



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management

REVITALIZATION



Completion: Fall 2020

Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!

RHODE

Issue 12 WINTER 2024

RIDEM Provides Grant for School Recycling

By: Mark Dennen



As part of its Solid Waste Infrastructure Grant from USEPA, the Department has awarded a grant to the RI School Recycling Club for \$34,986. Their work is being funded in support of the EPA “United States 2030 Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal.” RIDEM is funding an expansion of the “Get Food Smart” (GFS) into the next phase. This is making their program more accessible, turn-key, and cost-neutral for all schools in Rhode Island. This new work effort is being done in addition to the ongoing work funded by a USDA grant awarded to the City of Providence Sustainability office that is implementing the GFS program in four new elementary and middle schools during the 2023/2024 and

See School on Pg. 4

RIDEM ANNOUNCES NEW ROUND OF BROWNFIELDS GRANTS



The Department of Environmental Management recently announced the award of \$2.525 million in reimbursable grants under the Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund for 10 projects expecting to create 475 permanent jobs and 2,446 construction jobs in Rhode Island. These grants will be used for cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties, known as brownfields, throughout the State. The following projects will aid in reclaiming and reusing valuable real estate. Redevelopment of these sites attract small businesses, revitalize neighborhoods and contribute to mitigating public health threats to exposure from uncontrolled contamination.

“The community cleanups and investments made possible by brownfields grants underscore the power of the green bonds that finance them,” said DEM Director Terry Gray. “Green bonds help restore our environment, support economic development, and strengthen Rhode Island’s resiliency in the face of climate change. DEM is grateful that Governor McKee has proposed \$5 million in additional funding for the Brownfields grant program in the 2024 Green Bond for the ballot in November. If approved, this investment will help continue the success we’ve achieved with our partners by investing in the cleanup of sites across the state, which has helped build new schools, businesses, affordable housing, and green energy projects.”

Project: **138 Friendship LLC (Providence) – Vacant Land**
Grant: \$30,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Crossroads RI – Summer Street (Providence)**
Grant: \$350,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Former Urban League of RI (Providence)**
Grant: \$275,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Former Woonsocket Middle School (Woonsocket)**
Grant: \$275,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Future Finishing (Johnston)**
Grant: \$150,000 site assessment

Project: **Oak Street Mill #2 (Providence)**
Grant: \$320,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Town Landing (Pawtucket)**
Grant: \$250,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Tidewater Landing (Pawtucket)**
Grant: \$250,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Rise Above All Properties (Pawtucket)**
Grant: \$275,000 remediation/redevelopment

Project: **Shannock Village / Clark Mill (Richmond)**
Grant: \$350,000 remediation/redevelopment

To date, the DEM’s Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund has capitalized 71 projects in 18 communities across Rhode Island, which has leveraged more than \$1.39 billion in other investments and supported almost 13,000 jobs in communities throughout Rhode Island. Click [here](#) to read full story on the DEM website. For more information on Brownfields grants or projects, contact Ashley Blauvelt in the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management at Ashley.blauvelt@dem.ri.gov.

LRSMM PARTICIPATES IN STEM EVENT



Pictured above are Jillian Thompson and Jessica Carney from LRSMM's UST Division

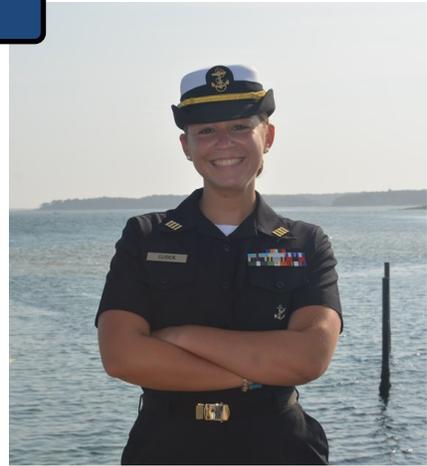
In September 2023 [#TeamDEM](#) attended the [Rhode Island National Guard](#)'s STEM Exploration Open House event at Quonset National Guard Base in North Kingstown!

The event provided students with an opportunity for hands-on, interactive experiences to explore STEM career fields across the State of RI. The National Guard partnered with local colleges and employers such as University of Rhode Island Engineering, Electric Boat, NASA and more to give nearly 400 students a chance to network and learn from a variety of exhibitors representing their STEM careers.

