## ATLANTIC COUNTY RECYCLES





A permanently capped section of the ACUA land fill in Egg Harbor Township now grows green vegetation.

#### **Permanent Cap To Cover 16 Acres of Landfill**

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) will install a permanent cap over 16 acres of its landfill in Egg Harbor Township beginning in April.

The cap will increase landfill gas collection efficiency, reduce leachate generation, improve stormwater quality and minimize the potential for odors to migrate off-site.

"This project serves as a literal capstone to the significant investments we've made in our landfill gas collection and control system over the last two years," said ACUA President Matthew DeNafo.

ACUA has invested nearly \$2 million in its landfill gas collection and control system since 2023. This included the installation of 51 additional landfill gas collection wells, more than 14,000 linear ft. of gas collection header pipe, 12,000 linear ft. of compressed air line, and two dewatering sumps.

A permanent cap can be applied over areas of the landfill that are no longer accepting waste. The cap is made of geosynthetic plastic liner. Once applied, it will be topped with soil and covered in grass.

The permanent cap is being installed five years ahead of schedule due to the support of the...

continued inside

## Don't Sweat Putting Out the Trash This Summer

ACUA Offers Optional Valet Service to Shore Homeowners

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) offers valet collection service to homeowners in the shore communities of Brigantine, Longport, Margate and Ventnor for an affordable fee.

Instead of placing trash and recycling curbside on collection day, ACUA crews will retrieve containers from the residence, empty, and return containers to a designated spot.



"The service is convenient for residents who may not be present on collection day and ensures trash doesn't build up during the hot summer months," said ACUA President Matthew DeNafo.

ACUA offers two main service periods that begin April 21 or May 26 and extend through September 5. Optional service through the end of September is also available. Interested participants can view rates and apply for the service at acua.com/valet.



#### LANDFILL CAP (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Atlantic County Executive and Commissioners who approved \$7 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund appropriations in November 2024.

The cap is part of ACUA's long-term landfill operations plans. By the end of summer 2025, ACUA will also open a renewable natural gas (RNG) facility with partners South Jersey Gas and OPAL Fuels. The facility will transform landfill gas into natural gas that can power area homes, businesses and collection vehicles like ACUA's. The project will also increase collection efficiency and reducing landfill gas emissions at the flare by up to 95%.

The Authority is in the process of procuring waste conversion technology through an RFP process. The technologies being considered have the potential to turn waste into energy and create a commodity by-product. The landfill, as currently permitted, can accept waste through 2029. ACUA is also exploring the option to extend its life to 2037 by filling a five-acre area between two existing sections of the landfill. An expansion would stabilize trash disposal costs for all municipalities, keeping ACUA's rates among the lowest in the state, and provide time for the development of an alternative solution.

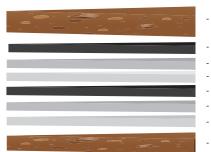
Residents can follow updates and subscribe to email alerts on notable landfill projects at acua.com/landfillgas.



 $\label{lem:acual Landfill} \textbf{ACUA Landfill Systems Tech Tre L. works on gas collection pipes.}$ 

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The ACUA landfill was established in response to numerous unlined, privately owned landfills that contaminated our communities. ACUA's landfill is built with several layers of liner, and piping is placed throughout to collect leachate, or liquids created from trash. These systems are specifically designed to protect our groundwater.



18" SAND

- GEOTEXTILE PROTECTIVE LAYER
- PRIMARY LINER
- GEOSYNTHETIC CLAY LINER
- COMPOSITE DRAINAGE NET
- SECONDARY LINER
- GEOSYNTHETIC CLAY LINER
- SUBBASE SOIL

The liner consists of several layers that are fused together to create a protective barrier before waste is placed inside the landfill. The liner system can be seen in this photo from our recent berm construction.





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.

#### **OFFICERS**

MATTHEW DENAFO President

LINDA BAZEMORE
Senior Vice President of Administration and
Finance/CFO

GARY CONOVER Vice President of Solid Waste

TOM GANARD Chief Engineer

JOSEPH PANTALONE Vice President of Wastewater

JAMES ROCCO Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management

609.272.6950 | www.acua.com

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 27**

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

Join us for South Jersey's largest and longest-running Earth Day Festival! ACUA's 33rd annual celebration is a fun-filled day of learning and entertainment for the entire family.

#### INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

- · Touch a Truck
- Hayrides to Landfill
- · Meet Supercan
- Petting Zoo
- · Pony Rides
- Composting Demonstration
- Wastewater Facility Tours
- Games
- Bouncies
- Playground

#### 150+ VENDORS & EXHIBITORS



#### **FREE WORKSHOPS**

- Safe Dog Interaction 10:30 AM
- · Houseplants 101 11 AM
- · Sour Dough Intro 12 PM
- · Slow Food 1 PM
- · Rain Barrel Demonstration 2 PM
- · Local Wild Edible Plants 3 PM



#### **MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT**

- $\cdot$  Book Readings by Local Author Deborah Ein  $\cdot$  Recycled Fashion Show
- $\cdot$  Recycled Art with Local Artist Eduardo Jiménez  $\cdot$  Music by Valerie Vaughn
- Performances by Middle Earth Studios, Grand Falloons, Eyes of the Wild, Oceans Rock Rocks and Mineral Show and more!

Free Admission + Parking!

In addition to parking at ACUA, parking and shuttle service will be available from the business park lot located at 6550 Delilah Road.











### SPRING CLEANING GUIDE

Follow these tips to properly dispose of items when cleaning and organizing your home.

#### **CABINET**

#### **PLAY ROOM**

#### **HOME OFFICE**



- Cleaning Chemicals
- Floor Products
- Furniture Polish

Household cleaning agents and chemicals should not be thrown in your regular trash can or emptied down the drain. ACUA accepts these items at its household hazardous waste drop-offs at no cost. See dates below.



Donate working toys whenever possible. Organizations like Second Chance Toys often host drop-off events throughout the year. Large plastic toys cannot be recycled in your curbside bin. Stuffed animals can be recycled at Helpsy bins (see next page for details).



- Computers
- Power Cords

Electronics must be recycled through approved collectors. Many towns collect electronics through separate curbside collections. The Atlantic County 4H Club also hosts a free recycling event on the third Saturday of each month. Visit ac4hfair.org for details.

#### **GARAGE**

#### **JUNK DRAWER**

#### **CAR TRUNK**



- Furniture
- Bicycles
- Lawn Mower

Outdoor furniture and bicycles that cannot be donated can be placed out for bulk trash on your scheduled collection day. Metal items like lawnmowers can be recycled through your town's metal recycling collection (please remove fluids). You may also bring items to the ACUA for disposal.



Batteries

Disposable alkaline batteries can be placed in your regular trash. Silver oxide, "button," batteries, lithium-ion, or rechargeable batteries must never be placed in the trash. They can be taken to local home improvement stores or to ACUA's household hazardous waste drop-off.



• Reusable Bags

Extra reusable bags can be donated to local food banks! ACUA also accepts them at its household hazardous waste drop-offs throughout the year and at its GEO Administrative Office M-F from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFFS

Atlantic County residents can participate in ACUA's free household hazardous waste drop-off program held on the following Saturdays from 8 AM to 1 PM at our Environmental Park located at 6700 Delilah Road in Egg Harbor Township. See acua.com/hhw for full guidelines and details. 2025 Dates: May 31, July 12, September 6, and November 8.

#### DOWNLOAD RECYCLECOACH

Download the RecycleCoach App to see proper disposal information for your community! You can also access the search tool at acua.com.



#### **DRAWERS + CLOSET**



Textiles are a growing contributor to the waste stream. When cleaning out your closet, please donate or recycle your items.

Clothing is cheaper and more accessible than ever. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that 1.7 million tons of textiles were created in 1960. In 2018, that number jumped to more than 17 million tons! And it's only increasing. The rise of social media influencers have made purchasing new clothing enticing and convenient. With the touch of a fingertip, someone else's "try-on haul" can become your new spring wardrobe.

Today's textiles are often not durable enough to become hand-me-downs. Most modern fabrics are made of plastic, which makes it cheap to produce but quick to degrade. They do not withstand regular wear and tear as well as natural fibers, and they contribute to microplastic pollution when placed in the washing machine.

When the trend is over, most of this clothing will end up in the landfill. In Atlantic County, textiles – which include clothing, fabrics, shoes, towels, rags, curtains, blankets, and stuffed animals – make up 6.1% of all residential waste. This is the fourth most prevalent waste material – ranking even higher than sanitary items like diapers.

There are ways we can all help to prevent this growing waste stream.

#### **Invest in Quality.**

Instead of purchasing new styles every season, consider investing in clothing that will withstand washes and changes in trends. Clothing made of natural fibers are more likely to wash better and withstand multiple wears.

#### De-Influence.

Hit the unfollow button on social media accounts that continually entice you to purchase more clothing.



#### **Get Thrifty.**

Local thrift stores are often filled with quality items that can become new to you. There are several located within Atlantic County.

#### **Donate and Recycle.**

Instead of placing unwanted clothing in the trash can, donate items that can be reworn and recycle textiles that can't. See a local list of recycling and donation options below.

