BRICK UTILITIES
THE BRICK TOWNSHIP 50 YEARS 1969 - 2019 MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
EPA WaterSense PARTNER

Water Saving is Saving Water by Recycling and Composting

Saving water not only involves water conservation measures, it also concerns preserving and improving water quality. What is water quality? Broadly defined, water quality is the ability of a waterbody to support all appropriate beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are the ways in which water is used by humans and wildlife; drinking water, recreation and fish habitat are a few examples. If water quality is good or unimpaired, it supports a beneficial use; and if poor or impaired, it does not support such a use. Two ways to improve or maintain water quality is by *Recycling* and *Composting*.

Reduce Non-Point Source Pollution

Water pollution that comes from many different sources and cannot be traced back to a known source.

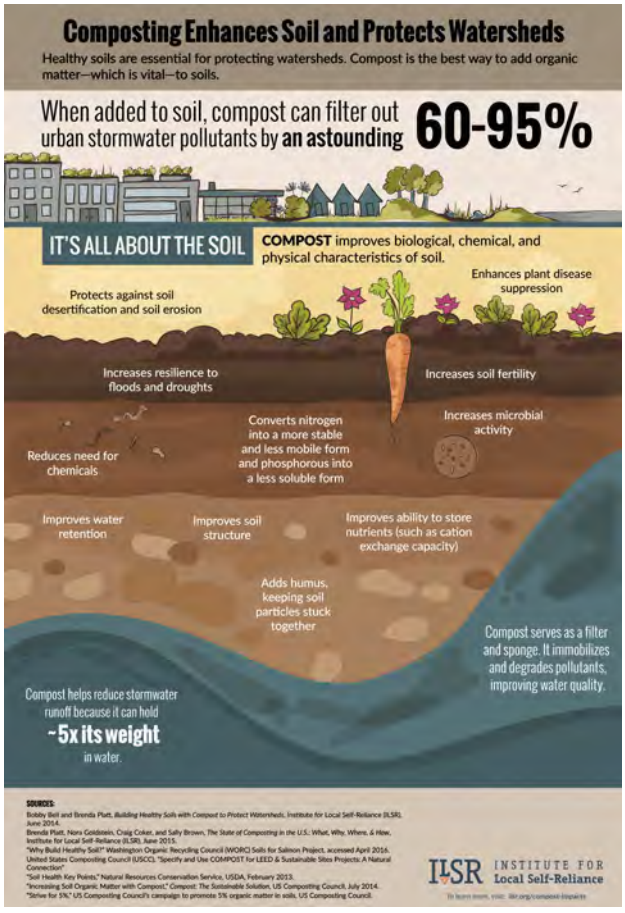
Many items we can recycle and compost can become Non-Point Source Pollution when not disposed of or reused properly. Non-Point Source Pollution is water pollution that comes from many different sources and cannot be traced back to a known source. These pollutants include litter, pet waste, petroleum products like motor oil, and materials coming off our yards such as pesticide, fertilizers, grass clippings and leaves.

From all the above Non-Point Source Pollution, Litter becomes Marine Debris.

By recycling plastic and glass bottles, food containers, metal and aluminum cans, and cardboard and paper, and properly disposing of things like petroleum products, fertilizers and pesticides, we can help keep pollution from entering our waterways. There are many ways these materials can negatively affect water quality. They can also pose a hazard to wildlife who may mistakenly eat them or become ensnared. Even though New Jersey has mandatory recycling laws, each county determines which items they can recycle. To learn more about recycling in New Jersey go to www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/residential.html. For information about recycling in Ocean County visit www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/SolidWaste/frmHomeSW.aspx.

Visit USEPA's Trash-Free Waters (www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters) to learn more about water pollution and how to prevent it.

Natural materials, such as grass clippings, leaves, and vegetable waste, can also cause water quality issues. For example, if they enter waterways as non-point source pollution, they can decay and cause oxygen in the water to become depleted, resulting in fish kills. By composting, we are converting vegetative waste into a soil amendment that can be used in our garden beds. Compost improves the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of soil. It helps reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. It increases the water retention in soil as well, helping to conserve our water resources. To learn more about composting, visit Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management at www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/SolidWaste/frmComposting.aspx and USEPA's Reduce, Reuse, Recycle at www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home.



look for WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria

To learn more about water-smart landscapes visit WaterSense (www.epa.gov/watersense/landscaping-tips) and Jersey-Friendly Yards (www.jerseyyards.org).

Jersey-Friendly Yards℠ Landscaping for a Healthy Environment