

RED BANK
Environmental Commission

2020 Annual Report



Executive Summary

The Red Bank Environmental Commission (RBEC) was established by ordinance in 1990 and is comprised of volunteer Red Bank residents appointed by the Mayor and is consistent with NJ state laws creating environmental commissions.

RBEC advises the Mayor, Borough Council, Business Administrator, and municipal department heads on environmental issues that may affect the natural resources and inhabitants of the community including, but not limited to, solid waste management and recycling, energy conservation and renewable energy, storm water management, preservation and use of parks and open spaces, clean water resources, and protection of flora, fauna, soil, and landscape throughout the Borough. Additionally, the commission reviews and comments on the building and development applications for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

RBEC met once a month in person through March, when in-person meetings were replaced by online Zoom meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All RBEC meetings were opened to the public as we encouraged public participation and action in our discussions, programs, and projects.

RBEC Member:

Nancy Facey-Blackwood

Title:

Chair

Paulo Rodriguez Heyman

Vice Chair

Denelle Johnson

Secretary

Michael Paul Raspanti

Travers Martin

Roy Meyer

Kristina Bonatakis

Bob D'Addario

Dave Johnson

Kate Triggiano

Council Liaison

The RBEC renewed its two sub-committees, Green Team (GT) and Creative Team (CT), to collaborate on RBEC projects and events throughout the year, and in keeping with Sustainable Jersey's community partnership and outreach best practices.

Green Team Members	Creative Team
Matt Hershberger	Kate Okeson
Nancy Facey-Blackwood	Dave Johnson
Helena Blyskun	Gary Sapphire
Kristina Bonatakis	Monika McCall
Charles Hoffman	Eileen Kennedy
Cliff Keen	
David Schmetterer	

RBEC Activities and Accomplishments

2020 was a year with many challenges and, as a result, several RBEC initiatives were placed on hold. Despite the pandemic, RBEC and the Green Team were productive.

Plan Reviews:

Reviewed dozens of building plans and presented comments to the Municipal Planning and Zoning Boards for best environmental practices. RBEC often suggested increased open space and setbacks, rain gardens, increased use of native trees and plants, use of pervious materials replacing commonly used asphalt and use of green building practices when possible. Some of the plans reviewed in 2020 include:

- 120 Monmouth St – new 38-unit apartment building
- 112 Catherine St- subdivision of a single-family home to create two homes
- 87 Washington St- rebuild a single-family home destroyed by fire
- 70 Locust Av- subdivide a lot and build 2 new homes. Existing home to remain
- 63 Riverside Av- Proposed 2 story apartment building
- 1 Marine Park – Zoning application to install a 2000 Gallon Gas Tank at Irwin Marine

Ordinances and Resolutions

The EC provided support for the following ordinances and resolutions:

- Ordinance 2020-19: authorizes the establishment of a Community Energy Aggregation (CEA) Program that creates an option for 100% regionally sourced renewables
 - <http://www.redbanknj.org/DocumentCenter/View/11259/2020-19>
 - The CEA must be fully implemented within one (1) year of the passage of this ordinance. Request for proposals for electricity generating services must state that no contract will be awarded unless it has an option for customers to opt up to 100% renewable electricity and a minimum percentage of renewable electricity for all program participants of:
 - 30% from program inception through December 31, 2021;
 - 40% from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023;
 - 50% from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025;
 - 65% from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027;
 - 80% from January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2029; and
 - 100% after December 31, 2029.
- Resolution 20-134: opposing the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project
- Resolution 20-257: urging the State of New Jersey to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate change resilience costs

Grants

- Maintained a shared spreadsheet where members can add grant ideas. The EC also participated in discussions of grants with the Borough.
- Successful grants with EC participation in 2020 were:
 - A library grant for resilient communities
 - Raingarden grant at the fire station on Spring St as part of the Navesink River Protection Project
 - Solar Panels at Count Basie fields

Education and Community Outreach

RBEC, the Green Team and the Creative Team participated in several community events. RBEC held several community educational workshops and participated in community events for the residents of Red Bank and neighboring townships. Our workshops and events were developed and executed to improve the health and well-being of our citizens and municipal employees as well as to inform the public of improved environmental and sustainable quality of life issues.

All events were promoted on the RBEC website page, Red Bank Borough events calendar, RBEC Facebook page and in local online and press media. Library events were also promoted by the Red Bank Library via online, newsletters and traditional media.

Red Bank 3rd Annual Earth Day/Green Fair

RBEC and the Green and Creative Teams, in partnership with the Red Bank Middle School, prepared for a Green Fair located at the Red Bank Middle School. The Green Team led this effort. The theme was Break Up with Plastics. Vendors and Sponsors were being recruited. Unfortunately, this effort came to a halt due to the Coronavirus outbreak and plans were indefinitely postponed.



Plastic Bag Ban Education

The Borough of Red Bank created a plastic bag, polystyrene and straw ban via ordinance (2019-41) in August 2019 with an effective date of September 2020. The EC and Green Team created flyers to educate businesses and residents about the ban. In August 2020 EC/Green Team members went to businesses around town to remind them of the start date of the ban.



