businesses on the waste being produced. These objectives help community members by various means and promote recycling, better waste etiquette, and pave the road to zero waste. There is also a move to discourage the use of products that emit waste or other pollutants, or products that utilize excess non-renewable and/or non-degradable resources. This comprehensive approach aims to create a more sustainable and healthier environment for all.

Key Stakeholders: The municipality including the relevant departments listed below lead the operations and implementation of policies, programs, and infrastructure for waste, recycling and materials management. External partnerships such as waste and recycling facilities, third party haulers, and non-profits are also stakeholders that contribute to the Township's initiatives. Residents and non-residential entities (i.e., schools, businesses, etc.) are impacted by the waste management system but are also valued for their participation in recycling efforts. Other stakeholders include committees such as Greenable Woodbridge, the Food Recovery Task Force, the Environmental Commission, the Affordable Housing Initiatives, and the Human Rights Commission.

Lead	Start Date	Priority	Anticipated Length	Funding Sources
Chief of Staff / Sustainability Team	Q2 2024	High	Ongoing	Environmental Protection Agency , Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, In house Capital , Municipal Tonnage Grant

Departments involved:

- Mayor's Office
- Health Department
- Department of Public Works
- Engineering Department

Equity: The Township envisions a just and inclusive system resulting in a sustainable and regenerative future, while advocating for policies and practices that ensure human safety, equitable access to zero waste, and elimination of toxins and pollution that negatively impact ecological health.

Obstacles/Barriers:

- The existing legislation related to composting prevents residents from depositing food scraps in designated areas without state regulatory approval.
- There is room for enhanced community outreach about the Township's recycling programs including the Styrofoam densifier and cardboard compactor, as well as the correct methods to recycle these materials. Furthermore, the Township can better communicate recycle and reuse programs to residents such as the availability of free pickup services for non-curbide recyclables and permit-free garage sales.
- The Township has limited financial capabilities to independently develop the infrastructure, employ staff, and establish logistics around zero waste initiatives such as the food ware reuse system.

Community notes:

In an effort to promote sustainability, the Township has started several programs and created various policies. A Zero Waste Plan (Appendix A) has been drafted demonstrating the Township's strategic approach to minimizing waste and promoting sustainable practices. This Plan discusses the policies, programs, and infrastructure highlighted below in greater detail.

The Township has initiated a proactive strategy addressing the significant issue of food waste. Included in this strategy is a food waste to energy program that involves collecting leftover food waste from various nonresidential entities such as schools and transporting it to a third-party facility to be transformed into a renewable energy source. The Township is also conducting outreach to local restaurants to start using the Too Good To Go app (Appendix B) which allows various businesses to sell their surplus food at a significantly discounted price. This opportunity reduces food waste and supports food security. The Township has also implemented a restaurant survey and guideline checklist to ensure that restaurants are being as sustainable as possible. Included in the guidelines is the Township's Restaurant Rescue program (Appendix C) which was established to connect the concept of food rescue with efforts of voluntary collaboration and coordinated best practices in order to best ensure fresh and healthy food reaches those in need. Along with these different programs, the Youth Leadership Council is creating a community garden which will teach the youth to compost and grow fresh produce which will be donated to We Feed Woodbridge, a local food bank network operated by Woodbridge Township.

In collaboration with Township programs and initiatives, efforts have been made to educate residents about single stream recycling. A recycling drop-off center has been established at Public Works which accepts non-curbside and bulk recyclables. A brand new densifier and a cardboard compactor have also been installed at the center. Regular used book sales at the Woodbridge Libraries have led to the reuse of approximately 12,000 books a year and developed the process for neighborhood book exchanges. The library's information technology management has been updated to reduce paper use, and computers and other equipment have been recycled. Recycled paper has been purchased, and some municipal vehicles now run on alternate fuel. Green cleaning products are being used, and an environmentally preferable purchasing policy has been established.

