

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATORS' MEETING

January 8, 2016

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. 2015 Missing quarterly tonnage reports – Mary Jerkowicz
3. Paint Management Program – Art Burns
4. Open floor discussions for recycling coordinators

Samples of topics to discuss

- a. E-Waste Issues
- b. Hazardous waste issues
- c. Rigid Plastics
- d. Plastic bag problems
- e. Glass Recycling
- f. Education materials – what is successful, what is not
- g. Outreach Programs - local festivals, events

5. Comments – Questions

Additional agenda items may be added or subject to change.

MISSING 2015
OCEAN COUNTY QUARTERLY RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORTING FORMS

TOWN	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
Barnegat				X
Barnegat Light	X	X	X	X
Bay Head	X	X	X	X
Beach Haven				X
Beachwood				X
Berkeley	X	X	X	X
Brick				X
Eagleswood				X
Harvey Cedars				X
Island Heights				X
Jackson	X	X	X	X
Lacey				X
Lakehurst				X
Lakewood		X	X	X
Lavallette				X
Little Egg Harbor				X
Long Beach				X rec'd 1/7/16
Manchester				X
Mantoloking	X	X	X	X
Ocean				X
Ocean Gate	X	X	X	X
Pine Beach				
Plumsted	X	X	X	X
Pt. Pleasant Borough	X	X	X	X
Pt. Pleasant Beach	X	X	X	X
Seaside Heights				X
Seaside Park				X
Ship Bottom				X
South Toms River				X
Stafford				X
Surf City		X	X	X
Toms River				X
Tuckerton		X	X	X

X INDICATES MISSING FORM

1st Qtr. due April 15

2nd Qtr. due July 15

3rd Qtr. due Oct 15

4th Qtr. due January 15

Due to tonnage data not available from commercial/private haulers until after the beginning of the following year, you can always file an amended 4th Quarter between January 15th and March 1st.

updated 1/7/2016

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<http://www.wsj.com/articles/recycling-becomes-a-tougher-sell-as-plastic-prices-drop-1428279575>

MARKETS

Recycling Becomes a Tougher Sell as Oil Prices Drop

The fall in oil prices has dragged down the price of virgin plastic, erasing recyclers' advantage



A former World War II bomber hangar in Binbrook, U.K., is used by CK Group to house materials for recycling.

PHOTO: GEORGI KANTCHEV/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By GEORGI KANTCHEV and SERENA NG

April 5, 2015 8:19 p.m. ET

BINBROOK, England—A former World War II bomber hangar houses a monument to the recent plunge in oil prices: hundreds of bags of shredded plastic.

The hangar is used by CK Group, a recycler of bottles, pipes and sundry bits of plastic. Plastic is often derived from oil, and there used to be money in recycled scrap. Not anymore. The fall in oil prices has dragged down the price of virgin plastic, erasing the recyclers' advantage.

"Many in the recycling industry are hanging by the skin of their teeth," says Chris Collier, CK's commercial director, walking among the bales of unsold shreds. "Everybody is desperately chasing for money to stay alive."

The ramifications are being felt far and wide. In the U.S., many cities and towns pick up detergent bottles, milk jugs and other bits of household plastic and sell them to recyclers who sort, process and resell the scrap. These municipalities typically earned cash—as much as \$10 a ton in parts of New Jersey—for selling recyclable materials under contracts that tie the sales price to commodities prices, with a minimum.

In recent months, some expiring contracts have been replaced with new contracts that set no such floor. That raises the possibility for some municipalities that a moneymaker could turn into a loser.

"They are definitely concerned about the possibility that they may have to pay for the materials to be removed," said Dominick D'Altilio, president of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, a Bridgewater, N.J., group that includes recycling firms and municipalities.

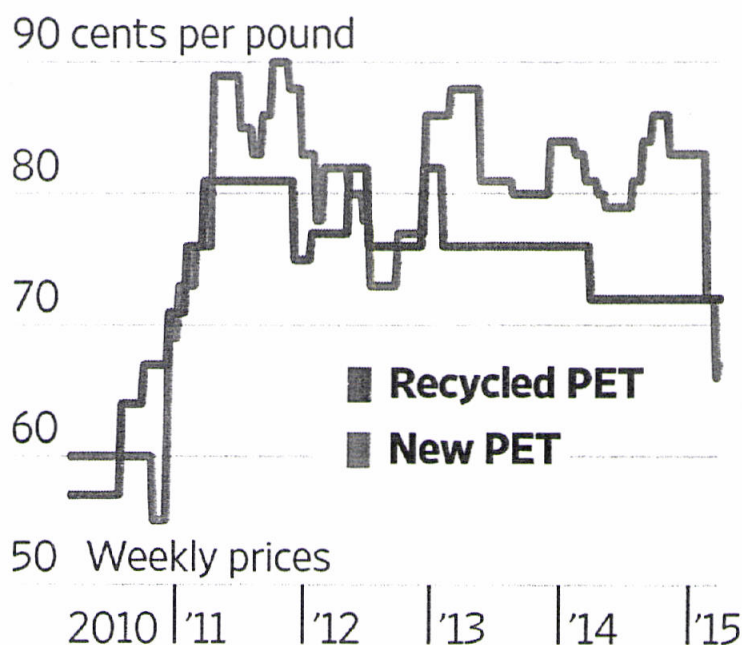
At the start of this year, new polyethylene terephthalate, a type of plastic widely known as PET and used to make soft-drink and water bottles, cost 83 cents a pound, according to data compiled by industry publication Plastics News. That was 15% higher than the cost of recycled PET.

