

TOWN OF NEW PALTZ RECYCLING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED: 2010



The summary of this report was submitted to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency pursuant to Local Law Nos. 8 & 9 of 1991, and to NYSDC Registration No. 56R to operate the New Paltz Recycling Center, Clearwater Road, New Paltz, NY.

Period Reported: January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010
 Date: March 1, 2011
 Planning Unit: Town of New Paltz
 Contact Person: Laura Petit, Recycling Coordinator

1.0 Mandatory and Voluntary Recycling 2010



New Paltz Recycling Center’s “Zero Waste Initiative” program, demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the environment again in 2010. Approximately, **570.02 tons of materials were recycled** through mandatory and voluntary recycling in the community, **for a recycling rate of 53%** (up 2.5% from 2009 – See Table 1).

For the third consecutive year, New Paltz met the NYSDEC goal that calls for maximization of recycling efforts or 40% processible recycling with a 26% reduction in processible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) within the municipality. In this category, mandatory recycling and diverted materials totaled 578.72 tons.

Table 1. – 2010 New Paltz Recycling and Solid Waste

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Recycling:		
Regulated Residential Recycling –		
Total Recycling	299.31	27%
Solid Waste:		
Incoming Solid Waste -	810.89	
Less Diverted Materials-	(279.41)	26%
Total Solid Waste	531.48	47%

New Paltz inventories and records recycling tonnages of all material, mandated and non-mandated, which are diverted for recycling through the efforts of the town's residential recycling program. Material items include (See Table 2.), but are not limited to: bulky metals (scrap metal cars are not counted), textiles, automotive fluids, leaves/brush and pallets. Deposit beverage containers are also reported in the recycling tonnage above.

Table 2. – 2010 Mandated Recyclables are as follows:

Residential:

**Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Office Paper, discarded Mail, school paper, Envelopes, Folders, etc.
Milk, Juice, and Beverage Containers
Glass: Food and Beverage Containers
Metal: Food and Beverage Containers & Foil
Plastic: Food and Beverage Containers
Corrugated Cardboard and Brown Paper Bags
Paperboard**



Table 3. – 2010 New Paltz Recycling By Commodity

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Regulated Residential Recycling –		
Commingled	42	
Mixed Paper	137	
Cardboard	66.44	
Glass	<u>53.87</u>	
Total Recycling	299.31	27%
 Diverted Materials:		
Ferrous Metal	181.26	
Automotive fluids	5.50	
Batteries	.84	
Tires	2.50	
Brush & Leaves	62.50	
Pallets	.25	
Electronics	16.08	
Textiles	10.01	
Other	<u>.47</u>	
Total Diverted	279.41	26%
 Total Solid Waste	 531.48	 47%

2.0 2010 Recycling Programs

New Paltz disposal fee revenues provide the financing for recycling center operations. Critical recycling programs essential to achieving the mandated recycling rate are also funded through disposal fee revenues and through grants. Waste and recyclable hauling costs are part of New Paltz service costs, and an agreement/contract with the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to collect and deliver all MSW/mandated recyclables to their designated facility(s).

New Paltz Recycling Center manages the solid waste and recycling program for the Town, and is available to non-residents at a slightly higher cost. Program costs include New Paltz “Zero Waste Initiative” and ReUse Center comprehensive public education and waste reduction programs. The programs consist of: print media campaigns, on-site visits to waste generators by a staff of recycling professionals offering technical assistance, teaching materials, an informational website, and attendance at local events.

The New Paltz recycling program arranges for collection, processing and marketing of residential recyclables and covers costs necessary to assure that disposal fees are held to a minimum. New Paltz provides a well-maintained drop-off area for collection of materials such as mixed paper products, scrap metal, small appliances, commingled (plastic & metal cans), glass, cardboard, textiles, electronics, etc. Fees cover handling and recycling of these items.

