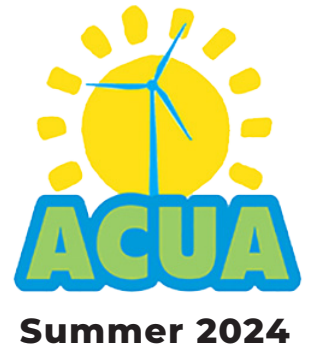


ATLANTIC COUNTY RECYCLES



2 MILLION LBS. EVERY 24 HOURS

A concrete floor sits vacant at 7 a.m. Moments later, large trucks drive in and out, in and out, unloading mounds of garbage from nearby homes and businesses. By midday, the concrete is covered in waste. By closing time, a staggering mountain of trash has taken over the space.

That's just a typical Tuesday at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) Transfer Station.

The building receives nearly 2 million lbs. of trash every day from Atlantic County homes and businesses.

"Once the can goes to the curb, most people don't think about their trash ever again," said ACUA President Matthew DeNafo. "Visitors are shocked when they tour our facility and see how much waste comes in."

The mountain of waste becomes smaller and smaller overnight as ACUA crews load, transport and bury the entire pile in the landfill by sunrise each day.

"The modern landfill is an incredible tool to managing our waste," said DeNafo. "However, it's only one part of the solution. We could all be doing more to minimize our impact."

RECYCLING

Recycling is the most convenient way residents can minimize the trash they produce. It has been the law in New Jersey since 1987.

In Atlantic County, residents can recycle plastics (with numbers 1, 2, and 5 on the bottom), cardboard, paper, glass and metals. This covers most of the single-use items encountered in daily life, such as yogurt containers, milk jugs, junk mail, pickle jars, egg cartons, soup cans, or packaging from online orders.

"Our team offers collection, educational materials, and containers," said DeNafo. "We make it very easy to participate."

Most Atlantic County residents are eligible to receive a free 20-gallon recycling bucket every four years. Large 96-gallon recycling carts are available for \$80. Items do not need to be separated; they can be placed together into the same recycling container.

"Recycling costs less than landfilling. In addition to helping the environment by conserving natural resources, recycling can save your town or your business money on trash disposal costs," said DeNafo.

...continued inside on page 3

7 AM



4 PM



ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

SEPT

SEPT 12

Composting at Home/ Build Your Own Worm Bin
5:30 to 7 PM

ACUA Community Garden
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township
Register at acua.com/composting101

SEPT 21

Brigantine Beach Cleanup

9 AM - 12 PM

16th Street Beach Parking Lot

Brigantine, NJ

Contact Public Works for more information at
609.266.7800

SEPT 23

Garden Talk: Saving/Starting Pollinated Seeds

5:30 PM

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

OCT

OCT 1

Recycled Art Contest Begins

Drop off artwork entries at a library near you!
See acua.com/artcontest for details

OCT 5

ACUA Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

8 AM to 1 PM

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

OCT 19

4H Electronic Recycling Collection

8 AM to 12 PM

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

OCT 28

Garden Talk: Foraging

5:30 PM

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

NOV

NOV 9

***Final* ACUA Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off for 2024**

8 AM to 1 PM

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



NOV 16

America Recycles Day

1-3 PM

ACUA Recycling Center
6700 Delilah Road
Egg Harbor Township
acua.com/ard

DEC

DEC 2

ACUA Holiday Food Drive Begins

Check acua.com/fooddrive for details

For a full list of ACUA and other environmental events in the community, visit acua.com.

Dates are subject to change.



Atlantic County Utilities Authority

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
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

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DENNIS LEVINSON, Ex-Officio
Atlantic County Executive

Reduce Waste:

COMPOST AT HOME

ACUA now sells home composters

\$60

Purchase at our GEO Admin Building at
6700 Delilah Rd. in Egg Harbor Township
M-F 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM



acua.com/homecompost

COMPOSTING

Separating yard waste and food waste from regular trash greatly minimizes waste production.

Yard waste composting, which includes tree limbs, leaves, and grass, is available to all Atlantic County residents, and ACUA offers curbside collection in many towns.