As of late March, the cost of new PET had fallen to 67 cents a pound, or 7% less than the recycled form, which costs 72 cents a pound.

In many parts of the northeastern U.S., scarce space for landfills makes garbage disposal much costlier than elsewhere, so local governments in New Jersey and New York could still find it economical to recycle even if they have to pay for their plastic to be hauled away. Where dumping trash in landfills costs less, some cities might decide to forgo recycling.

Grinding Down

The price of a new type of plastic* used to make soft-drink and water bottles has fallen faster than its recycled form.



*Polyethylene terephthalate, or PET

Source: Plastics News

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Prices are “very important to stimulate good recycling rates among our communities,” says Carey Hamilton, executive director of the Indiana Recycling Coalition.

Especially hurt are the middlemen of the recycling supply chain, who buy used bottles, cans, paper and other items and then use machinery to sort, bale and sell the recyclables. Prices middlemen get when reselling some types of plastic have plummeted by as much as half in just a few months, says Allan Zozzaro, a partner at Zozzaro Atlantic Coast Processing LLC in Passaic, N.J. “It’s putting a real strain on all recycling companies,” he says.

Prices of recycled plastic also slumped during the 2007-2009 recession. But the U.S. economy is growing now, and few saw the steep downturn in prices coming.

In Europe, two German recyclers have gone bankrupt since December. ECO Plastics Ltd., a British firm that touted in 2012 the opening of what it called “the world’s largest plastics processing facility,” went into administration, a form of bankruptcy. The company’s assets were bought by Germany’s Aurelius Group, which declines to comment.

Chris Dow, chief executive of Closed Loop Recycling Ltd., says the Essex, England, company could fail as a result of the low prices for recycled plastic. Closed Loop says it produces more than 75% of the recycled plastic used in the U.K.'s milk bottles.

"We are basically saying to our customers: 'Help us come through this by paying a premium for recycled plastic,' " says Mr. Dow. "But few are."

The shift in prices also jeopardizes environmental targets set by governments. For some types of plastic, recycled has become as much as £200 per ton (about \$298) more expensive than virgin, recyclers say. The London Waste and Recycling Board says there were more than 1.1 million tons of plastic waste in London in 2010, the latest year for which figures are available.

Only one-third of the plastic waste was recycled. London hopes to recycle half its total waste by 2020.

"The fall in the oil price puts pressure on plastic recyclers and could threaten the ability of London to meet higher recycling targets," says Wayne Hubbard, the board's chief operating officer.

Plastic production starts with oil and natural gas, which are refined into familiar products like jet fuel or gasoline. But some products like ethane get "cracked" in high-temperature furnaces, breaking down organic molecules into simpler molecules such as ethylene and propylene.

Those are converted back to complex molecules, or polymers, which are then melted into small pellets. Bottle makers, pipe manufacturers and other firms buy the stuff and mold it into a finished plastic product. Only a tiny sliver of total plastic output comes from renewable organic sources like starch, corn or sugar.

The cost of producing new plastic closely tracks the ups and downs of global oil prices. Since June, the price of a barrel of oil has fallen more than 50%.

Many manufacturers prefer virgin plastic because its chemical composition can be precisely specified. That kind of plastic usually is more expensive than recycled plastic.

Now that new plastic is cheaper, Measom Freer & Co. is using more virgin material in the U.K. company's bottles, says Anne Freer, director at Measom Freer. "People are just not willing to pay a higher price for the eco-friendly stuff," she says. "We try to use as much recycled as possible, but it really comes down to price."

Oil prices aren't the only culprit. Government policies pushed companies to use more recycled materials, and recycling plants have mushroomed in the U.S. and Europe. That created overcapacity that has become painfully clear now that demand for recycled plastic has shrunk.

In the U.S., "people were surprised because the economy is doing fairly well, yet you have rapidly falling commodity prices," says Scott Saunders, general manager of KW Plastics Recycling Division, a Troy, Ala., recycling company.

Back in the former bomber hangar in England, Mr. Collier feels squeezed.

The recycling process starts where most consumer goods usually end: in the trash. CK Group sorts the plastic and removes any unusable parts, evident in the coat-hanger hooks littering the factory floor. A half-dozen machines suck in plastic and spew it out as flakes.

The factory's biggest piece of equipment is a three-story-tall color separating machine that the company recently bought for £350,000 (\$520,000). The machine makes it possible for CK Group to offer bags of shredded plastic by color, which command a premium price over the variegated scrap known as "jazz."

"Our scrap suppliers now want us to pay upfront, while our customers, those who still stand by recycled plastics, want to stretch payments as long as possible," Mr. Collier shouts amid the roar of plastic grinders. "And we are in the middle of all this."

