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Facility Spotlight: Fulton County Solid Waste Program

For Fulton County the year of 2009 was a productive year as they undertook four large projects.

The Fulton County Sanitary Landfill is located in the Town of Johnstown, and is situated on 650 acres of land, with 38.5 acres of active landfill with the most recent expansion of 13.5 acres built in 2004. The landfill construction phases included the original 11 acres, a 4-acre addition, a 10-acre addition and the most recent 13.5 acres, for a total of 8 cells. A total of 105 acres is available for actual landfill. In 2009, the County finished capping part of the original landfill. This project involved closing 8.5 acres of the original 11 acres of the landfill at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million.



The recycling facility underwent an expansion that included 4,032 square feet of additional storage space, reconfiguration of the loading dock area, and will provide a fire protection system throughout the existing and new portion of the recycling facility in conjunction with the water supply project that started last year and will resume in April of this year. In addition, staff is midway through construction of a mezzanine that was started in February. The upper floor of the mezzanine will provide 672 square feet of extra space.

Fulton County and Innovative Energy of Oaksfield, NY, approved a public/private partnership for the gas to electric facility.

Groundbreaking took place in June of 2009 and two CAT engines were installed, with the anticipation of generating up to 3.2 megawatts of electricity - enough to power about 2,400 homes. The facility will also produce thermal energy that can be adapted for future development. The annual reduction of greenhouse gases attributable to Fulton County's LFGTE project is equivalent to removing 16,068 cars from the road, reducing oil consumption by more than 204,154 barrels, or planting nearly 19,938 acres of forest, as calculated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in October along with a 20th anniversary celebration of the Department of Solid Waste.



The water line installation project will provide ample water to the department for regular use, as well as fire protection. Total project cost was \$1.1 million which included construction, electrical and engineering. The new water supply will also be beneficial for the ongoing LFGTE project.

President's Message

As the snow and wind yield to warmer, sunny days, the New York Federation conference at the Sagamore is quickly approaching. I hope you are registered and have your hotel reservations. The program this year, again, will not disappoint you. There are sessions addressing several topics, such as solar landfill caps, pollution prevention, landfill operations, recycling, household hazardous wastes, product stewardship, safety and much more. Many of the sessions award credits to satisfy requirements for Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Let's not forget the fireworks on Sunday and the many activities available Tuesday afternoon, plus the vehicle demonstrations.



There will be a special guest speaker – Jeff Yeager, “The Ultimate Cheapskate”. Jeff authored a book of practical advice for living a better, greener life with less.

This is a good time to thank the many sponsors for supporting the conference. Please tell a colleague or friend about the conference and the benefits of attending. While you're at it, tell them to apply for membership in SWANA.

The New York Chapter of SWANA is also organizing a technical seminar in June – Organic Waste Management. More information is available in this newsletter and programs will be mailed out shortly.

I look forward to seeing you in May.
Jay

UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTENTION: 2010 Annual Member Meeting

Please join us for the Annual Member Meeting on May 17, 2010 at the NY Federation Conference to be held at the Sagamore in Bolton Landing, NY. The Annual Meeting will take place from 4:15pm-4:45pm in the Conference Center Triuna Room. All members are asked to attend!

Mid Atlantic Regional Road-E-O

This year's event will be held at the Conestoga Landfill, 420 Quarry Road Morgantown PA 19543, on Friday, June 11, 2010. The number of participants may be limited for each event, so register early! Onsite registrations will not be accepted. The registration deadline is April 17, 2010.

E.P.A. Investigates BPA

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to add bisphenol-A, or BPA to its list of chemicals of concern because of potential impacts on the environment and human and animal health.

BPA is a plastic widely used in food packaging, plastic bottles, CD's and many more products. More than a million pounds of BPA is used to harden plastics and is released into the environment each year.

In January, the Food and Drug Administration changed its position on the chemical's safety, voicing some concern of its effects on children and infants. The FDA concluded in 2008 that the trace amounts of the chemical that leach out of food containers were safe.

The EPA will require new studies of concentrations of the plastic in surface water, groundwater and drinking water to determine where it exists in levels requiring action. The EPA will also require manufacturers that use BPA to provide test data to help evaluate effects on growth, reproduction and development in aquatic organisms and wildlife. In addition, the FDA has set aside \$30 million to study BPA's safety over the next 18 to 24 months.

Earlier this month, Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer (NY) urged the EPA to develop an action plan for BPA. He noted that BPA was left off a list of four chemicals subject to tighter regulation. Legislation is pending to ban or sharply curtail BPA's use in consumer products.

NYS Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Available for Review

The long awaited NYS Draft Solid Waste Management Plan entitled "Beyond Waste: A Sustainable Materials Management Strategy for New York State" is now available for review. An official public comment period for this plan is anticipated to be announced soon by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The last State Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) was issued in 1987. The DEC is required by NYS law (ECL Section 27-0103) to have a SWMP and to make biennial updates. While the plan's goal of 50% waste reduction and recovery has been met, other recommendations made were never pursued and the overall state recycling rate has leveled off and decreased in some cases. The last update made to the SWMP was in 1999/2000. Changes since that update have been noted as new technologies have emerged along with variations in the waste stream. Materials such as pharmaceuticals, mercury products and electronics were not addressed during the time period of the original SWMP.

