

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair
Jane Hankins - Vice Chair
Beth McClain - Secretary
Ken Strait - Liaison to
Land Use Board
Burt Doremus
Marion Carll
Cheryl Lalancette

Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 P M except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Newsletters are available on the township website and the township Facebook page. Printed copies available in the municipal building.

Additional Resources for this edition :

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program (609) 633-7021

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

You have no doubt seen a list of things in your tax bill (in the green insert) that you as a homeowner can do to protect the water in Hopewell Township from storm water run-off. You may be wondering what is stormwater (run-off) pollution? Where does it come from? Why is it important to know this information?

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed into storm drains, then directly into our drinking water supplies, the rivers, bays and ocean as well as the lakes we play in. Fertilizers, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings are common in almost all drinking water pollution. When heavy rains run off agricultural areas and flow into our local streams or along the roadways these pollutants are swept away and into the stormwater thus adding pollutants to the water. Other areas affected are our wetlands along the Cohansey River and eventually well water.

New Jersey, in an effort to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, is requiring municipalities and other public agencies to adopt ordinances or rules prohibiting various activities that add to stormwater pollution.

Hopewell Township has a ordinance in place which outlines the the requirements for the municipality's plan to manage stormwater runoff and pollution. See the township website for the ordinance - PartII; Chapter 220; Article VI of the Township Code. In addition there are things that individuals can do regularly to help the township manage and maintain the stormwater pollution act.

- Limit you use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products
- Clean up after your pet
- Don't litter
- Dispose of yard waste properly
- Keep pollution out of storm drains
- Don't feed wildlife

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org , www.nonpointsource.org or www.cleanwaternj.org ; <https://dep/nj/gov/cleanwater/nj/educational-resources-clean-water/>

*Recycling News From the Washington Post, August 3, 2023 -
Climate Coach, by Michael J. Coren*

Because we have more than 20,000 recycling centers in the US but no uniform standards on what they will accept, it makes it nearly impossible to know what plastics can be recycled at any given location (glass, metal and paper are widely accepted). To fix this, the burden must be shifted from the public to the companies generating the waste - or "Extended Producer Liability".

A primary goal of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws is to shift responsibility, not just costs, for dealing with post-consumer product-related waste to manufacturers. It is also a goal to shift, not increase, the costs of resource-recovery efforts into product price tags: essentially prepaying some or all of a product's end-of-life management costs. More accurate price tags that better reflect the full cost of using a product. With more complete information, people could make better choices. Manufacturers would have an incentive to make products that are cheaper to deal with when they are not longer wanted.

If EPR programs are implemented, consumers will continue to pay what will likely be lower product-related recycling costs, but these costs won't be hidden in their property taxes or high disposal fees.



Samples of plastic items that are inconsistently or rarely accepted by recycling plants

Portion of facilities that accept these plastic items for recycling.



New Jersey is one of six US states that has active EPR packaging laws. The law aims to vitalize recycling manufacturers to meet minimum recycled content standards for the sale or distribution of products within the scope of the law. The law is also intended to help stabilize markets, increase recycling resiliency when oil

prices fluctuate, and protect municipal recycling programs from the unpredictability of recycling costs.

To learn more see <https://blog.sourceintelligence.com>

Hopewell Township Home Rehabilitation Program

Hopewell Township has been awarded a Small cities Home Rehabilitation Program from the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The program will allow low to moderate income homeowners in Hopewell Township assistance for home repairs for items such as heating, electrical and plumbing systems, septic & well, weatherizing for windows and insulation, roof and structural conditions. Information regarding the program and the income guidelines can be found on the township website - www.hopewelltpw-nj.com or contact Hopewell Township Clerk's Office at 856-455-1230 ext.118.

On another note - A recent article from NPR on Climate Change cites how recent global, local and regional results from temperature rise, wildfires, & weather related incidents could cause home insurance companies to "meltdown". Why? Because the costs for replacing threatened and/or damaged homes and businesses is increasing and insurance companies need to make money, therefore, they are either raising rates or dropping clients. Big insurance companies are scaling back their home insurance business to avoid paying billions of dollars in damages. **For more information:** "How climate change could cause a home insurance meltdown" @NPR.org