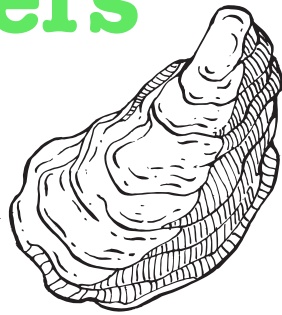


# ATLANTIC COUNTY RECYCLES



## Enhancing Reefs Through Shell Recycling



The New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Administration (MRA) has instituted a successful oyster shell recycling program in Atlantic County to sustain and expand oyster reefs in the Mullica River.

Oyster reefs are an important part of our local ecosystem. They act as a natural filtration system for the river and provide habitat for fish and shellfish species that are vital to recreational and commercial activities.

"The Mullica River oyster reefs are unique and among the last self-sustaining reefs on the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey," said Scott Stueber, Fisheries Biologist for MRA. "It's critical to maintain these reefs in a sustainable manner because oyster reefs provide so many services to the local ecosystem. Shell planting is a foundational management action that we can take to help keep these reefs healthy and sustainable. Recycling shell helps us get there."

### Recycling Program Begins

To grow and survive, oyster larvae need other shells to attach to. Once oysters are harvested for eating, they are not typically returned to the water where they can continue contributing to the habitat and life-cycle of future oysters.

Knowing this, MRA worked with the Jetty Rock Foundation, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Stockton University to establish a collection system among local restaurants and return empty shells to the Mullica River.

The official shell recycling program was implemented in 2019 and has since grown to include partners at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Dock's Oyster House, Knife & Fork Inn, Golden Nugget Casino, and Borgata Casino. Restaurant employees discard shells into specified bins. MRA employees collect the discarded shells from the partner locations across Atlantic City once-per-week.

### Expansion and New Solutions

As anticipated, the benefits of shell recycling garnered interest from several restaurants and casinos. To ensure the continued addition of restaurant partners, MRA sought to order new, branded shell recycling carts, and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) was tapped to assist.



After collection, the shells sit for 6+ months before they can be placed back into the Mullica River by the MRA team.

...continued inside on page 3

**COLLECTED IN 2022:**

**3,362**  
bushels

**92.45**  
tons



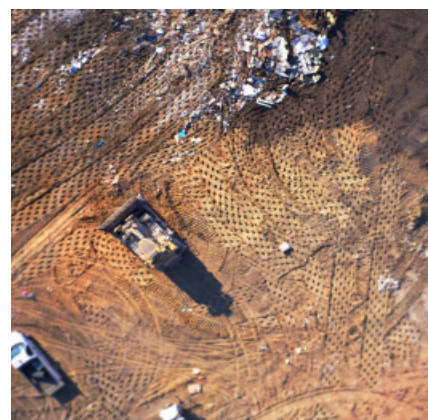
31st Annual

## Earth Day

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**

10 AM to 4 PM  
ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Road  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ

Details inside!



## INSIDE:

- Locals Win at NJ Clean Communities Awards +
- Pump Station Improvements Underway +
- The Important Role of Microorganisms in Treating Wastewater +
- What's Next in Waste? +
- President Rick Dovey Reflects on Upcoming Retirement +
- How EcoSoil is Made + more!

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

- APR 22** | **Ventnor Shredding Event**  
10 AM to 12 PM  
Newport Avenue and the Beach  
Ventnor residents can bring any paper items that need to be shredded. Pull up to the shred truck and your items will be unloaded for you. There is no need for you to exit your vehicle.
- APR 22** | **Stockton Community Day Cleanup**  
8:30 AM to 3 PM  
Various Locations in Atlantic City  
Join Stockton University for a cleanup throughout Atlantic City followed by games, food and music in O'Donnell Park. See stockton.edu/ac for details.
- APR 23** | **ACUA Earth Day Festival**  
10 AM to 4 PM  
ACUA, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ  
Join us for our annual celebration of our home - Earth! Free activities, food, local vendors, exhibits and more. See acua.com/earthday for details.
- MAY 6** | **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off**  
8 AM to 1 PM  
ACUA, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ  
Safely dispose of household chemicals and hazardous items at our next drop-off. See acua.com/hhw for details.
- MAY 15** | **Garden Talk: Roses and Cut Flowers**  
5:30 PM  
ACUA Garden, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ  
Learn how to grow your own bouquet of flowers, incorporating unique fragrance, color, size, texture, vase life, and more. Presented by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County.
- MAY 20** | **4H Electronics Recycling Fundraiser**  
Responsibly recycle your electronics to help the Atl. Co. 4H Club!  
9 AM to 12 PM  
David C. Wood 4H Center  
3210 Route 50, Mays Landing, NJ  
ac4hfair.org
- JUN 3** | **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off**  
8 AM to 1 PM  
ACUA, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ  
Safely dispose of household chemicals and hazardous items at our next drop-off. See acua.com/hhw for details.

