



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

GERALD W. TAMBURRO
Mayor

Administrative Offices:
Municipal Complex
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2018

Monroe's Enviro-mobile Rolls Out on 10th Anniversary Tour

MONROE – More than a decade ago, the back of a brochure became a makeshift sketch board for the eventual design of Monroe Township's Enviro-mobile.

Township Recycling Coordinator Joe Slomian, the brainchild behind this mobile environmental classroom, is now rolling out the familiar and highly popular trailer on its 10-year anniversary tour.

In June 2008, the Enviro-mobile, the first of its kind in the State, made its public debut with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at Thompson Park.

"It's difficult to gauge the sheer number of children and adults, who've toured our Enviro-mobile over the past 10 years," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, who has been among tour-takers on several occasions. "It's been an interactive educational tool for tens of thousands of people since then. It's also had a major impact on keeping our residents engaged and in the know when it comes to the latest green trends and recycling practices."

The ramp leading into the 24-foot-by-8-foot trailer acts as a gateway to colorful displays, bulletin boards and hands-on activities for its many visitors.

Slomian, also one of the trailer's lead craftsmen, took special care to piece together the Enviro-mobile's interior components from recycled materials – from refurbished wood to defunct ambulance parts and even reusable scrap metal.

"While others have followed, I'm proud to say we were the first in New Jersey to unveil this type of novelty," Slomian said. "Just as new information surfaces about recycling in the real world, we continually update the displays inside to reflect those changes. So, if a member of the public is revisiting our Enviro-mobile, chances are there's something they haven't come across before."

Each year, the trailer treks to assemblies, expos, fairs and school yards – primarily in Monroe but on occasion, to Middlesex County events as well.

Along the way, the Enviro-mobile has picked up awards from the likes of Middlesex County and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, entities recognizing its innovative and fun approach to recycling education.

For Slomian, every event presents another opportunity to gather public feedback and potentially, incorporate those recommendations into next year's internal design.

Several exhibits and even games, like Enviro-Jeopardy and a scavenger hunt, were born from suggestions he gleaned from educators, parents and residents.

"When my children were younger, we visited the Enviro-mobile on several occasions and each and every time, there was something new to see," said Monroe Council President Stephen Dalina. "We may have come across information about Earth Day or household hazardous waste events or played games. It's been a great instrument to introduce our residents to nuances in recycling."

To learn more about the Enviro-mobile, contact the Monroe Township Recycling Department at 732-656-4575.

All media inquiries may be directed to Monroe Township's Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.