Recycling Success 1980-2015
Landfills are safer.

Early landfills created dust, collapsed under the weight of garbage, and sometimes exploded.
Landfills are now lined and sealed. Methane is collected and used. Solar collection covers the acreage.
Dumping diminished.
- Motor oil collected for sale since 1996
- Clean Communities Act of 2002
- Tire piles removed: 1.3 – 2.1 M tires

Toxicity diminished.
- Mercury Switch Removal Act, 2005: smelter emissions cut 50%
- Household Hazardous Waste collection
We recycle a lot.

- 12 million tons per year.
- 27,000 in NJ employed
- $5.9 billion annually
- Mostly private sector businesses.
- 25% in 1987 ⇒ 50% in 1992 ⇒ 60% in 1995
Innovation

- Rutgers’ patented polymer lumber bridge
- On-site in-vessel composting
- ‘Glassphalt’ standards
- No ocean dumping: sewage becomes fertilizer in Ocean County.
Recycling creates jobs.

- Weighmasters
- Operating Engineers
- Bookkeepers
- Disassemblers
- Business Owners
- Agriculture Chemists
- Drivers
- Marketers
- Design Engineers
- Compliance inspectors
Future jobs

- Life Cycle Analysis
- Packaging design
- Green Building
Sondra Flite
Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste Management, NJDEP
sondra.flite@dep.nj.gov
http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/