Write to Georgi Kantchev at georgi.kantchev@wsj.com and Serena Ng at serena.ng@wsj.com

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BETA SITE



One victim of falling oil prices? Recycling



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

It's now cheaper to make new plastic bottles than recycle old ones. That means a few extra tons of bottles in landfills. Or more fodder for sculptures, like this 14-foot wave in San Francisco.

*Interview by **Lizzie O'Leary** (/people/lizzie-oleary), by **Raghu Manavalan** (/people/raghu-manavalan)
Friday, September 4, 2015 - 11:23*

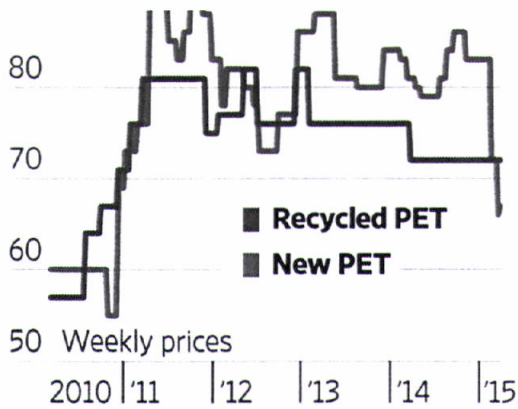
There are a lot of places oil ends up that you might not realize, like shampoo, clothes and plastic bottles. Dropping oil prices are usually good news for most consumers, but the price of oil is so low now, it's actually cheaper to make new plastic bottles than recycle old ones.

Grinding Down

The price of a new type of plastic* used to make soft-drink and water bottles has fallen faster than its recycled form.

90 cents per pound

That drop not only means landfills have a few extra tons of plastic bottles on their heaps, but businesses that sell recycled plastic are also feeling the crunch. In the last quarter alone, Waste Management, the largest waste hauler in the U.S., (<http://investors.wm.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=119743&p=irol-recentnewsArticle&ID=2070359>) lost \$59 million because of lower recycling revenues.



*Polyethylene terephthalate, or PET

Source: Plastics News

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Wall Street Journal

(<http://investors.wm.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=119743&p=irol-recentnewsArticle&ID=2070359>)

"Frankly, that's been happening to us now for the last three year," Waste Management CEO David Steiner says.

"In the history of the recycling markets going back to the early '90s, you've had a couple dips, and they've been very short terms. They're at most two, three months — even in the Great Recession of 2009, we had a dramatic downturn, but it only lasted four months. This is the first time we've seen commodity markets down for, you know, three-plus years."

Steiner notes that it's not all due to falling oil costs. China's sluggish growth and increased contamination of recycling —

aka, everyone notices you putting regular trash in your recycling bin — are also increasing costs for the company.

That's led to 10 plant closures of Waste Management. Steiner estimates that about 50 to 100 people were laid off after each plant closure.

"[Recycling] is not just something that's good for the environment, this is something that's good for employment in the United States," Steiner says.

Waste Management doesn't rely solely on recycling — it only makes up about 10 percent of its total revenue; the company made about \$250 million in net income the last quarter. But Steiner says recycling is still worth worrying about.

"My definition of a crisis is looking out into the future and seeing a future where recycling rates are going down. Some people might say, 'Well, we're still recycling 25 percent, and maybe that's a good thing.' I don't view that as a good thing, I view that as a crisis. What we're trying to do is to help drive recycling rates up not down. Is it dramatically going to affect the earnings of Waste Management? Absolutely not. From a recycling perspective, from the environment's perspective? I think we're staring down the face of a crisis."

Featured in: [Marketplace Weekend for Friday, September 4, 2015](/shows/marketplace-weekend/marketplace-weekend-friday-september-4-2015) (</shows/marketplace-weekend/marketplace-weekend-friday-september-4-2015>)



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Lizzie O'Leary is the host of Marketplace Weekend.

Oil prices impact metal recyclers (/8568759/index.php/news/metal-recycling/870-oil-prices-impact-metal-recyclers)

Details

Hits: 2321

Metals (/8568759/index.php/component/tags/tag/13-metals)

Front Page (/8568759/index.php/component/tags/tag/28-front-page)

BY MIKE BRESLIN (mailto:mbreslin@americanrecycler.com)

It's about time U.S. businesses and consumers are getting a price break on something... oil and its cornucopia of derivatives.

Most
visible
are



Receiving area and infeed conveyor for Newell's mega shredder, which is located in Gwinnett County (Metro Atlanta) Georgia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWELL RECYCLING SYSTEMS

gasoline pump prices falling in many areas in the \$2 per gallon range (as of this writing). It's all because worldwide crude oil prices have fallen sharply over the past several months. From 2010 until

2014, global crude oil prices were fairly constant at about \$110 per barrel. Since June, however, prices have dropped below \$50 per barrel for the first time since 2009. How long it will last is the burning global economic question.

Now, many oil exporting countries are having large revenue shortfalls because many importing countries are having stagnant or weak economic growth and need less oil. Fortunately, over the past decade, the U.S. has experienced an explosion in energy production due to technology breakthroughs like fracking and horizontal drilling to extract oil and gas from shale formations, or extract oil from tar sand. Low crude oil prices, of course, are also harmful to U.S. energy producers, particularly deadly to newer projects trying to recover investments and marginally profitable ones.