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Improper disposal of hazardous materials pollutes the environment and poses a threat to people and wildlife. Hazardous waste must never be poured down the drain or placed in the trash! Safely drop-off your items at our events throughout the year.

**Accepted items include:** rechargeable batteries, glues, oil-based paint, pool chemicals, furniture polish, cleaning chemicals, weed killer, anti-freeze, auto care products, and more. Visit website for details.



### 2023 Dates

May 6  
June 3  
July 8  
September 9  
November 4

### TIME

8 AM to 1 PM

### WHERE

ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Road  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ

See [acua.com/hhw](http://acua.com/hhw) for details

## MONTHLY GARDEN TALKS

Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA), in partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County, offers community monthly Garden Talks in the ACUA Garden at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates. Whether you're just getting started or an experienced gardener, there will be something new for you to learn. Monthly topics include:

**May 15**  
Roses and Cut Flowers

**June 19**  
Guest Speaker

**July 17**  
Controlling Garden Pests

**August 21**  
Planting for Bees



**September 18**  
Tree and Shrub Care/Pruning

**October 16**  
Bulbs and Winter Interest

**November 20**  
Composting Basics

**December 18**  
Indoor Edibles

Register at [acua.com/garden](http://acua.com/garden)

Want your event to be included in our calendar? Email [ar@acua.com](mailto:ar@acua.com)



### Our Mission

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) is responsible for enhancing the quality of life through the protection of waters and lands from pollution by providing responsible waste management services. The Authority is an environmental leader and will continue to use new technologies, innovations and employee ideas to provide the highest quality and most cost effective environmental services.

### ACUA Officers

Richard S. Dovey, President

Matthew DeNafo, President

Linda Bazemore, Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO

Gary Conover, Vice President of Solid Waste

Tom Ganard, Chief Engineer

Joseph Pantalone, Vice President of Wastewater

### Board of Commissioners

Marvin Embry, Chairman

Fred Akers, Vice Chairman

Laura Pfrommer, Treasurer

Andrew G. Berenato III

John E. Lyons

Maria K. Mento

Judy M. Ward

Dennis Levinson, County Executive

### Contact Us:

609.272.6950

[www.acua.com](http://www.acua.com)

P.O. Box 996

Pleasantville, NJ 08232-0996



continued from cover...

Through funding provided by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), ACUA assisted MRA in ordering 32-gallon recycling carts that are unique to the program. The carts display branding and signage to remind workers of their intended use – shell recycling only. The new carts allowed the program to expand to additional venues.



MRA uses the above collection system to pickup discarded shells from area restaurants.

“This program decreases trash and contributes to the health of our local water systems – a true win-win for Atlantic County’s environment,” said Gary Conover, ACUA Vice President of Solid Waste. “ACUA was happy to assist in ordering the new collection carts.”

“The CRDA seeks to contribute to meaningful projects that improve Atlantic City,” said Maisha Moore, Deputy Executive Director of the CRDA. “This is a wonderful example of such a project, and we are thrilled to be a part of it.”

A total of 3,362 bushels (92.45 tons) were collected from partners in 2022. The program is on pace to collect 5,000 bushels in 2023 and anticipates reaching its goal of 10,000 bushels in the coming years.

“We look forward to expanding the program to include additional restaurant partners as well as working to implement a drop-off site for local residents to participate,” said Stueber.

For more information on the program, visit: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/shell-recycling-program](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/shell-recycling-program)



From left: Ricky DiVaccaro (MRA), Scott Stueber (MRA), Maisha Moore (CRDA), Ryan Mahoney (ACUA), Gary Conover (ACUA), and Les Frie (MRA)

Visit the MRA Shell Recycling Program at the 31st Annual ACUA Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 23, to learn more about this important effort!

## Atlantic County Recognized at New Jersey Clean Communities Awards Ceremony



Above: ACUA's Rebecca Turygan accepts her award from JoAnn Gemenden, NJ Clean Communities Council. Right: Anthony Ang of Egg Harbor Township accepts award.

Atlantic County was a big winner at the recent New Jersey Clean Communities Annual Awards Ceremony.

ACUA Environmental Research Assistant Rebecca Turygan received the Clean Communities County Coordinator of the Year Award for her outstanding service managing the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program for 10 years.

Atlantic City, Egg Harbor Township, and Stockton University were also recognized for their dedication to litter abatement activities. Atlantic County resident Kathy Ford received the Volunteer Award for her dedication to cleaning litter through the "Ford Beautification Project" that she founded with her husband, Chuck.

New Jersey Clean Communities is a state-wide litter abatement program. The mission is to reduce litter on public places, promote volunteer cleanup of public lands and sustain a reduction in litter through education.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you for your amazing service to our community!

