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MAYOR REDD DISTRIBUTES RECYCLING CONTAINERS TO CITY BUSINESSES TO IMPROVE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION EFFORTS

CAMDEN – In her ongoing effort to clean and green the City of Camden, Mayor Dana L. Redd today announced that the City will distribute 65 gallon recycling containers to Camden businesses that pledge to separate their recyclables, which in turn, will increase the City’s commercial recycling collection. The recycling containers were funded through the Camden Urban Enterprise Zone.

“If we want to clean our neighborhoods and business corridors, it has to start with us,” Mayor Redd said. “I am positive that our local businesses will join in our effort to keep Camden clean and improve our commercial recycling collection. Working together, we will be able to duplicate the success of our residential recycling collections.”

Mayor Redd was joined by Council President Frank Moran; Councilman Luis Lopez; Camden UEZ Coordinator/City Ombudsman Vince Basara; Dave Foster, President of Coopers Ferry Partnership; student volunteers from Thomas H. Dudley School; Principal Joseph Oritz; Camden Special Services District “Clean Team;” and Bill Prante, District Operations Manager for Waste Management of New Jersey.

“It is our sincere hope that more businesses in our community will join our efforts in providing a cleaner and healthier community and take advantage of this opportunity in waste reduction,” Councilman Lopez said. “Recycling saves energy and makes dollars and sense for businesses and the environment.”

“This program is a shining example of a truly successful public-private partnership,” Basara said. “The Camden UEZ is committed to supporting the Camden business community by providing programs and services such as this.”

“Waste Management shares the City of Camden’s goal of increasing recycling and recovering more material from the waste stream,” Prante said. “There is a clear opportunity to improve commercial recycling rates in Camden, as the City has already done with residential recycling. Doing so will help make Camden a cleaner and greener place to live and work.”

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During the past three years, the City has seen a significant increase in its residential recycling collection due in part to the distribution of residential recycling buckets at all of the Mayor's Camden Clean Campaign events. In 2009, residential single stream recycling was 1,679 tons; in 2010, single stream recycling was 1,834 tons; and so far this year, the City has recovered more than 1,800 tons of single stream recycling. At this pace, the City is on target to recover 3,075 tons of residential single stream recycling.

Mayor Redd urges residents and businesses to continue separating recyclables from regular garbage. Recycling not only benefits our environment, but it is also cost efficient for the City because it reduces the amount of tonnage which lowers the fees the City pays to the landfill and incinerator facilities. Also, the City can receive refunds for certain types of recyclables, depending on the market for paper, aluminum, etc.

Residents or businesses who have questions, would like to obtain more information about their trash and recycling collection schedule, need to know which district they reside in, or would like to pick-up a recycling bin, should call the Department of Public Works Hotline at 856-757-7034 or visit the City webpage at www.ci.camden.nj.us.

Also, as of January 1, 2011, as required by a new state electronic waste management act, items known collectively as electronic waste or e-waste including old televisions, computers and computer monitors must be recycled. The electronic waste management act bans the disposal of televisions and all personal or portable computers including desktop, notebook and laptop computers, as well as computer monitors in the regular waste stream. Manufacturers of these devices will now be funding the collection of e-waste so it is free for consumers. Residents will have to take these items to drop off points such as a county e-waste collection event at specific locations on specific days or at a participating electronics retail store.

Camden County has an e-waste recycling program in place. You can also take e-waste to a participating electronic retail stores and community based service programs. It is best to call ahead to make sure that participating store will take the items you have. Residents can call Camden County at 856-858-5241 for information on their e-waste recycling program and days, places and times that e-waste can be dropped off (proof of residency will be required). Information on e-waste recycling events can also be found online at www.camdencounty.com/county-news/new-electronics-recycling-law-going-effect.

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