Until global economic conditions improve and demand for oil returns, these lower prices also affect U.S. recyclers and environmentalists in many ways. Like at most businesses, the reduction in operating expenses contributes to a fatter bottom line. However, lower oil prices are not good for all concerns, particularly electric and hybrid vehicle makers, and clean air advocates. Going electric made more sense when gas was \$4 per gallon, but now half as much.

Long term, low oil prices may not be good for our economy as a whole. Short term, lower gasoline prices are already affecting car sales. The auto industry had its best November in a decade. This growing consumer demand was led by pickup trucks, SUVs and high performance gas guzzlers.

The bottom line: all countries are being affected by the drop in oil prices and the repercussions are systematic.

For a global overview of the energy/scrap situation, we called upon Joe Pickard, chief economist and director of commodities for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). He reported, "For scrap metal processors, 2015 has gotten off to a difficult start and that follows pretty challenging conditions last year. Given the volatility in commodity prices, scrap metal dealers need to be especially careful with regard to controlling inventory, a lesson hopefully learned in the aftermath of the recession.

"There are a couple of positive aspects of falling oil prices. First, cheaper energy prices mean cheaper processing costs for scrap metal processors. And secondly, when consumers, in the aggregate, have more money to spend they are going to buy more appliances, automobiles, and other goods because they have more discretionary income. In theory, that should produce more demand for new stock, but also increase the supply of scrap. But overall, the rapid drop in oil prices is having a net negative impact.

"As oil prices drop other commodity prices also tend to drop. We're seeing that, especially on the nonferrous side with copper prices dropping sharply. As energy prices drop, that also has an impact on energy sector investor, demand for steel and ferrous scrap. The crash in oil prices also reflects a lack of confidence in global economic growth. In addition, there's concern about excess commodity supply, especially with iron ore, oil and other commodities. So we're seeing expectations for slower global growth and excess commodity supply across a range of commodities.

"The other thing we are combating is a much stronger U.S. dollar in recent weeks. That makes our scrap that much more competitively priced in overseas markets and makes imports cheaper as well. Also, when primary metal prices come off like we've seen with refined copper, iron ore or other primary metals, that makes scrap relatively less attractive as well. In overseas markets I think it's going to be an uphill climb in the near term at least," said Picard.

Bob Stein, senior vice president of nonferrous marketing at Alter Trading in St. Louis was also kind enough to share his thoughts on the global implications of cheap oil on the scrap metal business.

"There's been a negative impact on base metal prices as a result of a couple of things, but certainly because of the price of oil and related petroleum products. Oil is a major driver in the economy of most nations, whether you are an exporter and make a lot of money from exporting like the Saudis, Russians or Canadians, for example. Or, as a buyer, you would think lower prices would be beneficial. They aren't necessarily. If you have a freely traded, highly transparent, commodity that drives the economy such as oil, it drives down whole economic sectors. That's basically what's happened.

"The other thing that's happened is that the U.S. dollar is exceedingly strong. And the U.S. is now basically self-sufficient in petroleum products. The dollar is at a 9 or 10 year high against the Euro. It's also strong against the Canadian dollar and their economy is highly dependent on the export of petroleum and other raw materials. The Canadian dollar has suffered immensely because of that. So what you get by disinflation is that prices come down and it discourages people from going out and buying commodities because they think they are going to be worth less in the future. And, prices are coming down on most everything in our economy.

Stein pointed out that base metals are traded in U.S. dollars and the dollar continues to strengthen. That's why U.S. metal exports are down lately. U.S. prices in terms of foreign currency are exceedingly high. For a scrap trading partner of the U.S. to buy American scrap, their currency is devalued and worth less than four or five months ago. Conversely, the value of North American commodities, as expressed in foreign currency, goes up tremendously. India is a good example. The Rupee kept going down and U.S. scrap metal became more and more expensive. For the most part, Indian scrap was being processed into Indian domestic goods and they had no chance to sell products at the value they paid for the scrap in U.S. dollars.

*With an unstable
world economy, the
U.S. is still a safe
haven to put your
money.*

*—Frank Goulding
Newell Recycling Southeast*

"As a buyer and seller of scrap metal with 54 processing facilities in the U.S., you would think it would be great that if the price of petroleum goes down, our costs go down," Stein continued. "We have fleets of trucks and processing equipment that run on gas and diesel, but the truth of the matter when prices go down it's an inherent disincentive for people to sell scrap and get it into the recycling sector. People tend to hoard material waiting for higher markets. We've always been bailed out by the markets. The scrap metal industry usually thrives in inflation and gets hurt in deflation," says Stein.

Jim Woods, senior director of sustainability communications at the American Iron and Steel Institute commented on the situation. "The softening of the oil exploration market, combined with the continued high levels of dumped and subsidized pipe and tube imports, has impacted steel's energy market. While lower oil prices may result in lower energy costs for steel production, they also result in less investment in energy infrastructure and exploration for oil – which are steel-intensive processes. Demand for scrap follows demand for steel. When demand for steel is high, demand for scrap and other raw materials are similarly high. To the extent falling oil prices can impact demand for steel, such as with curtailed oil exploration, demand for scrap could also be impacted."

