



**NEW JERSEY
ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION**

A Chapter of **CLEAN WATER ACTION**

Working Every Day to Prevent Harm to
the Environment, Public Health and Our
Communities

Who is NJEF?

The New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF), the NJ chapter of Clean Water Action, is a non-profit, action oriented organization with over 100,000 individual members and over 100 environmental, community, religious, labor and student member groups.

Who is NJEF?

NJEF promotes policies that keep toxics out of our waterways, solid waste strategies without incineration, pollution cleanup and prevention, polluter pay policies, pesticide reduction practices and “right to know” about toxic chemicals.

NJEF empowers people to make democracy work. NJEF employs a professional staff of organizers, door-to-door and phone canvassers to activate our members and allies.

NJEF

Current Campaigns

- Healthy Towns & Schools
 - Energy & Global Warming
 - Open Space
 - Polluter Pay
 - Environmental Justice
 - Clean Water
 - Oyster Creek
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Healthy Schools, Healthy Towns

- Clean Air Zones (No Idling)
 - Pesticide Free Zones
 - Green Cleaning Products
 - Sample town resolutions, power points, brochures, signs at: www.cleanwateraction.org/njef
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NJ Pesticide Use

- NJ uses an average of 4 million pounds of pesticides annually
- Half of that is for lawns - i.e., purely aesthetic
- 1.2 million pounds for Agriculture
- The rest for mosquito control, termite and indoor pest control, right of way, and aquatic weed control.

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/pem-survey.htm>

USGS National Water Quality Assessment

- Passaic River at Two Bridges
 - Saddle River at Ridgewood
 - Neshanic River at Reaville
 - Stony Brook at Princeton
 - Raritan River at Bound Brook
 - Bound Brook at Middlesex
 - Great Egg Harbor at Sickerville
 - 96% OF FISH, 100% OF ALL SURFACE WATER, 33 % OF ALL MAJOR AQUIFER SAMPLES CONTAIN ONE OR MORE PESTICIDES AT DETECTABLE LEVELS
 - The Saddle River at Ridgewood was found to have the highest levels of Triflurin and Dieldrin in NJ
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Dangers of Pesticides

- Pesticides are toxic substances and can harm children and pets, and get into our waterways
 - Lawn pesticides increase the risk of cancer, as well as asthma, immune system and nerve disorders, infertility, birth defects, learning disabilities and behavioral problems
 - Children are particularly vulnerable due to their size, rapid development and hand to mouth behaviors
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Integrated Pest Management

- Prevent pests by promoting healthy soil
- Use non-toxic methods first such as weeding, mowing higher, plant natives, biologicals
- Select least toxic pesticides only when other methods aren't effective.
- Restrict pesticide use to areas not in contact with or accessible to children, pets, waterways

<http://cleanwateraction.org/njef>

Take it one step further!

Adapt a township resolution...



- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of _____ that the Township does hereby adopt Integrated Pest Management, as the pest control policy and strategy to be employed in the maintenance of the Township's public properties and facilities, and
 - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of _____ encourage all citizens to make every effort to participate in this endeavor on their own property, and that the Township will designate certain public properties such as community parks as "Pesticide Free Zones". These areas will be posted with a sign indicated that chemical pesticides have not been applied at the site.
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Ocean Twp. passes PFZ policy April 19, 2010



**Cherry Hill
IPM Resolution
Passed on
March 12, 2009**

RESOLUTION-2009-3-16

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AS
A POLICY AND STRATEGY TO BE EMPLOYED IN THE MAINTENANCE OF
THE TOWNSHIP'S PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Cancer Society, scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with asthma, cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects and disruption of the endocrine system; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Cancer Institute, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure; and

WHEREAS, according to the EPA, lawn pesticides are harmful to pets, wildlife, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems, and can run off into streams, lakes and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information and all available pest control methods (sanitation, mechanical, biological and "least-toxic" chemicals) to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical, ecologically friendly means, with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management has been investigated and considered by the Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee (CHEAC) and is recommended by CHEAC as a desirable and appropriate policy in order to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a Green Action Plan in March 2008 authorizes the Township to take a proactive role in improving environmental quality of life at the municipal level by implementing far-reaching green initiatives that will make Cherry Hill a more sustainable, healthy and green community; and

WHEREAS, adopting the Integrated Pest Management system furthers the Township's goal of greening its practices while encouraging residents and other municipalities to do the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cherry Hill, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Cherry Hill does hereby adopt Integrated Pest Management as the pest control policy and strategy to be employed in the maintenance of the Township's public properties and facilities. The Township will designate public properties, such as community parks, as "Pesticide-Free Zones." These areas will be posted with a sign indicating that conventional chemical pesticides have not been applied at this site. The Township will promote pesticide-free zones in order to improve the environmental quality of life in our community, educate residents, and reduce the hazards associated with traditional pesticides.

