



Mantoloking Environmental Commission/Green Team Newsletter

Fall/Winter Edition

Message from the Chairwoman

Welcome to the second Mantoloking Environmental Commission/Green Team Newsletter of 2021. Today's issue contains information on a number of topics related to recycling and global warming and its effect on rising sea levels in NJ. I hope you will find this information useful.

You can expect our next newsletter to be published in the Spring of 2022. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the [Mantoloking Environmental Commission Facebook page](#)



to keep abreast of environmental tips, new events and notices of interest pertinent to our town.

Thank you and have a safe and happy holiday!

*Warmest Regards,
Barbara Hood Benz*



Document Flooding in Mantoloking

Help document flooding in Mantoloking. The NJ DEP and the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve is building a database to assist with decision making relative to flooding and sea level rise. Post your photos along with the date, time, and location on the MyCoast app, available for download to your iPhone through the [App Store](#)

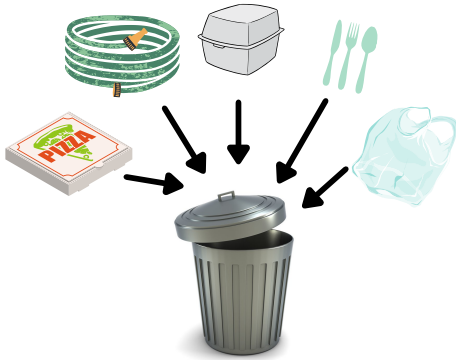


or to your android device through [Google Play](#). You can also use this app directly from your computer at <https://mycoast.org/nj>

Don't Contaminate Your Recyclables

Contaminated loads of recyclables are either incinerated or sent to landfills, both of which are terrible for our environment. In fact, this “contamination” is precisely the reason that our overseas markets (primarily China and Hong Kong) essentially closed up in 2018. Tired of dealing with contaminated bales, they now accept only the most pristine loads.

Causes of contamination are two-fold. Certain items can simply not be recycled such as plasticware, Styrofoam take-out containers, hoses, etc. When non-recyclable items are placed into recycle bins, unless they can be easily removed, the whole load is scrapped.



The second overall reason for contamination is food residue and grease. While food residue ends up being burned away on glass, plastic, and metal, the same is not true for paper. Cross-contamination typically occurs when processing recycled paper. Grease does not mix with water and therefore during the step when water is mixed with paper, the resulting “slurry” is unusable and cannot be used to create paper.



Recycle Coach



Still Confused as to What Can and Can't be Recycled? Use Recycle Coach -- a free app which has been customized for Mantoloking's use.

Download it to your iPhone through the [Apple Store](#)



or to your android device through [Google Play](#).



The Issues with Recycling Plastic



Okay, so I'm following all of the rules. I'm diligent about placing only recyclable items in the recycling bin AND I thoroughly rinse all glass, metal, and plastic ensuring that no food debris has an opportunity to contaminate the load. Can I now assume that all of my plastics are being recycled?

Well actually, no. Given the most recent data as reported to the EPA from the American Chemistry Council, the National Association for PET Container Resources, and the Association of Plastic Recyclers, out of all materials placed into recycle bins and sent to Material Recovery Facilities in 2018, only 8.7% was actually recycled. 15.8% of it was incinerated, generating toxic emissions and greenhouse gases and 75.5% of it was sent to landfills where it breaks down over time into microplastics which eventually end up in the air, water, soil, and then eventually into humans.



Not surprising, the primary reason for this disparity is economic. It is cheaper for manufacturers to generate “virgin” plastic instead of using recycled material. And to add insult to injury, the amount of pollution generated when producing virgin plastic is much greater than when using recovered materials. The other primary reason is that recycling loads are contaminated (*see article on page 1*) and therefore are either sent to landfills or incinerated.

What can we do?

- **“Reuse & Reduce”**: Consumers can place a lot of pressure on companies by virtue of their purchasing power. We can live less of a “throw away” lifestyle in combination with buying less plastic and supporting those companies that actively use high percentages of reused material in their plastic products.
- **“If In Doubt, Throw It Out”**: This adage in combination with ensuring that our recyclables aren't contaminated will help ensure recycling doesn't end up in landfills or incinerators.
- **We can support legislation in NJ** that requires manufacturers to use higher percentages of recycled material in plastic products. Currently, the NJ Assembly is considering the “Recycled Content” bill (S.2515/A.4676) which if passed will create a strong market for recycled plastic and reduce the use of virgin plastic.

