



2006 ANNUAL REPORT

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT/RECYCLING OFFICE**

Submitted to: Andrew J. Spano
Westchester County Executive

Submitted by: Thomas Lauro, P.E., Acting Commissioner
Dept. of Environmental Facilities

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ATTACHMENTS:

- **WESTCHESTER COUNTY RECYCLING RATE OVERALL (MUNICIPAL & PRIVATE)**
- **MUNICIPALLY COLLECTED SPREADSHEET**

1. **Material Recovery Facility (MRF):** The MRF continues to serve as the cornerstone for recycling efforts for the municipalities in the Refuse Disposal District. The facility processed 71,136 tons of recyclables in 2006. District revenues from the sale of recyclables (80 percent share as per contract agreement) were \$4,381,338 in 2006. These sales offset the 2006 MRF Expenditures (excluding capital costs and debt services), which was \$12,443,451.

The MRF Education and Conference Center continued to attract visitors. Approximately 3,700 students, teachers, senior citizens, recycling and international visitors toured the MRF in 2006. Professionals and special interest groups used the Conference Center throughout the year for meetings.

2. **Enforcement:** In 2006, the D.E.F. Code Enforcement officers conducted 201 inspections. With each inspection landlords of buildings, business owners, residents and school personnel are educated on the Source Separation Law. Through these random inspections, existing recycling programs were improved, updated and/or reconfigured. Facilities found in violation are issued Warning Notices to comply within 30 days. In all instances compliance was obtained.
3. **Household Chemical Clean-Up Day (HCCD) Program:** The County hosts 9 Clean-Up Days a year at four different locations – in the spring and fall at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights and Westchester Community College in Valhalla, and in the fall at the MRF in Yonkers and Playland Park in Rye. At the events residents deliver household chemicals (like pesticides, swimming pool and septic tank cleaners, turpentine and antifreeze), and various other items worthy of special handling, including cell phones, TVs, computer monitors, mercury containing devices, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, and car tires.

	Number of Households	Tons of HHW Collected*	Average Cost Per Day *(7days/yr)	Average Cost Per Household*
2000 HCCDs	1,273	11.5	\$10,079	\$55
2001 HCCDs	2,649	29.7	\$12,073	\$32
2002 HCCDs	3,306	32.2	\$13,981	\$30
2003 HCCDs	3,183	32.4	\$16,236	\$36
2004 HCCDs	3,617	42.2	\$15,620	\$30
2005 HCCDs	3,930	39.4	\$16,812	\$30
2006 HCCDs	6,361	75.3	\$18,263	\$28

*Note: The weight of household hazardous waste (HHW) collected does not include tires, TVs or monitors. The costs only include contractor fees for the management of special wastes (e.g., chemicals, tires, and, starting in 2001, CRTs). The costs do not include county staffing, garbage disposal and publicity.

Under a grant program through NYS/DEC, the County will receive up to 50% reimbursement toward eligible expenses incurred in 2005 and 2006.

4. **Multi-Family Dwelling Recycling Program:** Staff met throughout the year with representatives of municipal offices, housing authorities, realty management and resident associations to assist in the implementation and improvement of recycling programs. Upon request, the Recycling Office continued to provide educational handouts, container stickers and presentations on recycling to residents and board members of various housing sites. Literature and container stickers are available in English and Spanish.
5. **Shred Mobile:** In June 2006 the Shred Mobile was revealed to the public for protection from identity theft and at the same time recycle the paper that is shredded. In 2006 12.6 tons of paper was shredded at various events through the county. The Shred Mobile will be present at all Household Chemical Clean-Up Days in 2007 and is offered to all municipalities in Westchester.
6. **Organic Yard Waste Transfer Station Program:** In April 1998, the Westchester County Board of Legislators authorized the county to enter into an Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) with Refuse

Disposal District municipalities who wanted to participate in the Organic Yard Waste Transfer Program. This IMA Program was approved for another 5 year term in 2003 to 2008. Under the IMA, participating municipalities agree to organize, operate and maintain a local transfer site for municipally collected yard waste. The county arranges for the transport of this waste to commercial composting facilities. The program was designed to divert organic waste from incineration at the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility, increase current recycling rates and provide economic savings to the county and its communities.

The program serviced 24 municipalities (namely Ardsley, Bronxville, Buchanan, Cortlandt, Croton, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Harrison, Larchmont, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Ossining Town, Ossining Village, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Port Chester, Rye, Scarsdale and Yonkers, Irvington, City of Rye) and diverted 227,058 tons of organic yard waste from the solid waste stream in 2006.