ADOPTED: MARCH 23, 2009

ATTEST:


**NANCY L. CAFFOS, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK**


COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Cherry Hill IPM/PFZ Policy - June 09

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

- IPM is a method of managing insects, undesired plants, and plant diseases with the tools that are least likely to impact human health or the environment. It involves developing a plan, such as the following new guidelines for all Cherry Hill Township open spaces, parks and facilities.
 - IPM means that regular monitoring of a site must occur to ensure detection of a pest problem and to correctly identify the problem, including steps such as recognizing a threshold where a pest issue requires action.
 - When action is necessary, IPM dictates what the action should typically start with manual or non-chemical management tools – only resorting to more persistent or stronger pesticides if the problem reaches a certain threshold or if the non-chemical means are inadequate.
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Mayor Platt's editorial in community newsletter June 15, 2009

This summer, you may notice some new signage in Cherry Hill's dozens of parks, playgrounds and other areas of open space. In line with our newly adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy, we will be marking our public lands with small, circular signs that indicate the sites are free from pesticide or herbicide treatments.

Spotlighting these "Pesticide-Free Zones" (PFZs) is a way we can promote the importance of refraining from the use of chemical treatments whenever and wherever possible, while assuring those stepping onto Township ground that we are providing safe, healthy, living lawns and landscapes that prevent children, families, pets, wildlife and the environment from experiencing unnecessary exposure to toxins associated with pest-control.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Cancer Society, scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with asthma, cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects and disruption of the endocrine system – and the National Academy of Sciences as well as the National Cancer Institute note that infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems or chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure.

Mayor Platt's editorial in community newsletter June 15, 2009

This knowledge is, of course, nothing new. In fact, the state passed a law requiring all school districts to integrate an IPM policy by June 2004, citing the need to limit student and staff exposure to pesticides in light of the alarming increase in childhood cancers and asthma – both linked through scientific studies to pesticide exposure, the legislation states.

In addition to being potentially hazardous to people's health, landscaping pesticides are also harmful to animals, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems, and can run off into streams, rivers and drinking water sources.

IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive pest-control program that uses a variety of complementary, coordinated strategies, including mechanical or physical devices (weed-pulling), genetic, biological, cultural management, and carefully assessed chemical management. These methods are done in three stages: prevention, observation, and intervention. It is an economical, ecologically friendly approach with a main goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides. And, it has been proven to manage pest populations at an acceptable level while posing the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

Mayor Platt's editorial in community newsletter June 15, 2009

Because, if it's unacceptable for children to be exposed to toxic pest-control chemicals during school hours, why should they face that risk when enjoying the outdoors at our local parks, playgrounds... or in their own backyard?

As a Township, implementing IPM was an easy choice – we already largely refrain from using pesticides on public grounds, and IPM offers clear, no-nonsense guidelines for chemical-free pest control. But is my hope that in adopting this policy and promoting it through outreach, education and simple signage, residents and business owners in this community will consider eliminating chemical landscaping treatments on their own properties. While the Township and schools can now account for hundreds of acres of pesticide-free land in Cherry Hill, that means little to our collective health if individuals continue to keep their lawns and gardens pest-free through toxic means.

If you have questions about the IPM policy or would like some resources for implementing something similar on your own property, please call my office at (856) 488-7878.

Mayor Platt installs first PFZ sign at one of 50 Cherry Hill Parks



Susan Wolf volunteers to place PFZ signs



Mayor to Community Gardeners

~ Go Organic! ~

March 8, 2010

Plant-a-Patch Community Gardeners

209 Barclay Lane

Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034

Dear Gardeners:

As you may know, a core tenet of my administration is that we must act now to protect and preserve our environment if we want to have the ability to offer future generations the same quality of life Cherry Hill supports today. As such, the Township has developed and implemented progressive policies and actions in this regard, and welcomes input from residents and environmental organizations on programs that make the municipality **“greener.”**

When my office was approached by the New Jersey Environmental Federation about the establishment of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for all Township grounds, we immediately saw the value it posed to the health and safety of residents – particularly children – as well as to our environment.

