



## The Importance of the Environmental Program

Since 2008, New Paltz environmental education staff has helped the Town and Village lead in environmental awareness and stewardship. New Paltz is using its creative energy to solve environmental issues, while also developing unique programs designed to save taxpayer dollars and educate the public about the local environment. New Paltz's environmental program strives to make New Paltz a sustainable and healthy community for its residents.

### Trends in 2011

Staff acknowledges the growing "green movement," which recognizes the economic advantages of smart, high performing sustainable practices, and has continued to educate its residents and visitors on this topic. Staff has observed the influence and growth of the green economy and has increasingly used that awareness to identify growth opportunities and the potential to improve the quality of life in the area.

Staff continues to develop unique and fun ways to connect people to sustainable living practices while offering economic solutions. During the year, staff continued to refine the environmental education programs by focusing on and promoting sustainable solutions through the education of adults and children and increased program access by outreach and use of social media. Recognizing its tremendous influence on everyone's lives, staff embraced social media and began incorporating it as one of the elements of communication with members and visitors.

During 2011, staff was successful in the development and award of various state and federal funds allowing New Paltz to capitalize on the sustainability and efficiency movement sweeping America. During this time, grant funding was very competitive, which allowed staff to work more cooperatively with outside agencies and not for profit organizations to continue to further our goals.

### Staff

Laura Petit – Recycling Coordinator/Environmental Educator [recycling@townofnewpaltz.org](mailto:recycling@townofnewpaltz.org)  
Robert Karlsbarch – Transfer Station Operator

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# TOWN OF NEW PALTZ RECYCLING CENTER

## ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED: 2011

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 and ReUse Center located at 3 Clearwater Road, New Paltz, New York.

Period Reported: January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011  
 Date: March 1, 2012  
 Planning Unit: Town of New Paltz  
 Contact Person: Laura Petit, Recycling Coordinator

### 1.0 Mandatory and Voluntary Recycling 2011



New Paltz Recycling Center’s “Zero Waste Initiative” program, demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the environment again in 2011. Approximately, **552.34 of materials were recycled** through mandatory and voluntary recycling in the community and waste diversion, **for a recycling rate of 53%** (See Table 1. 2011 Recycling and Solid Waste).

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 552.34 tons. Solid Waste tonnages received at the Recycling Center dropped by 26 tons. Of the 505.24 tons received, 43 tons was flood debris brought in under an amnesty program for residents that ran August 28<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup> after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee devastated the area.

**Table 1. – 2011 New Paltz Recycling and Solid Waste**

<b>Recycling:</b>	<b><u>Tons</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
Regulated and Diverted Residential Recycling –		
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>505.21</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Solid Waste:</b>		
Incoming Solid Waste -	1057.58	
<b>Total Solid Waste</b>	<b>505.24</b>	<b>47%</b>

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 as part of the commingled tonnages.

**Table 2. – 2011 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. – 2011 New Paltz Recycling By Commodity**

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Regulated Residential Recycling –</b>		
Commingled	37.86	
Mixed Paper	139.84	
Cardboard	62.92	
Glass	<u>49.06</u>	
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>289.68</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Diverted Materials:</b>		
Ferrous Metal	91.85	
Automotive fluids	1.40	
Batteries	.59	
Tires	3.02	
Brush & Leaves	140.88	
Pallets	1.85	
Electronics	15.82	
Textiles	6.24	
Other	<u>.57</u>	
<b>Total Diverted</b>	<b>262.22</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Total Solid Waste</b>	<b>505.21</b>	<b>47%</b>

## **2.0 2011 Solid Waste and Recycling Operations**

New Paltz disposal fee revenues provide the financing for recycling center operations. Further enforcement steps were taken in 2011 at the Recycling Center to ensure that all users had purchased either a day or annual permit, that users paid for all items being disposed of and that they were following recycling procedures. This may have accounted for a portion of the decrease in both MSW and recycling tonnages. Although the recycling percentage remained consistent, a mechanism for tracking materials that were diverted from the waste stream and sold at the ReUse Center has not been put in place. Staff is working on an inventory matrix for both incoming and outgoing diverted materials. The system will be a valuable tool to use for marketing, inventory control and data reporting.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency under an Intermunicipal Agreement continued collecting and transporting all MSW and mandated recyclables to their designated facility(s) until August 2011 when the Town began to self-haul Town-owned MSW containers. This eliminated the \$40 pull service charge for a savings of approximately \$240 a month. Two additional containers (one 30-cy and one 40-cy) were purchased @ a price of \$1,700 through a surplus bid. The 40-cy container has a relatively short useful life and will have paid for itself by March 2012. Once it is taken out of service, the scrap value should match the cost of purchase.

