

Environmental News You Can Use

The Buzz from Buz Kenney

Last month we partnered with the Environmental Commission of Madison, NJ, to offer residents the opportunity to purchase compost bins and rain barrels at huge discounts. On Earth Day, we distributed **73 composters** and **14 rain barrels**. Thank you to everyone who participated! Now let's consider the potential impact of these devices on our environment:

Composting helps reduce global greenhouse warming. According to energy-shrink.com, composting food waste from four homes is equivalent to removing a single gas-powered automobile from the road. *Therefore, if all of the composters sold by the Environmental Commission are put into use, greenhouse emissions will be reduced by the equivalent of taking 18 cars off the road.*

Looking to the future, if every single one of Morris Township's approximately 8,400 households composted food waste, we could reduce emissions by the equivalent of 2,100 cars. With that goal in mind, the Environmental Commission will continue to encourage and facilitate residential composting in every way possible.

The Environmental Commission also encourages all township residents to consider installing a rain barrel. When stormwater runs off our homes and lawns, it picks up everything on the ground -- including litter, fertilizer, pet waste, and motor oil -- and transports it to storm drains that *do not treat the water* before dumping it directly into our waterways. *Now, every single time one inch of rain falls, the 14 rain barrels we sold will protect our water resources by collecting 770 gallons of stormwater runoff before it reaches our local streams and rivers.*

Help Fight the Spotted Lantern-Fly Safely

The NJ Department of Agriculture is encouraging residents to help eliminate Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) egg masses before they hatch. Look for black sooty mold on trees to spot activity. The SLF prefers the [Tree-of-Heaven](#), an invasive species common in New Jersey. While the SLF is not a threat to humans or animals, it is known to feed on numerous types of vegetation, agricultural crops, and hardwood trees.

Using circle traps to protect individual trees is recommended, but please don't use insecticides! The SLF population will not be meaningfully controlled; and the collateral damage to beneficial insects will be significant. The unnecessary exposure to family, neighbors and pets is also unwise. For more information, [watch the instructional egg mass scraping video](#) and [read what to do if you find them on your property](#).

Vital Services from Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station

Located on Hanover Avenue in Morris Township, the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) offers two valuable services to residents. The [Soil Testing Laboratory](#) provides a fee-for-service analysis of samples and then offers recommendations. Soil testing is an environmentally responsible practice because applying fertilizer or other nutrient sources incorrectly can lead to

contamination of our water resources. By applying fertilizer appropriately, you can ensure that you are "feeding" your plants in an environmentally friendly and "green" way.

The [Plant Diagnostic Laboratory and Nematode Detection Service](#) is open and accepting physical samples via no-contact, curbside drop-off. The mission of this full-service plant health diagnostic facility is to provide accurate and timely diagnosis of plant health problems. Finally, the Rutgers University's [Home, Lawn, and Garden](#) resource website is an excellent resource for learning.

Tip of the Month: Let's Reduce Plastic at the Source

We recently highlighted the challenges of recycling plastic these days. Despite our best intentions, [a whopping 91% of plastic isn't recycled](#). The answer is simple but not always easy: we need to buy less plastic. For example, buy fruit juice as frozen concentrate instead of in plastic cartons. Ask your favorite restaurant to use biodegradable takeout containers. Use refillable water bottles instead of one-time-use plastic water bottles. And always favor aluminum cans over plastic bottles; the EPA says aluminum cans have about 68% recycled content compared to just three percent for plastic bottles in the U.S.

BioBlitz Morris Nature Festival on June 12

The BioBlitz Morris Nature Festival will be held from 10am to 4pm on June 12 at Russ Myers Field located in Lewis Morris County Park. Planned activities include nature walks focused on birding, wildlife, and invasive species; streamwater assessments; and nature shows by Grand Falloons and Rizzo's Reptiles. Snacks and water will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Whippanny River Watershed Action Committee. Please [register](#). If interested in attending. Contact Alison Deeb (facilitator@rrwac.org) for more information.

Three Ways You Can Help

- [Join](#) our mail list and spread the word by forwarding this email to a neighbor
- **Volunteer** for a project -- email buzkenney@gmail.com to learn more
- [Attend the next meeting](#) of the *Environmental Commission* on June 10