Township-wide free special pickup days have been established, as well as permit-free garage sales the weekend before the special pickups. The Township has also constructed a ReUselt Center (Appendix D) where residents can drop off items they may not need and can be reused for various purposes along with potentially lending out items to other members of the community. A construction and debris ordinance has been passed, and educational recycling calendars are distributed annually to all residents. A recycling education program has been implemented at Town Hall, with recycling bins placed throughout the building. Furthermore, a voluntary "Cut it and Leave It" program (Appendix E) for grass and yard clippings has been implemented as a method to fertilize residents' lawns and use fewer leave bags.

A single stream recycling program has been instituted, which has increased the amount that residents recycle and divert from the landfill. The Township is also in the process of procuring cigarette butt recycling stands from Terracycle (Appendix F). These stands address one of the most frequently littered items by recycling discarded cigarette butts. Educational programs for the community on green purchasing are being developed, and a link to a directory of businesses providing green goods and services has been created on the Township's website.

Plans are also underway to potentially use recycled concrete to repair potholes and create a calendar to highlight initiatives and achievements. These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and recycling.

Measures of Success:

We measure success by increased engagement from the community in waste reduction efforts, enhanced rewards received through the Municipal Tonnage Grant, and greater diversion of materials away from landfills. By actively involving people, providing incentives, and promoting sustainable practices, we contribute to a cleaner and more responsible environment.

Next steps:

1. Do a municipal audit to determine ways to reduce non-recyclable, toxic and unnecessary materials
2. Engage more schools and the youth leadership council in recycling and follow zero waste initiatives
3. Examine potential of a Food Waste to Energy pilot program for residents and various businesses
4. Conduct more recycling education outreach and enforcement
5. Educate residents of the benefits of using re-usable bags, re-usable water bottles, and green products
6. Promote required cut & leave program

Case Studies:

Woodbridge Township started a waste to energy program in 2019 that generated quite a bit of buzz. Our program takes food waste and converts it into energy to make our Township more sustainable. The Woodbridge Township Food Waste Program has now expanded to include all Township schools and the Woodbridge Community Center Snack Bar. The Perkins Satellite Lifter to handle food waste was mounted to a Ford F250 pickup truck, and food waste was first collected through a pilot program of six locations beginning May 8, 2019. The Township's food waste tonnage has already reached over 92 tons collected! Woodbridge Township is currently exploring ways in which the program may be expanded into residential or commercial setting, and looks forward to researching how the program might be enhanced in the future.

Appendix A. Zero Waste Plan

Mission

Woodbridge is committed to the continuous improvement of the Township's waste management systems with the overarching goal of achieving zero waste within municipal operations and the greater community. Over the years, the Township has transformed waste management through several initiatives outlined in this summarized plan to align with zero waste. This pragmatic approach seeks to redefine waste, achieving the highest value and best use of products at the end of their lives, reduce overall consumption, prioritize materials recovery and reuse, and standardize recycling and composting over traditional waste streams.

Summary of Existing System

The Division of Recycling and the Division of Sanitation under the Department of Public Works is responsible for the education and enforcement of Township wide recycling in all homes, schools, and businesses. A free once a week pick-up of solid waste and recycling is coordinated by district. Residents can request additional pick-ups for not-easy-to-recycle items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, textiles, Styrofoam, cooking oil, yard trimmings, and construction debris from small home projects at no to minimal costs, or drop off items at the Township's Convenience and Recycling Center. Non-residential entities such as schools, select businesses participating in the Township pilot food-waste program, and institutions located in Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) receive free food-waste pick-up in addition to standard waste pick-up. Food waste is transported to Waste Management's CORE[®] facility to be generated into green energy. Non-residential entities must coordinate with a private hauler for additional pick-ups and are encouraged to partake in sustainable practices through education and outreach.