New Paltz completed its program requirements for the USDA funded “Zero Waste Initiative” and ReUse Center comprehensive public education and waste reduction programs September 30, 2011. 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. Outgoing MSW was reduced from 531 tons to 463 tons through waste diversion efforts. Due to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, sixty-three (63) tons of flood debris was received at the Recycling Center as part of the New Paltz Emergency cleanup project. It is anticipated that during the 2012 Spring Cleanup more of this material will come into the Recycling Center.

The New Paltz recycling program arranges for collection, processes and markets residential recyclables which 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 2011, New Paltz Zero Waste Initiative managed:**

- Yard waste composting site; open to the public five days per week, compost available to permit holders;
- Electronic collection; open to the public five days per week;
- Annual Spring Cleanup; open to Town residents the end of April to drop off specific materials;
- Special Services; Spring pick up of materials for seniors and disabled veterans;

**Table 4 – Expenses by Program**

Recycling Personnel	\$ 90,000
Public Education	\$ 7,728
Composting/Mulch	\$ 6,224
Electronics Collection	\$ 499
Waste Disposal	\$ 72,981
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$177,432</b>
<b>Revenues – Tip fees</b>	<b>\$ 111,629</b>
Grant Reimbursement	\$ 43,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$154,629</b>

- Brush processing site; open to the public five days per week; ground mulch available to permit holders and New Paltz residents;
- Administered special services and programs at local area events

Direct program costs in 2011 (unaudited), associated with recycling services (Table 4.)

**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 Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town. There is no Town fee for recycling with a permit – both one day and annual are available. The UCRRA per the IMA provides for pickup and processing of mandated recyclable materials with no tipping fee, but does add a fuel surcharge of \$40 per container.

By volume the Town collected as much mandated recycling as they did MSW (trash). Because recycling weighs significantly less, the total 2011 recycling weight was about half of the total 2011 MSW weight.

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 at the New Paltz Recycling and ReUse Center. It has been a challenge to monitor at the Town level to ensure facility users are not placing unacceptable materials in collection containers. Despite publicly posted signage, full bags containing trash, glass, dirty containers with rotten food and unacceptable plastic have to be removed. 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.



**2011 Permitted Users:  
Breakdown Permits Sold**

Residential	490
Veteran/Senior	322
Partial Year	53
Non-Resident	21
Second Permit	18
<u>One Day Permits</u>	<u>733</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1637</b>

Out of town one-time users equated to approximately 18% of the one-day permit sales. The Recycling and ReUse Center's charges are determined by disposal costs and marketed material revenues. In 2011, recycling markets for scrap metal were as high as \$260 a ton in January and dropped

to \$140 a ton in December. Precious metals such as copper have dropped as well. Aluminum cans and foil prices peaked at the beginning of the year at about \$1,110 per ton and have dropped slightly. 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 and ReUse 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 and a fuel surcharge based on the Northeastern Department of Energy estimates.

### **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.

During the 2011 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 updated handouts with Hours of Operation, and recycling information. Additional containers are on site to offer expanded recycling opportunities and to reduce contamination.

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 2011 New Paltz Zero Waste Initiative**

#### **Office/ ReUse/Education Center**

Public environmental programming, marketed under the "Recycling and Reuse Center," includes an array of free or low cost family programs, offered at the Recycling Center and Town Recreation Center in New Paltz. These programs include John Burroughs Bio-Blitz to inventory plants and animals, walk through tours for High School government classes and elementary schools, and Computer 101 and green gift classes.

The new ReUse Center steel building (construction will begin in 2012 will be used to display rescued materials, hold workshops, host birthday parties, etc. All inventory currently stored in van trailers will be moved to the new building by staff and volunteers.



## Environmental Education

<i>Recycling/Waste Reduction Coordination</i> <b>Waste Reduction Programs</b>	
Putting Your Beds to Rest	1
Re-Gifting: Creating Green Gifts and Household Items	<b>1</b>
Computer Hardware 101	3
Site Tours: Participation in Government classes and Dutchess County Alternative Education	<b>4</b>
Supported in part by: The NYS DEC Materials Exchange Grant and NYS DEC Recycling Grant.	