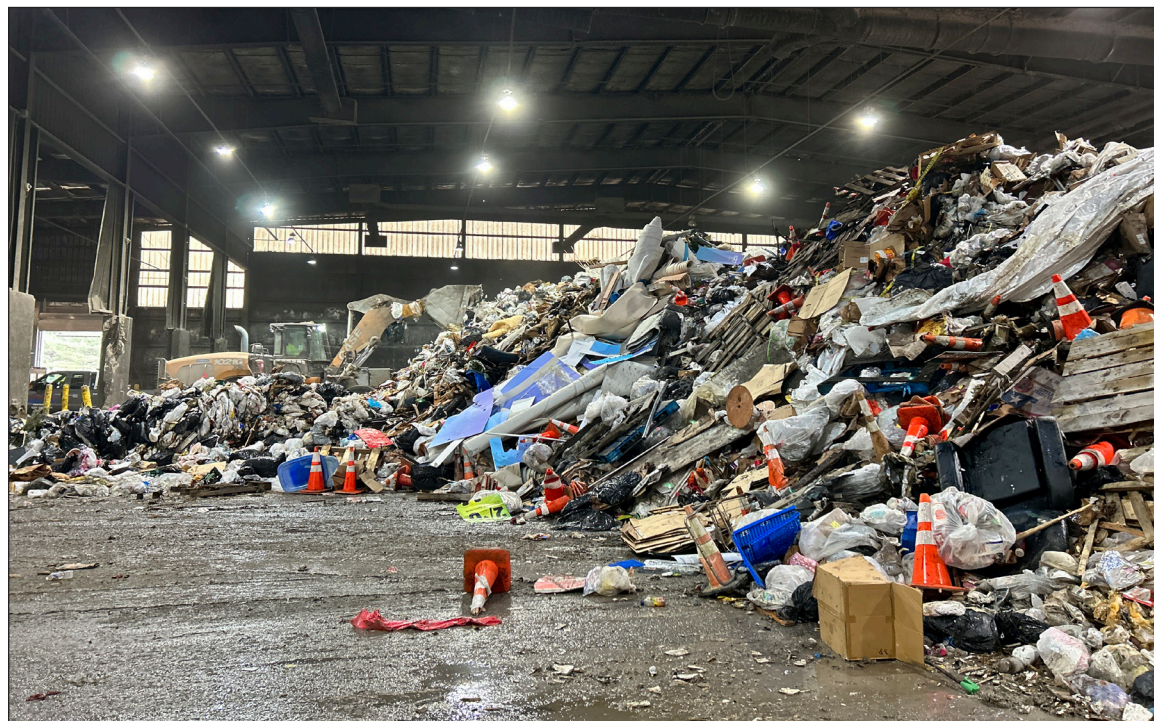
Food waste composting is not offered through a county-wide collection system but can be done in most backyards or even basements.

"Composting may seem daunting at first, but it only takes a bin and some redirection when tossing out leftovers," said DeNafo.

ACUA sells a 128-gallon home composting bin for \$60. It also provides instructions, steps for building your own outdoor bin, and guidelines for worm composting (great for indoors) on its website. ACUA also partners with the Atlantic County Master Composters on an annual master class for residents looking to dive deeply into the subject.

THE FUTURE

Atlantic County's integrative waste management system currently includes a landfill, transfer station, composting facility and recycling center. The ACUA is currently exploring a waste



A look inside the transfer station where trash is taken throughout the day.

conversion technology project and expects to receive formal proposals from three selected companies by the end of the year.

"We are actively researching leading technology that can provide a sustainable solution for our community," said DeNafo.

ACUA is also exploring partnerships with local donation centers to make donating and reusing items more accessible.

"While we're doing the work to manage waste, we invite our community to join us in reducing, recycling and composting all that they can."

Visit acua.com to learn more about recycling, composting and other ways to reduce waste.

GoodWill Makes it Easy to Donate Household Items

Goodwill of Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia makes it easy to donate a variety of items at its Atlantic County locations in Egg Harbor Township and Hammonton. Accepted items include:

- Books, movies, music
- Clothing and accessories
- Linens, curtains and bedding
- TVs, computers, DVD players, radios
- Exercise and sporting equipment
- Dishes, glassware and utensils
- Shoes
- Toys, games and more

Goodwill can also help with house cleanouts and provides pick up services for large items like furniture and other household items through its veteran-owned partner, ReSupply. Interested residents can visit goodwillnj.org for details.



Cars, boats and RVs can be donated by visiting goodwillcardonations.org.