Mayor to Community Gardeners

~ Go Organic! ~

It is a “best-practice” land-management methodology with the Environmental Protection Agency, and it basically outlines ways to mitigate pest problems other than chemical treatments. Actions may include inspecting crops and monitoring them for damage, using mechanical trapping devices, and/or natural biopesticides – the important thing is that *toxins and chemicals are only used as a method of last resort when practicing IPM.*

The Township’s Barclay Garden, which blooms with your beautiful crops each spring and summer, also falls under our new “**Pesticide-Free Zones**” (look for the signs around your patches). **As such, please refrain from using any chemical pesticides or fertilizers when you garden your patch this year.**

On **April 14, 2010**, the Township will teach you more about IPM at a special introduction session – specifically for Plant-a-Patch Community Gardeners – in our Community Center. Please see Beth Beatty for more details. Additional resources will soon be available to assist you in planting and caring for your chemical-free garden.

Sincerely,
Bernie Platt
Mayor

Put on town website tips for residents to go organic in their own yard!

- *Want to improve your lawn this spring? Do it without the use of pesticides!*
 - With springtime fast approaching, homeowners in the Township will be looking to shake their winter doldrums and soon tend to their lawns and landscaped beds.
 - To keep up with the green initiatives that have been passed by Cherry Hill, the Township in conjunction with the Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee, the New Jersey Environmental Federation and concerned citizens have created an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program.
 - The aim of the program is to reduce or eliminate the use of commercial chemicals in hopes of lessening their impact on the environment. This spring, please bear in mind a few environmentally-friendly tips when it comes to the use of commercial herbicides and insecticides (weed killer, grub control, crabgrass preventer, insect spray, fungus treatment):
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Simple Steps to Organic Lawn Care

- The easiest, most cost effective way to a beautiful, healthy lawn is to work with nature, not against it.
- A healthy lawn needs nutrients and microbe-rich soil to

Basic Lawn Care Tips

- Spread 1/4" compost, or sprinkle organic fertilizer, each fall.
 - Seed with a mix of hardy grasses.
 - Mow high! Keep mower blades sharp.
 - Leave grass clippings on lawn as fertilizer.
 - Water only when soil is dry 6" down. 1" water per watering.
 - Overseed in the spring and fall.
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Suggested Yearly Schedule

March & April

- Sharpen mower blades.
- Raise mower blade to 3 inches.
- Test soil: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Camden County, (856) 566-2900, www.ifplantscouldtalk.rutgers.edu/factsheets.
- Add soil amendments based on soil test.
- Re-seed bare patches, or apply corn gluten to prevent weed germination.
- Always leave clippings on lawn to fertilize.
- May and June
- Check for weeds; pull out by hand.
- Re-seed bare spots.
- Monitor for insect pests.
- If you have grub damage, spot treat with milky spore (once every ten years) and/or with beneficial nematode worms (once yearly for 2 or 3 years).

May and June

- Check for weeds; pull out by hand.
- Re-seed bare spots.
- Monitor for insect pests.
- If you have grub damage, spot treat with milky spore (once every ten years) and/or with beneficial nematode worms (once yearly for 2 or 3 years).

August

- You may allow lawn to go dormant during a drought period. It will green up after rain.
- September and October
- Best time to seed (generously).
- Fertilize if needed (sparingly) or top dress with ¼ inch compost.
- Aerate if soil is compacted.
- Lime if an autumn soil test finds pH lower than about 6.8.

November

- Final mowing at 2 inches for easier leaf raking.
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Managing a Lawn Service

- Set mower 3" - 4". Taller grass shades out weeds (like crabgrass). Mow lawn as needed, never cutting more than 1/3 of leaf blade at a time and leave grass clippings on lawn for nutrient recycling.
 - Request corn gluten and organic fertilizer instead of "Weed and Feed" products.
 - Refuse routine application of pesticides, but if pesticides are used, make sure they are handled properly and applied sparingly by a licensed professional.
 - Beware if a lawn service tells you a chemical application is safe. Federal EPA regulations prohibit manufacturers from making pesticide safety claims, even if used as directed. All pesticides must be treated with caution.
 - Never allow unidentified products to be used on your lawn. Request safety information and read it before application. Look up toxicity at www.pesticide.org.
 - Be aware that chemicals listed as inert ingredients can be highly toxic.
 - Take note: many pesticides persist in lawns and soil long after the posted 24-72 hours.
 - Ask for an organic program. An organic lawn can take up to 3 years to fully establish. You can obtain "Standards for Organic Land Care" from NOFA at: www.organiclandcare.net/publications.
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What else can you do?

- Attend town meetings to pass Healthy Schools, Healthy Towns resolutions
 - Contact the Governor to fulfill promises
 - Become a member of NJEF - go to website for more information:
www.cleanwateraction.org/njef
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Contacts

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