

Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University

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Rural Leadership Development, University-Community Collaboration, Infrastructure Education and Outreach Tools

Beyond Waste Issue

Programming Update for Elected Officials

June 2010

# BEYOND WASTE

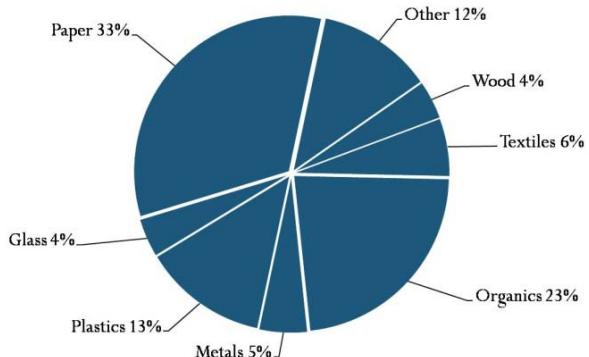
## What is Beyond Waste?

New York State's Beyond Waste Plan sets forth a new approach for New York State—a shift from focusing on "end-of-the-pipe" waste management techniques to looking "upstream" and more comprehensively at how materials that would otherwise become waste can be more sustainably managed through the state's economy. This is called a sustainable materials economy.

This shift in waste management is central to the state's ability to adapt to an age of growing pressure to reduce demand for energy, reduce dependence on disposal, minimize emission of greenhouse gases and create green jobs.



## Estimated Municipal Solid Waste Generated in NYS



While the United States (US) has only 5% of the world's population, it consumes 24% of the world's energy and one-third of the world's materials. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the US generates more waste per person than any other country in the world. Municipal solid waste (MSW) generation in New York State, estimated at 5.15 pounds per person per day in 2008, is greater than the national average, reported by EPA at 4.6 pounds per person per day, and thus well beyond that of other countries.

Accomplishing this change necessitates increased attention to influencing product and packaging design to foster a system that minimizes waste and maximizes the use of recyclable materials. This will require the involvement of all players in the production and supply chain—product manufacturers, distributors, retailers, consumers, and government. It will also require increased investment in our recycling and distribution/reverse distribution infrastructure. Ultimately, it will result in decreased reliance on waste disposal facilities.

### Recycling one ton of:

- Aluminum reduces green house gas emissions by 13.7 tons
- Office paper reduces green house gas emissions by 4.3 tons
- Newspaper reduces green house gas emissions by 2.5 tons
- Steel cans reduces green house gas emissions by 1.7 tons

**"MORE PEOPLE RECYCLE THAN VOTE.  
RECYCLING IS MORE POPULAR  
THAN DEMOCRACY."**

Jerry Powell,  
Editor, Resource Recycling Magazine

\* All information courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation \*

*The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University provides educational, financial, and technical services to elected officials and citizens seeking to implement or support environmental activities in their districts and communities. Our environmentally-conscious staff is constantly working to provide the most innovative, up-to-date, and cost-effective 'greening' tools to make spaces more livable and eco-friendly for all New Yorkers.*

## What is a sustainable materials economy?

**In broad terms, a sustainable materials management strategy involves:**

- 1. Waste Prevention:** creating and implementing a combination of policies and programs aimed at reducing the volume and toxicity of waste generated and disposed, including:
  - a. packaging reduction through stewardship and other means;
  - b. product stewardship/ producer responsibility for key material streams;
  - c. purchasing and practices, both public and private, that advance sustainability goals;
  - d. community outreach and education; and
  - e. incentives for waste prevention through volume-based pricing for waste management programs, commonly referred to as Pay As You Throw (PAYT) or Save Money And Reduce Trash (SMART).
- 2. Reuse:** supporting an expanded infrastructure to redirect items that still have a value for their original intended purpose (e.g., clothing, furniture, building materials, etc.) from those who no longer need them to individuals and entities that can put them to use.
- 3. Comprehensive Recycling:** improve education and enforcement to achieve greater participation and greater capture of targeted recyclables in all generating sectors (e.g., residential, commercial, institutional, industrial); develop local markets for both traditional recyclables and new materials targeted, and support a manufacturing base that can utilize recycled materials.
- 4. Recovery of Organics:** (food scraps, non-recyclable paper and yard trimmings) – creating a combination of policies and programs to: expand backyard composting; expand on-site composting at institutions and large generators and develop greater collection and recovery infrastructure for commercial, institutional and residential food scraps and yard trimmings.
- 5. Beneficial Use:** developing policies and programs to redirect items that still have value for uses other than their original intended purpose (e.g., paper for use as animal bedding, glass and tires for use in civil engineering applications, etc.)
- 6. Recovery of Energy:** promoting a combination of policies and programs to recover energy from materials that cannot yet feasibly be recycled or composted.
- 7. Best Residual Management Strategies:** advancing policies that ensure adequate capacity of the most environmentally sound and most sustainable means of disposal for the waste that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, composted or otherwise diverted.

## Recent Events

### Enhanced Water Utility Management

June 8, Hightstown, NJ; June 9, Brooklawn, NJ; & June 10, Wharton NJ

These one-day courses provided small and medium-sized water systems with information about water system management and asset and financial planning in order to provide operators and public works managers with the knowledge to ensure long-term viability and system stability. Instruction was provided by Joe Durocher and Mike Kenney of the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and Melissa Young of the EFC.

### Asset Management 101

June 15, 2010 1:30 - 6:30pm  
Center for Regional Excellence  
4039 Route 219, Salamanca, NY

This training event informed municipal water and wastewater systems operators on the short-term and long-term benefits of incorporating asset management planning into their operations as a means to enabling long-term financial and operational sustainability. The program included information, training and tools appropriate for operators and public officials.

## Upcoming Events

### Asset Management Tools Training

July 15th 8:30am - 1:30pm  
Center for Regional Excellence  
4039 Route 219, Salamanca, NY

This event will be a continuation of the June 15th Asset Management 101 training. It will provide an in-depth exploration of computer-based tools including EPA's CUPSS, EFC's Financial Dashboard and others. For more information contact Khris Dodson or call 315-443-8818. The registration fee is \$25.

### Smart Management for Small Communities: Practical Resources for Governance

October 6-7, 2010  
Ellicottville, NY

For several years the EFC has hosted a three-day conference retreat in the Adirondacks for municipal leaders and technical assistants. Topics discussed have included co-funding updates, training and seminars on water, wastewater and stormwater management, Smart Growth, green job training programs, community engagement, governance and dispute resolution. Program details are coming soon!

### SAVE THE DATE!

The 10th Annual Symposium on Environmental & Energy Systems Restoring Sustainable, Healthy Communities  
September 27-28, 2010, Syracuse, NY