Gently-used medical equipment can be donated to all locations in New Jersey. It is refurbished and sanitized before finding a new home. Visit goodwillhomemedical.org for details.





RECYCLED ART CONTEST

Artists of all ages are invited to participate in ACUA's 10th annual recycled art contest!

Artwork must be made from recyclable or trash materials. Entries will be accepted at Atlantic County Library Branches, the Linwood Public Library, the Northfield Library, Stockton University Library and the Atlantic Cape Community College Library between October 1 and October 31.

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



Catching Waves, Cleaning Water

Meet ACUA Director of Wastewater Operations Pete Machotka

Most people aren't thinking about sewage when they're swimming in the ocean. The same can't be said for Director of Wastewater Operations at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA), Pete Machotka.

Pete is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the wastewater treatment system that serves 14 municipalities in Atlantic County. The system cleans an average of 28 million gallons of wastewater each day from area toilets, showers, and washing machines before it is released into the ocean.

"I jump into the ocean almost daily, so the health and vitality of our waterways is always on my mind," said Pete.

Outside of work, Pete is an avid surfer. Overcoming his initial fear of the ocean, he began surfing around 12 years old and hasn't stopped since.

"What I like about surfing is that it demands 100% focus and commitment. You are forced to be present in the moment and deal with whatever is directly in front of you with your full attention."

Pete applies that same focus and commitment to his career in the wastewater industry.

"I have an accounting degree, so it wasn't really on my radar to apply to jobs in the wastewater field. After a few years as a carpenter, I began working at the Ocean County Utilities Authority as a utility worker and immediately focused on learning everything I could to work my way into operations and start obtaining licenses."

Today, Pete holds the highest New Jersey Wastewater Treatment System Operators License and leads the team of operators at ACUA. He has a deep appreciation for the work performed every day at the treatment plant and knows what's at stake when our waterways are not clean.

A surfing trip out of the country made a lasting impression after he witnessed rivers full of trash and sewage being discharged directly into waterways.



"I jump into the ocean almost daily, so the health and vitality of our waterways is always on my mind."



"It was an eye-opening experience. Here, I have never given a second thought to going in the water."

Before ACUA's regional plant, Atlantic County had more than 20 small, outdated sewage treatment plants, that discharged directly into waterways and threatened water quality and marine life. After the Clean Water Act was passed, the regional sewer treatment plant was built to improve public health and prevent pollution. It also increased the County's capacity for sewage intake – something that would inevitably be needed as the influx of casinos and nearby homes were filled with toilets, showers and sinks.

"Without the health of our waterways, we couldn't enjoy activities like swimming, surfing, or fishing, and we wouldn't have the vibrant tourism economy that we do."

To learn more about wastewater treatment and how you can start a career in the wastewater industry, visit acua.com.