Community Partnership Strategy

The Chief of Staff who also serves as the Sustainability Director leads the coordination of the Township's waste management strategies in conjunction with key members from other divisions of the town. This group comprises the Green Team, which is made up of representatives from various Township departments, divisions, committees, and volunteer organizations. Engagement includes members from the Department of Public Works, the Division of Engineering, and the Environmental Services Division of the Health and Human Services Department. A Food Recovery Task Force was created to assess, improve, manage, and track progress of food waste and food security initiatives.

Greenable Woodbridge is a community-wide mission that promotes a collective approach to sustainability initiatives including zero waste. Greenable Woodbridge connects municipal efforts and resources to community stakeholders, enhancing collaborative opportunities and participation. The Township leverages existing and established relationships to expand the reach of zero waste programs and conducts regular engagements to understand the needs of the community. Examples of engagement include Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce meetings, efforts from health inspectors to gather real-time feedback on the implementation of zero waste initiatives, and distribution of surveys to residents and non-residential entities.

Current Policies, Programs, and Infrastructure

Policy - Green Purchasing Ordinance (2012) The Green Purchasing Ordinance is aimed at encouraging and increasing the use of environmentally preferable products and services in the Township. The ordinance, overseen by the Green Team, seeks to improve products and processes in the following areas through research, evaluation, and implementation of zero waste initiatives: Recycled Content, Less Harmful and Non-toxic Materials, Energy and Water Efficiency, Natural Resource and Landscape Management, Renewables, Disposal and Pollution Reduction, Packaging, and Green Building Development. Specifications are provided in the ordinance describing the requirements and guidance of each area to implement green purchasing practices.

A Green Purchasing Policy and Standards statement was also prepared for the Township's departments to support and adhere to. Managed by the Purchasing Department and its Administrative body, the policy establishes short-term and long-term objectives to achieve its green purchasing goals. Actions include adopting a Green Purchasing Policy, implementing a Paper Reduction Policy, recording a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on frequently used products, creating contracts with green product manufacturers, and implementing a green procurement checklist for supplier relationships.

Policy - Construction and Demolition Ordinance (2008)

The Land Use and Development Ordinance is aimed at expanding the use of recycled materials, reducing waste, and preserving natural resources through the effective management of demolition debris. The ordinance requires that the demolition of any structure or portion of a structure be accepted and processed at a local New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection approved Class-B recycling facility. Class B recycled material is defined as processed concrete, asphalt, brick, block, glass cullet, nonhazardous soils and any non-virgin, environmentally clean construction soils and/or overburden from jobsites, either screened or unscreened. Additionally, the Township requires that proof be provided that the materials were disposed of in accordance with the ordinance.

Program - Non-mandated Recycling

The Township partakes in non-mandated materials recycling which is not a state requirement. Plastic bags and shrink wrap can be recycled at a variety of drop off locations throughout the town including the Recycling Center, Town Hall, and the Community Center. The bags and film are sent to plastic recycling solutions company, Trex, where they are repurposed into furniture. The Township has a container for residents to drop off their cooking oil at the Recycling Center. Free containers are also supplied for residents to bring their cooking oil in, courtesy of Middlesex County Recycling. The Division of Recycling has a monofilament (fishing line) recycling program at the Sewaren Boat Launch and the Woodbridge Township Marina. Residents are encouraged to put their unwanted fishing line into the, monofilament recycling container. These containers are serviced by the Division of Recycling. The monofilament line is collected, sent to a recycler, melted down into plastic pellets, and made into other plastic products. The Township also has a ReUseIt Center which accepts useable goods and items that can be reused or repurposed. Residents can drop off a variety of items such as furniture, tools, bikes, etc. which anyone can pick up free of charge. The community zero waste efforts supported by the municipality include clothing drives, flea markets, and book exchanges.