7. **Treasure Hunt Program:** The Treasure Hunt Program continued to operate by telephone and on the county's website. Approximately 3,190 entries on the website and approximately 2,600 possible matches were made, diverting those articles from the waste stream. The Treasure Hunt phone line received 595 inquiries during 2006.
8. **Freon Recycling:** The Department of Environmental Facilities issues stickers to certified companies that extract Freon from cooling or dehumidifying equipment. Once the Freon is removed, these bulk metals can be clearly labeled as "ready for recycling" without fear of expelling CFC's into the atmosphere. In 2006, 1,600 stickers were issued to certify refrigerant technicians using E.P.A. approved Freon removal equipment.
9. **Business Recycling Program:** Enforcement of the Source Separation Law by our Code Enforcement Officers is our best tool at this stage of the program's development. To that end, our enforcement staff frequently inspects large business complexes. Educational programs continue simultaneously with the aggressive enforcement program, which in reality leads to an education session, as every building found in violation is instructed on how to comply with the law. Each and every one complies.
10. **Public Information Program:** As in years past, the Recycling Office continues to promote recycling, reuse and waste reduction practices. The Recycling Office is updating and creating new handouts and promotional material, as well as participating in special events, exhibits and speaking engagements targeted toward a wide variety of audiences (including schools, colleges, businesses, municipal public meetings, multi-family dwellings, and environmental interest groups). Annual campaigns include the promotion of waste reduction, grasscycling and composting and the proper disposal of household chemicals, paint, and tires (in preparation for Household Chemical Clean-Up Days held in the spring and fall). The Office continued to co-sponsor environmental events as in an Earth Day Celebration and Compost Bin Sale Day with the County Parks Department, local civic and environmental interest groups.
11. **Municipal Recycling Officials Program:** Designated officials in all 43 municipalities are kept informed of all current solid waste issues and developments through a Recycling Office Newsletter and other correspondence sent monthly. The Recycling Office continues to provide local municipalities with promotional materials and brochures to support local recycling program efforts.

12. **Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility:** The waste-to-energy facility, known as the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility, operated by Wheelabrator Westchester, L.P. (formerly known as Westchester RESCO), incinerates municipally collected and some privately collected waste. The plant has a magnetic separation system that extracts ferrous metals from the ash. During 2006, 16,957 tons of ferrous metal were extracted from the ash and sent to market for recycling.
13. **Refuse Disposal District Advisory Board:** This board, composed of 14 volunteers and 4 ex-officio members, advises the Solid Waste Division on any and all solid waste management issues that may occur during the course of the year.

The current members of the Refuse Disposal District Advisory Board are:

Mr. Jesse D. Crell, P.E. (Chairman)

Mr. Peter Bonhag	Mr. James Finch, Jr.	Mr. George Mottarella, P.E.
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Mr. Peter Liguori	Mr. John Liszewski	Mr. Richard H. Herbek
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Mr. Rocco V. Circosta	Mr. Robert Zipf	Mr. Brian Havranek
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Mr. Daniel Baskerville	Mr. Patrick Lofaro	Mr. James Vanoli, P.E.
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Mr. Benedict Salanitro, P.E.

Ex-Officio members:

Mr. Robert Morabito, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. John Delany, Mr. George Oros

14. **Westchester County Recycling Rate:** In 2006 the Westchester County recycling rate was 47%. This figure represents a combination of municipal and private solid waste collection programs. **See attached summary sheets** delineating the various types of recyclables diverted from the waste stream in Westchester County.
15. **Tire Recycling:** The County Department of Environmental Facilities has an aggressive tire recycling program to help eliminate mosquito breeding areas. The county has set up sites in Yorktown, White Plains, Mt. Vernon and Yonkers to serve as year-round reception centers for municipally collected tires. The county in turn markets these waste tires. In 2006, over 40,000 tires were recycled.
16. **Cathode Ray Tube (C.R.T.'s) Recycling:** In an effort to remove cathode ray tubes containing lead from the municipal waste stream, the county, in conjunction with participating municipalities, has established a program that allows for the transportation of this waste from municipal sites to electronic recycling markets. The county provides roll-off containers for municipalities that include CRT's in their curbside collection program or provide a drop-off site for CRT's for their residents. When the roll-off container is full, the county then provides for transportation of this waste from the municipal site to market. Also included in the CRT collection program are the county's "Household Chemical Cleanup Days".
The County CRT Program was responsible for diverting over 480 tons of hazardous electronic waste from the municipal waste stream in 2006.

Disposal of Electronic Waste By Municipality

Municipalities with Container (Host)	Municipalities dumping at host	Municipalities directing residents to HCCD	Non-District Programs
Briarcliff	Ossining (town) Tarrytown Sleepy Hollow **	Pelham Manor Pound Ridge *** Bedford*** Bronxville	Lewisboro New Castle
Croton-On-Hudson	Bucanan Sleepy Hollow ** Cortlandt	North Castle*** North Salem*** Somers*** Rye Brook	
Dobbs Ferry	Hastings Irvington		
Eastchester Elmsford Tuckahoe			
Greenburgh	Ardlsey		
Harrison Mount Kisco Mount Pleasant			
Mount Vernon			
New Rochelle	Pelham		
Ossining Village Peekskill Portchester Rye (City)	Mamaroneck Village		
Scarsdale	Larchmont/Mamaroneck		
White Plains Yonkers Yorktown			

** Sleepy Hollow using two host municipalities
 *** Non district municipalities using district program

17. **Cell Phone Recycling Program:** The Westchester County Cellular HopeLine Recycling program was launched on December 9th 2004 with a press conference held at the Michaelian office building, in White Plains. Verizon. Wireless has partnered with the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) in our joint-recycling program known as the Westchester County/Verizon Wireless Program “HopeLine.”