STAFF CORNER

Reilly Cusick-

I graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 2022 with a B.S. in Marine Science, Safety, and Environmental Protection. I worked with the Swansea Board of Health as a health inspector, and for the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program in their Stormwater Collaborative group testing stormwater for pollutants. Now I am in the OLRSM as an environmental scientist, learning and gaining as much experience as I can. When not at work, I love to snowboard, scuba dive, travel, and read!



Lisa Brice-

I have worked in customer service, pretty much my whole adult life. I worked in banking for several years before moving onto AAA Northeast as an Assistant Manager of the Greenville Branch. I was with AAA for 10 years before moving over to the State as a Senior Teller in the Safety & Emissions Department of the DMV. I grew up in Swansea, MA but currently live in Riverside with my husband and son. I enjoy spending time with family and friends when I'm not working and I love to shop!



LRSMM Staff Appointed to RISEP Board



Congratulations!



The Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management congratulates Joanna Pawlina, an Environmental Scientist at RIDEM, to the Board of the RI Society of Environmental Professionals (RISEP) recently. RISEP is a nonprofit organization that serves to encourage and facilitate the development and support of environmental services industry in the State. Joanna will meet with other group members periodically to discuss regulatory and technical issues which the environmental business community faces in Rhode Island. Congratulations, Joanna!

School ...Cont'd from front pg

2024/2025 school years. The Rhode Island School Recycling Club provides benefits far beyond just the diversion of waste in the schools. Their programs create a kiosk for students to bring home edible foods from the cafeteria at the end of the school day, thus allowing students from food insecure homes to discreetly bring home nutritious foods. By involving the students at a core level, it builds recycling literacy and waste ethics for the next generation. Furthermore, all students, especially those from non-English speaking homes, bring that awareness to their families. The program was started with a small investment from EPA's Healthy Communities Grant, but the Department included the program in our grant to keep it going and hopefully expand it to more schools. Future efforts on the Solid Waste Infrastructure Grant include the Development of a Solid Waste Management Plan for the state and technical assistance to food composters. For more information on the RI Schools Recycling Club visit the RI Recycling Club by clicking [here](#).

Don't Waste Your Yard's Spring Bounty, Compost It!

By: Recology and Lisa Brice



As you enjoy the growth in your yard this spring, consider that yard trimmings can be put back into your garden to make it even more vibrant. Spring is a great time to begin a compost pile that will yield fast results and help increase soil water retention during our drier summer months.

1. Find Your Ideal Spot - Select a dry shady area that is away from your house but close enough for your garden hose to reach. Though you can buy a simple bin or tumbler that makes turning your compost a breeze, you can also compost directly on the ground. Some recommend adding a base layer of mulch, woody or bushy material, to promote aeration, but that's optional.

2. Build Your Pile - Alternate layers of brown (carbon) and green (nitrogen) material and aim for a 4:1 ratio of browns to greens. Browns include dry leaves, sawdust or small wood chips, and shredded newspaper or cardboard. Greens include grass clippings, food waste, and garden waste like weeds or green trimmings. Aim for layers that are a few inches deep and use your garden hose to moisten the material as you build. Make sure any food scraps are covered with a layer of brown materials to prevent flies and smells.

3. Mix Often and Keep It Moist - The more often you mix or turn your pile, the faster it will decompose. You can use a shovel or a rake to mix. Be sure to mix the pile thoroughly at a minimum of once every two weeks. And use your garden hose to add moisture if you notice your pile is dry. It should be damp like a wrung-out sponge.

4. Cover to Retain Heat, Moisture, and Nutrients - Cover your pile with a tarp or an old scrap of carpet. This will trap the heat and aid your compost in cooking. It will also prevent nutrient loss in case it rains. While rain is a welcome sight for your plants, it will wash the nutrients out of your compost and deposit them into the ground below.

5. Optional: Accelerate the Breakdown - If you want your compost to be viable by the beginning of summer, you can [add a compost accelerator](#) to speed up the breakdown process. It's a simple solution of sugar water, ammonia, and beer – which is why some refer to this method as “drunk composting”.

A Word on Food Waste and Avoiding Pests and Smells

Many avoid building a compost pile for fear of attracting pests or foul smells, but both can be avoided if you follow the instructions above and be sure to leave out any meat, grease, or dairy products. You can even leave out food scrapes entirely out of the mix. Put those in your food and yard waste cart instead. Also, be sure to turn your pile often and keeping it moist to deter pests and keep smells at bay. If rodents or other animals are a high concern, consider using a compost bin or tumbler.





Creating Your Own Ink



Ever wanted to create something on your own? Here's your chance to be entrepreneurial, creative, and environmentally friendly.

