



A newsletter from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA)

SPRING 2026

# ATLANTIC COUNTY RECYCLES

Catch a ride to ACUA's Earth Day Festival on April 26!



## Residents Can Recycle More at ACUA's Expanding Drop-Off Area

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) is expanding its free recycling drop-off options for Atlantic County residents! Beginning May 1, 2026, residents will be able to conveniently recycle bulky rigid plastics, books, and oyster shells at designated bins located at ACUA's Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township.

"ACUA's expanded drop-off area will provide additional opportunities for residents to divert waste from the landfill," said ACUA President Matthew DeNafo. "We're excited to bring back our bulky rigid plastic program and offer special recycling opportunities for books and shells."

### What's New

#### BULKY RIGID PLASTICS

Large plastic items like laundry baskets are made with valuable plastic material. However, their size makes them difficult to capture in curbside recycling bins and can damage equipment at sorting facilities. When cap-



tured separately, bulky rigid plastics are highly recyclable. The new drop-off container will help to reduce plastic waste by diverting large plastic items from the landfill.

**What to bring:** plastic lawn furniture, plastic hampers, plastic buckets, plastic toys (with no electronic components), and plastic crates.

#### BOOKS AND MEDIA

Although books are made of paper, the binding makes many of them unacceptable in curbside recycling programs. The Used Book Company, based in Egg Harbor Township, helps divert this material from the landfill by selling or donating them with proceeds going to nonprofit organizations.



...CONTINUED INSIDE



# Earth Day

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026



FREE FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES • VENDORS • FOOD • MUSIC • 10 AM - 4 PM • ACUA ENVIRONMENTAL PARK EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

Join us for South Jersey's largest and longest-running Earth Day Festival!



# Earth Day

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

**10 AM to 4 PM**

**ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Rd. EHT**



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



## ACTIVITIES

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

## WORKSHOPS

- Safe Dog Interaction - 10:30 AM
- Plants for Teas Workshop - 11 AM
- Hiking and Outdoor Safety - 12 PM
- Infused Oil Salve Making - 1 PM
- Rain Barrel Demonstration - 2 PM
- Sourdough Demonstration - 3 PM

## 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.

**150+ Vendors • Live Entertainment • Tours  
Free Family Friendly Activities • Local Food  
Interactive Workshops • Music and More!**



## NEW DROP-OFFS (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

**What to bring:** hard or softcover books, DVDs, CDs, music, and video games. A portion of the proceeds from the donation bin at ACUA will go to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

### CLAM AND OYSTER SHELLS

The shell recycling program established by the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife Marine Resources Administration helps to sustain the habitat of oyster reefs in Atlantic County. The program collects oyster and clam shells from area casinos, restaurants – and now from residents at ACUA – to return to the Mullica River. The returned shells provide a home for oyster larvae to grow and survive, contributing to a healthy ecosystem. The process also helps to reduce coastal erosion and improve water quality while benefiting local fisheries.

**What to bring:** leftover clam or oyster shells.

### Existing Drop-Off Bins

Residents may continue bringing single-stream recycling items, which include metal cans, glass jars, paper, cardboard, and #1, #2, and #5 plastics, as well as shredded paper, which must be bagged, to the designated bins currently available at ACUA's free drop-off area.



### VISIT ACUA'S RECYCLING DROP-OFF AREA

#### HOURS

7 AM - 4 PM MON - FRI  
7 AM - 12 PM SAT

#### LOCATION

ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ



# ACUA

## VALET COLLECTION SERVICE

*Don't Sweat Trash or Recycling Collection This Summer!*



With the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) Valet Collection Service, your trash and recycling carts will be collected directly from the side of your home, emptied, and returned to your specified location. No need to be home to put items out at the curb!

Perfect for Rentals

Easy Registration

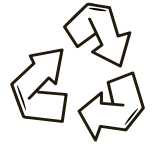
Affordable Rates



Apply Today!  
[acua.com/valet](http://acua.com/valet)

Atlantic County Utilities Authority  
[www.acua.com](http://www.acua.com) | 609.272.6950

## Connecting Art and Recycling

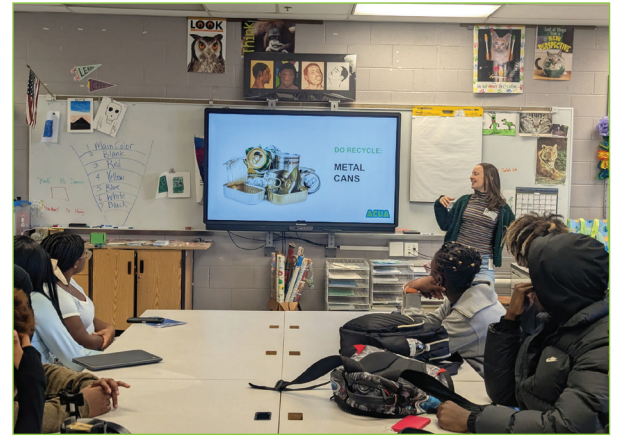


Local High School Brings Sustainability into the Art Classroom

Proving that sustainability can be integrated into any subject, ACUA recently teamed up with art teacher Katrina Steinbacher of Pleasantville High School to provide students with a deeper understanding of how their daily actions impact the environment.