Program - Restaurant to the Rescue

In January 2023, Woodbridge Township's Restaurants to the Rescue program was launched. This mission was to connect the concept of food rescue with efforts of voluntary collaboration and coordinated best practices in order to best ensure fresh and healthy food reaches those in need. Through the dedication of the Health Department and Food Recovery Task Force, the Township established a means by which to capture food through a donations process from local restaurants. The surplus food is then distributed to local food banks. This program addresses both food waste and food security initiatives. As of February 2023, over 250 food service businesses within Woodbridge have received outreach correspondence from the Township Health Department during site visit assessments and inspection procedures. Prior to the program launch, health inspectors were required to complete a food waste training course to effectively evaluate and support restaurants. Within less than two months, eight restaurants and food service businesses engaged and participated in the program.

In addition to the program, Greenable Woodbridge has published a Restaurant Checklist providing guidelines for restaurants to become more sustainable. The checklist displays general sustainability initiatives, energy and water conservation efforts, as well as zero waste initiatives for restaurants to achieve. The Restaurant to the Rescue program is included in the checklist. Other programs promoted in the checklist include the Too Good To Go mobile app which allows restaurants to sell their surplus food at significant discounts for pick-up.

Program – Municipal School Recycling

In April 2023, a waste audit was conducted at Colonia Middle School with support from representatives from the Township and Bayshore Recycling. The event was supported by Mayor McCormac and CMS principal Joe Short. Teachers ensured that all students were engaged in the activities and learned valuable hands on lessons about the importance of recycling appropriately. About 40 students helped to pour out the solid waste container onto a large tarp arranged in the cafeteria and source separated 2.24 pounds of office paper (25% of the total), .5 pounds of cardboard/chipboard (5%) and 1.1 pounds of plastic beverage containers (12%) found inside the solid waste container. After separating the items that could have been recycled, about 5.3 pounds of solid waste was found to be appropriately placed in the solid waste container. The process then followed in the same manner with regard to the recyclable material container. The students separated the recyclables into piles. From this procedure: 5.6 pounds (49%) was found to be office paper, 3.15 pounds (28%) plastic beverage containers, 1.64 pounds (14%) cardboard and .4 pounds (3%) of solid waste was found mixed into the recycling receptacles.

Although Colonia Middle School surpassed the New Jersey established municipal recycling rate goal of 50%, the school is eager to take in to consideration additional recommendations centered on enhancing the recycling program through continued shifts toward less paper and more digital learning, refillable water bottle education, and plans to expand their court yard into an outdoor learning space dedicated to sustainability initiatives like composting, pollinator gardens, a rain garden, and more.

Program – Youth Leadership Composting

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) creates engaging leadership development opportunities for eighth grade and high school students. Through various subcommittees, YLC initiates projects and programs that encourage the youth to make a difference in the community. Through the composting project, the

youth members learn about the process of composting, create their own composting system, and use the soil in gardening beds to grow fresh produce that will be donated to local food banks within the Weed Feed Woodbridge network.

Infrastructure – CORE® Food Waste to Energy

CORE® is an organic recycling process developed by Waste Management Company (WM) that converts food waste into EBS®, an organic slurry product used to generate green energy. WM collects commercial food waste from restaurants, schools, food processing plants and grocery stores, and screens it to remove contaminants such as plastic, packaging and bones. The waste is then blended into an engineered slurry that dramatically increases the production of biogas in anaerobic digesters, which is used to create renewable energy. Through the Woodbridge Township Food Waste Program, food waste generated by all Township schools and the Woodbridge Community Center Snack Bar are collected and brought to WM's CORE® facility by the Department of Public Works to be processed into energy. Participating restaurants are also included in the program. In 2023, an estimated 92.1 tons of food waste was diverted from the landfill to the facility. Woodbridge Township is currently exploring ways in which the program may be expanded into residential or commercial settings, and seeks to research how the program might be enhanced in the future.