Today, ink is easy to find, but in the 1800's, people would have to make their own as well as their writing utensils from resources found around them. Most of the time the tip of a quill feather was used for this purpose. It was cut to a point and crafted to hold a little bit of ink.

Follow the instructions below to create your own writing instrument.

Materials: Plastic Straw, Scissors, Paper & Glue (both are optional)

- Directions:**
1. Cut your straw at an angle to create a point.
 2. Cut a VERY TINY slit into the point of your straw, the slit should be no longer than 1/8 inch.
 3. (optional) Create some feather like characteristics and cut them out.
 4. (optional) Glue them onto the side of your straw.

You have just created your very own writing utensil! Now give it a try. This is one way to use up those old plastic straws!

OLRSMM Word Search

By: Olivia Findlay

N J S Z E Q J M D U B X O C E A N S T A T E A J R L Z Y Z X
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- Sustainable Materials Management
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Brownfield Beauty
- Happy New Year
- Natural Resources
- Superfund
- Waste Management
- Land Revitalization
- Solar Installations
- Ocean State
- Teamwork
- OSCAR

Answer Key on the last page.



OSCAR the Q&A Mascot

By: Michelle Jong

This Week's Message:

SAFELY DISCARDING THE OLD "WAVE" LICENSE PLATES

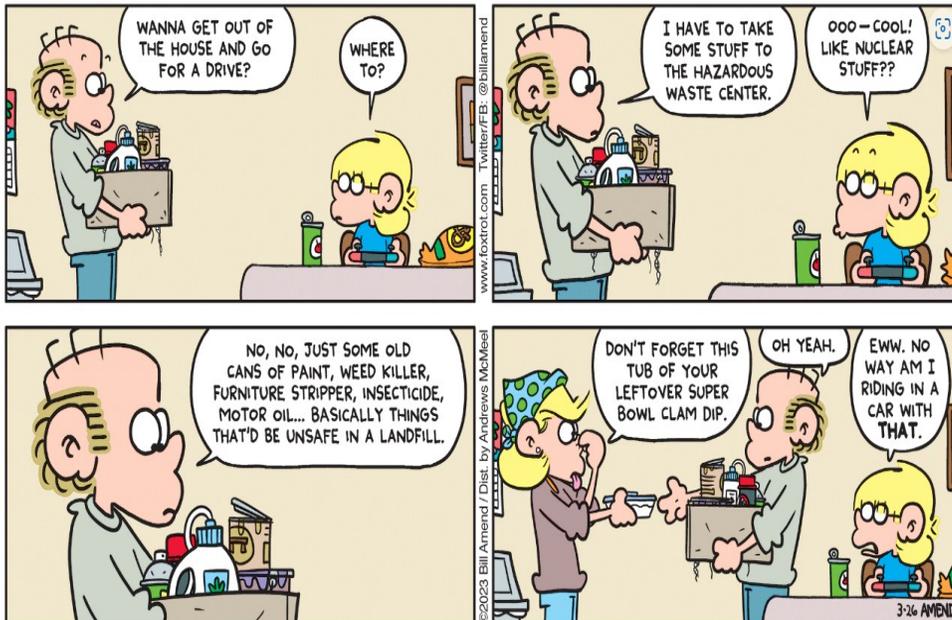


Our beloved Rhode Island's iconic "wave" license plate's time has come to an end with us after long 25 years, and now the brand-new "ocean" license plates are being distributed through out the state. Although the new design seems almost identical to our previous design, the new design has five waves instead of one, symbolizing the five different counties in Rhode Island. Neat!

However, many people are bringing the old "wave" license plate back to the Division of Motor Vehicles, which is what they don't want you to do anymore <https://dor.ri.gov/press-releases/division-motor-vehicles-begins-plate-reissuance-initiative>. Instead, they are encouraging the public that they bend or cut up the old plate and recycle. Generally, we shouldn't toss our old license plate due to potential identity theft. The smartest thing to do to protect ourselves is to take the old plates to a local aluminum(or scrap metal) recycling center. More info about where to recycle can be found in <https://atoz.rirrc.org/items/license-plates>. Please make sure you do your best to destroy (bending, scratching, cutting in half) the plate as much as possible before disposing them.

Let's be kind to the environment!

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).



Answer Key

N	J	M	S	R	Z	E	Q	J	M	D	U	B	X	C	C	F	A	N	S	T	A	T	P	A	J	R	L	Z	Y	Z	X	
H	O	S	U	E	E	E	U	R	S	I	A	A	V	T	G	G	Z	J	V	O	D	Y	O	D	W	I	B	G	G			
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