



# Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

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Mayor

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NJDEP Awards Monroe \$171K Recycling Grant**

**MONROE** – Based on its 2015 recycling performance, Monroe will receive the eighth largest grant in the State as part of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s annual initiative to enhance municipal recycling programs.

The New Jersey DEP’s most recent awards, issued through the State’s Recycling Enhancement Act, amounted to \$171,463 for Monroe.

For its part, Monroe recycled 112,351 tons of materials in 2015, a sum that includes both residential and commercial components.

“In cooperation with the County and the State, Monroe has been a leader in recycling since the inception of our recycling division in the late 1980s,” said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “I credit our DPW’s program, as well as our staff, for its extensive educational outreach and for an efficiently run operation. I also applaud our residents and businesses for their continued participation and for their dedication to green living.” Based on the State’s data, New Jersey’s municipalities generated more than 10 million tons of solid waste in 2015. Of that amount, 4.3 million tons were recycled, representing a 2-percent increase from the year prior. “Recycling is one thing each one of us can do every day to protect the environment,” stated New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin in a recent press release. “Recycling conserves resources, results in less waste going to disposal facilities, helps local governments save money and creates jobs and economic growth. We are very proud of the many cities and towns across the State that continue to increase their recycling rates.”

Still early in the process, Monroe’s administration, along with representatives from the Township’s Department of Public Works, is considering using the newly allotted funds to purchase a cardboard compactor, in addition to establishing a recycling program for plastic foam, often referred to by the brand name Styrofoam.

“This is smart government at work,” said Monroe’s Department of Public Works Director Wayne Horbatt of the NJDEP grant program. “When municipalities have successful recycling programs, they are essentially rewarded and able to use these grant funds to even further improve upon their operations. In the past, these grants have assisted us with upgrading our infrastructure and launching various other programs and projects.” The DEP’s recycling grant program is funded through a \$3 per-ton surcharge on trash disposed of at solid waste facilities across New Jersey, which totaled \$14.3 million in available funds for 2015 applicants.

With the adoption of the New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act of 1987, the Garden State was the first in the nation to mandate recycling. Today, the State requires municipalities and Counties to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all waste collected.

“In this day and age, we should all be doing our part to recycle,” said Monroe Councilwoman Miriam Cohen. “This is one of the most basic actions we can take to promote sustainability and to have a positive impact on the environment.”

**Media inquiries may be directed to Monroe Township’s Public Information Officer, Maria Prato, at 732-521-4400 or [mprato@monroetwp.com](mailto:mprato@monroetwp.com).**