# LOCAL DONATION/ RECYCLING OPTIONS

#### **Arc of Atlantic County**

6409 Ventnor Avenue, Ventnor 3003 English Creek Avenue, Egg Harbor Township

#### Goodwill

6701 Black Horse Pike, Cardiff 200 White Horse Pike, Hammonton

#### **Helpsy**

Bins are located across Atlantic County and can be located at helpsy.com. The company sorts through items to resell or recycle.

#### **Salvation Army**

650 N. Albany Ave., Atlantic City



#### ATLANTIC COUNTY CLEAN COMMUNITIES



Hundreds participated in Hammonton's Community Cleanup in March

Spring is the perfect time to get involved in the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program! Community groups, families, businesses and schools can adopt county roads, school yards and parks to help keep our community clean. ACUA will provide supplies and safety gear. Visit acua.com/adoptaroad to learn more.





Corbin City Historical Society

Absecon Green Team





South Jersey Sand Sharks





Egg Harbor City Coalition for a Safe Community

#### **Towns Can Earn Points for Litter Prevention Activities with Sustainable Jersey**

Sustainable Jersey, a nonprofit that recognizes municipalities for completing actions towards energy effi- 3 ciency, recycling, and more has added a new action to increase litter prevention.



to towns that utilize the RecycleCoach Clean Communities Package, which 🖋 is currently provided to all Atlantic County towns through ACUA.

"Municipalities now have the opportunity to earn points for enforcing litter ordinances and sharing prevention education," said Atlantic County Clean Communities Coordinator Rebecca Turygan who helped to develop the action guidelines.

The action requires municipalities to adopt a litter control ordinance, implement an enforcement strategy, perform a community cleanup, and provide continued education to residents. Extra points are provided

Egg Harbor City's annual community cleanup that attracts hundreds of participants is cited as an example of how New Jersey towns can successfully engage with residents. Towns must complete a litter survey alongside at least one community cleanup, which provides helpful data on the types of litter found in our communities.

More information on the action is available at sustainablejersey.com.



#### IN YOUR COMMUNITY



ACUA Attends Somers Point STEAM Night

## Add Magic To Your Yard With a Painted Rain Barrel

Rain barrels capture and store rainwater so it can be used in place of fresh water to hydrate plants and flowers. Using rain barrels conserves fresh water supply and prevents stormwater runoff. Painting makes them an even nicer addition to your backyard!



ACUA, in partnership with local AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Morgan Crouch, recently hosted a rain barrel workshop where participants built and painted rain barrels. Below are the steps they followed to beautify their creations.

#### **PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS**

- Remove waxy outer coating with fine sandpaper/abrasive pad.
- Apply a primer that sticks to plastic (check the label for application information).
- Decorate with acrylic or spray paint that adheres to plastic. Let the paint dry for 48 hours or more.
- Apply a clear sealant spray coating meant for outdoors to provide weather protection.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS**



#### **APRIL 19**

4H Electronic Recycling Collection 8 AM to 12 PM

David C. Wood 4H Center 3210 Route 50, Mays Landing ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling



Attendees of ACUA's recent Garden Talk

#### **APRIL 26**

Ventnor Shred and Textile Recycling Event 10 AM to 12 PM

Newport Avenue and the Beach, Ventnor ventnorcity.org

#### **APRIL 27**

ACUA Earth Day Festival 10 AM to 4 PM

ACUA Environmental Park 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ acua.com/earthday



#### MAY 3

Hamilton Township Earth Day 10 AM to 2 PM

Oakcrest High School 1824 Dennis Foreman Drive, Mays Landing

#### **MAY 17**

4H Electronic Recycling Collection 8 AM to 12 PM

David C. Wood 4H Center 3210 Route 50, Mays Landing ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling

#### **MAY 19**

Garden Talk: Pepper Party 5:30 PM

ACUA Community Garden 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township acua.com/garden

#### **MAY 31**

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off 8 AM to 1 PM PM

ACUA Environmental Park 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township acua.com/hhw



Participants show off their completed rain barrels after the recent workshop at ACUA.



#### **JUNE 21**

4H Electronic Recycling Collection 8 AM to 12 PM

David C. Wood 4H Center 3210 Route 50, Mays Landing ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling

#### **JUNE 23**

Garden Talk: Community Garden Tour 5:30 PM

ACUA Community Garden 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township acua.com/garden

\*Event dates are subject to change

## ATLANTIC COUNTY RECYCLES



**PAPER CARDBOARD** 





**METALS** 





Please remove food or liquids. Place material loose in your bin.



**NEVER MISS ANOTHER RECYCLING DAY! SCAN** TO SIGN UP FOR A TEXT OR EMAIL REMINDER.



**Atlantic County Utilities Authority** www.acua.com | 609.272.6950