

Somerset County Department of Health Environmental Enforcement Unit



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Overview

- The Somerset County Health Department (SCHD) was originally established in 1992 to oversee the County's solid waste management structure and enforce the recycling component of our Solid Waste Management Plan.
- SCHD's legal authority is derived from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection through the County Environmental Health Act ("CEHA").
- New Jersey's CEHA legislation was first enacted in 1978. It allows certified County health agencies to enforce certain components of NJDEP's environmental regulations. As of 2004, all 21 Counties have adopted a CEHA program.

- The CEHA arrangement gives NJDEP flexibility, faster response time, local oversight, and the ability to delegate certain routine inspections to County inspectors (through an annual work plan & grant agreement).
- SCHD's Environmental Enforcement Unit expanded in 1996 to include air pollution monitoring, and again in 1998 to address noise pollution and water pollution concerns.
- SCHD currently maintains subcontractor agreements with most local health departments within the County. SCHD provides training and in exchange, local inspectors assist in complaint responses.

SOLID WASTE CONTROL

- SCHD inspectors monitor all regulated solid waste & recycling facilities within the County (e.g. the transfer station, recycling centers, farmland mulch sites, citizen drop-offs, etc) – N.J.A.C. 7:26-1 et seq.
- Solid waste haulers – ensure transporters are legally registered with NJDEP; spot-check roll-off containers for proper maintenance and road-safe conditions



- General surveillance for illegal dumping; stockpiling of tires
- Recycling compliance evaluations of the business sector (strip malls, hotels, theaters, etc). Also conduct outreach at schools and residential apartment complexes, senior centers, etc.
- Recycling compliance evaluations of construction & demolition sites

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

- Inspect all 'minor sources' of air pollution (dry cleaners, gas stations, paint spray booths, certain emergency generators/boilers)
- Respond to complaints of idling vehicles and encourage posting of No-Idling Zone signs
- Respond to complaints of odor pollution, dust, open burning
- N.J.A.C. 7:27-1 et seq.



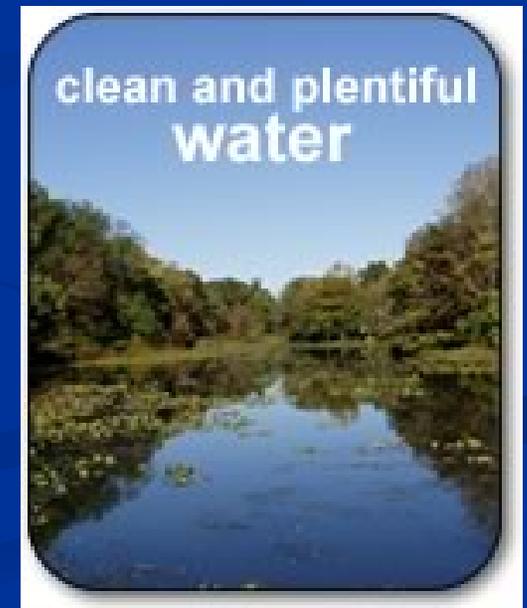


SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

- Protect the public by ensuring safe drinking water at any ‘public non-community water system’ – this means any non-residential well with the potential to serve at least 25 people daily for at least 60 days per year.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

- Respond to complaints and conduct water pollution investigations to identify unpermitted discharges of pollutants to the County’s surface or groundwater sources.
- Utilize partnerships with the County engineering and mosquito control divisions to identify and reduce non-point source pollution
- Conduct stream monitoring each summer at 8 designated sites within Somerset County



NOISE CONTROL

- Conduct investigations in response to citizen complaints to determine compliance with N. J.A.C. 7:29-1 et seq.
- Train and assist local health depts. and police officers with noise investigations, to support their municipal ordinances.



HAZ-MAT

- A portion of CEHA grant funding is used to support Somerset County Office of Emergency Management (OEM); our environmental team works in partnership with HazMat inspectors to mitigate and follow-up on environmental releases.

Current Goals



- Inspect all dry cleaners using perchloroethylene solvent (“perc”) to ensure compliance with State air pollution regulations; develop a database of cleaners in Somerset County using alternative technology.
- Conduct public education campaigns regarding: recycling of compact fluorescent bulbs, preventing stormwater pollution, proper disposal of unused medications.
- Identification and registration of unpermitted air pollution sources, with focus on waste oil burners and solvent degreasers at auto repair facilities.
- Increased inspection activity to ensure recycling compliance in the commercial sector.
- Continue our partnership with the Sheriff’s Dept. to conduct quarterly solid waste transporter truck checks at the transfer station, and to monitor idling vehicles at various idling ‘hotspots’ throughout the County.