Newell Recycling Southeast is the largest metal recycler in Georgia and operates 22 facilities in Georgia and Alabama. The company operates three mega shredders and two high capacity shredders.

Frank Goulding, vice president of ferrous marketing at Newell, reported on how lower oil prices are affecting Newell. "Generally speaking, our business is suffering because with lower oil prices comes lower commodity prices. This is making it difficult to buy scrap, make margin and make our sales goals right now. It's a challenge. You have to pay competitive prices to acquire scrap.

"Directly, it's certainly helping with lower transportation costs with our own fleet of about 35 trucks," said Goulding. "We haven't seen any effect from the railroads; their rates have remained the same, fuel surcharges are still in place as they are on a 60 day rolling average for calculating their surcharges. I suspect they will drop off as will the fuel surcharges from common carriers.

"There's a lot of pressure on our domestic steel makers to drop their prices...so we've seen huge price drops. Currently, a very small amount of our ferrous scrap is exported because the prices are too low. With the dollar trading at record highs against the Euro, Turkish Lira, and Indian Rupee, it has made the U.S. a very expensive place for foreign steel producers to buy scrap. Regardless of the cost of energy, when you have an oversupply of domestic scrap, coupled with a slowdown in domestic steel production, you are going to see scrap prices fall. The composite scrap index is down almost \$100 since last January. Of course, the base metals also followed... copper, aluminum, zinc and lead have also gone down."

Goulding pointed out that most scrap processors are in a market squeeze these days because it's hard to buy raw materials with a sufficient margin to operate. Also, raw material is not as available because a lot of the smaller dealers are sitting on scrap metal, or attending to other activities because they can't make money hauling scrap right now.

"We are also seeing a slowdown by the steel mills," Goulding continued. "But it's not due to a shortage of supply. Mills are getting all the scrap they need, as they've reduced their buy because they are not producing as much steel. I expect mill operating costs should go down, too. For example, they use gas in their reheat furnaces and when heat treating.

"I think it's going to be bad for the next six months before things start up-ticking. I don't see the dollar weakening any time soon. With an unstable world economy, the U.S. is still a safe haven to put your money," Goulding concluded.

Certainly there are winners and losers in this oil price development, but from a global perspective the U.S. is in a far better position than several oil exporting countries whose economies and political systems may be in jeopardy.

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Recycling not worth cost

WILLIAM F. SHUGHART II
Tribune News Service

If you're worried about the planet, please make sure your trash is buried in a landfill; there's plenty of space available.

On the surface, the phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle" may seem like a sensible call to action for those who want to limit carbon emissions or reduce the amount of waste left behind for future generations.

The reality, however, is that the costs associated with the process of recycling almost always outweigh the benefits.

Even the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it only makes sense economically and environmentally to recycle about 35 percent of discarded materials. Among those materials are paper and aluminum cans, the agency says.

Recycling 1 ton of paper or aluminum cans, the agency says, can save about 3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions over producing those materials anew.

But not so fast.

Paper mills pay for the trees they process. If it was cost-effective to recycle scrap paper, producers would be beating down your door to buy it. But they aren't.

That means it's more expensive and more resource-intensive to recycle old paper than to cut and pulp pine trees and then replant seedlings for processing when mature.

Plastic provides another cautionary tale. Given the recent dramatic decline in crude oil prices, it is now cheaper to make a new

plastic container than to recycle an old one.

Even if that were not true, the EPA says that recycling a ton of plastic saves only about a ton of carbon dioxide. However, that estimate doesn't take into account the water most consumers use to rinse their plastic containers before they put them into a recycling bin.

New York Times science columnist John Tierney recently wrote, citing the work of author Chris Goodall, "If you wash plastic in water that was heated by coal-derived electricity, then the net effect of your recycling could be more carbon in the atmosphere."

Glass is an even worse recyclable. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 ton you have to recycle 3 tons of glass. If one includes the cost of collecting glass waste in small quantities from neighborhoods, and the pollution produced by the collection trucks and the recycling process itself, glass recycling creates more greenhouse gas emissions and is more expensive than making new glass, which comes primarily from sand, an abundant raw material.

No wonder many municipalities across the country continue to pick up glass in recycling trucks only to dump it at the local landfill.

Why the charade? Because "reduce, reuse, recycle" is an emotional mantra, not reasonable environmental policy, and years of indoctrination has left most Americans blind to the actual evidence surrounding recycling pro-

grams.

By sending an extra fleet of trucks around town once a week, adherents of the recycling religion actually are undermining their stated goal of protecting the environment.

It doesn't help that the rise of the recycling movement has created a powerful interest group of recyclers who lobby politicians to keep things the way they are.

More rational environmental policies would consider the costs and benefits of recycling programs and scrap those that are wasteful and harmful to the environment.

If recycling were truly cost-effective, private companies would be lined up at your doorstep to buy your trash. Don't look now because they're not there.

The true recycling test is whether someone is willing to pay you to sort and save your trash. If they're not, what you've been told about recycling in the past is probably just garbage.

We need more recycling

MICHAEL E. KRAFT
Tribune News Service

We Americans consume a lot and waste a lot. That means we dump far more trash than is necessary into landfills. In fact, we produce twice as much waste per capita as Western European nations.