For more information on the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program, please visit [www.acua.com/adoptaroad](http://www.acua.com/adoptaroad).

## Backyard Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale

ACUA is excited to offer residents an opportunity to purchase a range of backyard items including compost bins, rain barrels and more! Investing in these items is a great way to reduce your environmental impact. Composting at home helps cut down food waste and creates a natural rich soil perfect for gardening. Rain barrels protect the environment by reducing storm water runoff and helps conserve water while gardening.

### Items for Purchase:

- Compost Bin
- Rain Barrel
- Compost Tumbler
- Kitchen Scrap Collection Pail
- Pop-Up Garden Bag
- Windigger Compost Turner
- Vermi-Composter
- and More!



Items will be ready for pickup on Saturday, May 13, 2023, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon at the ACUA Environmental Park 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.

**Must order online by May 11 at [atlantic.compostersale.com](http://atlantic.compostersale.com)**

# PREVENT BATTERY FIRES



## Proper battery disposal essential to preventing fires

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries commonly found in cell phones, laptops, vacuum cleaners, and other electronic devices. Because they can easily plug in to recharge, it makes them an effective solution for the many portable electronic devices we use every day. Despite their benefits, these batteries can be a fire hazard if not handled properly.

Lithium-ion batteries can sometimes overcharge and overheat, which is why it's advised to unplug devices when fully charged and never charge devices overnight.

When the time comes to discard of a lithium-ion battery, it is very important that residents and businesses dispose of these batteries through acceptable battery recycling programs. **Never throw a lithium-ion battery away in the trash!**

According to a recent *Waste Dive* article, there were 390 reported fire incidents at recycling centers across North America in 2022 – the highest reported on record. Here in Atlantic County, ACUA's collection trucks have experienced several fires due to lithium-ion batteries being thrown away in curbside bins.

To improve the current system, national industry organizations are working alongside state and federal lawmakers to establish better guidelines and requirements for disposal. At the federal level, they are proposing extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws that will require manufacturers to provide proper collection outlets. This is similar to what is currently done in New Jersey for electronic devices.

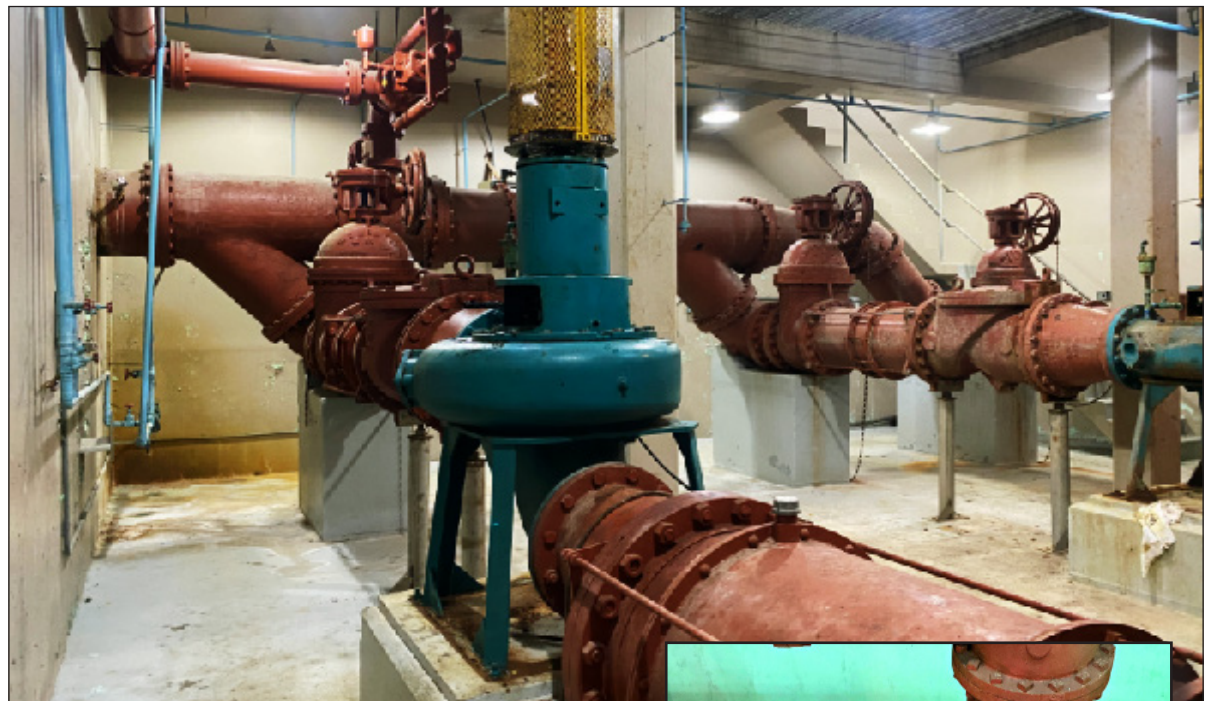


Firefighters were called to put out a fire caused by a lithium-ion battery from a vacuum cleaner thrown away in curbside trash and picked up by ACUA

The ACUA accepts lithium-ion batteries at its Household Hazardous Waste Drop-offs held throughout the year. There are also many battery drop-offs available at stores like Home Depot, Lowes, and Batteries and Bulbs stores. Electronic devices should also never be placed in curbside bins. These items must be taken to certified electronic recyclers.

