



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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Freeholders Keep Recycling Rate Level for 12th Year

Somerset County's 21 municipalities and their residents received an early holiday gift from the Board of Freeholders: an unchanged municipal recycling-collection rate for 2010.

"I am pleased to announce that the board will hold the current rate of \$23.85 per municipal household for recycling services in 2010," Freeholder Director Rick Fontana wrote in a letter to mayors, adding, "This curbside-collection rate has remained the same since 1999.

"Somerset County is proud of its county-run recycling program, which dates to 1987," he said. "We were the first county in New Jersey to voluntarily institute a countywide curbside recycling operation. Benefits include landfill-cost avoidance, protection of our environment and the efficient reuse of recyclable materials."

The program, operated out of the Somerset County Recycling Center on Polhemus Lane in Bridgewater, collects an average of 42,000 tons of recyclable materials each year. These include newspaper, magazines, junk mail and other paper, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, corrugated cardboard and chipboard, and aluminum, steel and bimetal cans.

"The program's success also has been due in large part to the support of our municipal officials and the participation of our residents," Freeholder Director Fontana wrote. "Thank you for helping us to make recycling a household word in our 21 towns."



Bound Brook Mayor Carey Pilato, left, and Watchung Mayor Al Ellis, right, join Somerset County Freeholder Director Rick Fontana at the county recycling center to mark the 12th year the county has maintained the same per-household municipal recycling collection rate.

**Rick Fontana, Freeholder Director * Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder Deputy Director
Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder * Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder * Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder**
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