



## The Star-Ledger

### They're seeing green in Livingston

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The demolition of Livingston's municipal building created tons of debris.

But rather than discard materials in a trash bin, workers recycled them. Asphalt and concrete were crushed to use with fill dirt. Bricks, slate roofing and metal all were sold for recycling. And the volume of paper archives significantly increased Livingston's paper recycling numbers.

"It's not only recycling and keeping materials out of landfills, but it's some extra money for the town," said councilwoman Arlene Johnson.

Township manager Michele Meade said the town earns anywhere from \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year for recycling, but garnered an additional \$5,000 in paper and cardboard recycling income for March and April, when demolition took place.

"Any amount we can add to tonnage has a positive effect," Meade said.

The town is following the "green" philosophy for its new town hall, which is expected to be completed by 2010. While the new building will not be certified as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) high performance green building, the town is self-scoring its design against a LEED checklist, Meade said.

The town was not able to do a full scale LEED design because the project was too far along by the time the idea came to the forefront, Meade said.

"You have to know that's your goal, and you need a LEED architect from day one," said Meade. "It wasn't contemplated at the time."

Still, the new building will be constructed to accept solar panels and its roof will be white to mitigate the heat island effect from dark roofs, she said. Plans also call for more energy-efficient lighting that may include controls that turn on lights when an occupant enters a room and shut off lights when the person leaves.

Landscapers will be directed to create a plan that uses less water and plants that can survive drought. The town may also add a rain garden designed to collect rainwater runoff from buildings and walkways.

Meade said the town is also reusing an existing site for its new Town Hall and not taking an open piece of land -- another LEED requirement.

Livingston decided to construct a new building that combines police and municipal functions after determining it would be more cost-effective than renovating the existing building, Meade said. The cost of the project is about \$30 million.

Costs for building a police facility alone were estimated at \$21 million, and bringing the Town Hall building

up to current standards would cost \$5 million. And that would not have added any additional space, Meade said.

The old Town Hall and the police department combined are 35,000 square feet, she said, while the new facility will be 85,000 square feet.

Meade said the larger space will accommodate the police department's 76 officers plus additional staff, as compared with the 28 officers the township had in the 1960s.

The municipal offices have been relocated to the Senior Community Center at 204 Hillside Ave. The police department has not moved.

The greening of the new building is in keeping with the town's philosophy, Meade said. The township has an "Expanded Recycling Program" that includes lists of acceptable and non-acceptable items (visit [www.livingstonnj.org](http://www.livingstonnj.org) for more information).

In 2006, the most recent year available, the town recycled 50,772 tons of materials.

This year, barrels of "techno trash" found in the basement of the old Town Hall will go off to recycling heaven. They include cassette tapes of old board meetings, along with videotapes and floppy disks.

"We actually found 5 3/4-inch floppy discs," Meade said.

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