For disposal details, please visit [acua.com/batteries](http://acua.com/batteries) and [acua.com/electronics](http://acua.com/electronics).

## Pump Station Improvements Underway



The Ventnor City pump station that transports wastewater from Ventnor, Margate, Longport, and a section of Egg Harbor Township to ACUA's treatment facility in Atlantic City is undergoing necessary upgrades.

The structure, originally built in the mid-70s, will receive repairs and modifications to its structural, electrical, and mechanical features.



### What is a Pump Station?

Pump stations are critical infrastructure that play an important role in safely transporting wastewater to the treatment plant. Underground pipes collect and carry wastewater from homes and businesses. Gravity then carries wastewater from the pipes to pump stations. In areas where the pipes are low underground, pumps are used to lift the incoming flow up to street level and send it to the treatment plant.

Pump stations run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The function of the stations may go unnoticed, but they play an essential role in protecting public health and our environment.

### Ventnor Renovation Project

The renovation to Ventnor's pump station will include many facets. One large upgrade is the expansion of the pump's wet well system. A wet well is a large holding tank that receives incoming

sewage. When the sewage reaches a certain level, the pumps send it out of the station. The project will double the size of the wet well, allowing the station to hold more sewage, which is especially important during periods of heavy coastal flooding.

Another large upgrade includes the installation of a permanent bypass system that will allow sewage to bypass the station during future work or emergencies. In addition, the station's electric transformer will be upgraded to increase its amperage, the roof will be replaced, a new control unit and odor control system will be installed, the bathroom will be renovated, HVAC equipment will be upgraded, it will be painted, and new light fixtures will be installed.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$4.4 million and will be funded in part by the American Rescue Plan, which provided federal Coronavirus relief funding to Atlantic County Government that included allocations for water and sewer investments.

### Future Pump Station Improvements

ACUA is also finalizing plans to upgrade its largest pump station located in Pleasantville. This project will include similar improvements as in Ventnor but will also include the replacement of existing pumps. It is expected to go out to bid later this year.





2023 Platinum Sponsors:



*Celebrate our home at the largest & longest-running Earth Day Festival in South Jersey!*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**

**10 AM to 4 PM**

**ACUA Environmental Park**

**6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Twp.**

**Interactive Activities**

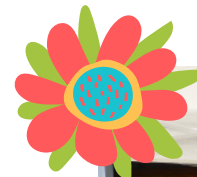
- Touch a Truck
- Hayrides to Landfill
- Recycling Tours
- Meet Supercan
- Games
- Atlantic County 4H Club Petting Zoo
- Composting Demonstration
- Electric Car Display
- Free Yoga Sessions
- Composting Demonstration
- Wind & Wastewater Facility Tours
- Playground
- Bouncies
- and more!

**Free Workshops**

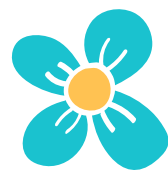
- Do's and Don'ts of Canine Interactions for Children - 10:30 AM
- Intro to Homesteading - 11 AM
- Frogs and Toads of South Jersey - 12 PM
- Learn About the Spotted Lanternfly - 1 PM
- The Stockton Maple Project - 2 PM
- Rain Barrel Demonstration - 3 PM

**Music & Entertainment**

- Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society - 11 AM, 1 PM
- Oceans Rock - 11:30 AM, 1 PM
- Eyes of the Wild - 12 PM, 2 PM
- Valerie Vaughn - 1 PM, 3 PM



**150+ Vendors & Exhibitors**



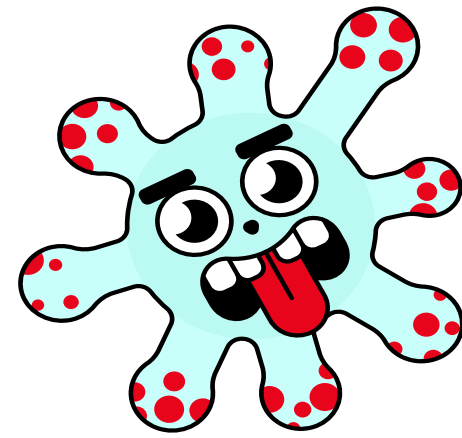
*Free Seedlings!*



**acua.com/earthday**



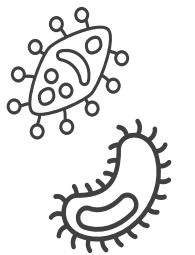
ACUA Earth Day ©2015 T.L. Kelly



# ATTACK

of the

# POO-EATING MICROBES



*“Attack of the microbes” may sound like a title for a nightmare-inducing horror film, but it’s actually an integral part of what keeps our waterways clean.*

