

Successful Hunterdon Recycling Program Now Accepting Smoke Detectors

The Hunterdon County Health Division is accepting smoke detectors for recycling, as part of the 2018 County recycling drop off and disposal program, Freeholder Board Deputy Director Suzanne Lagay reported at the November 20th Freeholder meeting.

“Successful recycling programs for hazardous household waste, electronic collection, and tire recycling programs served over 4,458 residents in various programs in 2018,” Freeholder Lagay reported. There is no cost to residents for the drop-offs. All the collection events are grant funded.

Now the Health Division is expanding recycling collections to include old smoke detectors at the Health Division Office, at the County’s Route 12 complex, weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

According to a report issued by the Health Division, the Household Hazardous Waste drop-offs at the Rt. 12 complex were conducted four times this year – March 10, July 1, September 29 and November 17.

Approximately 14 tons of hazardous materials were collected at the November 17 drop-off event. Some of these materials included: gasoline, kerosene, pesticides, lead acid batteries, asbestos, oil based paint, mercury, lithium batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs.

In addition, 110 cubic yards of latex paint, roofing tar and cleaners were collected.

Lagay noted, “This is a tremendous service to our residents and helps protect the environment.”

The Health Division’s electronics collection program was held on April 14, September 22, and November 10th at the County Complex. In just the first two events, over 75 tons were received, already exceeding the 74 tons collected in 2017.

New in 2018, the Division instituted a pilot project for tire collection. This project keeps the environment clean and prevents the potential spread of mosquito-borne illnesses. Over 400 tires were dropped off or picked up as part of the event on November 1.

Abandoned tires hold standing water and create a breeding environment for mosquitos. The tire program is supported by the Health Division's Vector Program to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus and several forms of encephalitis.

Freeholder Lagay added, "So not only is the County providing residents with an opportunity for environmentally safe tire disposal, the program also protects the health of our residents."

"The staff members working on events from the Health Division, Road and Bridges, and the Sheriff's Office have done an outstanding job providing recycling events in Hunterdon County," the Freeholder concluded.