During 2010, New Paltz Zero Waste Initiative managed:

- Yard waste composting site; open to the public five days per week, compost available at no charge to permit holders;
- Electronic collection; open to the public five days per week;
- An Annual Spring Cleanup; open to Town residents in the Spring for drop off of specific materials;
- Special Services; Spring pick up of materials for seniors and disabled veterans;
- Brush processing site; open to the public five days per week; ground mulch available at no charge to permit holders;
- Administered special services and programs at local area events

Direct program costs in 2010 (unaudited), associated with recycling services are as follows:

<u>Table 4 – Expenses by Program</u>	
Recycling Personnel	\$123,966
Recycling Fees	\$ 3,800
Public Education	\$ 2,000
Composting/Mulch	\$ 4,782
Electronics Collection	\$ 1,610
Other programs	\$ 62,318
Total Cost	\$198,476
Revenues – Tip fees	\$ 86,780
Sale of Materials	\$ 15,848
ReUse Center	\$ 1,628
Grant Reimbursement	\$ 23,000
Total Revenue	\$127,256

Mandated Recycling - Recyclables are self hauled by residents and collected in 30 and 40 cubic yard containers placed on site by the Ulster County Resource Recovery as part of the 20-year Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town. There is no Town fee charged for unlimited recycling with a permit – both one day and annual are available. The UCRRA per the IMA provides for collection, pickup and processing of materials with no tipping fee, but does add a fuel surcharge of \$40 per container. Total cost for mandatory recycling in 2010 was \$3,880.

By volume the Town collected nearly as much mandated recycling as they did MSW (trash). Because recycling weighs significantly less, the total 2010 recycling weight was about half of the total 2010 MSW weight.

Table 5. – Comparison by Volume		
Recycling Pulls:	97	est. 3,400 cubic yards
MSW Pulls:	107	est. 3,745 cubic yards

Mandated recyclable materials (mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, metal cans, and glass) are picked up by the UCRRA and taken to the Material Recovery Facility in Kingston, NY for further processing and marketing. The MRF is taking single stream recycling from commercial haulers but continues to collect municipal material dual stream. However, with the commercial sector promoting single stream recycling, it has caused contamination issues and challenging monitoring at the Town level to ensure facility users are not placing everything in collection containers. Full bags have been pulled out of the commingled container with everything from dirty diapers and cotton swabs to food waste and dinnerware. Although some parts of these materials have plastic or paper incorporated in them, the general rule for determining recyclable content is that it's a clean, empty food or beverage container.



Total permits sold for the 2010 year were:

Breakdown Permits Sold

Residential	543
Veteran/Senior	321
Partial Year	17
Non-Resident	17
Second Permit	30
One Day Permits	464

Out of town one-time users equated to approximately 18% of the one-day permit sales.

The Recycling Center's charges are determined by disposal costs and market revenues. In 2010, recycling markets for scrap metal were as low as \$80 per ton in January and rose to \$135 a ton in December. Precious metals such as copper went up to \$1,400 a ton (\$3.30 per pound). Aluminum cans and foil prices peaked at the end of the year at about \$1,150 per ton even stronger than in 2009. The strength in demand and pricing was due, in part, to continuing high demand from mills in Asia for recovered fiber, metals and plastics. Pricing for old corrugated containers, old newspapers and plastic didn't impact the Recycling Center as far as volume. In accordance with the IMA with UCRRA, these materials are delivered to their MRF at the cost of the pull which is \$40. Residential charges for disposal per item are based on vendor charges for removal, and/or operating costs for the Recycling Center. (i.e. if the vendor charge for disposal of a tire goes up, then the cost is passed on to the resident.

3.0 Program Enforcement

New Paltz continues to enforce the Local County Law mandating source separation for recycling through of public education, outreach and surveillance. The UCRRA provides a full time Recycling Coordinator who does outreach to schools, businesses, and organizations throughout the County as part of the IMA agreement.

During the 2010 site upgrade, New Paltz purchased highly visible signage with directional information to make it clear just where users are to place their recyclables. Also available are handouts with Hours of Operation, and recycling information. Wheeled containers and bins are provided for additional sorting of plastic bags (film), glass jars (diverted to a local restaurateur that uses them for take outs), etc.

Staff spends a portion of the week inspecting loads of solid waste at the Town Recycling Center looking for loads containing recyclables and offering alternatives for reusable materials. Pictures are taken of bags that are dumped in the commingled container and, if possible, staff identified the origin of the waste. Then the waste generator would receive a letter, a copy of the picture, and recycling information.