Over the last year, the DEC held stakeholder meetings to discuss various issues and gather input and ideas. They also developed an advisory group to work closely with their staff to develop the plan and incorporate public comment.

The draft SWMP is an expansive plan that examines environmental, economic, legislative and regulatory components. To review the full plan and learn more about the comment period visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/41831.html>

Building a Home Base for Product Stewardship in New York

Even though New Yorkers recycle more now than ever, the size of the waste stream has continued to increase. Without a sea change in the way we handle waste - and one is underway - the costs and responsibility to protect the environment from product impacts falls solely on local and state agencies. To reverse this trend the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management (NYSASWM) formed the New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) to save money for local agencies and improve environmental protection.

Started in March 2009, the NYPSC is promoting product stewardship, also known as extended producer responsibility, as the priority policy for solid waste management. Through the enactment of legislation at the state and, ultimately, federal level, product stewardship (e.g., manufacturer take back legislation) will shift our waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed solid waste and recycling programs to one that develops manufacturer responsibility for the recycling and reuse of their products at the end of their useful lives. The intent is to encourage producers to make improvements in product and packaging design that promote environmental sustainability, increase recycling and reuse of manufactured products, and that creates green jobs.

"Municipalities across the state accepted the challenge of implementing recycling mandates over the past 20 years," says Jim Bunchuck, Solid Waste Coordinator for the Town of Southold and a member of the NYPSC Steering Committee. "Today, that challenge has become a financial burden on local budgets and taxpayers. As the waste stream continues to grow, and especially with the need to remove items such as e-waste or mercury-containing devices, this can no longer be the sole responsibility of local government. It's time for the manufacturers to step up and take care of their own products."

The advancement of product stewardship legislation in other states has shown that product stewardship can save local solid waste management programs substantial money. For example, the State of Washington's new electronics product stewardship program, which holds manufacturers responsible for setting up the means to properly handle their electronic products at end-of-life, will save Snohomish County \$368,000 in annual electronic waste (e-waste) program operating costs and will generate \$180,000 in revenue per year for providing some of the e-waste collection infrastructure/services (for a net gain of \$548,000 per year for that county).

Similar savings may soon be realized by local e-waste management programs in New York State, if e-waste product stewardship legislation supported by the NYPSC (A.9049/S.6047) is enacted by the Senate and signed by the Governor (it passed in the Assembly on June 22, 2009). The NYPSC is also supporting product stewardship legislation for mercury thermostats and rechargeable batteries this session, and held a briefing for its members earlier in March to spread the word about these important legislative efforts. Future product stewardship legislation in New York may address other products such as leftover paint, mercury thermostats, fluorescent lamps, pharmaceuticals, and product packaging.

While NYPSC works to meet the needs of New York's local agencies and consumers, it is also part of a national - and even global - product stewardship movement. The NYPSC is one of a growing number of Councils in the U.S. started with the help and guidance of the Athens, Georgia-based Product Policy Institute. The Product Stewardship Institute, based on Boston, Massachusetts, is providing product stewardship educational opportunities and membership at no cost to all local governments in New York, as well as logistical and technical support to the NYPSC. Interested local agencies are invited to sign up for both the New York Product Stewardship Council and PSI online or by contacting PSI's Lisa Gould at (617) 236-4855 or lisa@productstewardship.us. This opportunity is made possible through the NYPSC and NYSASWM, with funding assistance from New York City and other state solid waste management and recycling associations.

Technical Training Seminar on Organic Waste Management

Taking the Next Steps: Food Waste, Collection, Technologies, Case Studies, Regional and National Overview

On June 16, 2010 the NYS SWANA Chapter will host a technical seminar at the Holiday Inn Wolf Road in Albany on developments in organic waste management. Looking "Beyond Waste" on the organic side, the seminar will explore several aspects of municipal and private sector cooperation toward increasing diversion of organic materials beyond leaf and yard wastes, with a focus on food waste, supermarkets, schools, institutions and the necessary technical and administrative structures required to implement programs to capture these materials. Program assessment and development, cost/price guidelines, hauling companies/equipment and technologies required to make and sell marketable products will be discussed. Case studies from New York, New England and Delaware will be presented.

The technical seminar will include information on working programs, technologies and markets including cost information and planned or achieved diversion rates. NYSDEC will also discuss regulatory guidance for permitting and monitoring requirements.

The seminar will emphasize emerging methods and systems for municipal, city and county programs that can achieve practical and cost effective diversion of additional organic waste fractions.

New York Professional Engineers will earn 5.5 professional development hours (PDHs) and CEU credits will be offered as well for all SWANA members.

For more registration information and to view the seminar agenda visit www.swananys.org.

Welcome New Members:

Mr. William Parkhurst
Phoenix Greenworks Capital

Mr. Charles Levy
Bridger Capital

Mr. Mikhail Gurfinkel
Basic Element

Ms. Judith Thorman
American Beverage Association

Mr. Louis J. Vetrone
Westchester County -

Mr. Duane Beckett
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