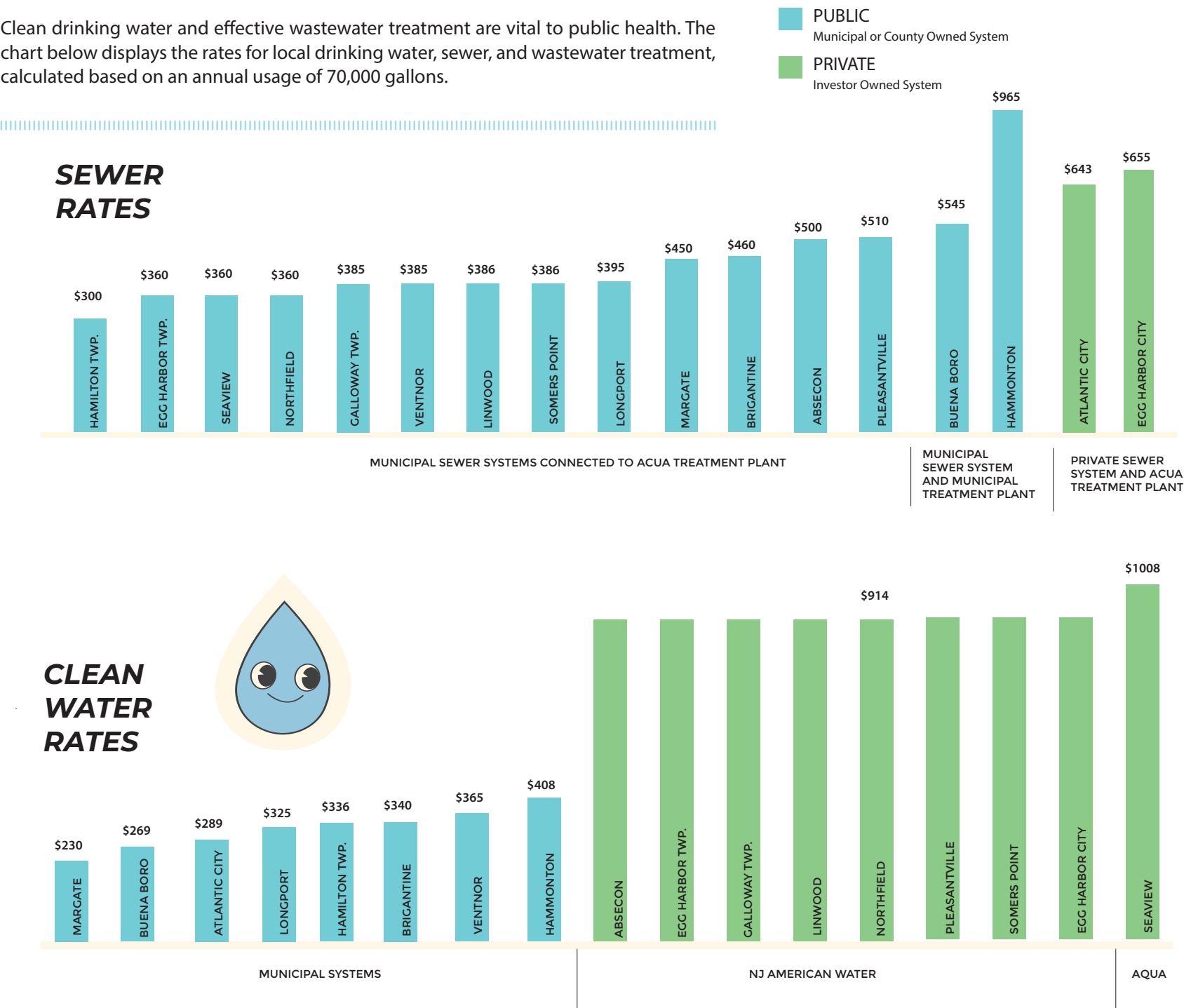


Scan QR code to
watch a video
featuring Pete

The Cost of Clean Water

Clean drinking water and effective wastewater treatment are vital to public health. The chart below displays the rates for local drinking water, sewer, and wastewater treatment, calculated based on an annual usage of 70,000 gallons.

Both public and private entities are required to comply with the same federal drinking water and wastewater treatment standards.



Summer Olympics Puts Wastewater in the Spotlight



Wastewater became a hot topic during the recent summer Olympic games as controversy surrounding the safety of swimming in the River Seine made headlines.

Paris, like many older cities, uses a combined sewer system, which means the sewer system collects rainwater and sewage in the same pipeline. When there are heavy rains, it causes an overflow, and sewage is discharged into nearby waterways. In Paris, the River Seine is one of the waterways impacted.

Combined sewer systems are often found in old cities and are no longer the best way to capture and convey wastewater.

Atlantic County's system is not combined, and will not discharge into waterways during high storm events. However, there are 21 cities throughout NJ that still operate on a combined sewer system. In these communities, it is particularly important to limit water use during storm and rain events.

In Paris, a large holding tank was built to help combat overflows prior to the Olympics. Still, many remained skeptical about the cleanliness of the river. Triathlon athletes did eventually compete, and officials remained confident that the water was clean enough to swim in.

ATLANTIC COUNTY CLEAN COMMUNITIES

Local community groups, organizations, families and schools adopt county roads, school yards and parks to help keep our community clean. Join the effort! You can safely remove litter from roadsides, parks or school yards with our assistance. Visit: acua.com/adoptaroad to learn more.

1. Absecon Green Team
2. Port Republic City Wide Cleanup
3. Hamilton Township Green Team
4. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
5. Atlantic County Umpires Association
6. Xi Tau Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.
7. Hammonton Democrats
8. Makepeace WMA
9. Kramer Beverage
10. Corbin City Republicans



Participate in the Fall Litter Challenge

ACUA and the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program invite you to participate in a litter removal contest throughout the month of October for a chance to win!