Recently more complaints have been coming in on non-compliant landlords (i.e. multi-family dwellings are mandated to provide recycling to renters as are the commercial haulers picking up the waste). The Recycling Coordinator has prepared recycling education information for multifamily dwellings, and will follow up with site visits.

4.0 2010 New Paltz Zero Waste Initiative

- **New Building/ ReUse/Education Center**

In 2010 a permanent office space was completed using mostly interdepartmental staff for the construction. A permanent building was needed to replace the "temporarily" rented modular unit that had limited heat, no air conditioning, and no bathroom. Stairs were rented in order to gain access to the rented modular making it non-ADA conforming, and a portable toilet was needed as well. Annual costs for rentals were \$3,420/yr.





The building was designed to accommodate up to three staff people for daily operations, an education area for up to 20 people, and shelving space for small ReUse items.

The project was finished the beginning of April 2010 in time for Spring Cleanup and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Construction costs were \$34,000 for 2010 (total cost of the building was \$52,000). Public input was positive, and staff was elated to have indoor plumbing for the first time.

▪ **Compost**

Over 900 visitors were served at the Town's yard waste compost site located on Clearwater Road. Approximately, 500 cubic yards of compost and 800 cubic yards of mulch were produced at the site. The material was accumulated through residential drop off and highway collections. Generally, there are two curbside collection (Spring and Fall) conducted by the Highway Department, but several severe storms added to the quantity. In fact, so much mulch was produced that the Town Supervisor approved a commercial landscaper to pick up four dump truck loads.

Compost and mulch was available to permit holders at no cost. As part of the waste diversion project, staff created a residential size trammel screen from a discarded crib and some recovered 2 X 4's, so the compost could be sifted prior to leaving the site.



▪ **Residential Electronics Recycling**

The EPA reports that electronics are the fastest growing portion of America's trash. EPA estimated that 250 million computers are destined to become obsolete by the year 2005, and that more than 3.2 million

tons of electronic waste will find their way into thousands of landfills across the country. Within the last five years this estimate has grown considerably. To encourage the safe management of obsolete electronics, the Recycling Center took the environmentally sound approach of removing computer equipment from the waste stream by placing a permanent household computer recycling collection container on site. The program expanded to include fluorescent bulbs and tubes as well as TV sets. The program ensures that material, which cannot be recycled or reused, will be disposed safely by contracting with a qualified dismantling company who generates a manifest with an equipment count and destination.



New Paltz residents were able to drop off old computers, electronic equipment and TVs at the New Paltz Recycling Center five days a week. The Recycling Center accepted up to 220 lbs of electronic equipment per household which is the limit under NYSDEC regulations for CESQGs. Over 24,800 pounds of old computer equipment and TVs were collected, comprised of approximately:

- 446 CRTs (monitors, computer towers, TVs)
- 314 linear feet of Fluorescent tubes

The direct program costs to New Paltz were over \$1,610.00. This offset disposal costs by \$1,104.00, had

electronics been commingled with the trash, and revenues were \$1,508.00. As of January 1, 2011, NYSDEC mandates that any municipality with a population over 10,000 provide for collection of electronics either by holding an event or permanent container.

▪ **Residential Battery Collection**

Permit holders can drop off their old rechargeable batteries at several drop boxes in New Paltz including the Town Hall, Recycling Center, and Lowe's. Automotive batteries are accepted at no charge for recycling. Alkaline household batteries are not toxic and there is currently not a market to recycle them. Approximately a ton of batteries were collected and recycled or safely disposed in 2010 at a revenue of approximately **\$500.00**, excluding allocated salaries of permanent employees and support activities such as transportation.

▪ **Public Education**

Every year a significant percentage of the population needs to hear the recycling message for the first time. Every year to reinforce the recycling message among those who have heard it before, the Recycling Coordinator informs the public at special events such as the Reformed Church Earth Day and Clean Sweep.