Infrastructure – Recycling and ReUseIt Center

The Convenience and Recycling Center is a drop-off facility designated for residents to recycle various items. The facility accepts standard curbside recycling items (i.e. paper, commingles, etc.) as well as larger items that are not accepted at curbside (i.e. appliances, propane tanks, electronics, textiles, etc.). The facility includes a cardboard compactor, and also accepts hard-to-recycle items such as cooking oil and Styrofoam. Utilizing an innovative foam densifier, the facility can transform Styrofoam into a compacted foam material suitable for various applications.

The ReUseIt Center is a redesigned shipping container that accepts usable goods and items that can be reused and re-purposed. The facility accepts household items, tools, toys, sporting equipment, furniture, bikes, and more. Residents are welcome to drop off, pick up, or trade items. The center is volunteer run. Both the Recycling and ReUseIt Center are located in Keasbey.

Infrastructure – Integrating Zero Waste into Redevelopment

As part of the town's redevelopment commitment, developers are now incorporating food waste recycling commitments into their lease agreements. This contractual arrangement ensures that building management will actively promote and enforce zero waste initiatives among vendors, including restaurants and cafes that occupy these spaces.

Infrastructure – Reusable Food Ware System

The Township has proactively explored innovative strategies to address the issue of single-use disposables, with a specific focus on food ware within restaurants and other commercial establishments. In collaboration with the nonprofit organization Perpetual Use, known for its expertise in implementing immersive reuse systems, the Township aims to create a comprehensive framework. This framework will facilitate the adoption of reusable food ware, allowing for its efficient use, collection, washing, and subsequent return. Key components of this initiative include the development of dedicated cleaning

facilities and the establishment of a streamlined distribution system for the pick-up and drop-off of reusable food ware.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Maintaining the engagement of the community in zero waste initiatives. Determining the effectiveness of outreach and educational programs to ensure the community is doing their part.
- The Recycling and ReUselt center are not centralized, making the accessibility of the facilities inconvenient and not accessible to those with limited means of transportation.
- Limited staffing available to maintain the ReUselt center which is volunteer operated.
- Ensuring the proper collection and tracking of data including waste generated, diverted, and zero waste indicators. Ensuring the stakeholders involved are providing transparent information.
- Regulations limiting the expansion of composting initiatives and infrastructure
- Financial support to establish sustainable infrastructure to meet the zero waste goals

Opportunities

- Regulatory compliance and incentives offered by the State of New Jersey through the municipal tonnage grant process encourages the township to continue recycling and zero waste efforts and enhance them.
- Emerging innovative initiatives and technology that make achieving the Township's zero waste goals more manageable.

Journey to Zero Waste (Next Steps)

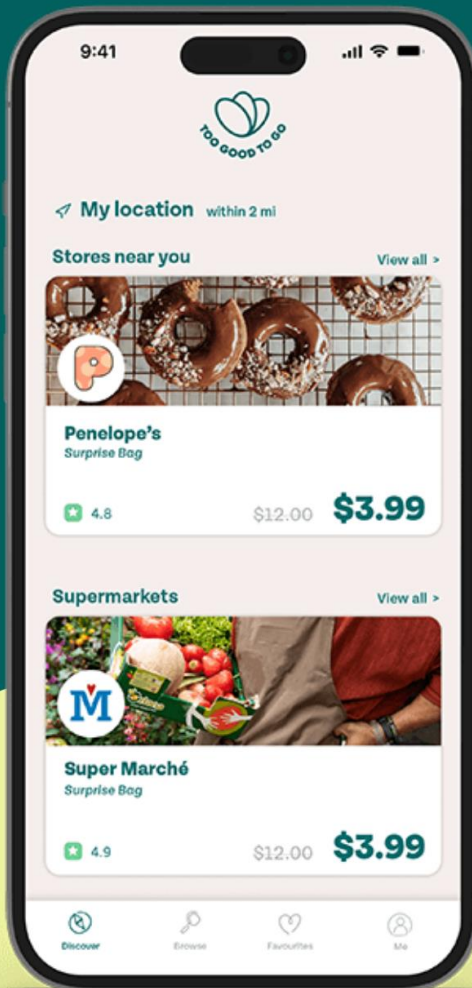
1. Continue with data collection and conducting waste audits:
 - a. Identify patterns, prioritize areas for improvement, and tailor waste reduction strategies by understanding what materials are being discarded, their quantities, and their sources.
2. Expand Reuse and Recycling efforts:
 - a. Continue promoting existing reuse and recycling initiatives to reduce overall waste generation while also seeking opportunities and partnerships that can expand the Township's policies, programs, and infrastructure.
 - b. Pursue sustainability grant to implement reusable food ware infrastructure
3. Expand composting efforts:
 - a. Within the Township's legal limits, engage more nonresidential entities in the food waste programs including composting projects and seek opportunities to promote composting for residents and commercial buildings.
4. Continue to encourage community engagement:
 - a. Engage community members and promote advocacy, drive behavioral change and foster a culture of sustainability.