The “HopeLine” program encourages residents to dispose of used cellular phones in an environmentally-friendly way and at the same time, help victims of domestic violence and non-profit agencies that serve them. These victims are given a re-calibrated cell phone as a life-line to call authorities when they are at risk. There are now over 96 HopeLine drop-off locations posted on the Westchester County web site. In 2006, there were 1,467 cellular phones collected at HopeLine

locations. This collected number of phones has tripled since 2005 and we anticipate an increase again in 2007.

CELL PHONE LAW

On June 1, 2006, Westchester County enacted a Cell phone law prohibiting the disposal of cell phones in the garbage. Violators may be issued a warning or be fined up to \$250.00 for a violation. In addition to the “HopeLine” locations, the County has posted other certified cell phone drop off centers on the County web site. Each of these drop off centers have received a County approved certificate to verify that the phones, when collected, are to be disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. The phones must be disposed of in such a way because each phone and battery, although small, is made up of highly toxic materials, such as arsenic, nickel, zinc and lead. If disposed of in the garbage, these chemicals can permeate the soil and groundwater in landfills or turn into other toxic substances during incineration. Approximately 130 million cell phones, weighing 65,000 tons, are retired annually in the United States.

- 18. **School Recycling:** One of the focuses for 2006 has been improving recycling programs in Westchester schools. Schools are inspected to ensure that proper recycling procedures are being followed and that recycling pails and containers are available in a clearly marked and accessible manner. Since the beginning of the program, all Westchester schools have been visited and will continue to be monitored to ensure that recycling programs are present within each school.
- 19. **Toner Cartridge Recycling:** In 2006 the Ink and Toner Cartridge Program was resurrected. In total County departments recycled 1.3 tons of Ink and toner cartridges. All toner cartridges are recycled regardless of condition. If a particular cartridge has no reuse value it is broken down (plastic & metal parts) and recycled.
- 20. **Recycling HelpLine:** The County’s “Recycling Help Line” (813-5420) serves as an informational tool, assisting both residents and businesses by providing accurate answers to questions regarding waste management in general, or recycling in particular. In addition, the “Recycling Help Line” has become a point of contact enabling residents to participate in various county sponsored events such as the Compost Bin Sale Day and Household Chemical Clean-Up Days.

Since waste collection programs vary from one municipality to another, the HelpLine assists residents with any questions endemic to their particular locale. It also serves as a contact point for the county’s “Opps!” sticker recycling program, a “one stop” educational program designed to advise residents in the proper management of various categories of waste. The Help Line answers, on average, between 200 and 250 calls per month, and has handled 2,796 calls in 2006.

- 21. **County Facilities Recycling Programs:** A recycling program revitalization has been accomplished in our county office buildings, as well as our parks and recreation facilities.

Westchester County Recycling Rate 2006

MUNICIPALLY COLLECTED WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN TONS	
Commingled Paper	69,005
Commingled Containers	22,312
Yard Waste	278,537
Bulk Metal	31,896

Other: Tires, C.R.T.'s , Anti-Freeze, Household Batteries, Motor Oil, Vehicle Batteries, Asphalt, Concrete, Textiles	144,400
TOTAL RECYCLED WASTE	546,150
TOTAL MUNICIPALLY COLLECTED GARBAGE DISPOSED	510,630
TOTAL MUNICIPALLY COLLECTED WASTE	1,056,780
MUNICIPAL RECYCLING RATE	52%

PRIVATELY COLLECTED WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN TONS	
Recyclables: Paper, Corrugated Cardboard, Commingled Containers, Bulk Metal, Junk Cars, Fat & Bones	107,153.87
Construction & Demolition Debris Recycled	239,717.9
Yard Waste	55,533.78
TOTAL RECYCLED WASTE	403,506.05
TOTAL GARBAGE & CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS DISPOSED	571,954.04
TOTAL PRIVATELY COLLECTED WASTE	975,460.09
PRIVATE RECYCLING RATE	41%

WASTE GENERATION SUMMARY IN TONS	
TOTAL COUNTY-WIDE RECYCLED WASTE	949,656
TOTAL COUNTY-WIDE GARBAGE DISPOSAL	1,082,584
TOTAL COUNTY-WIDE WASTE GENERATION	2,032,240
WESTCHESTER COUNTY RECYCLING RATE 2006	47%