- **Compost**

Over 1,000 visitors were served at the Town’s yard waste compost site located on Clearwater Road. Approximately, 140 tons leaves and brush was separated and composted or made into mulch. The material was accumulated through residential drop off and highway collections from New Paltz and Rosendale.

Compost and mulch was available to permit holders at no cost.

### *Green Infrastructure Projects*



<i>School and Community Gardening Initiative</i>	
New Paltz Middle School Garden started	Received wood chips and compost from Recycling and ReUse Center
Lenape Elementary School	Received wood chips from Recycling and ReUse Center
Historic Huguenot	Picked up mulch from Recycling and ReUse Center
Recycling and ReUse Center	Daisy Troop installed raised garden beds



- **Residential Electronics Recycling**

On April 1, 2011 New York State implemented its ban on electronics being commingled with solid waste for landfilling or burning. The law also mandates that any municipality with a population over 10,000 provide for collection of electronics either by holding an event or staging a permanent collection container. As part of its Product Stewardship initiative, manufacturers are required to take back old and obsolete e-waste and provide the State with tonnage information. Electronic dismantling vendors began competitively bidding on municipally collected electronics and/or offering to hold one day events to keep them compliant with new regulations. Now that e-waste is a commodity, New Paltz negotiated to receive revenues for specific

components of this waste stream and no longer has to pay for electronic removal. Under this law, New Paltz is no longer permitted to charge disposal fees or one-day permits.

Over 29,760 pounds of electronics were collected in 2011 from Ulster County residents for proper disposal. 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 220 lbs of electronic equipment per trip which is the limit under NYSDEC regulations for transporting e-waste. Even with proper disposal alternatives available, much of the public is still unaware of NYS requirements or what qualifies as electronic waste. New Paltz plans the continue education and outreach to limit contamination.

The direct program costs to New Paltz were limited to staff management of incoming materials. This program offset disposal costs by \$1,417 plus pull charges had electronics been commingled with the trash.

- **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 so they are disposed of in the regular trash. Approximately a quarter of a ton of batteries were collected and recycled or safely disposed in 2011 at a revenue of approximately **\$200.00**, excluding allocated salaries of permanent employees and support activities such as transportation. Revenues of lead acid batteries dropped significantly due to night theft. Video surveillance equipment did not seem to deter it so further precautions to secure this material was taken.

- **Public Education**

Every year the population needs to be reminded that recycling is mandatory but more emphasis has been placed this year on waste reduction and diversion. To maximize outreach, the Recycling Coordinator



informs the public at special events such as the Reformed Church Earth Day, Ulster County Fair and Clean Sweep.

In 2011, direct public education through public access, social media, and print media campaigns was undertaken. Upgrades to the Recycling Center in 2011 allowed 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 encourages environmental stewardship through waste reduction, diversion and reuse. It included composting education and repurposing materials.

The Recycling and ReUse Center’s website, [www.newpaltzreuse.org](http://www.newpaltzreuse.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 and ReUse Center is to reduce waste by offering opportunities for individuals to divert materials and find “new homes” for them. The 2012 challenge will be to increase diversion rates, find a means to manage data on diversion rates and inventory, and improve marketing.

At the University level, SUNY New Paltz has a very active Recycling Club and an Environmental Task Force. For the past several years students and volunteers collect items such as clothing, shoes, and non-perishable food, electronics, and room furnishings from each of the fourteen dorms on

campus at the end of the year. Items collected are then sorted and made available to the community at no charge. The annual event diverts more than four tons from the waste stream and was set up at the New Paltz Community Center. When the permanent steel building has been constructed, material collection at the college will be expanded and residual items can be stored at the building.

- **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 2011, 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**

Working with the New Paltz Beautification Committee and Ulster County DPW, over 200 volunteers assembled and collected nearly two tons of litter and 100 tires from roadways and ditches. This was the ninth annual clean-up of this type. The Town and Village partnered with over a dozen different community groups and local school children utilizing St. Joseph Church as a headquarters to register volunteers for a variety of clean up locations. This successful program will take place again on Earth Day week on April 29, 2012.

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;
- ✓ Provided opportunity for hands on training and volunteer hours for community service;
- ✓ Prepared a Business Plan for the New Paltz ReUse program;
- ✓ Bid out for construction of a permanent steel building;
- ✓ Partnered with the EPA as a pilot municipality for their Zero Waste Initiative

**New Paltz Recycling Team:**

- Laura Petit, Recycling Educator
- Town Supervisor and Town Board
- Robert Karlsbarch, Recycling Center.