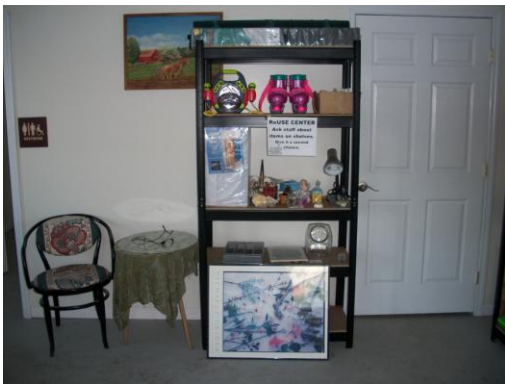
In 2011, direct public education through public access, social media, and print media campaigns will be undertaken. Upgrades to the Recycling Center in 2010 will allow schools and special interest groups to come in for waste reduction workshops and facility tours. New Paltz employs one Recycling Coordinator and two trained Recycling Center staff to engage in spreading the recycling message and bringing all levels of technical assistance to the residents, schools and businesses in the New Paltz service area.

The objective is to create a functioning “Zero Waste” program while setting up a model of a sustainable municipal department for future “green” Town projects. The educational component of the program is to encourage environmental stewardship. There is discussion with the Town EnCB (Environmental Committee) to use the site as a County hub for other projects including tire shredding, and recycling rebate program.

Methods of public outreach will include opening up the Recycling Center to educational tours, holding training sessions for on various topics including Household detoxing, composting and including exhibits in xeroscape gardening and permaculture. The new office was completed in April, and the grounds will be finished by Spring 2011. SUNY students are very receptive and seek out information as part of class studies. In 2010, two students took the opportunity to volunteer at the Recycling Center to work off community service hours for school (Government Participation – PIG)

The Recycling Center’s website, www.townofnewpaltz.org, provides extensive recycling education and waste reduction information, as well as recycling instructions. Links for information on SHARPS and HHW collection, and other disposal programs are also provided.

- **ReUse Center**



The goal of the New Paltz Recycling Center ReUse Center is to reduce waste by connecting individuals who are throwing away goods with others who are seeking them. Whether you're looking to discard or acquire an item, the ReUse Center is the place to do it. Clothing, credenzas, canoes, computers, and all the little things in between may be available on the Network. Visit often, availability changes by the minute!

If you are remodeling your home, or just cleaning out your garage, consider donating your leftover home improvement and construction materials so that another person can improve their

home before taking them to the Recycling Center. The idea is to help others improve their standard of living, while keeping usable materials out of the trash.

New Paltz strongly urges residents to support programs like Freecycle, charitable organizations, Craig’s List, and ReUse Center. Residents can link to any of these organizations through our website, www.townofnewpaltz.org.

- **Recycling Containers**

Recycling containers were distributed to most Town departments for recycling of paper and food/beverage containers. The Recycling Coordinator will continue applying for grants and/or member item money to purchase more recycling bins, compost bins, and rain barrels.

- **Community Events**

New Paltz is committed to maintaining high levels of community participation in the Zero Waste Initiative program. In 2010, New Paltz’s recycling team were part of numerous area event and fairs

including recyclable collection after the Fourth of July celebration at the County Fair Grounds located on Libertyville Road in New Paltz. A variety of recycling information was distributed including recycling instructions, compost bin information, and volunteer drives.

▪ **New Paltz Clean Sweep**

The Recycling Team participates in the annual New Paltz Clean Sweep event where hundreds of individuals, businesses, and organizations go out on the roadways to collect debris and recycling. A table is set up with educational information.

Noteworthy activities, a host of other services continued to be provided through the diversion and recycling program, including the following:

- ✓ Provide a recycling drop-off program with education component five days a week at the Clearwater Road location;
- ✓ Submitted grants to support a variety of Town activities including outreach and public education, waste reduction and diversion, recycling personnel costs;
- ✓ Expanded its web site activity to include websites for educators, recycling information, and hours of Recycling Center;
- ✓ Participated in solid waste associations including: membership in and Legislative Committee member for New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3) – Laura Petit;
- ✓ Attended Annual Northeast conference for Solid Waste Management;
- ✓ Provided opportunity for hands on training and volunteer hours for community service.

New Paltz Recycling Team:

- Laura Petit, Recycling Educator
- Toni Hokanson, Town Supervisor
- Jane Ann Williams, Town Board Liaison
- Phil Lesh, Recycling Center
- Robert Karlsbarch, Recycling Center.