

High praise for recycling

Gov. Florio 'impressed' by Clifton effort

By JAMES ZOCCOLI
Staff Writer

CLIFTON — With garbage disposal costs becoming an ever-increasing concern, Gov. James Florio visited Clifton on Wednesday to praise the city for its outstanding achievement in reducing solid waste with a successful recycling program.

The governor toured the city's two recycling barns, located behind city hall, and hailed municipal officials for being a good example to other New Jersey cities.

"I'm impressed," said Florio. "I'm here because Clifton is doing a good job in an area I want to



Gov. James Florio praised Clifton's recycling program during a visit to the city's recycling center Wednesday. Florio said a similar program should be followed by all municipalities. The governor is flanked by Mayor Gloria Kolodziej, and Assemblyman Joseph Mecca.
(Dateline photo by James Zoccoli)

highlight.

A throng of state and municipal officials were on hand to greet the governor, as Florio promised to credit the City of Clifton as a recycling leader whenever discussing the subject in future speaking engagements.

"...The hope is that this (type of recycling program) should be the normal thing," said Florio. "Everybody should be doing what Clifton is doing."

Florio said his long range goal is to make New Jersey the nation's leader in recycling, and said "wasteful practices are not going to be accepted" in the Garden State's very near future.

The governor said a new "national awareness" is leading people down a path towards dramatic increases in recycling. And said this is as it should be, because "there is no higher responsibility this generation has then to improve the environment."

Florio took the opportunity to announce his support for a state Senate bill, introduced by Sen. Paul Conillo, D-Paramus, to reduce toxics such as cadmium and lead (heavy metals) in commercial packaging.

"It's not going to be that hard a sell," Florio said of the bill. "Heavy metals inhibit the ability to recycle. And we must get more assistance from industry."

The governor said in days-gone-by, there was a debate claiming government must choose between a clean environment and a healthy job climate. But Florio claims such decisions are now guided.

"If you don't have a clean environment you end up fouling your own economic nest," he said. "It almost cost more not to clean up."

Another recycling effort which Florio said may be in the offing is to study the possibility of a state-mandated plastics recycling program. Additionally, the governor vowed to "turn upside down" former Gov. Thomas Kean's plan to construct an incinerator in each of the state's 21 counties.

"I cannot conceive of a situation where we would
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have 21 incinerators," said Florio. "We're going to be putting the major emphasis on source reduction."

Clifton Recycling Coordinator Al DuBois, said he is "very impressed" by the governor's intensive focus on the recycling issue, and said he believes such efforts will eventually show impressive results.

DuBois also offered a suggestion of his own to help alleviate the massive number of old spare tires now burdening many municipalities: DuBois said Trenton should pass a law mandating consumers return their

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used tires to the tire company from which they purchase new tires. He said tire companies would then have direct access to the used tires for recycling, and cities would be spared the disposal costs.

"It's not fair that communities have to pick up the bill for the disposal of old tires," said DuBois. "Used tires are an item that should be handled by tire distributors."

The Clifton recycling program praised by the governor boasts a \$3 million savings in its first two years.

Florio commends Clifton's recycling

By Maureen Castellano
Staff Writer

"I'm impressed with the numbers I've heard," Florio said, noting the city cut its garbage load by more than 11,000 tons last year.

Florio lauded the city's recycling center Wednesday and heaped praise on city workers for saving the environment and more than \$1 million in garbage costs.

"I take my figurative hat off to you," Florio said.

Florio met with city officials at the old barns behind City Hall, where the center is located, in a brief stop to promote statewide recycling. Clifton saved \$1 million — about \$35 in taxes per homeowner — through recycling in 1989, the first year of its glass, newspaper and aluminum pickup program.

passed.

The governor used Wednesday's opportunity to unveil a host of upcoming environmental legislation, which he vowed would be

Florio advocated a new bill mandating the reduction of toxic substances in product packaging and legislation that would require state and local government agencies to purchase and use recycled paper.

The recycled paper bill, introduced by Assemblyman Joseph

"It's not enough for the government to tell people to recycle. We in the government have to find new ways to use that recycled product."

