

# RECYCLE

JANUARY 2014



## PARK RIDGE RECYCLING PROGRESS

Peter Wayne, the Borough's Certified Recycling Coordinator is pleased to report an increase in the town's 2012 annual recycling tonnage. Recycled materials include all items the borough picks up during the curbside collections (both commingled and paper), items brought to the recycling center and items recycled by commercial establishments and schools.

The total weight of all materials recycled in 2012 was 9,177.72 tons which was a 35 percent increase over the amount recycled in 2011.

Park Ridge's recycling rate is around 60 percent which is about 20 percent higher than the state average.

Peter attributes the increase to several factors, including better recycling being performed by residents, increased recycling at schools and borough facilities, and better recycling and reporting by commercial properties. It has also been beneficial that the Park Ridge Green Team has been implementing recycling and education programs to residents, schools and businesses.

Along with being good for the environment, there is a financial benefit of increased recycling due to the reduction in cost for disposal of the materials as solid waste. We also receive an annual recycling grant from the state which is based on annual tonnage.

**Here are items that Park Ridge accepts for recycling:**

### COMINGLED ITEMS



■ All plastic items with triangle symbol numbers 1 thru 7

■ All glass jars and bottles (all colors) and milk and juice cartons

■ All aluminum, steel and tin cans and food containers (including steel aerosol cans and aluminum foil and trays)

**Note:** Comingled items should be rinsed and free of food or oil. **Plastic bags** may be placed in the comingled bin if they have a triangle symbol. They can also be reused or they can be recycled at most local supermarkets.

### PAPER ITEMS

■ Includes newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone books, paperback books, school and office paper, paper shopping bags and all cardboard including corrugated

**Note:** Paper and cardboard can be mixed at the curb, but in order to maximize efficiency they are handled separately at the recycling center. They should not be bundled in plastic bags.

### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

■ **Instead of bagging grass clippings** for curbside pickup or taking them to the recycling center, you can "Cut it and Leave It." By leaving clippings on the lawn you return vital nutrients to the soil and, along with composting plant/vegetable waste, reduces hauling costs to our town. Learn more at the Green Team website.

■ **The Recycling Center** accepts branches, metal, concrete, motor oil, tires, car batteries, minor construction debris, electronics and used clothing. Grass can also be brought to the center, but please note the previous item.

■ **Rechargeable batteries** are recycled at the center, but ordinary household/flashlight batteries should be disposed of in your regular trash.

■ **Household hazardous waste** is handled through Bergen County Utilities Authority events which will be posted on the Green Team website or can be found at [bcua.org](http://bcua.org).

### CONTACT US



If you have questions, suggestions, would like to volunteer or are seeking information about the Park Ridge Green Team, visit [our web page at parkridgeboro.com](http://ourwebpageatparkridgeboro.com) (under "Boards and Committees") or send an email to [greenteam@parkridgeboro.com](mailto:greenteam@parkridgeboro.com).