Too Good To Go

Turn your excess food into revenue!

Make a profit, reduce your food waste, and avoid emissions with the Too Good To Go (TGTG) app. On average, restaurants using TGTG earn 75% from surplus food that would otherwise go to landfill after app fees.

Roughly 1.3 billion tons of food is wasted every year. That's about 1/3 of all food produced for consumption. Food waste also contributes about 8% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, 12% of the U.S. population faces food insecurity. TGTG is addressing food waste by allowing restaurants to sell their surplus food daily at discount for pick up.



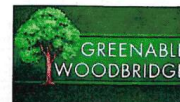
Here's how it works:

1. Register your business in the app.
2. List your surplus food for sale. Your surplus food will be listed as Surprise Bags since you won't know what you will have at the end of each day. Users are given an idea of what the content could contain and select based on preference (i.e., Surprise Bags could contain one full meal, an assortment of bread or pastries, etc.).
3. Schedule pick up times for customers to collect the bag. App users come to you, confirm the purchase with their app, and collect the bag.
4. Recover your sunk costs from food waste and earn money for each bag sold. You can track money earned in the app and receive payout every quarter.

Users who purchase Surprise Bags from the store are more likely to return as full paying customers.

This is a great opportunity to make money while saving the planet and improve food security through affordable options in our community.

Download the TGTG app today!



Sustainable Restaurant Checklist

This checklist is to help provide guidance about sustainable restaurant initiatives, while also serving as a way to spotlight your restaurant's great practices.

Why should I complete this checklist?

Sustainable restaurant practices may help your restaurant save money while helping our local environment. Did you know that restaurants use about five to seven times more energy per square foot than other commercial buildings?! Studies have shown that some restaurants have reduced energy costs by up to 70% by implementing some of the sustainability practices found within this checklist!



How can our restaurant participate?

There are so many ways to get involved! Did you know that by following safe simple steps you are legally permitted to donate uneaten food to those in need! The USDA estimates that between 30% - 40% of retail and consumer food ends up in our landfills adding to greenhouse gas emissions, while over 12% of the US population is facing food insecurity. Learn more on page one of this checklist!

We look forward to hearing about how your actions are making Woodbridge even more sustainable!

**Checklist
Google Form**



To learn more or to provide additional feedback
Please email: GREENABLE@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

SUSTAINABLE RESTAURANT CHECKLIST

One study shows that restaurants save \$7.00 for every \$1 invested in anti-waste methods

Restaurant Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Contact Person Phone Number and / or Email Address: _____

Instructions: Please review the list below and place a check next to any of the activities or programs that your restaurant may be undertaking. By implementing sustainable practices, restaurants can significantly reduce their carbon footprint, while making a positive impact within the Woodbridge community.

After completing this checklist please click 'submit' below so we can ensure your recognition as a Woodbridge Green Restaurant! Your responses will also help us to understand how we can improve our Township programs, and continue to grow our innovative sustainability initiatives.

