

It's a Cycle-Follow the Money

The more recycled material that our township reports, the more grant money we receive, and consequently, the better program we can create to serve you, fulfill legal requirements, and care for our Earth. This is the cycle. Here's a summary of how it works.

Our state mandatory recycling program is funded by two grants, the Recycling Tonnage grant program and New Jersey Clean Communities Grant Program. The Recycling Tonnage grant program is funded by charging a \$3.00 per ton surcharge on all solid waste accepted at solid waste facilities. In turn, Raritan Valley Disposal Company charges each household \$1.71 per quarter to pay for the surcharge. The New Jersey Clean Communities Grant Program is funded by a user fee on businesses that produce litter-generating products.

The amount of the grants we receive depends on the reported amounts of recycled materials collected at the monthly depots, curbside, Clean-Up Day, and the Electronics Recycling Day. To fund the program before the grants arrive, the township created a fund that acts as a buffer to insure recycling continues successfully.

Unsure of the amount we will receive, budgeting becomes a challenge for the year ahead. This year, we received a \$2383. Recycling Tonnage grant. In years past, we only got half of that. New Jersey Clean Communities awarded us a grant for \$11,800., although we expected to receive \$9,200. The expected amounts would have left us with a deficit.

Our recycling effort is volunteer-supported, although the Municipal Recycling Coordinator is a paid position. We spend approximately \$250. for each container at the depot. Our recycling newsletter, which is a required educational component of the recycling program, costs about \$1200. Last year's Clean-Up Day cost \$4900, but collected \$1000. in fees for that program. Electronics Recycling Day last year cost \$1650. Fearful of lack of funding this year, we cancelled three monthly depots.

Therefore, our recycling program depends on grant funding and grant funding depends on the amount you recycle. We need you to join in and recycle at curbside or at our monthly depot. So, what are you waiting for? Join the cycle.

Sande Katz, member of the East Amwell Recycling Committee