ACUA provided a recycling lesson to art students that covered recycling guidelines, common recycling mistakes, and how proper waste management protects air quality, groundwater, and the surrounding ecosystem. Following the presentation, students engaged in a discussion about innovative ways to minimize waste in both the classroom and at home.

To reinforce their learning, students participated in ACUA's recent poster design contest. This contest invited local high school students to design educational posters that promote proper recycling, providing students a chance to showcase what they've learned.



ACUA Education and Outreach Specialist Alexis Demitroff provides recycling education presentation to students.

The tailored presentation and contest exemplify how environmental lessons can extend beyond the science classroom and be effectively integrated into art and other subjects.

For educators interested in receiving a lesson, please contact ACUA's Authority Relations team at [ar@acua.com](mailto:ar@acua.com).



Third Place Poster Contest Winner Lesli Rodriguez from Pleasantville High School

# COME SEE WHAT'S UP!



## SUMMER WIND FARM TOURS

Stop by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility Every *Windsday* in July and August at 12 noon for a free tour of the wind farm and treatment plant! Learn how renewable energy powers this essential service.

Tours are great for families and visitors of all ages and last approx. 1 hour. No advanced registration required.



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



*Add us to your summer bucket list!*

ACUA Wastewater Treatment Facility  
1801 Absecon Blvd. Atlantic City

# TRASH FACTS & FAQs

ACUA answers your frequently asked questions about what happens to your waste after it leaves the curb.

## How much waste is generated in one day?

On a typical day, ACUA will receive nearly 1,000 tons of trash from area homes and businesses. In 2025, ACUA accepted more than 207,000 tons of municipal solid waste, or regular household trash, nearly 28,000 tons of bulk waste, which includes items like furniture, and nearly 90,000 tons of construction debris, which includes items like wood and concrete.



A look inside ACUA's transfer station shows just how much trash Atlantic County produces in one day.

## How much waste can fit inside one trash truck?

ACUA's collection trucks typically hold up to 18 cubic yards of waste. Our fleet can visit up to 600 homes for trash collection or 350 homes for recycling before emptying.

## Does waste just get dumped in the ground?

No, ACUA's landfill is not an open dump. The unlined dumps that accepted our community's trash many years ago polluted our environment. ACUA's modern sanitary landfill was developed as a solution to safely manage our community's waste since 1990.

ACUA's landfill is engineered specifically to protect the environment and is heavily regulated and monitored. The landfill has a double liner that protects groundwater, a leachate collection system that captures leachate, or liquids created in the landfill, and safely trans-

ports them for treatment.

To ensure leachate is not leaking into the environment, tests of the surrounding groundwater, surface water, sewer, and stormwater basins are performed regularly by third-party firms to ensure the landfill meets stringent permit requirements.

## What will happen when the landfill fills up?

ACUA is currently pursuing a landfill modification to meet the waste management needs of Atlantic County businesses and residents. It includes adding a 5.74-acre space between two existing sections of the landfill and increasing the height of the landfill by up to 40 ft. The modification will extend the life of the landfill from 2029 to 2040, ensuring responsible waste management and stable disposal rates for years to come.

ACUA is also exploring waste conversion technologies that could transform waste into an energy resource. While landfilling may still be necessary, it would substantially limit the amount of waste being buried while providing an added benefit to our community.

## Is it true that ACUA buries trash at night?

Yes, because ACUA's landfill is close to the Atlantic City Airport, municipal solid waste, or regular household trash, is buried at night to keep birds away from the facility. ACUA follows a comprehensive bird deterrent plan and employs a wildlife biologist and supporting team to monitor bird activity onsite from sun up to sun down, seven days per week.



## Quick Stats

**325,000**

tons of solid waste accepted in 2025

**34,338**

tons of single-stream recycling accepted in 2025



## Ridin' Clean

For more than a decade ACUA's collection fleet has run on cleaner and cheaper compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel.

By using this alternative to diesel, ACUA has prevented more than 11,746 tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere while saving more than \$7.3 million!

As diesel prices rise, ACUA continues to pay a steady average of \$1.92 per diesel gallon equivalent.

Even cooler? ACUA's fleet now runs on fuel created from the trash they collect! The Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility located at ACUA's landfill, which captures and transforms gases created by decaying waste, now provides fuel to ACUA's CNG fueling station.

## Take a Tour

Tour our Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township to learn more about the landfill, recycling and the process of managing Atlantic County's waste. Visit [acua.com/tours](http://acua.com/tours) to schedule.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

## APRIL

### APR 18

**Hammonton Earth Day Cleanup**  
12:30 to 2:30 PM  
Meet at Historic Train Station.  
Community service hours available.  
Supplies will be provided.