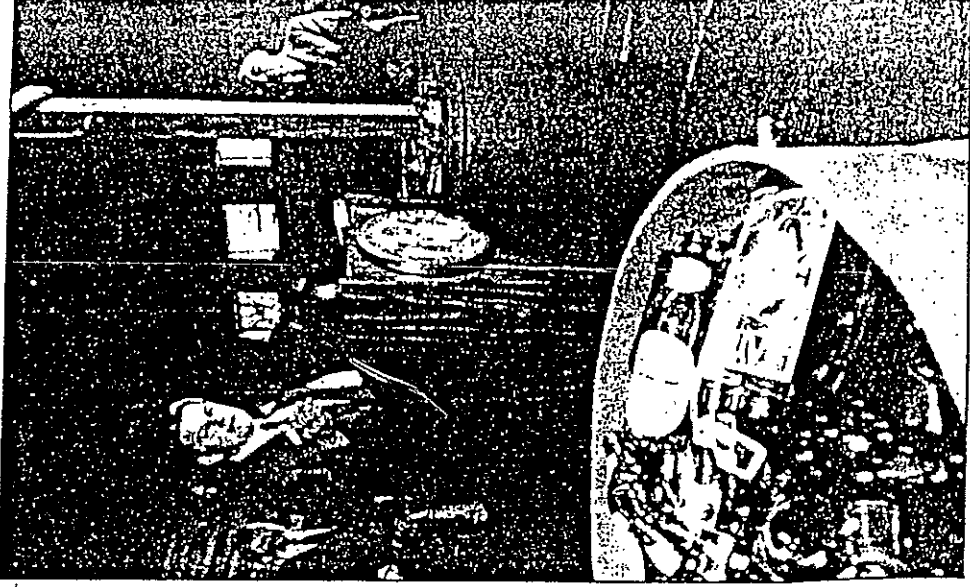
Gov. James J. Florio

Florio said increasing recycling will cut down the need for handling or incinerating New Jersey's garbage. He criticized former Gov. Thomas H. Kean's proposal for 21 incinerators statewide and said there is "no way" the state will build that many.

He said the commission debating the incineration problem may announce some decisions as early as next week.

Florio also said legislation to mandate plastics recycling is under consideration at the state level. And the administration will be proposing new methods to increase the market for recycled products, Florio said.

Recycling fan



Gov. James J. Florio, on his tour to promote statewide recycling Wednesday examines Clifton's center. He said he wants new legislation to reduce toxic substances in packaging. Page B7.

By Frankford & New

Florio puts together bills to spur recycling

By AL FRANK

Gov. Jim Florio said yesterday he soon be unveiling a package of legislation aimed at fostering dramatic programs in New Jersey's recycling.

Declaring that "a good start" has been made in the 20 years since the South Bay was celebrated, Florio said, "There's much, much more we still to do."

He promised that his administration about to present "some innovative ideas that are going to be put in the Legislature and our families" to improve recycling.

First for a measure that would reduce the reduction of toxic substances in packaging, Florio specified components of the package and did not say how many bills would be involved.

Moreover, the Governor promised that when enacted will "dramatically increase the amount we're recycling."

New Jerseyans recycled 2.7 million tons, or about 20 percent, of all waste in 1988, the last full year for which the state Office of Recycling Statistics has figures.

Florio Spang, administrator of the state's 1987 recycling law, Spang said. The law requires that 25 percent of all municipal solid waste be recycled by this year. However, Spang said only a 14 percent rate was achieved in 1988.

She explained that municipal waste is comprised of paper, glass, metal and plastic. The higher, total waste figure is achieved by adding things like yard waste, auto scrap and asphalt.

"If we're a little bit behind schedule in moving rapidly to have recycling as the normal course of events, I'm making the commitment to you that we're going to catch up real quick in this state," Florio declared. "I want to make sure New Jersey is going to be the best state in the country when it comes to recycling."

The Governor made the announcement in Clifton, where he hailed the city's recycling program, which officials said has diverted more than 25 percent of the garbage flow from landfills for the creation of new products.

The city, in which the recycling of glass, aluminum, paper and leaves has been mandated for the last two years, sold some 11,000 tons of collected items last year for \$30,000 and shaved its refuse collection bill by \$1.3 million.

Florio said he would be citing the Passaic County community's expertise as he travels around the state touting recycling.

"I can think of no greater responsibility this generation has than to pass



Gov. Florio speaks during a visit to a recycling center in Clifton.

Made by Tom Kinn

on to the next generation a better environment," the Governor said.

The packaging bill will soon be introduced by Sen. Paul Coniglio (D-Ber-

gen) and Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union), Florio said.

It will call for the reduction of toxic substances used in the inks and dyes on packaging. The materials include such heavy metals as cadmium and lead that make the packaging material difficult to dispose and prevent its recycling.

"This bill will be a high priority in this administration," Florio said.

He said he doubted the mandate would cause much hardship to industry which has been gearing up for such a requirement for some time.

"It's not going to be a hard sell, I don't think," he said. "Industry people have got alternatives or different products they can use. Frankly, it's just been inertia that has inhibited them from moving."

Another priority, Florio said, is to help create markets for recycled materials.

Assemblyman Joseph Mecca (D-Passaic), who preceded Florio at the podium, said he proposes doing that to paper in a bill (A-3703) that would require state and local governments to purchase recycled paper products.

Under the measure, recycled material would have to account for 45 percent of all paper purchases after July 1, 1992, Mecca said.