Microorganisms are used in the wastewater treatment process to eat up biosolids (💩) that flow from area bathrooms to ACUA’s treatment facility. These creepy crawlies live in aeration basins where water is churned up to add oxygen, which the microorganisms need to multiply and thrive. They feast until they grow large enough to form clump sand sink to the bottom of the basins.

Once at the bottom, they are removed from the process and later incinerated. The remaining water continues through the treatment process before being dispersed into the Atlantic Ocean.

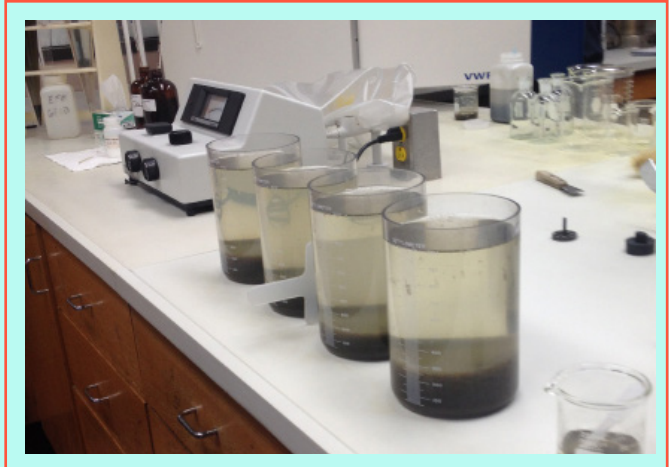
## AERATION BASIN CONVERSION

ACUA is currently exploring options to improve the aeration process. Currently, there are 24 large mechanical mixers that create the oxygen needed to feed the essential microorganisms. The mixers and motors are nearing the end of their useful lives, and repairs are both costly and labor intensive.

ACUA intends to install a diffused air system to replace the mixers. With this method, oxygen bubbles up throughout the basins rather than creating it by mixing. The diffused air system uses less energy and will require less maintenance. In addition, a diffused air system could use the oxygen created by the federally funded hydrogen energy project that is expected to be built on-site at the treatment plant in the coming years.

# BACK AT THE LAB...

Throughout the wastewater treatment process, ACUA's water testing laboratory scientists take samples to ensure the process is working effectively. During the aeration process, they specifically look to see if there are enough microorganisms in the basins. The aeration basin mixers are adjusted accordingly to produce more or less bacteria as needed.



# BENEFITS OF USING RENEWABLE ENERGY

The wastewater treatment process requires an enormous amount of energy to operate. Using renewable energy sources like wind and solar power at the ACUA Wastewater Treatment Plant instead of conventional energy sources benefits ratepayers and the environment.



**\$7.3 million**

energy savings from using wind power since 2005

**74,777**

metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented

**\$3.9 million**

energy savings from using solar power since 2005

**4,105**

metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented

## Hydrogen on the Horizon

Hydrogen is an emerging renewable energy source. ACUA is excited to partner with South Jersey Industries, NJ Clean Cities, and ROUSH CleanTech on a federally funded hydrogen project at its wastewater treatment plant.

The wind project on-site at ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility will power an electrolyzer that will split treated wastewater into hydrogen and oxygen.

The hydrogen created will be dispersed into the natural gas pipeline and power a hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle. The oxygen, a by-product of the process, is intended to be used in the renovated aeration basins at the treatment facility.

# MEET GLENDALY



*"My coworkers are like my second family. This job allows for balance between work and home life. I am proud to work at a company that pursues innovation and prioritizes environmental stewardship."*

Glendaly is the Lab Regulatory Compliance Specialist in the ACUA Water Testing Laboratory.

She is a graduate of Stockton University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She started her career at ACUA as an intern and later served as a Lab Analyst for several years prior to obtaining her current position.

Glendaly takes immense pride in her job as an essential worker to ensure wastewater is thoroughly treated, which protects the environment and the public.

## JOIN OUR TEAM

Pursue a career at ACUA!

Visit us at [acua.com/careers](https://www.acua.com/careers)

or scan the qr code:





# Rick Dovey will be retiring from his renowned career as President of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) after 33 years of service.