The amount of municipal solid waste produced annually in the United States has tripled since 1960, and in 2013, it totaled 254 million tons. That's 4.4 pounds per person every day.

We've made a lot of progress over the years in how we handle this waste. Recycling jumped dramatically nationwide after the mid-1980s, but it leveled off around 2010, with the average American recycling or composting 34 percent of his waste.

The rate varies by the type of waste and by state and city. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that we recycle 99 percent of lead-acid

batteries, 67 percent of paper, and 55 percent of aluminum cans, but only 40 percent of the rapidly increasing quantity of consumer electronics such as cell phones and computers, only 34 percent of glass containers, and 30 percent of plastic bottles and jars.

We should be able to do much better than this. So why don't we? Individual habits are one explanation. Many people think recycling is inconvenient, even in cities that provide curbside, single-stream collection for recyclables. A number of states mandate recycling, but they don't enforce their laws, and in most cases they offer few incentives to recycle.

Some states and cities do much better because they take recycling seriously as part of a broad commitment to sustainability. Cities such as Seattle impose fees that are proportional to the amount of waste put out for collection, a so-called pay-as-you-throw system. Even if the cost is small, it's an important incentive to encourage people to recycle, and they do.

Seattle had a 50 percent recycling rate in 2014, and 71 percent for single family households, and the rate continues to improve. The city has set a goal of eliminating the "maximum possible amount of waste." Few other cities are so ambitious.

Experts in sus-

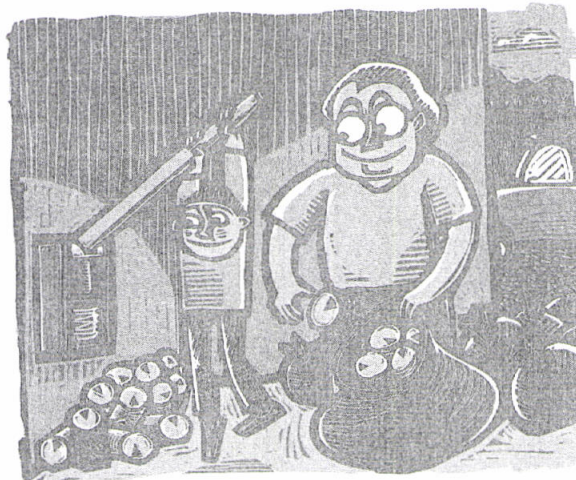
tainable management believe that we should start by redesigning production processes where possible to prevent or minimize waste in the first place. Then to the extent possible, we reuse what cannot be reduced, recycle what is left over, and only then dispose of what cannot be recycled.

No one argues that the cost of recycling is unimportant. But there are ways to deal with that cost rather than declare the cost excessive and abandon recycling programs. We could follow the lead of the most innovative cities by putting a price on trash. If people have to pay more, they will find ways to generate less waste, as will businesses, and the fees can cover the cost of recycling programs.

Think about what else such fees might do to reduce excessive packaging and wasted food. We toss out about 40 percent of the food we buy. This is one reason why several large cities, including San Francisco and Seattle, now require household composting.

The EPA is trying to promote what it calls sustainable materials management as a long-term way to address all of these challenges.

We are in the early stages of an important sustainability transition that will put a premium on efficiency throughout a product's lifecycle reducing environmental effects and rethinking business and household consumption. That's the way to go.



A drastic time for plastic



MICHAEL EIN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Angela Bautista, of Egg Harbor Township, picks out plastic items Wednesday at the Material Recovery Facility in the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Environmental Park in the township. With the reduction of oil prices, the cost of manufacturing plastic bottles is much cheaper, which makes it more difficult for the manufacturers to make a profit. Read dueling commentaries on recycling on A11.

Shrinking price of oil affects resale value of recyclables

MAXWELL REIL
Staff Writer

The decreased cost of oil has meant cheaper gasoline and reasonable heating bills for many consumers.

But for many recycling companies, it has led to a decrease in revenue.

As oil prices drop, so has the price of plastic made with oil.

Bob Anderson, regional business development manager for ReCommunity Recycling, is feeling the effects.

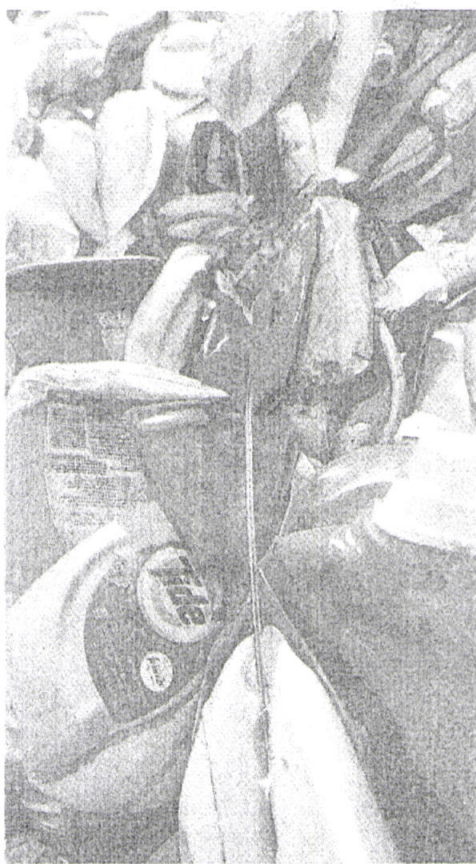
Anderson said low oil prices are affecting revenue for recyclable companies, such as ReCommunity, which operates in Camden County.

