

Recycling Coordinator's Report For 2006

Madison County continues expand its ever-growing list of recyclable items and finds ways to improve and expand already existing programs.

This year Madison County expanded and simplified the sharps collection program, making the disposal of sharps more convenient for residents. During 2006, 372.2 pounds of sharps were disposed of at Oneida Health Care Center.

The County's mandatory computer and television-recycling program completed its second year in 2006, recycling 65.5 tons of e-waste. In 2005, during the first full year of the program, 52 tons of e-waste was recycled.

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. (See Attachments for a complete listing of e-waste figures)

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 60 households took advantage of this program in 2006, disposing of 3 tons of hazardous waste. Madison County contracts with Environmental Products and Services of Vermont with a division in Syracuse for its household hazardous waste needs.

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 applied for and received Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Grant funding for the 2004 and 2005 Household Hazardous Waste Recycling programs – receiving \$8,380.40 and \$10,900.00 respectively in 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, promote the County's recycling programs and to begin a new program for the recycling of televisions and computer monitors.

The Recycling Coordinator applied for and received DEC Grant funding to promote recycling in Madison County in the amount of \$23,921.28 in 2006. Part two of this grant will be applied for in April of 2007 for the remainder of this grant funding or \$11,000 for a total of \$34,921.00 – half of the project cost.

A portion of that grant pays for Driscoll's salary. It provides \$7,487 plus \$1,497 for fringe benefits or \$8,984 each year for the three years of the grant. This amounts to \$26,052 in salary payments over three years.

Executed contracts for the Education Grant were received on October 20, 2006. The first progress report that was about an inch and a half thick was submitted to the DEC on November 28, 2006. (Copies of the first project report are available upon request)

Inkjet/Laser cartridge Recycling Program

The inkjet/laser cartridge-recycling program continues at a study pace. We received \$803.66 for this material in 2006 -- \$689.16 in 2005 -- \$590.53 in 2004 and \$554.86 in 2003. The material goes to Recycle First in Dover, N.H. Revenue from this program has increased 45 percent since the program began in 2003.

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. PSA also alert residents to holiday closings and publicize specific dates and times the Main Landfill, Landfill Office, transfer stations and ARC Recycling Center will be open and/or closed.



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 2006, 383 students took tours of the Buyea Rd. Landfill and ARC Recycling Center and 775 were on hand for recycling presentations, for a total of 1,168.

In 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.

The number of students touring the landfill and recycling center dropped in 2006 for a number of reasons: rising gasoline prices caused area schools to cut down on the number of field trips students could participate in and in some schools, we will use Cazenovia Elementary as an example, large numbers of teachers retired. The new teachers, we found, did not know about the landfill and recycling center tours. The Recycling Coordinator has been in contact with the fourth grade art teacher at Cazenovia Elementary and has advised her of the landfill and recycling center tours offered by Madison County. Mrs. Damon will be sharing this information with the other fourth grade teachers. The Recycling Coordinator is providing packets of information on recycling and the environment for a project being undertaken by students in the fourth grade Cazenovia Elementary School's art class.

New Recycling Programs for 2006

New recycling programs for 2006 -- an expanded sharps disposal program and the addition of plastic retail bags to the growing list of items that can be recycled in Madison County top the list. The new programs were publicized in the media and in the case of the expanded sharps program, paid advertisements announced four new drop-off sites for sharps disposal. A new sharps brochure was also designed and distributed throughout the County.

When a new program is being developed the first educational information released to the public is in the form of a press release to all weekly and daily newspapers and radio and television stations. Paid advertisements and/or posters, brochures and fliers generally follow publication of our press releases to reinforce the message and increase saturation further announcing new recycling programs.

Other promotions for a new recycling program sometimes involve Jim Zecca and Sharon Driscoll appearing on WMCR Radios' Open Line to answer landfill and recycling questions and outline several new recycling programs for area residents.

Zecca and Driscoll also revised all of the other brochures, which will be reprinted in January of 2007.