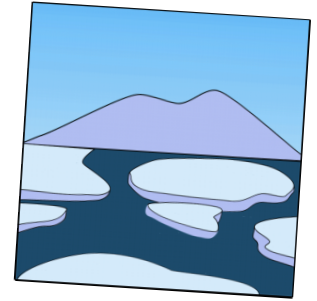


Contact our 10th District Assemblymen, John Catalano and Gregory P. McGuckin to support this very important bill:

- Call them 732 840-9028
- Email them asmCatalano@njleg.org and asmMcGuckin@njleg.org
- Contact them [online](#)

Global Warming and Sea Level Rise in Mantoloking

According to the NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) 2020 Annual Climate Report, the combined land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of .13 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1880 and since 1981, these rates have doubled. These higher temperatures have and will continue to effect Mantoloking with more frequent and intense storms as well as overall sea level rise resulting from melting permafrost, glacial retreat, thermal expansion, and sinking land.



According to a Rutgers report, sea level at the Jersey shore has risen about 18 inches since the early 1900s and it is likely that the state will experience a total sea level rise between 0.9 and 2.1 ft from 2000 to 2050 but possibly more under a worst-case scenario.

While these facts may seem daunting, **there are some things we can do as individuals** to help alleviate sunny day/nuisance flooding:

- **Reduce our carbon footprint:** Sea levels have risen faster over the last hundred years than any time in the last 3,000 years. After 2050, projections differ dramatically based upon our carbon emissions output. If unabated, the consequences will be disastrous resulting in drought, famine, and loss of plant, animal and insect species including the death of practically all coral reefs.
- **Green Infrastructure** in the site design and layout of your home:

✓ **Pervious Paving Systems** such as pervious concrete, porous asphalt, interlocking pavers and pour-in-place permeable paving materials. These systems allow for pollution to be removed from water as it percolates into the soil below and because these surfaces don't freeze as quickly as standard pavement, they require less salt to de-ice in the winter.

✓ **Rain Gardens:** Utilizing native deep-rooted perennial plants, trees, and shrubs allows water to drain more deeply into soil. Go to the [Rutgers Cooperative Extension](#) for a helpful guide for planning, installing, and maintaining a rain garden on your property.

✓ **Rain Barrels:** Typically located adjacent to your home next to a downspout, they are designed to capture and store stormwater for non-potables such as irrigation. [Save Barnegat Bay](#) has Rain Barrel Workshops on occasion. Check out their website at <https://www.savebarnegatbay.org/>.



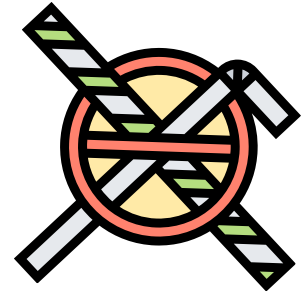
✓ **Green Roofs:** Vegetation planted over a waterproofing membrane captures rain water and returns it to the atmosphere through transpiration and evaporation. While Green Roofs require greater structural support than traditional roofs and are therefore more expensive, depending on the design they can be very effective at retaining partial or full roof runoff.

Go to [Green Infrastructure in NJ](#) for more information on these Green Solutions.



Skip the Straws

As per the **Plastic Pollution Reduction Act** (A1978/S864) signed into law this past year, effective 11/4/2021, restaurants, convenience stores and fast-food businesses are restricted from handing out plastic straws unless specifically asked for by a patron.



While first violations result in a warning, businesses that ignore this law will be fined \$1,000 for a second warning and third and subsequent warnings result in a \$5,000 fine. All collected funds go to the **Clean Communities Program Fund** which pays for litter clean-up grants across NJ. Mantoloking is currently a recipient of one of these Clean Communities Grants which we use to fund activities and materials needed to keep our community clean.

According to JoAnn Gemenden, Executive Director of the NJ Clean Communities Council, *“By skipping the straw, or bringing your own, it helps New Jersey reduce litter and it protects our environment and valuable marine life...Each year, an estimated 1 million birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles die from plastics. We are asking all New Jerseyans to do their part. So, please spread the message to Skip the Straw.”*



REMINDER: New Recycling Rules

After an investment of more than \$5 million in improvements, Ocean County’s State of the Art Recycling Centers can now process far more materials resulting in far less being incinerated or placed in landfills. For an updated guide developed specifically for Mantoloking residents, click [here](#).

**If you’re still in doubt,
THROW IT OUT!**

