

# Recycling Coordinator's 2005 Year End Report



Prepared by Recycling Coordinator Sharon A. Driscoll

# **Recycling Coordinator's Report For 2005**

Madison County continues to lead the state with new and invocative recycling programs. The County's mandatory computer and television-recycling program completed its first full year in 2005, recycling 52 tons of e-waste.

Keeping the hazardous materials found in computer monitors and televisions – lead, cadmium and mercury – out of the landfill is the county's main objective. If the county had continued to allow disposal of e-waste in our solid waste landfill there would be a great potential for cumulative toxic contamination of the leachate. The cost of disposing hazardous waste leachate is extremely high because it would have to be taken to an authorized disposal site.

Supervisors approved the mandatory recycling program for the recycling of televisions and monitors towards the end of 2004. The new program began on September 1 and ran through December 31, 2004, taking in 23.8 tons of potentially hazardous e-waste.

## **Household Hazardous Waste**

Madison County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program continues as an important part of the Department of Solid Waste's Waste Management plan. About 55 households took advantage of this program in 2005, disposing of about 2 tons of hazardous waste.

Madison County is reimbursed for half of all funds spent for the disposal of household hazardous waste through a grant sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

During 2003, household hazardous waste registration forms were placed on the Madison County web site. This made the registration process faster and easier for residents and has been a valuable tool in promoting the County's Household Hazardous Waste program.

The Recycling Coordinator submitted a HHW Grant request to the DEC for 2005 on January 4, 2006. This grant request was for \$10,8887.00.

On December 19, 2005, the Dept. of Solid Waste was notified that the Household Hazardous Waste Grant for 2004 in the amount of \$8,750.00 had been approved. The next step in the process was taken, which was to send five signed and certified copies of the proposed contact for funding to the DEC. The contracts were mailed on January 10, 2006.



### **Education Grant**

In June of 2004 the Recycling Coordinator applied for a Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant in the amount of \$69,842.00 to purchase recycling materials and promote the County's recycling programs and to begin a new program for the recycling of televisions and computer monitors. The DEC pays half of the cost, in this case \$34,921. By the middle of 2005, when she had still not received any word from the DEC regarding the grant, Driscoll moved forward with the mandatory computer monitor and television program, implementing the program in September of 2004.

On Monday, February 6, 2006, Sharon Smith of the Albany DEC confirmed that Madison County would be receiving the Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant applied for in June of 2004. A portion of that grant pays for Driscoll's salary. It provides \$7,487 plus \$1,497 or \$8,984 each year for the three years of the grant. This amounts to \$26,052 in salary payments over three years. Both Driscoll and Solid Waste Director James Zecca were pleased to hear of the grant award that should materialize in 2006.

### **Inkjet/Laser cartridge Recycling Program**

The inkjet/laser cartridge-recycling program continues at a steady pace. During 2005, pounds of material was saved from the landfill and recycled. We received \$689.16 for this material in 2005 -- \$590.53 in 2004 and \$571.90 in 2003. The material goes to Recycle First in Dover, N.H. This is revenue for the County.

### **Public Service Announcements**

Throughout the year the Recycling Coordinator places Public Service announcements in area newspapers, television and on WMCR radio. These spots serve as a reminder to residents regarding on going programs provided by the Dept. of Solid Waste and Sanitation or to notify residents of a change in a specific program.

### **Landfill and Recycling Center Tours**

Tours of the landfill and ARC Recycling Center are conducted on a regular basis by the County's Recycling Coordinator. During 2005, 819 students took tours of the Buyea Rd. facility and 980 were on hand for recycling presentations for a total of 1,799. In 2004, 790 people toured the landfill and recycling center and 895 more people attended recycling presentations, for a total in 2004 of 1,671.

### **New Recycling Programs for 2005**

The Recycling Coordinator publicized the county's new Cooking oil recycling program that began in September of 2005. The first educational information that is released to the public is in the form of a press release to all weekly and daily newspapers and radio and television stations.



Other promotions for a new recycling program include paid advertisements and posters at all County transfer stations, county office building and landfill office.

Jim Zecca and Sharon Driscoll appeared on WMCR Radios' Open Line to answer landfill and recycling questions and outline several new recycling programs for area residents.

Madison County also promoted the a free shredding program for residents and businesses and conducted an aggressive campaign to stop residents from transporting solid waste and recyclables in the backs of vehicles (pickup trucks and car trunks) without securing and covering their loads.

#### **Additional Promotional Material**

It should be noted that Madison County's Landfill gas (LFG) project was featured in the "American Recycler" a national publication. The article appeared on the front page and the photo used with the story was taken and submitted by Recycling Coordinator/Public Information Officer Sharon A. Driscoll.

Driscoll also wrote a Guest Column for the Eagle Newspapers titled "Is Garbage Forever? Maybe". Both articles are included in this report.