*Rick Dovey is responsible for shaping ACUA into an award-winning, nationally recognized organization noted for its excellence in innovation, efficiency, and environmental stewardship.*

*Under Dovey's visionary leadership, the ACUA has initiated several renewable energy and sustainability projects that have saved the ACUA and its ratepayers more than \$25 million dollars and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 111,200 metric tons.*

*Projects include the construction of New Jersey's first commercial wind farm that powers ACUA's wastewater treatment facility in Atlantic City, South Jersey's first compressed natural gas (CNG) station that fuels ACUA's fleet of collection vehicles, a 500-kw solar project, and a renewable energy storage battery.*

*In addition to these pioneering projects, the ACUA is currently embarking on a landfill gas to natural gas pipeline project with South Jersey Industries, a U.S. Department of Energy funded green hydrogen energy project that will use treated wastewater and renewable energy to create hydrogen power, and a community solar project funded by the NJBPU that will send power generated from solar panels on the landfill to residents served by the Pleasantville Housing Authority.*

*The ACUA is known for providing the regional community with exceptional solid waste, recycling, and wastewater management services. Its reputation for excellence transcends these essential services thanks to Dovey's foresight to provide shared services to the community. Most notably, its regional trash and recycling collection system serves 24 municipalities throughout three counties.*

*Dovey's investment in community relations and public education has contributed to the growth of recycling and sustainability in New Jersey. Thousands of guests from around the world visit the ACUA each year to learn about its renewable energy projects, wastewater, and solid waste facilities.*

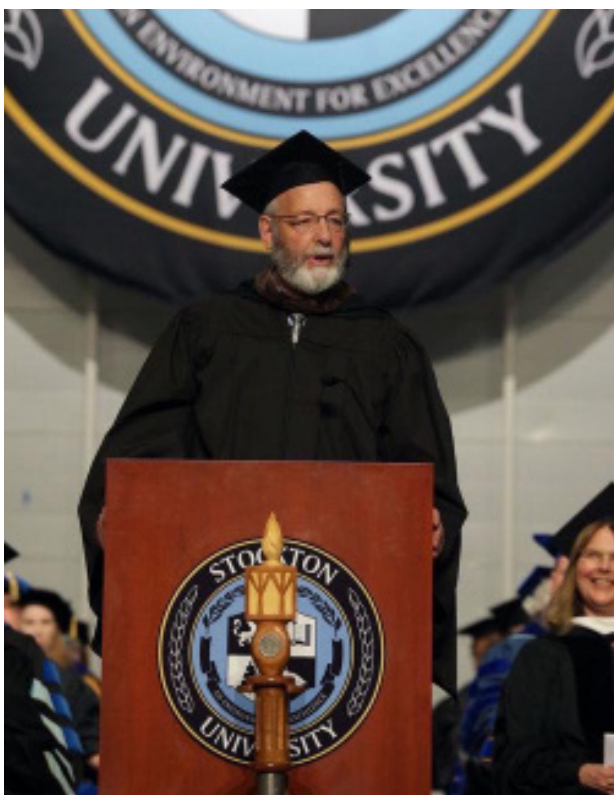
*This dedication to the community is demonstrated most prominently during the ACUA's annual Earth Day Festival, the largest and longest running in South Jersey.*

*Dovey has served in leadership roles at numerous organizations, including the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Stockton University Foundation Board of Directors, the Atlantic County Economic Alliance, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District, the Coastal Conservancy, the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, and others throughout his career.*

*Prior to joining ACUA, Dovey led the Atlantic County Regional Planning and Development Department and previously served as Manager of the Rutland County Solid Waste District in Vermont.*

*Dovey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Stockton University. He will officially retire from ACUA on July 1, 2023.*

*Dovey's career has had a substantial impact in the South Jersey area and on the New Jersey environmental community. His dedication and accomplishments will serve as guidepost for environmental authorities for years to come.*



## Highlights and Reflections on 33 Years

Reflecting on his career, Dovey said the essential functions ACUA performs are the ones he is most proud of.

"ACUA has successfully tackled two large environmental issues in this region – polluted waterways, and polluted groundwater. Our infrastructure and our systems have reversed this," said Dovey.

"So much of what we do at the ACUA affects the community, and every step of the way we've worked to educate the public on recycling, water, and other environmental issues. Everyone has a role in protecting the environment, and I'm proud of the work we've done to spread that message," he added.

Over the years of his career, Dovey has seen many changes across both the solid waste and wastewater sectors, and he believes the most exciting things are still to come.

"ACUA has always been on the leading edge of technologies that we need to effectively do our jobs," said Dovey.

"Looking ahead, it is exciting to see the advancements in artificial intelligence and robotics that are going to improve recycling, and we are not going to be stuck landfilling waste as we have been. I'm sure the ACUA and Atlantic County will be the leading force of this."

"On the wastewater side, we will recycle the effluent that we're putting into the ocean when the time and economics come together. It's a resource that can be recycled and returned to the environment," he added.