 **BOROUGH OF RED BANK**
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BOROUGH OF RED BANK

RED BANK WILL ENFORCE A TOWN-WIDE BAN OF:

- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS
- POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS
- PLASTIC STRAWS (BY REQUEST ONLY)

STARTING SEPTEMBER 1, 2020





 A single-use plastic bag is used on average for 12 minutes before being discarded.

 In landfills depending on conditions, plastics can take 1,000+ years to break down.

 Nearly 50% of the plastic waste generated globally in 2015 was plastic packaging.

**Red Bank Borough Municipal Code Chapter 492:
Plastics and Polystyrene Foam (Single Use)**



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STARTING SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

 **What bags are banned?**

The Red Bank ban will apply to all single-use plastic carry-out bags less than 2.25 mils thick, including "biodegradable" and "compostable" plastic bags. The ban also applies to non-recyclable paper bags.

 **What bags are allowed?**

- Heavier-weight plastic bags that can be reused and cleaned multiple times
- Paper bags that are 100% recyclable and contain at least 40% post-consumer recycled content
- Newspaper bags
- Laundry/dry cleaning bags
- Loose produce or bulk item bags
- Bags used to wrap frozen food, meat, vegetables, and bulk items
- Bags sold in packages intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags
- Bags provided by pharmacists to carry prescription drugs

 **What polystyrene containers are banned?**

The Red Bank ban will apply to all polystyrene/plastic foam products, which means any item such as coolers, ice chests, cups, bowls, plates, clamshells, shipping boxes, containers, cutlery, or any other merchandise containing polystyrene/plastic foam that is not wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material.

 **What about plastic straws?**

All Food or Grocery Establishments and Food Providers within the Borough of Red Bank utilizing disposable food service ware shall use recyclable or compostable products, subject to the provisions of subsections 492-6 and 492-7, with the exception of drinking straws. Food Providers may provide drinking straws only upon request of the customer.

**THANK YOU FOR
SHOPPING RED BANK**

#BYOB2020
Bring Your Own Bag

 **CIUDAD DE RED BANK**
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CIUDAD DE RED BANK

RED BANK ENFORZARA EN TODA LA CIUDAD LA PROHIBICIÓN DE:

- BOLSAS DE PLÁSTICO DE UN SOLO USO
- CONTENEDORES DE ESPUMA DE POLIESTIRENO/UNICEL
- PAJITAS/POPOTES/SORBETES DE PLÁSTICO (DISPONIBLE POR PETICIÓN)

EN LOS NEGOCIOS, A PARTIR DEL 1 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2020





 Por lo general, usamos bolsas de plástico durante menos de 15 minutos antes de desecharlas.

 En los vertederos, dependiendo las condiciones, los plásticos pueden demorar más de 100,000 años en descomponerse.

 Casi el 50% de los residuos plásticos generados a nivel mundial en 2015 fueron envases de plástico.

**Código Municipal del Municipio de Red Bank Capítulo 492:
Plásticos y espuma de poliestireno (un solo uso)**



 **CIUDAD DE RED BANK**
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A PARTIR DEL 1 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2020

 **¿Qué bolsas están prohibidas?**

La prohibición de Red Bank se aplicará a todas las bolsas de plástico desechables de menos de 2.25 milsas de grosor, incluidas las bolsas de plástico "biodegradables" y "compostables". La prohibición también se aplica a las bolsas de papel no reciclables.

 **¿Qué bolsas están permitidas?**

- Bolsas de plástico más pesadas que se pueden reutilizar y limpiar varias veces
- Bolsas de papel que son 100% reciclables y que contienen al menos 40% de contenido reciclado post consumo
- Bolsas de periódico
- Bolsas de lavandería/tintorería
- Productos sueltos o bolsas de artículos a granel
- Bolsas usadas para envolver alimentos congelados, carne, verduras y artículos a granel
- Bolsas vendidas en paquetes destinados a ser usados como basura, desechos de mascotas o bolsas de basura de jardín
- Bolsas proporcionadas por farmacéuticos para llevar medicamentos recetados

 **¿Qué envases de poliestireno (unicel) están prohibidos?**

La prohibición de Red Bank se aplicará a todos los productos de poliestireno/unicel, lo que significa cualquier artículo como refrigeradores, hieleras, tazas, tazones, platos, almajas, cajas de envío, contenedores, cubiertos o cualquier otra mercancía que contenga poliestireno/unicel que no está totalmente encapsulado o encerrado en un material más duradero.

 **¿Qué pasa con pajitas/popotes/sorbetes de plástico?**

Todos los establecimientos de alimentos o abarcares y proveedores de alimentos dentro de la ciudad de Red Bank que utilizan envases de servicio de alimentos desechables deben utilizar productos reciclables o compostables de acuerdo a las disposiciones de las subsectiones 492-6 y 492-7, y con la excepción de pajitas/popotes/sorbetes para beber. Todos los proveedores de alimentos pueden proporcionar pajitas/popotes/sorbetes para beber solo a solicitud del cliente.

