

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 236

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie

SYNOPSIS

Designates April 16 of each year as “Upcycling Day” in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** acknowledging the benefits of reusing and
2 upcycling plastic in the environment by designating April 16 of
3 each year as “Upcycling Day.”
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Upcycling is the act of taking something no longer useful
6 in its current form and giving it a second life and a new function, a
7 creative process rooted in the concept of a circular economy where
8 waste is regarded as a resource and is repurposed into something
9 practical, valuable, or beautiful; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Upcycling offers practical ways to support efforts in the
11 State and worldwide to conserve resources and enhance and clean
12 up the natural environment, as well as raise awareness of the need
13 for sustainable development; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Promoting upcycling and reuse of plastic materials also
15 raises awareness of the damage that plastic pollution is inflicting on
16 the environment and offers a positive, viable use for single-use
17 plastic that would otherwise end up in landfills, incinerators, or
18 oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water where it harms wildlife as
19 well as ecosystems; and
20 **WHEREAS**, By creating awareness of the benefits of material reuse and
21 upcycling, young people can be encouraged to be more mindful of
22 their environment and to adopt sustainable, environmentally
23 friendly living habits; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Upcycling projects can develop and strengthen healthy
25 relationships between adults and children by bringing them together
26 to explore creative ideas for reusing many kinds of materials,
27 including the plastic and materials used in common items such as
28 tins from canned foods, glass jars, milk cartons, yogurt tubs, and
29 shampoo bottles that can be “upcycled” and given alternative
30 beneficial, practical, and attractive uses, such as planters for
31 growing kitchen herbs, pen and pencil cup holders, and reusable
32 storage jars; and
33 **WHEREAS**, A number of New Jersey artists have embraced upcycling
34 as part of the creation of their own unique art and have been
35 nationally recognized for it, including Willie Cole whose plastic
36 bottle sculptures are displayed in the Museum of Modern Art in
37 New York City and other museums nationwide; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Attention to the upcycling of plastic will also bring
39 attention to the upcycling and reuse of other still useful items and
40 materials; and
41 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to a number of non-profit
42 organizations actively involved in upcycling, such as Repurpose
43 New Jersey that upcycles textiles and Dress for Success of Hudson
44 County that collects gently used clothes and donates them to
45 working women and men and those trying to re-enter the work
46 force; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

3

4 1. Both Houses of the New Jersey Legislature acknowledge the
5 benefits to the environment of reusing and upcycling plastic and
6 other common materials by designating April 16 of each year as
7 “Upcycling Day” in the State and encourage the citizens of the State
8 to participate in upcycling on that day and year-round.

9

10 2. The Governor of the State is respectfully requested to
11 annually issue a proclamation recognizing April 16 as “Upcycling
12 Day” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and citizens
13 of this State to observe the day with appropriate activities and
14 programs.

15

16 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
17 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
18 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Commissioner of
19 Environmental Protection, the mayor of each municipality, and the
20 administrator of each school district in the State.

21

22 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

23

24

25

STATEMENT

26

27 This joint resolution acknowledges the benefits to the
28 environment of reusing and upcycling plastic and other common
29 materials by designating April 16 of each year as “Upcycling Day.”