FOOD - How food is grown, produced and equitably distributed has a major impact on global sustainability and community health. What types of foods are consumed and how much food is wasted ultimately relates to food security, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Participates in the Township's Restaurant Rescue program in order to help feed people, not landfills (*Did you know that DONATING FOOD IS SAFE & EASY? Good Samaritan laws help protect businesses from liability when they donate food in good faith that the business believes to be safe, edible, and is donated correctly. Call 732-855-0600 ext. 5034 to speak with Peter Barcellona, Chairperson of We Feed Woodbridge to learn more!*)
- Separates food from landfill waste in order to compost appropriately
- Composting education (*provides information to customers about composting at home*)
- Does not use single-use plastic to serve or store food (*uses a compostable or reusable alternative*)
- Offers straws to customers only upon request
- Buys locally
- Uses Jersey Fresh produce
- Uses certified organic foods
- Offers a 'what's in local season' menu in order to reduce food miles (*Did you know that food miles refers to the distance, time, energy, labor and resources required to transport and package food?*)

- Plans to donate shells (oyster, mussel, and clam) to the Township's Living Shoreline project (*Did you know that Living shorelines help to recreate natural beneficial shoreline functions, like absorbing waves and reducing erosion while enhancing the environment? The Capt. Carlsen Park living shoreline in Sewaren will seek to improve resilience, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and restore important shoreline ecology. To learn more about the project and participation email: Thomas.Flynn@twp.woodbridge.nj.us in the Division of Engineering*)
- Recycles cooking oil and grease
- Makes more vegetarian meals than meat
- Allows and encourages patrons to take home uneaten food (*including bread*)
- Participates in the Too Good To Go app (*Did you know you can make money by selling your surplus food at the end of every day? The Too Good To Go app allows you to make a profit while keeping food out of landfills and helping improve food security in our community. Download the app from the app store on your smart mobile device*)

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE - *Many common items often end up in the trash and add to our landfills. Some studies have noted that approximately one-third of landfill waste is made up of compostable materials. But in Woodbridge we do so much more to give back to our environment and community! If you are unsure about how you might be able to do more to manage waste, recycle right, and reuse whenever possible, please contact our Recycling Coordinator at: 732-738-1311, Ext 3035.*

- Provides recycling bins within establishment for customers
- Corks donated to organization that makes recyclable shoes
- Cardboard recycling
- Uses sustainable take home packaging (*reusable, recyclable, or compostable*)
- Uses biodegradable or environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Utilizes recyclable or reusable materials for napkins
- Does not provide polystyrene (Styrofoam) take-out containers
- Does not use single-use plastic utensils or straws (*uses a compostable or reusable alternative*)

ENERGY AND WATER - *Even when generating energy from renewable sources, wasted energy can potentially lead to higher utility bills. Simple cost-effective adjustments made to your restaurant can help save on utility costs and have a huge environmental impact ranging from air quality to water conservation.*

- Reduces energy and water consumption
- Uses energy efficient appliances
- Uses water saving toilets and taps
- Uses LED lighting (inside and/or outside)
- Has solar panels or is subscribed to a community solar project

GENERAL - Woodbridge is a leader in developing ways to adapt to our changing climate by enhancing natural areas in order to mitigate flooding and absorb carbon, while incentivizing ways to reduce vehicle tailpipe emissions, like our free bike share program! Be a part of the excitement and a part of the change with Greenable Woodbridge! To learn more about how to make your restaurant even more sustainable or to provide additional feedback please email: GREENABLE@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

- Educates customers about what the restaurant is doing to be more sustainable and why it is important
 - Offers a community poster board (hard copy or digital) to learn about Township buy local events and programs
 - Educates employees about sustainability (i.e. water / energy conservation, food waste, etc.)
 - Participates in charitable giving
 - Promotes biking or walking to your establishment
 - Has or plans to have EV parking options
 - Promotes anti-idling or car pooling
 - Has a policy in place in order to ensure green and sustainable landscaping (no pesticides used, watering conservation, native plants, etc.)
- The Township works directly with Special Needs student interns helping to facilitate job skills, learning opportunities, and lifelong success. If you would like more information about the Reaching Individual Student Excellence (RISE) program please reach out to Julie Bair at: Julie.Bair@woodbridge.k12.nj.us

Scan the QR code below in order to complete this form online!