"What I can speak to is that the commodity markets have been at historic lows, and we've seen dramatic reduction in the value of scrap materials, whether it's tin cans, which are at a significant low, or plastics," Anderson said.

Spot prices for oil were about \$36 a barrel last week, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, compared with \$98.89 in 2014 and \$108.56 in 2013.

Just a few months ago, Anderson and company said, scrap plastic was selling at \$2,000 a ton, and now it's \$30 a ton.

Anderson also said his company cannot hold onto the recycled material,



Scrap plastic prices have fallen from \$2,000 a ton just a few months ago to \$30 a ton, says Bob Anderson, of ReCommunity Recycling.

especially in New Jersey.

"It's impossible to sit on it unless you have a big warehouse. The material comes fast and furious, and they keep coming every week, and in New Jersey recycling is mandatory and it's not as if people can stop," Anderson said.

"We're in a very challenging time in the recycling industry."

Kim Holmes, senior director of recycling and diversion at SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, said recycling companies should take advantage of the current market and seek out companies that want to work specifically with recycled materials.

"There are good reasons to still use it, and we hope that those other driving reasons are going to be enough to use it while we're still in this pricing slump and people don't anticipate that this will be forever," Holmes said.

Anderson said his experts expect to see the same pricing for three to five years.

He said the company has hired more workers for a better quality product, something buyers are interested in.

"Buyers have higher tolerance with nonrecoverable recyclables, and when demand is reduced, you have to pro-

See **RECYCLING**, C2



EXECUTIONS PROTESTED

Saudi Arabia's execution of an influential Shiite cleric threatens to further damage Sunni-

VEGAS POLICE KILL FUGITIVE

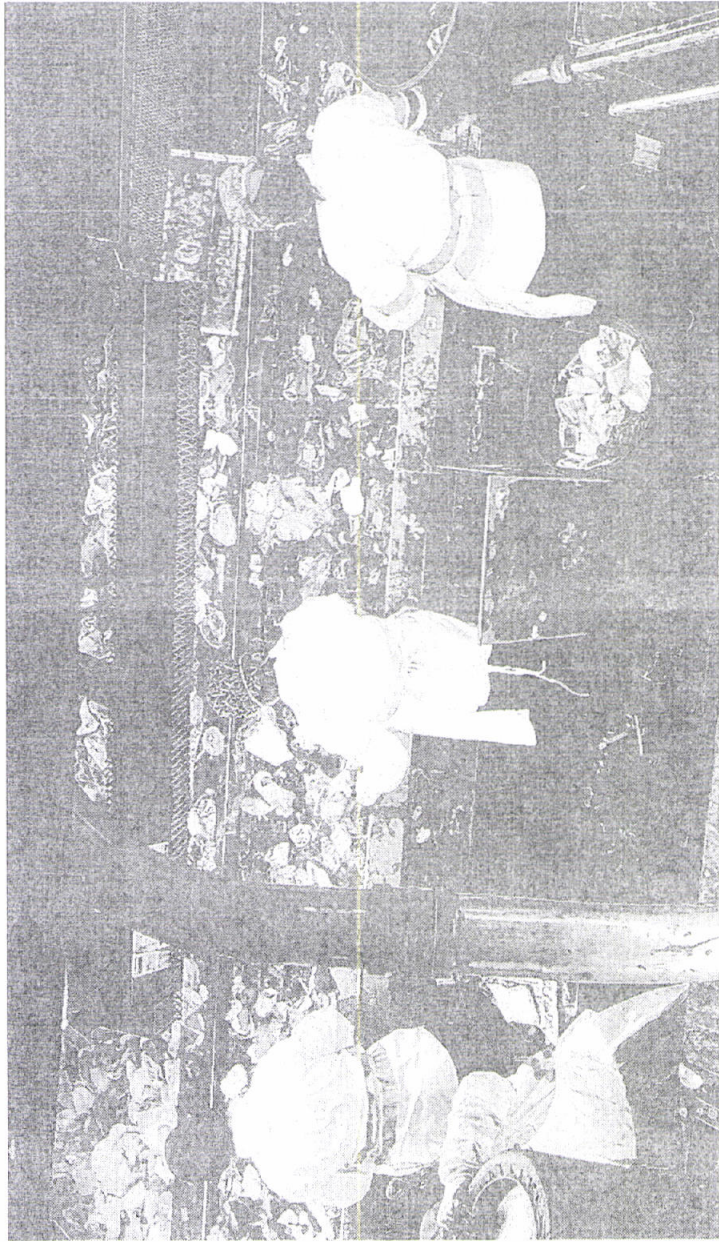
Keith Childress Jr. was holding a cellphone, not a gun, when officers fatally shot him, his

TRUMP AS TERROR RECRUITMENT TOOL

Al-Qaida's East African affiliate has released a recruitment video that includes a clip of Donald Trump calling for Muslims to be

OBAMA ON OFFENSE

The president has met his share of challenges in the final years of his term but does



MICHAEL EIN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sorters pick out high-value plastic items Wednesday at the Material Recovery Facility in the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township.