**GRACIAS POR
COMPRAR RED BANK**

#ITPB2020
Trae Tu Propia
Bolsa

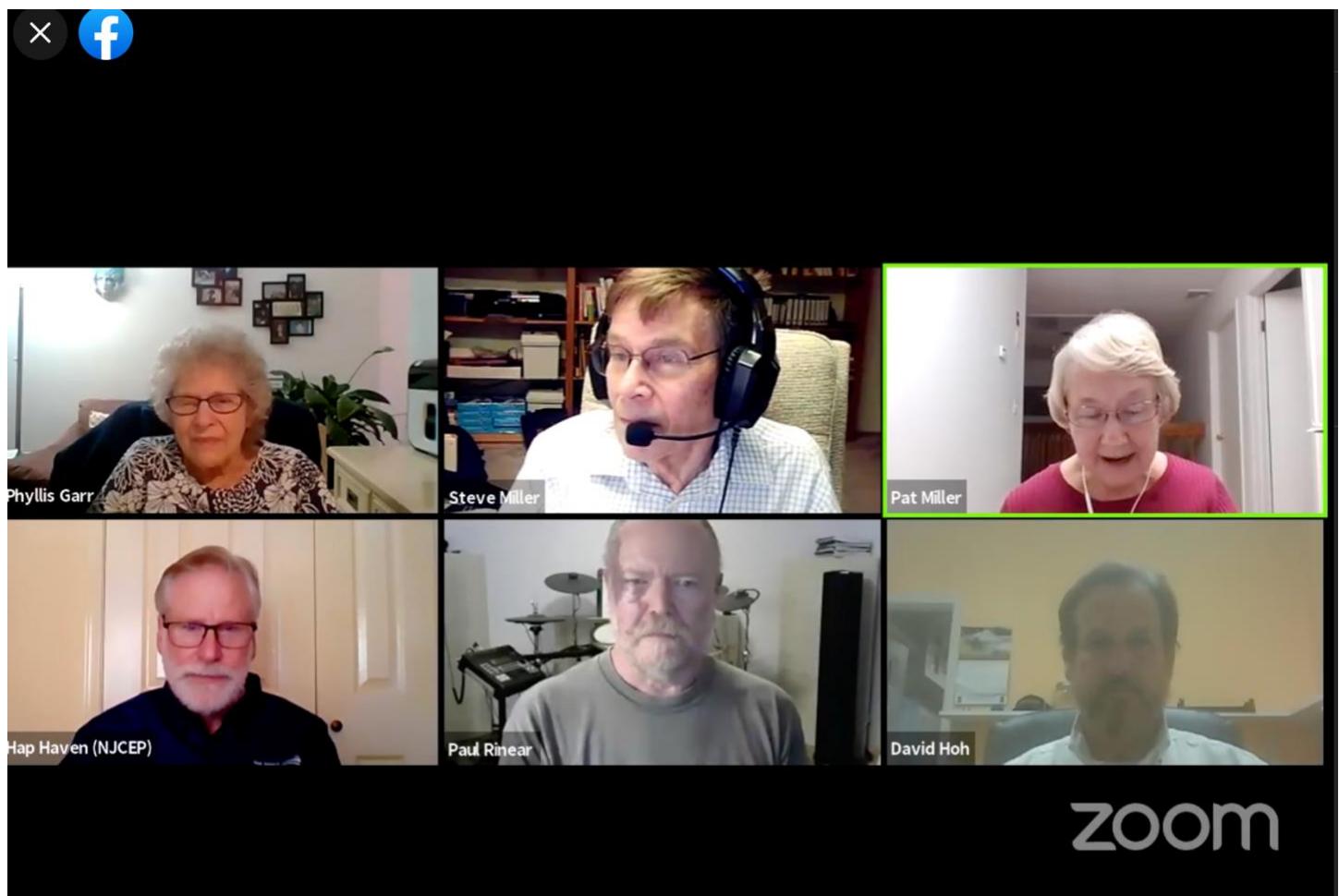
Collaboration with Other Organizations

The Red Bank Public Library

- The Green Team collaborates with the Red Bank Public Library with monthly topics on sustainability for its **Sustainable Red Bank Series**. Topics covered were:
 - January -- Climate Science 101
 - February -- What are climate change's costs, and how are we paying for them
 - April- Zero Waste Workshop
 - August- How to talk to people about Climate Change
 - September- Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden
 - October- Understanding Eco-Anxiety

Sustainable Jersey Monmouth Hub

- Environmental Commission members actively participate in the bimonthly meetings where county green teams come together and discuss topics and share actions in their community.
- Red Bank hosted one of the meetings and discussed Red Bank's approach to the Plastic Bag Ban.
- Red Bank also co-hosted a collaborative event with the Monmouth, Ocean and Atlantic-Cape May Hubs - '[Reducing Carbon Emissions for Heating and Cooling with Heat Pumps](#)'



RiverCenter

Members of the Red Bank Environmental Commission assisted RiverCenter with the maintenance of flowerpots placed throughout the downtown business district spring through fall.



Memberships

- Red Bank is a signatory to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- RBEC is a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).