Ultimately, Dovey says serving as President of the ACUA has taught him how much he depends on the staff and people he works with to make real change.

"The employees of ACUA are a big inspiration, and seeing their willingness to evolve, learn and grow has been a true gift."



**Thank you, Rick, for your many years of dedicated service!**



# Meet ACUA's New President Matthew DeNafo



Matthew DeNafo will take the lead of serving the Atlantic County community with responsible wastewater and solid waste management as President of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) beginning April 2023.

DeNafo most recently served as Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management at ACUA where he was responsible for overseeing all Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management activities throughout the Authority. This included staff of more than 60 employees across the fleet, facilities, electrical and instrumentation, mechanical services, IT and research and development departments.

"I am excited to serve the community in this new role," said DeNafo. "Throughout my 15 years at ACUA, I have been fortunate to work alongside an extraordinary team of people committed to the hard work of keeping our environment clean."

Throughout his career, DeNafo has contributed to many of ACUA's integral infrastructure and engineering projects, including the construction of its compressed natural gas (CNG) station, wastewater facility protective seawall, green vehicle wash, pump station improvements, emergency power upgrades, and landfill cell construction.



The search to fulfill the position of President was completed following the announce-

ment of longtime ACUA President Rick Dovey's retirement. A consultant group conducted an independent search that included both internal and external candidates. After an extensive interview process, DeNafo was ultimately selected to lead the Authority.

"While our national search revealed prospects, it also listed Mr. DeNafo as a highly qualified candidate which I fully agreed," said ACUA Board of Commissioners Chair Marvin Embry. "DeNafo has earned the position and will accept the responsibilities with commitment, dedication and strong understanding of the Authority."

"I am confident ACUA will continue its long history of success in environmental leadership. This will include a continued focus on innovative solutions, customer-centric services, transparency, and most importantly, cost-efficient solid waste and wastewater management."

DeNafo is a graduate of Rowan University College of Engineering where he completed his degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering as well as a Master's in Environmental Engineering. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration from Rutgers University.

DeNafo is a New Jersey Licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Municipal Engineer. He currently serves on the board of the Solid Waste Association of North America's New Jersey Chapter (SWANA NJ), is President of the Waterford Township Board of Education, and sits on the Advisory Board for the Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT). DeNafo is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), New Jersey Water Environmental Association (NJWEA) and the American Public Works Association.



## THE LATEST IN WASTE

As part of our commitment to environmental stewardship, we like to inform the community about emerging trends and topics we're following in the solid waste and wastewater industries that will affect us locally. It is our duty to responsibly manage waste on behalf of the Atlantic County community, and we will continue to think ahead and implement the latest and most economical innovations to ensure a clean future for all.



### PFAS REMOVAL

Standards for limiting PFAS or "forever chemicals" found in nonstick cookware and waterproof products are changing. ACUA is working with other environmental authorities to advocate for guidance and communication with stakeholders to ensure that as laws change, Atlantic County will be prepared to implement required infrastructure and testing across both the wastewater and solid waste sectors.



### WASTE CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY

ACUA continues to explore the latest waste conversion technology that has the potential to turn waste into an energy resource and decrease the need for landfilling. ACUA will release a request for qualification (RFQ) for these technologies to determine how they can be implemented in Atlantic County.



### FOOD WASTE

According to the NJ Composting Council, food waste is 22% of the municipal solid waste stream. Capturing and removing this waste before it hits the trash can is of growing importance to the state. ACUA continues to follow emerging opportunities for limiting food waste and currently sponsors the Master Composter Program as well as many educational activities to promote composting at home.



### RECYCLING

Material recovery facilities (MRF) (recycling sorting centers) continue to advance to meet the challenges posed by evolving packaging. Now, many companies and MRFs are working to achieve plastic circularity, which means the ability to recycle an item back into the same item, and implement state-of-the-art technology to better sort items. ACUA is monitoring these changes to MRFs and will be releasing a request for proposal (RFP) in the coming months to explore both on-site and off-site options for recycling.



### CLEAN FUELS

Using cleaner fuels reduces the amount of pollutants entering the many communities we drive through each day and saves money. More than 90% of ACUA's collection vehicles operate using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). In 2022 alone, ACUA saved more than \$1.2 million in fuel costs in comparison to diesel! We continue to upgrade our vehicles and explore options like electric as they become feasible.

# Atlantic County Clean Communities Program

Local Groups Clean Adopted Roads, Schoolyards and More!



Hammonton Rotary Club



Nescochague Neighbors



Ford Beautification Project



Submarine Veterans



Girl Scout Troop 11141



Corbin City Historical Society



Atlantic Co. Umpires Assoc.