### Wellington Avenue Cleanup

8:30 AM  
Meet at Pickle Juice Club in Ventnor.  
Open to volunteers ages 11 and older.  
Cleanup supplies will be provided.

### 4H Electronic Recycling Collection

8 AM to 12 PM  
David C. Wood 4H Center  
3210 Route 50, Mays Landing  
[ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling](http://ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling)

### APR 26

**ACUA Earth Day Festival**  
10 AM to 4 PM  
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township  
[acua.com/earthday](http://acua.com/earthday)

## MAY

### MAY 2

**Egg Harbor City Cleanup**  
8 AM  
Meet at Egg Harbor City Firehouse.  
Cleanup supplies will be provided.

### MAY 9

**Hamilton Township Cleanup/Oakfest**  
8 AM/10 AM  
[hamiltonatnj.gov](http://hamiltonatnj.gov)

### 4H Electronic Recycling Collection

8 AM to 12 PM  
David C. Wood 4H Center  
3210 Route 50, Mays Landing  
[ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling](http://ac4hfair.org/electronic-recycling)

### MAY 18

**Garden Talk: Companion Planting**  
5:30 PM  
ACUA Geo Administrative Building  
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township  
[acua.com/garden](http://acua.com/garden)

### MAY 20

**Compost 101 Workshop**  
5:30 PM  
ACUA Geo Administrative Building  
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township  
[acua.com/composting101](http://acua.com/composting101)

### MAY 30

**Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off**  
8 AM to 1 PM  
ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township  
[acua.com/hhw](http://acua.com/hhw)

## GROW YOUR GARDEN IN ECOSOIL

**\$4**

per 40 lb. bag

**\$20**

per cubic yard



All purpose 100% Natural Compost Made from Yard Waste at ACUA

Natural, Playground and Colored Mulches also available for purchase.



Call 609.272.6950 or visit [acua.com/store](http://acua.com/store) for details



## Recycle at Your Event

ACUA can loan "Clear Stream" event recycling containers for your next public event! Clear Stream containers are easy to transport and set up. Receptacles AND bags can be provided at no cost. Clear streams are only available for use for public events in towns ACUA actively services for recycling.

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

## Never Forget Your Collection Day: Download the RecycleCoach App

Download the RecycleCoach app to view your collection schedule, find recycling information, learn community cleanup dates and more!

Residents can also sign up to receive a free text or email before your next ACUA collection without downloading the app.

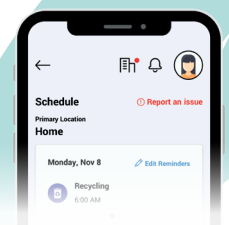
To set a reminder, download the RecycleCoach app, or visit [acua.com/reminders](http://acua.com/reminders), search for your address, and select the option to "Set Reminder."

## 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.



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

# KEEPING THINGS TIDY

As part of the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program, the following groups recently performed cleanups in our neighborhoods:



1. Hammonton Lake Cleanup  
3. Hammonton Democratic Club  
5. Sustainable Mullica

2. EHT Cub Scout Pack 94  
4. Absecon VFW Post 9462 Auxiliary  
6. Atlantic County Ruff Ryders

## JOIN THE EFFORT:

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.

[acua.com/adoptaroad](https://acua.com/adoptaroad)

# 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](https://acua.com/homecompost)

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



### 2026 DROP-OFF DATES

May 30  
July 11  
September 12  
November 14

### HOURS

8 AM to 1 PM

### LOCATION

ACUA Environmental Park  
6700 Delilah Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ



[acua.com/hhw](https://acua.com/hhw)

## Donate Your Extra Reusable Bags



Don't throw away your excess reusable bags! Recycle them through the NJ Clean Communities bag donation program. Residents can bring bags to ACUA's GEO Administrative Building located at 6700 Delilah Road in Egg Harbor Township Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bags are then sanitized and distributed to local food pantries and other nonprofit organizations.



# RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

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



## PLASTICS

#1, 2, 5 Bottles, Jugs, Containers



## PAPER CARDBOARD

Please Flatten Cardboard



## METALS

Aluminum, Tin or Steel Cans



## GLASS

Glass Bottles and Jars, All Colors



## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Did You Know?** ACUA offers in-person and virtual tours for all ages, presentations and school visits!

1. St. Augustine Preparatory High School 2. Leeds Avenue School STEM Night 3. Lines on the Pines event at Stockton University 4. Mullica Township Elementary School 5. Stockton University Students



Atlantic County Utilities Authority

www.acua.com | 609.272.6950

### 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.

### OFFICERS

- MATTHEW DENAFO  
President
- LINDA BAZEMORE  
Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO
- TOM GANARD  
Chief Engineer
- JOSEPH PANTALONE  
Vice President of Wastewater
- JAMES ROCCO  
Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management
- GREG SEHER  
Vice President of Solid Waste

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Vice Chairman
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Treasurer
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