

Dear Sir or Madam,

August 1, 2017

**Subject: Letter of Support for Award Consideration for Pedals for Progress**

I am pleased to support the nomination of Pedals for Progress, for a NJDEP award. The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) has collaborated with Pedals for Progress and hosted a used bike & sewing machine collection for 14 years. The Pedals for Progress collection program aligns with the MCMUA's overall vision to reduce waste, reuse items that already exist, and to build a culture for sustainability. Over the years, the MCMUA has collected over **3,676 bikes** and **26 sewing machines** through the programs run in conjunction with Pedal for Progress and Sewing Peace.

I have worked for the MCMUA for over 21 years in the recycling division and I have learned a lot about the behavior of people and our obsession with throwing things "away." Most people do not think about where their waste ends up, or how much energy, natural resources, pollutants and fossil fuels were used/created in the process of making these items and what it takes to properly dispose of them. Many of the bicycles that were collected for Pedals for Progress through our programs were destined for the landfill. Residents simply put the bikes out to the curb and do not waste another minute thinking about where the bikes will end up.

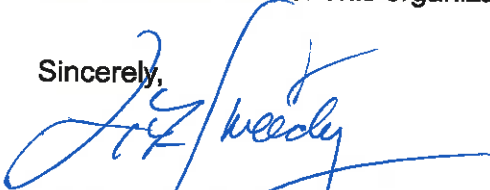
The solid waste hierarchy lists waste reduction at the very top. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has created a hierarchy, which ranks various waste management strategies from most to least environmentally preferred. The hierarchy places emphasis on reducing, reusing, and recycling as key to sustainable materials management. It is important to purchase only items we really need. The second listing is **reuse!** It means to use again or more than once, give something a new purpose. Because we are a "throw-away society", it is difficult to get some people to understand the concept of reuse. Pedals for Progress champions reuse and sets a wonderful example to all!

Pedals for Progress, with the assistance of their partner agencies, delivers the chance of a lifetime to those who need it most. Some people don't have any means of transportation and this opportunity can make such a positive impact on their lives.

Unfortunately, many used bikes and sewing machines are put out to the curb for trash collection and will end up in a landfill. Through Pedals for Progress and Sewing Peace, these discarded items can become an important chance at new opportunities to better someone's life. Many of us in the United States do not worry about transportation; we take it for granted that we can go from one place to another without too much effort or thought. Bicycles provide sustainable transportation that does not rely on fossil fuel and does not pollute the air. A sewing machine in working order can change the lives of an entire family in a developing country by offering them a way to earn a living by creating clothing!

I am truly grateful that this collection program exists and diverts bicycles and sewing machines from becoming trash. It also saves natural resources and promotes sustainable practices. I am thrilled that we saved so many bikes from being discarded, but equally thrilled that the bicycles are serving others who are less fortunate and enriching their lives without harm to the environment! Thank you for your kind consideration in celebrating the accomplishments of Pedals for Progress by acknowledging them with a NJDEP award. This organization most certainly deserves to be recognized for their achievements!

Sincerely,



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