Northfield Linwood Kiwanis Club



The Gorny Family



Sustainable Mullica



C and R Appliance of Galloway



Mullica Township School



Stockton Scholars



Almosta Farms



Teal Creek Farm



Hammonton Lake and Community Cleanup



**JOIN THE EFFORT!**

Help keep our community clean! You can safely remove litter from roadsides, parks or school yards with our assistance.

**LEARN MORE!**  
[acua.com/adoptaroad](http://acua.com/adoptaroad)



**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP!**  
[facebook.com/groups/acoblitteraters](https://facebook.com/groups/acoblitteraters)

# How Your Yard Waste Becomes EcoSoil



Yard waste typically consists of grass clippings, leaves, sticks, and other tree trimmings. Nationally, this material accounts for approximately 12 percent of the municipal waste stream.

Here at ACUA, we divert this material from the landfill and create EcoSoil.

Once yard waste makes its way to our compost site, it goes through a grinder, which breaks down the material into finer pieces. It is then placed in windrows about six feet high and 500 feet long where it sits for several months to decompose.

During this period of decomposition, temperatures are monitored to determine when to turn the windrows. Turning adds oxygen to the pile, speeds up the process, and helps minimize odors.

After the material is finished curing, it is processed through a screening machine to remove any large pieces of material and refine the compost. The final product, EcoSoil, is ready to be used in flower beds and vegetable gardens.

Because it is made with natural materials, EcoSoil is filled with essential nutrients that enrich soil.

EcoSoil is available in bulk or 40 lb. bags. ACUA also provides a variety of EcoMulches for purchase.



The Brigantine School Garden grows in EcoSoil!

Call 609.272.6950 or visit [store.acua.com](http://store.acua.com) to order

## EcoProduct Pricing



<b>EcoSoil</b>	\$3/ 40 lb. bag* \$20/cy \$11/cy for 100+ cubic yards
<b>EcoMulch</b>	\$23/cy
<b>Colored Mulches</b>	\$28/cy \$23/cy for 100+ cubic yards
<b>EcoRoot Mulch</b>	\$28/cy
<b>Playground Mulch</b>	\$24/cy

EcoSoil bag pricing includes tax, other product pricing does not.

### Delivery available within Atlantic County!

- \$100 (includes tax)
- Minimum delivery is 5 cubic yards
- Delivery quantities: 5, 10, 15 or 20 cubic yards



# RECYCLING REFRESHER

Put these in your bin:



## PLASTICS

Plastic items and containers with numbers 1, 2, or 5 inside the recycling symbol



## PAPER & CARDBOARD

Please flatten cardboard boxes



## GLASS

Bottles and Jars



No bags! Keep items loose in your container.



## METAL

Aluminum, Tin or Steel Cans

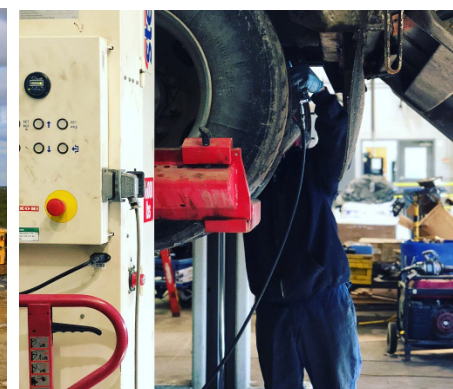


Visit [acua.com/recycling101](http://acua.com/recycling101) for details

# JOIN OUR TEAM

We're Hiring  
**CDL Drivers**  
**Laborers**  
**+ More**

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority is made of individuals with a variety of skills and backgrounds who unite to accomplish the common goal of protecting the environment.



Competitive Health Insurance Program • Paid Vacation  
Public Employees Retirement System Membership (Pension)  
Dental, Vision and Prescription Drug Plans • 13 Paid Holidays  
CDL Bonus • Sick Leave Accrual • On-Site CDL Training Available

**APPLY AT [ACUA.COM/CAREERS](http://ACUA.COM/CAREERS)**

# ACUA In Your Community



- 1 Career Day at Slaybaugh Elementary
- 2 Somers Point STEAM Event
- 3 William Davies School Wastewater Treatment Presentation
- 4 Gateway Community Action Partnership of Pleasantville
- 5 Margate Cherry Blossom Festival
- 6 The EHT PAL STEM Expo
- 7 North Main Street School of Pleasantville
- 8 Lines on the Pines
- 9 Woodstown High School
- 10 Rowan University
- 11 Beth Israel Nursery School
- 12 Cape May County Tech
- 13 Cedar Creek High School
- 14 Atlantic County Master Composter Class
- 15 Widener University

ACUA is accepting in-person and virtual tour requests for all ages!  
Please visit [www.acua.com/tours](http://www.acua.com/tours) for information.

[www.acua.com](http://www.acua.com) | 609.272.6950

Add us to your feed:

