

SWANA INFOrmer

New York Chapter • www.nysswana.org

FALL 2008

New NYS Chapter Website



The NYS Chapter is excited to announce the new and improved website is now available. Below are some highlights of the site:

- Facility Spotlight – each month the website will feature a New York State solid waste facility providing background information and photos.
- Upcoming Events – visit the upcoming events calendar for various industry seminars and conferences.
- Ask a Question – submit questions via the website!
- Education – NYS Chapter conference proceedings are now available, information on our scholarship program and opportunities for certification.

We invite all of our members to visit the site at www.swanany.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

New NYS Chapter Website Launched	1
Facility Spotlight.....	1
President's Message	2
New Members Listing	3
Active Board List	4
Upcoming E-Sessions	4
Chapter's Continuing Education Program Extended	5
NYS Proposed Burn Ban.....	6
New York Recycles!	6
SWANA Calls For Increased Waste Screening	6
The NYS Pollution Prevention Institute	7
Executive Order No.47	
RGGI: Carbon Dioxide Emissions Auction	7
Dates To Remember	8

Facility Spotlight

SOUTHOLD TOWN TRANSFER, RECYCLING, AND COMPOST CENTER (TRACC)



On a quarterly basis the New York State Chapter will “spotlight” one New York State facility. Each spotlight feature will provide information, facility photos and contact information. This will provide fellow members with an opportunity to learn more about the various facilities throughout the state and to make new contacts. To have your facility featured contact Debra Smith at debsmith@co.broome.ny.us

The Town of Southold operates a waste and recycling transfer station and a yard waste compost facility in the village of Cutchogue, New York. The operations serve the entire township of 30,000 year round residents (that doubles in summer) which comprises the eastern portion of Long Island’s North Fork, a 32-mile long peninsula that forms the northern branch of the “twin forks” of eastern Long Island.

The transfer station, which opened in 2006, handles 40 tons per day of MSW, 20 tons per day of source-separated recyclables, and 15 tons per day of C&D debris. At 16,500 square feet, the station could handle considerably more volume, but some commercial MSW and the majority of the C&D generated within the Town are handled at private facilities. (The Town does not contract collection of waste). The transfer station was a welcome improvement to the previous facility: a small resident drop-off center at the Town’s landfill (now capped) that was

continued on page 5

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

New York Chapter
50 W. Main Street, Ste. 7100
Rochester, NY 14614-1228

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Peter Kuniholm, P.E., President**

SCS Engineers
Valley Cottage, NY 10989
(845) 353-5727 fax: (845) 353-5731

Jay T. Pisco, P.E., Vice President

BSG Engineering, LLC
White Plains, NY 10604
(914) 304-4344 fax: (914) 304-4345

Debra Smith, Secretary

Broome County Division of Solid Waste
Binghamton, NY 13902
(607) 778-2397 fax: (607) 778-6051

Charles Weidner, P.E., Treasurer

Dunn Engineering Associates
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
(631) 475-1452 fax: (631) 288-2544

Scott Menrath, P.E., Past President

International Director
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-8660

Theodore S. Pytlar, Jr.,

Dvirka & Bartilucci Engineers
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 364-9890 fax (516) 364-9045

Russell P. Rutkowski, P.E.

Monroe County
Rochester, NY 14614-1218
(585) 760-7610 fax: (585) 324-1207

Joseph Barbagallo, P.E.

Woodard & Curran
White Plains, NY 10604
(914) 448-2266

Martin Bellew

Dept. of Public Works
Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 377-6270

James Bunchuck

Town of Southold
Cutchogue, NY 11935
(631) 734-7685

Robert Matarazzo

Malcolm Pirnie
White Plains, NY 10602
(914) 641-2790

Mark A. Swyka, P.E.

Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC
Middletown, NY 10941
(845)-695-0208 Fax: 845-692-5894

President's Letter

Waste Management Policy and Sustainability

Now that the comment period has closed on the DEC Draft Solid Waste Management Facility Permitting Policy it is no surprise that this document succeeded in "getting the attention" of New York solid waste managers and professionals who are most likely to be impacted by further consideration or implementation of the measures outlined in this Policy. I say "outlined" because, as several commenters noted, the Draft Policy, while potentially far reaching in its impact, appears to be more a rough sketch in several directions, without the well vetted craftsmanship we have come to expect from the Department in its State Solid Waste Management Plan or Part 360 Regulations. Nevertheless, before passing judgments on a laudable effort to move us toward new approaches "Beyond Waste", we should be encouraged by the significant thought, planning and interest shown by the Commissioner's Policy Office in taking the initiative to examine some of the key issues we need to tackle moving forward.

Perhaps the momentum started by the interaction between Policy framers and solid waste manager/professional comments can become a real dialogue, one that can assist us in finding that new "environmentally and economically sustainable approach" that John Skinner, Executive Director of SWANA, notes in an upcoming talk summarized below. But what is a real dialogue? And how do we actually overcome the resistance of the status quo to find sustainable approaches? Each organization has a critically important role to play, and without realistic goals little is accomplished. We appreciate the unique and important role of the DEC Policy Office and the Commissioner's vision in initiating the process of change. On the other hand, I am also inclined to recall the old saw: "don't do surgery with an ax". Solid waste managers "on the ground" are in a good position to promote policies they genuinely believe are sustainable, and may have valuable feedback on what to do, or what not to do to get there.

With this introduction I paraphrase some of the major concerns by commenters from SWANA, NYSASWM and LISOA on the Policy, in no particular order or intention to be complete, indicating some of the major areas of concern. Perhaps this reminder will promote more dialogue and suggest directions to the DEC on next steps.

Selected Comments and Concerns on Proposed Policy Issues

Product Stewardship – DEC should take lead role in promoting product stewardship as priority issue.

Disposal Bans – Concerns expressed, proceed very cautiously, and consider enforcement strategies

Policy Implementation – Policy is premature, inconsistent and should await formal adoption of State Solid Waste Master Plan (SSWMP) and updated Part 360 Regulations. Should demonstrate efficacy and practicality with opportunity for public comment and buy-in.

Local facilities/plans – Critically important local infrastructure should receive deference, and planning/policy should be sensitive to local needs/priorities and investments.

Planning – Focus on planning units with lowest recycling rates and assist local recycling efforts. Complete State SWMP under GEIS.

Technologies – Provide sound justification for preferences, demonstrate practicality and encourage range of local options aimed at economic and sustainable solutions.

Permit applications – Do not enforce Policy until new SSWMP and updated Part 360 have been adopted. Exercise caution in treating applications as Major.

Private facilities and haulers – Clarify planning requirements and relationships to local SWP's. Reliance on private haulers and low municipal expenditures has resulted in low recycling rates in some planning units.

Greenhouse gas – Clarify and justify strategies. No need to mandate landfill gas collection systems beyond existing requirements. Concern that carbon credits could be eliminated by the Policy.

Regional Application – Suggest that application in DEC Regions may not be consistent without more detailed planning and rules.

A summary of excerpts from an upcoming talk by John Skinner of SWANA offers good overview comments and ideas on sustainability that are worth reviewing for applications in New York. He offers a steady balance of practical all-around good advice for regulators and managers to consider (bold is mine).

Forces Driving Sustainable Solid Waste Management in the U.S. and Canada

John H. Skinner, Ph.D., SWANA Executive Director and CEO (Summary and excerpts from a paper to be presented at ISWA Nov. 2008)

The working definition of sustainable solid waste management used in this paper refers to an **environmentally and economically sustainable approach** to the management of municipal solid waste that emphasizes the conservation and recovery of material and energy resources and the disposal of residuals in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

Sustainable solid waste management achieved by integrating and optimizing all of the elements of a waste management system including is:

- Product stewardship and producer responsibility,
- Waste reduction and reducing waste generation,
- Safe waste storage and efficient waste collection,
- Efficient and environmentally sound waste transfer and transport,
- Material recycling and product reuse,
- Organic waste recovery through composting,
- Recovery of energy through waste-to-energy facilities (WTE) and conversion technologies,
- Environmentally sound landfill practices incorporating recovery and utilization of landfill gas, and
- Solid waste system planning, financing, marketing and public education.

... solid waste managers are working to apply more sustainable solid waste management practices to **reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, offset global warming, increase energy-efficient recycling and composting and recover renewable energy from solid waste and landfill methane**. A number of factors are driving... recent decisions from... courts, initiatives... to **encourage and require product stewardship**, and... initiatives to **respond to global warming** and climate change... solid waste managers are working to apply a wide range of advanced solid waste management practices in response to these challenges.

On the legal front, a 2007 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court (**United Haulers vs. Oneida- Herkimer**) **significantly strengthened the authority of local governments to put in place recycling and energy recovery programs that reduce dependence on landfill disposal**. Local governments are now able to legally direct solid wastes collected within their jurisdictions to publicly owned materials recovery facilities (MRFs), waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities, composting operations, household hazardous waste centers and transfer stations.

At the regulatory level, a number of states... have **adopted product stewardship or producer responsibility programs**. These programs... provide for waste management of a product at the end of its useful life. Product manufacturers are being called on to take on new responsibilities to reduce the adverse impact of their products. In concert with these efforts, **some states have instituted programs that prohibit or restrict the disposal of certain products and materials in solid waste disposal facilities**.

... recognize the importance of taking action now to **respond to global warming and climate change**. This creates a new opportunity for improved solid waste management practices to be part of the solution **through waste reduction, energy-efficient recycling, sustainable composting and recovery of renewable energy from solid waste**.

continued on page 4

Presidents Letter - continued from page 3

The combined effect of these forces is to drive solid waste management systems towards a series of more sustainable, integrated processes. Solid waste managers need to be provided with a wide range of options so that they can select what works best based on their environmental, economic and public policies and priorities. Providing a broad range of options also will allow market forces to work to increase waste recovery rates in the most economical and efficient manner.

I look forward to hearing from members with other comments on the DEC Policy, next steps and more dialogue in New York State.

Best regards,

Peter Kuniholm, P.E., AAEE
President



The leading professional association in the solid waste field

Welcomes New Members

Andrew Turner
KP America Inc.
New York, NY

Roy Chance
Montenay Dutchess LLC
Poughkeepsie, NY

Peter Kendrigan
Wheelabrator Westchester, L.P.
Peekskill, NY

Jonathan Menard
Machinex Technologies, Inc
Chicago, IL

Matthew Newman
Covanta Energy
Fairfield, NJ

David Tooley
Waste Management- Hampton, NH
Hampton, NH

Members: Upcoming SWANA e-Sessions



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

Boosting School Recycling: School Beverage Container Recycling Challenge, Florida Innovation Grant Report

Speaker: Dave Jaye, Project Manager, Collier County Solid Waste Management Department

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Starting and Maintaining a School Recycling Program

Speaker: Lisa Grant, Onslow County, NC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Zero Waste Lunches - Organic waste diversion for an entire school district

Speaker: Jeremy Starritt, Environmental Education Coordinator, City of Frisco

Visit us online at: www.nysswana.org



BSG ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Capabilities include:

- Solid Waste/Recycling/Landfill
- Environmental
- Energy and Sustainable Development
- Land Planning

www.birdsall.com

75 South Broadway | Suite 403 | White Plains, NY 10601
Tel: 914.304.4344 | Fax: 914.304.4345

Facility Spotlight - continued from page 1

severely stressed in trying to serve as a transfer station when the old dump closed in 1993. The current facility, while still “low tech” in its operation (the station is front-end-loader based, and avoids the use of mechanized sorting or packing equipment), manages all drop-off, handling, and transfer activities indoors cleanly and efficiently. It has enabled the Town to maintain a full service recycling and waste transfer program to resident “self-haulers” as well as commercial carters, and even to expand certain services (e.g., there is now suitable space for a permanent e-waste drop; the staging of refrigerant containing items; the separation of clean C&D; a “re-use” or swap area). Perhaps most important, the bi-level access to the tipping floor allows for separation of residential and commercial vehicles using the facility, thereby contributing to safety and efficiency.



Southold’s yard waste compost site is Long Island’s second largest permitted municipal compost facility. Sitting on a 17-acre parcel that the Town purchased after the landfill was capped (the landfill was previously the location of modest yard waste processing, with the majority being buried), it processes from 12,000 – 16,000 tons per year of yard waste (i.e., leaves, brush, tree trunks and stumps) into woodchip mulch and compost. The facility has a 1 foot thick crushed stone pad, subsurface drainage, a re-charge basin, and a 500-gallon per minute well to provide needed water. Residents are entitled to 500 lbs./person/year of free mulch and/or compost yet in its first year of operation (2003) the facility generated \$25,000 in income for the Town. Since then, local markets including landscapers, vineyards, nurseries, and vegetable farmers have taken notice. Operating now with a horizontal grinder, a new

trommel screen, and a CAT 966 loader with a rake attachment, that figure will rise to \$200,000 in 2008. (These have been bulk sales. The addition of a bagging unit for 2009 should result in the generation of additional revenue). In 2004, the operation mandated a “No Plastic” policy, requiring all users to deliver yard waste either loose or in bio-degradable paper leaf bags. The Town promotes the use of compost as a “green” alternative to traditional fertilizing.

The Southold TRACC may now be poised to add another facility to its complex: the capped landfill is being proposed to the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) as the location for a 10 megawatt array of solar panels to contribute to the utility’s power grid!

James Bunchuck

Solid Waste Coordinator, Town of Southold
jbunchuck@town.southold.ny.us

Chapter’s Continuing Education Program Extended for Three More Years

This year marks the end of the NY Chapter’s first three year period as an approved sponsor for continuing education credit for professional engineers. As evidenced by the technical sessions regularly held by the NY Chapter, the Chapter’s membership places a high priority on continuing education and technology transfer. With this in mind, in 2005 the board authorized the preparation and submission of an application to the New York State Education Department that has allowed the NY Chapter to issue continuing education credit for each of the Chapter sponsored programs. Now closing out our third year, the board has authorized submittal of the renewal application which has now been approved by the State Education Department. As a result, the NY Chapter will be able to offer continuing education credit for our Chapter sponsored technical programs into 2011! Questions regarding the Chapter’s continuing education program can be addressed to **Mark Swyka, P.E. of Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC at 845-695-0208.**



The leading professional association in the solid waste field

NYS Proposed Burn Ban



Burn barrels and open burning of farm garbage will be banned statewide if a proposal in May from the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) becomes policy.

Since 1972, open burning in the state has been banned in cities and towns of 20,000 people or more. In rural areas, burn barrels and open fires are often seen as an

acceptable way to handle waste. Studies of pollutants from backyard burn barrels have shown astonishing levels of dioxins, other toxins and heavy particulate loads. Smoke from farm burnings can be even worse as agricultural plastics, treated wood and other garbage is burned. Approximately 2.5 million pounds of agricultural plastics per year are generated with at least 50 percent of this material burned.

The DEC held public hearings on the burn ban proposal across the state during the 2008 summer. At a June public hearing in Cortland, many farmers told the DEC that they could not afford to get rid of farm waste without burning. A burn ban for some farmers may provide more level competition as farmers who are currently recycling or landfilling their waste are at a disadvantage to those who avoid any fees of proper disposal by burning the material.

The proposed ban has also received attention from firefighters in the state. While many support the ban because of the number of wildfires caused by open burning there is an underlying concern that fire departments will be charged with enforcing the ban.

To view the proposed revisions visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/43439.html>

New York Recycles! promotes recycling and buying recycled in New York State. Various educational events featuring waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and buy recycled takes place throughout the year leading up to November 15.

New York Recycles! is part of a national event - America Recycles 2008. The national theme, "It All Comes Back To You!" will also be New York Recycles! theme. Every year there are thousands of events across the country.

America Recycles 2008 is one of the most comprehensive

SWANA in Response to EPA's Updated Definition of Solid Waste Calls for Increased Waste Screening

In response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's final rule concerning the updated definition of solid waste, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has advised its members of the increased importance of waste screening practices at municipal solid waste facilities. The goal of the rule is to encourage recycling of hazardous materials; however, the USEPA estimates that 1.5 million tons of hazardous materials would be excluded from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's hazardous waste regulations. This could result in hazardous materials finding their way into municipal solid waste facilities and avoiding regulation. This potential loophole could place an increased importance on waste screening practices.

Specifically, the USEPA has streamlined requirements for the following:

- Materials generated and legitimately reclaimed under the control of the generator;
- Materials generated and transferred to another company for legitimate under specific conditions; and
- Materials that the EPA or an authorized state determines to be non-wastes through a case-by-case petition process.

The full version of the notice can be found online at http://swana.org/www/Portals/Officers/SWANA_Notice_Regarding_EPA_Ruling.pdf

SWANA is currently updating its Waste Screening Training Course to provide improved guidance for SWANA members. This revised course will be done by the end of this calendar year.

recycling awareness campaigns in the nation. Each year millions of people become more informed about the benefits of recycling at home and buying recycled products. Last year, thousands signed pledges to recycle and buy recycled. Local and state governments issued proclamations and resolutions in support of the program.

To participate by renewing your commitment to recycle and buy recycled for the coming year visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/9102.html>



The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute

The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is a statewide research and technology transfer center funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. RIT and its partner universities, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Clarkson University, and the University of Buffalo, along with the state's ten regional technology development centers (RTDC) together comprise the NYSP2I.

The NYSP2I works to promote the development of sustainable businesses and organizations in New York State devoted to making the State a leader in environmental stewardship.

NYSP2I provides a state-wide, comprehensive and integrated program of research, technology development and diffusion, outreach, training and education aimed at making New York State more sustainable for workers, the public, the environment and the economy. The program strives to offer full geographic reach across the state through partnerships with the regional technology development centers and additional assistance through various entities.

To facilitate community involvement the program is offering a Community Grants Program for community organizations, municipal departments, and other public sector and non-profit entities. The program is to provide financial and technical support for projects that raise awareness and understanding and lead to implementation of practices and behaviors at the local level with the goal of improving the health, environmental quality and economic strength of New York State communities.

Applications must be postmarked by November 7th, 2008. Awards will be made by November 21st, 2008.

Further information and application are located at http://www.nysp2i.rit.edu/community_grants.htm

Executive Order No.4

In April 2008, Governor David A. Paterson signed Executive Order No. 4, Establishing a State Green Procurement and Agency Sustainability Program, which directs state agencies, public authorities and public benefit corporations to green their procurements and to implement sustainability initiatives. The Order established an Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement that is co-chaired by the Commissioner of General Services and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Interagency Committee is

charged with identifying an annual list of categories and products for which specifications can be developed and issued for greener procurements. The Interagency Committee is further charged with establishment of goals for reductions in the amount of solid waste and with the development and performance of training relative to sustainability efforts.

For more information regarding the Interagency Committee, please contact OGS at 518-474-3416 or DEC at 518-402-9469 or email GreenEO4@ogs.state.ny.us.

RGGI: Nation's First Carbon Dioxide Emissions Auction

The ten northeastern and mid-Atlantic states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) held the first auction on September 25, 2008. The RGGI auction was administered by World Energy Solutions, Inc (TSX: XWE), which operates online exchanges for energy and green commodities and was overseen by independent market monitor, Potomac Economics, a leader in the field of monitoring and competitive assessment of wholesale

Fifty-nine (59) participants from the energy, financial and environmental sectors took part in the first-in-the-nation auction. The \$ 38,575,783 in proceeds produced from the auction will be distributed to Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont, the six RGGI states that offered allowances for sale during the first auction. The states are investing those funds in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, and programs to benefit energy consumers.

A total of 44 entities won allowances and the bid prices ranged from \$1.86 (the minimum bid allowed) to \$12.00. These statistics all indicate that RGGI's auction was highly competitive. Any CO2 allowances purchased at the first auction can be used by a regulated facility for compliance in any of the RGGI states, even if that state did not offer allowances in the first auction.

The next allowance auction is set for December 17, 2008. RGGI intends to hold quarterly auctions during the first RGGI three-year compliance period, which will be from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011.

Visit the NEW & IMPROVED website

 www.swananys.org 

DATES TO REMEMBER

**NYS SWANA Chapter: Waste Conversion
Technologies Theory and Practice
The Holiday Inn Conference Center**

November 12, 2008

Suffern, NY

Visit: <http://www.swananys.org/>

**Integrated Waste Management Systems Conference
Delta Edmonton South Hotel & Conference Centre**

November 12-14, 2008

Edmonton, AB

Visit: www.awma.org

**Thinking Outside the Blue Box
Portland Double Tree Hotel**

February 9-10, 2008

Portland, Oregon

Visit <http://thinkingoutsidethebluebox.org/>

Newsletter Advertising

The New York State Chapter is excited to offer advertising opportunities in future editions of the newsletter. While there is no current fee to advertise the following minimum criteria must be satisfied:

- An employee of the firm must be a member of the SWANA NYS Chapter in order to advertise in the newsletter.
- The firm must write an informative technical article of 500 to 600 words to accompany the advertisement that is not self-serving of the firm. Two people on the Board of Directors, who are independent of the firm, will review the article.
- Articles selected may be limited to available space in the newsletter.
- The advertisement must be smaller in size than the written article.
- There will be a limit of three (3) articles per newsletter.

Please send all advertising/articles to
debsmith@co.broome.ny.us
by December 1, 2008 to appear in the next Newsletter.



SWANA INFOrmer

New York Chapter News
c/o Russell Rutkowski
Monroe County Dept. of Env. Services
City Place, 50 W. Main St., Ste. 7100
Rochester, NY 14614-1228