

## Protecting Our Environment

Every day we read about the negative effects of Climate change and Global Warming. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) “Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are emitted at nearly every stage of a product’s life cycle, including during waste management”.

Recycling and Composting are methods that assist in developing a sustainable environment. However, recycling takes “ENERGY” and single serve containers/bags (paper or plastic) have a tremendous negative impact on our environment.

Therefore in order to take the next step to combat Global Warming citizens need to adopt source reduction practices that will lessen the production of GHG.

Practices such as refillable (mugs or bottles) and reusable bags have the following impact on the environment:

- Reduces solid waste and saves on collection and disposal costs
- Conserves natural resources
- Reduces pollution from mining and manufacturing new products
- Saves energy (oil, gas, coal, etc).
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

## Reusable/Refillable Mugs



Paper, Plastic and Styrofoam cups contribute much to the depletion of our natural resources; increases GHG, adds to our solid waste stream, and increases street and floatable litter which can wash down our catch basins and pollute our streams, rivers and oceans.

In order to alleviate some of the negative effects of disposable cups, citizens can begin by purchasing a reusable travel or ceramic mug for the home and office. Every time you use a “Reusable Mug” you practice environmental sustainability and protect our planet. So please do your part and reuse and refill your mug today!

For further information on recycling, source reduction, and getting to **Zero Waste** please look at the following websites:

[www.thegreenguide.com/doc/101/plastic](http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/101/plastic)

[www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycling](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycling)

[www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise)

[www.gettingtozerowaste.com](http://www.gettingtozerowaste.com)

[www.cleangreenbags.com](http://www.cleangreenbags.com)

## Reusable Bags

Bags either plastic or paper utilize natural resources and consume a considerable amount of energy in either the production or recycling of bags. An alternative to this solid waste problem is Reusable bags.

Throughout the United States anti-bag bills are being considered in Boston; Baltimore; Annapolis, Md.; Portland, Ore.; and Santa Monica and Oakland, Calif. New York’s City’s “green” campaign is telling people to use cloth bags for grocery shopping and to reuse bags whenever possible.

Many supermarkets have begun to sell reusable bags. The City of Clifton has purchased a limited amount of reusable bags and mugs with grant funds as part of its comprehensive solid waste management educational program to promote source reduction through reusable bags and mugs.

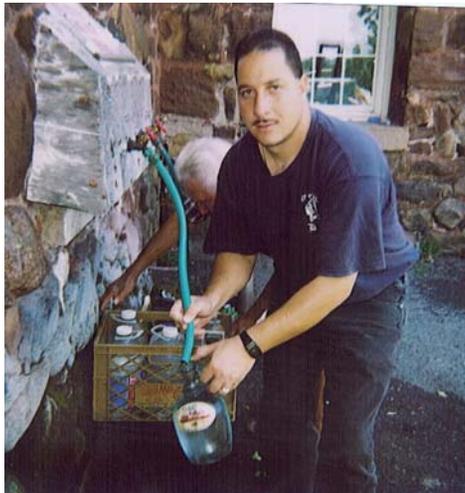


## Refill Your Water Bottles

Many communities have municipal wells and residents are permitted to utilize this service to get clean water for drinking and cooking. In Clifton, City residents are permitted to get up to five gallons of well water per visit. Refilling bottles and utilizing this system saves a considerable amount of **energy and natural resources** by not having to purchase and recycle the water in single serve bottles.

In 1999, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) published an in-depth report available at [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp). This study found that tap water is often better regulated than bottled water and has to meet more stringent **health** standards at both the federal and local levels.

Most bottled water is packaged in plastic which are made from petroleum a non-renewable resource. Additionally, the plastic manufacturing process is associated with toxic byproducts. Obtaining water (tap or well) from underground pipes is more energy efficient and uses less natural resources.



## Conclusion

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protections (NJDEP) Solid Waste Management Plan: Section B.1. "Source Reduction is the first tier of the solid waste management hierarchy. The term describes those activities that decrease the amount (weight or volume) or toxicity of waste entering the solid waste stream. It also encompasses those activities that increase product durability, reusability and reparability."

The City of Clifton has entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of mandatory recycling. The City realizes and is working with the USEPA, NJDEP, and other environmental organizations that recycling alone will not solve our solid waste dilemma. Recycling increases energy consumption, and this energy usage emits emissions which contributes to global climate change. Therefore, the City is committed to working with the above agencies to preserve our environment through all methods of source reduction including the refillable mug, bottle and reusable bag programs.

Questions regarding this program should be directed to:

Alfred Du Bois  
Clifton's Recycling Coordinator  
973-470-22339



*This brochure was printed on recycled fibers  
by the Passaic County Sheriff's  
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JERRY SPEZIALE, SHERIFF*

## City of Clifton's Refillable-Reusable Mug / Bag Program



*Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste!*

# REDUCE

# REUSE

# REFILL

*Together...*

*We can preserve the planet, save  
energy and reduce greenhouse  
gas emissions*