

Further, recycling contamination creates serious quality control issues at local recycling centers. The co-mingling of recyclables with contaminants has led to major recycling market disruptions that have negatively affected the economics of recycling and has created one of the biggest challenges facing recycling today.

As a result of these challenges, the DEP urges all residents to participate in their local recycling program and help keep unacceptable materials out of curbside and workplace recycling bins.

“For recycling to work, we need to keep our recycling mix clean and free of such non-acceptable and problematic items,”

Commissioner McCabe added. “It is important to remember that recyclable materials are not trash, but rather valuable raw materials used to make new products.”

Recycling also helps conserve resources, reduces waste sent to disposal facilities, helps curb emissions of greenhouse gases, and creates jobs.

The Recycle Right NJ social media campaign is one of several educational initiatives implemented by the DEP to address recycling contamination and advance recycling statewide.

Through passage of a 1987 law, New Jersey was the first state to require recycling. New Jersey remains a national recycling leader, with one of the nation’s highest recycling rates.

For details about the Recycle Right NJ campaign, visit www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html.

To learn more about recycling in New Jersey, visit www.recycle.nj.gov/dep .

For more about the DEP’s Division of Air Quality, Energy and Sustainability, visit www.facebook.com/NJDEPAQES/.

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