

Sustainability found in Clifton

Friday, August 6, 2010

LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY AUGUST 6, 2010, 1:15 AM

BY ALFRED DU BOIS

CLIFTON JOURNAL

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR

For the past three years, university professors, government agencies and environmental organizations have pondered the technological challenges and ethical gist of what is sustainability.



[Buy this photo](#)

Nature's Choice grinding and recycling organic material at Clifton DPW yard into mulch to be placed back into soil. DuBois, at left, talking with DPW employee.

One widely accepted ambiguous quixotic definition of sustainability ruminated amongst the experts is meeting human needs in a socially-just manner without depriving ecosystems of their health.

In 2007, the sustainable communities' class at Iowa State University, through extensive research, recognized seven communities throughout the nation that had established replicable model sustainable programs in a document titled "Local Communities and Climate Change." The entire document is on Clifton's website www.cliftonnj.org click (Trash and Recycling) on left.

Clifton was the first case study in the manuscript which documented the City's 25 years of accolades from the state and nation for developing and implementing innumerable solid waste programs which reduced greenhouse gas emissions, preserved natural resources, generated revenues for the City, and was unequivocally "Sustainability in Action."

While experts ponder away at seeking - definitions - the City last week acted sustain-ably, and recycled nearly 1,000 tons over 6,000 cubic yards of branches/brush, logs, and stumps into a fine mulch which will be used throughout northern New Jersey to enrich soils, gardens and landscaped areas. The materials were generated as a by-product from trees in Clifton and collected by the employees of the City's Department of Public Works, stored at the Public Works yard and then recycled.



STAFF PHOTOS/DEMITRIUS BALEVSKI

[Buy this photo](#)

What is sustainability?

Sustainability is living in harmony with nature and achieved when the biodiversity of a community's ecosystem is restored and native habitats and wildlife begin to flourish. These in turn provide communities with natural resources for all living organisms on this planet - generating "Zero natural Waste" which recycles residuals such as tree parts into the terrain, and develops amongst people a sense of pride of place for today and in perpetuity.

The City of Clifton has joined Sustainable New Jersey - a program for municipalities that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

(Story submitted by DuBois, Clifton's Municipal Recycling coordinator.)