RECYCLING

Continued from C1

duce a higher-quality product," Anderson said. "So you're competing against other competitors, so the cleaner your product is then the better chance you have."

"We surveyed our members and asked why they chose to use recycled content. Cost savings was the No. 1 reason, but another reason was because companies had internally

stated ecogals requested by customers," Holmes said.

As he and his workers continue to find ways to increase revenue, Anderson still believes there is only so much they can do.

"We've pretty much done everything we can internally to prepare the business. Now we are at the mercy of the commodity market," Anderson said.

Contact: 609-272-7258
MReil@pressofac.com



Sorted plastic items are bundled for transport.

PHONES

that onto the bill for

midrange phones that do

companies often have

BREW

Continued from C1

"We discovered that there's a huge need for people who wanted to get a certificate. They didn't necessarily want to go to college or already had a college degree and wanted to open up a brew pub," Gallagher said. They needed some basic and more advanced knowledge, such as in marketing, he said.

The demand is so high that PSU is looking at how to develop and expand the program, Gallagher said.

"The truth is ... it's not all about brewing and drinking beer. There's a lot of business behind it, as well, and that's usually what they're lacking," he said.

University of Portland (Oregon) and San Diego State University's College of Extended Studies have business of craft beer certificate programs. Classes for San Diego State's program are held at local breweries and at the university, but not online.

So far, the University of Vermont program, in a state that has made a name for itself for its craft beers, has drawn applicants from around the country — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Oregon and Texas, and about half are from the Northeast, Dunkling said.

The program costs about \$4,400 for the two

"The truth is ... it's not all about brewing and drinking beer."

SCOTT GALLAGHER

Portland State University
director of communications

courses: one on the fundamentals of craft beer and a second course of students' choosing focused on digital marketing, sales or business operations. Apprenticeships with a network of breweries and distributors are also available.

Industry officials agree there's a need for education in the industry and different ways to get it, whether through experience, hiring talent or training, which some breweries provide.

As investors and larger breweries become more involved with craft brewing, Harpoon Brewery, which will offer apprenticeships to the UVM students, feels a need to maintain its independence.

"Hiring talented people is a critical part of that effort," Rich Ackerman, Harpoon's director of human resources, said by email. But the company cautions anyone against thinking of craft brewing purely as a business.

"It's a passion project, first and foremost," he said.

Ocean County Recycles

OCEAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATORS MEETING January 8, 2016

Name (Print)	Signature	Municipality	Please ✓ C.R.P.'s 1 meeting credits
JUDE WALKER	<i>Jude Walker</i>	PT. BORO	✓
Joy Bragen-Edly	<i>Joy Bragen-Edly</i>	Pt Boro	
Kenny Sloger	<i>Kenneth Sloger</i>	TUCKERTON	
John Brogan	<i>John Brogan</i>	Tuckerton	
Robin Cummins	<i>Robin Cummins</i>	SWM	✓
Bob Rossi	<i>Robert Rossi</i>	Boro of Ship Bottom	✓
Steve Hill	<i>Steve Hill</i>	LAKESWOOD	✓
Pete Roman	<i>Pete Roman</i>	LAKESWOOD	
BARBARA TERREGINO	<i>Barbara Terregino</i>	Seaside Hgts	✓
John Rogers	<i>J. C. Rogers</i>	OCHD	✓
Robert Wallis	<i>Robert Wallis</i>	OCHD	
DIANA STOTT	<i>Diana Stott</i>	Borough of HARVEY CRENS	✓
Kathy Guenaro	<i>Kathy Guenaro</i>	Borough of Barnegat	✓
Anthony BENYOLA	<i>Anthony Benyola</i>	Toms River Township	✓
Sean McLoughlin	<i>Sean McLoughlin</i>	OCSWM	
ROSEMARIE COFFEY	<i>Rosemary Coffey</i>	Lacey	✓
J. CASEY PARKER	<i>J. Casey Parker</i>	"	✓
Gabriel Silva	<i>Gabriel Silva</i>	Beachwood Boro	✓
Angela Andersen	<i>Angela Andersen</i>	LBT	✓
Rocco PALMIERI	<i>Rocco Palmieri</i>	Brick	✓
Eric Wojciechowski	<i>Eric Wojciechowski</i>	Seaside Park	✓
Dave GARRISON	<i>Dave Garrison</i>	STAFFORD	✓
TRISTH TOTO	<i>Tristh Toto</i>	Brick	✓
Mary JERKOWICZ	<i>Mary Jerkovic</i>	OCSWM	✓
Ernie Kuhlman	<i>Ernie Kuhlman</i>	OCSWM	✓
MAN COLE	<i>Man Cole</i>	W.M.	
OSCAR CARROLL	<i>Oscar Carroll</i>	St. Toms River	✓
WILLIAM GLANSON	<i>William Glanson</i>	STR	