Appendix D. ReUse It Center







Looking
For
Volunteers to Staff
The Center
732-738-1311
ext. 3035

Woodbridge Township ReUse It Center!
Located at the Recycling Center,
225 Smith Street in Keasbey

Join us in practicing the second "R"

in



Reduce



REUSE



Recycle

**We Accept Usable Goods and Items That Can Be Reused
or Re-Purposed.**

We Accept

- * Household items
- * Tools (Indoor and Outdoor)
- * Toys & Games
- * Sporting Equipment
- * Building Supplies (Nails, Fasteners, etc.)
- * Bikes
- * Indoor/Outdoor Furniture
- * Records, Tapes, CD's, DVDs
- * Books
- * Craft Supplies
- * Plus Much More

We Do Not Accept

- * Clothing
- * Upholstered Furniture
- * Oversized Items

Appendix E. Cut It and Leave It Program

CUT IT & LEAVE IT!

Grasscycling: Don't bag your grass clippings. Leave them on the lawn!

Rules of Thumb:

- **Don't** cut more than one third of the grass blade
- **Mow** only when the grass is dry
- **Never** mow during a drought
- **Use** any kind of mower, but make sure it has a sharp blade.
- **Prevent** excessive grass growth by watering (and fertilizing) in moderation
- **Cut** regularly. If grass is long, cut off short amounts in several mowings rather than all at once. Cutting too short and not often enough are common errors of lawn care.

REMEMBER, Grasscycling will give you better soil which means a better lawn, save you time, and leave us with more space in our landfills for things that we can't recycle!



Terracycle's

Free Cigarette Waste Recycling Program

Greenable Woodbridge is sharing initiatives with our local businesses to help along the sustainability journey to becoming a Woodbridge Green Business. If you are a business that allows smoking or frequents smokers, this program is for you!

Please make sure that the cigarettes are fully extinguished!

Do not dump your cigarette waste directly into the shipping box and do not use paper bags to collect your waste.

Greenable Woodbridge is promoting Terracycle's free Cigarette Waste Recycling Program to help combat this waste issue in our community. Joining the program is simple:

1. Collect your fully extinguished cigarettes using sturdy plastic containers or bags
2. Create a Terracycle account and download the free shipping label found at: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/cigarette-waste-recycling> – OR Scan the QR code below!
3. Ship your cigarette waste to Terracycle, and they will recycle it!

You can collect every component of the cigarette to be recycled, including: extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper, and ash. They do not accept the paperboard packaging of a cigarette box, but this can be recycled through Woodbridge's recycling program.



DID YOU KNOW?

Six trillion cigarettes are produced annually and account for 766 million kilograms of toxic trash every year? Each cigarette has a filter, or butt, that is 95% plastic and contains remanence of heavy metals, nicotine and microplastics. When these butts are thrown on the ground, they leak these containments into the environment, causing pollution and damaging our ecosystems.

Microplastics are small particles of plastic that are the result of breakdown from consumer products and industrial waste. These fragments are less than 5mm in length, allowing them to infiltrate our food chains. A number of health impacts in marine life and humans are increasing as a result of microplastics in our food and water systems as well as the air.

WHY JOIN THE PROGRAM?

- On average 92% of buyers trust socially and environmentally responsible businesses.
- Sustainable businesses also experience 7% more customer loyalty than non-sustainable businesses.
- The Terracycle Recycling Program is an easy and free step to being a more sustainable business while helping to combat the increasing issue of microplastics.
- If you are participating in our Greenable Business Checklist, this brings you one step closer to being certified.