Litter teams can perform cleanups between October 4-20 on roadways, parks, or other public areas. Each team must report bags of trash or recycling collected through a designated online form. Pictures of material must be sent to verify the cleanups. The winner will be selected based on the amount of litter collected and announced in November. Contest is open to Atlantic County residents. Teams are limited to 15 people or less.

Volunteers Needed for Fall

LITTER CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 4-20

Clean your neighborhood and win up to \$500!

ACUA

PRIZES

- First Place - \$500 Mini-Grant
- Second Place - \$300 Mini-Grant
- Third Place - \$100 Mini-Grant
- Strangest Litter Find - \$100 Mini-Grant

To view the full contest rules and to register, visit:

acua.com/litterchallenge

Construction Continues on Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility

Progress is being made on the renewable natural gas (RNG) facility at ACUA's landfill in partnership with OPAL Fuels and South Jersey Industries. The system will transform landfill gas created by decomposing waste so it is interchangeable with conventional natural gas.

ACUA's landfill gas is currently collected throughout the landfill and transported to an enclosed flare where methane is converted into less harmful carbon dioxide (CO2). With the RNG project in place, emissions at this collection

point will be reduced by up to 90%.

The project is the first of its kind in South Jersey. It will provide energy to the area and fuel for compressed natural gas vehicles such as those used in ACUA's collection fleet.

ACUA has been working with its partners to increase gas collection efficiency at its site, and demolition was completed to make way for the new facility. Operations are expected to begin by the end of summer 2025.



A building is demolished to make way for the Atlantic RNG Project.

Microplastics Removal Project To Open at ACUA Wastewater Treatment Facility on September 12



The project under construction at the ACUA Wastewater Treatment Facility in Atlantic City.

The grand opening of a new Microplastic Removal Pilot Project, a partnership between ACUA and PolyGone Systems, will take place on September 12.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that break off from larger plastic products or synthetic clothing. They can easily accumulate and have been detected in both marine life and human blood.

Polygone designed a specialized filter to capture the tiny material. Their system has been installed at ACUA's wastewater treatment facility and will be used to remove microplastics from treated wastewater before it is discharged into the ocean.

An educational pavilion will accompany the technology so visitors can learn about the dangers of microplastics and PolyGone's environmental mission.

The project is funded by the NOAA Sea Grant Program Marine Debris Challenge Competition 2023 and the NJ CSIT Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program.

The project is the first of its kind and may expand opportunities for wastewater facilities to treat microplastics.

To learn more, visit acua.com.

NEVER FORGET YOUR RECYCLING DAY! Download RecycleCoach

ACUA has a new reminder system called RecycleCoach. Residents can sign up to receive a free text or email before your next ACUA collection.

Residents can also download the RecycleCoach app to stay updated with reminder notifications or easily search for disposal information.

To set a reminder, download the RecycleCoach app, or visit acua.com/reminders, search for your address, and select the option to "Set Reminder."



Don't Miss a Collection!

No one likes a missed collection! Download the Mobile App and set weekly reminders so you never miss a collection.

You can also report a missed pick-up through our 'Report a Problem' tool.

recyclecoach
www.recyclecoach.com

Ask Supercan:

Are cartons recyclable?

At this time, cartons like those used to hold juice and milk, are not accepted in Atlantic County's recycling program. The material used to make cartons is difficult for manufacturers to reuse. To reuse at home, try this idea! Cut out the top where the cap is placed in a circle. Screw on top of a mason jar to create a pour cap.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



ACUA offers in-person and virtual tours for all ages!
Please visit www.acua.com/tours for information.

1. Washington Township School Tour 2. Ventnor Preschool Tour 3. Jordan Road School Tour 4. FAME STEM Campers
 5. Locals make seed bombs at recent ACUA Garden Talk 6. ACUA Open House Tour Group 7. ACUA attends Beachstock in Margate 8. ACUA collection employees Dylan and Alex surprise local boy with trash truck toy

ACUA

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

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



PLASTICS

Recycle Plastics #1, 2, 5
 Bottles, Jugs and Containers



GLASS

Glass Bottles
 and Jars, All Colors



METALS

Aluminum, Tin
 or Steel Cans



PAPER CARDBOARD

