



The President's Corner



Rich Bills, President

Perhaps you'll remember the last president's corner, where I suggested we had challenges ahead of us that we would overcome. I was talking about things like PFAS and the recycling market collapse, not a global pandemic.

Picture it. Saratoga, early March 2020. A group of us gathered for the Landfill Operator's Training. Somewhere in the area of 80 people gathering in a room, sitting right next to each other with no masks. No hand sanitizer to be found. No special precautions in place. No real idea what was about to happen.

I will always clearly remember that 2020 event, as it was my first conference as President of NYSASWM, and the last thing I can recall that occurred pre-COVID. I pretty clearly remember the day we arrived seeing the news cross my phone that Italy had closed their

(Continued on Page 5)

2021 NYS Organics Summit: Registration Now Open!



Register now for the 7th annual NYS Organics Summit, taking place virtually April 13 - 15, 2021. This yearly event is an opportunity to connect with over 175 materials management professionals from New York State and beyond to share success stories and discuss creative solutions to barriers that restrict the sustainable management of organic materials, with a specific focus on wasted food and food scraps.

Other summit highlights include:

- Preparing for the NYS Food Donation & Food Scraps Recycling law
- Further developing the organics recycling industry and compost markets
- Discussing major trends and issues in the organics recycling industry
- Diversifying voices in the organics management industry
- Discussing the relevance of climate change and organics management
- Virtually connecting and maintaining relationships

A student discount is available for current students; students must register with a college email address.

Any questions, please contact Kristine Ellsworth at kristine.ellsworth@dec.ny.gov, or Savannah Betkowski at savannah@nysar3.org.

Inside This Issue

Pages 2 - 3

**NYSASWM
News**

Pages 3 - 5

Policy News

Pages 5 - 7

Announcements

NYSASWM Wasteline

c/o NYSAC
540 Broadway
Albany, NY
12207

Co-Editors:
Jillian Blake
Bethann Parmelee

NYSASWM News

Bob Phaneuf Presented With Solid Waste Achievement Award 2020

Bob Phaneuf was presented with the NYSASWM Solid Waste Achievement award for 2020. Jeff Bouchard, NYSASWM Executive Director, visited the Albany NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offices in December to acknowledge Bob's contributions in the field of solid waste management and regulation during his career, and for his support of solid waste professionals and of the NYSASWM through the years.

Bob has worked in the field of solid waste management in a regulatory oversight role since 1977. He has been involved in the formulation of statewide solid and hazardous waste management policy and regulation for DEC including supervision of technical and administrative evaluations of Part 360 applications to construct, operate and to close solid and hazardous waste management facilities throughout New York.

Since 1988, Bob has been a key member of the Division's rule-making team for the 1988, 1993 and 2017 revision efforts on the State's solid waste management regulations (6 NYCRR Part 360) with primary focus on landfill regulations relating specifically to landfill siting, design, construction, operation and closure. Bob has coordinated the development of several technical assistance workshops and seminars on behalf of the Division in those areas.

He has also supervised the permitting of hazardous waste landfills and provided oversight for numerous corrective action projects across the state. He oversaw the Bureau of Hazardous Waste & Radiation Management from 2007 through 2010. In 2010, Bob's duties continued to expand when he became the Assistant Division Director for the Division of Materials Management.



Phaneuf

Throughout his career, Bob has provided technical support to the Division's solid waste program staff and has spent a significant amount of time mentoring young staff in all aspects of landfill design, construction and operation. Bob takes great pride in his work on landfills and his enthusiasm and knowledge have continued to advance NYS's landfill regulatory program.

Landfill Operator Training Cancelled for 2021

NYSASWM conducted a Survey Monkey in October of last year, to gauge the potential for conducting a Landfill Operator Training session this year, or to put together a virtual event.

It was felt getting feedback would help decide whether or not participants would feel comfortable attending a socially distanced event, or a virtual event, as well as to determine if budgets would be able to include travel and registration fees, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Based on the responses, the NYSASWM board decided to wait until next year to hold an in-person Landfill Operator Training session. It was noted that this type of training with test is best suited to in-person. Hopefully operating budgets will be back on track to incorporate training and travel funds for members to attend the 2022 event.

At this time, a fall event in Lake Placid is still being planned. The dates will be announced in the future.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

The application deadline for the next round of awards for the Christiansen-Roller-White Founders' Scholarship has been extended by Joe Stockbridge, scholarship committee chairman, with agreement from the committee. Individual awards can be made up to \$5,000 with the maximum amount available at \$20,000.

The Scholarship was created in 2000 as a way to further the education of the next generation of solid waste managers who are studying in the fields of environmental science, planning, engineering or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management at a New York State Public or Private College or University. Applications will be accepted until the end of March with awards made in the spring.

The scholarship application is available online at nyaswm.org/scholarships, or contact Joe at f.josephstockbridge@ymail.com.

Elected Board Representative

The NYSASWM membership voted electronically in October to fill the board seat vacated by Robert Lange, whose term expired last year and who has left the Town of North Hempstead. Mike Kelly, also with the Town of North Hempstead, will serve as Director, South 2 region.

Mike has worked in municipal government for 14 years, mostly as a municipal attorney. He spent four years in the Nassau County Attorney's Office, three years in a management position at Nassau County Real Estate Services, six years in the North Hempstead Town Attorney's Office- part of that time as counsel to the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA.) He has been at his current position with the SWMA since January.

He has a BA from Fordham University and a JD and LLM from St. John's Law School.

Policy News

Packaging Stewardship Bills Introduced in the New York State Legislature

Contributed by Luann Meyer, Barton & Loguidice

In the wake of the 2018 recycling market crisis, the New York Product Stewardship Council (PSC) redoubled efforts related to advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products.

The PSC has been working directly with New York State Senator Todd Kaminsky and New York State Assemblyman Steve Englebright to draft a bill (S1185) which would shift the responsibility from local governments to the manufacturer for the disposal of packaging and paper products.

This bill, which has been moved out of committee and onto the State Senate floor, establishes the extended producer responsibility act requiring

covered materials and product producers to develop and implement strategies to promote recycling, reuse and recovery of packaging and paper products. In effect, the burden of waste management costs will be shifted from tax-payers to the cost of the product. Other potential benefits include waste reduction, improved product and packaging design for recycling, and economic development within New York State.

A same-as-bill in the NYS Assembly is currently under consideration. The PSC is encouraging all to contact Senator Kaminsky, Assemblyman Englebright, and Governor Cuomo in support of this bill.

Senator Kaminsky: kaminsky@nysenate.gov

Assmbyman Englebright: engles@assembly.state.ny.us

Governor Cuomo: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

Policy News (cont.)

Food Scraps Recycling: New Proposed NYSDEC Part 350 Regulations

Contributed by Hans Arnold, Barton & Loguidice

The New York State Food Scraps Recycling Law was enacted in 2019. The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently published draft regulations to implement the law starting January 1, 2022.

The law and regulations require that large generators of food scraps (an annual average of 2 tons per week or more) must donate excess edible food and recycle the remaining scraps where there is an organics recycling facility within 25 miles. DEC has developed draft regulations to implement the new law which can be found at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/122245.html>.

The DEC has scheduled three webinars on the new requirements ([preregistration required on NYSDEC website](#)):

March 23 at 1:00 pm May 12 at 10:00am June 22 at 1:30pm

The DEC is also hosting two public comment hearing webinars:

April 7 at 1:00pm

Register at <https://meetny-broadcast-pilot.webex.com/meetny-broadcast-pilot/e.php?AT=SI&From=GPS&MK=1799331069>

April 7 at 6:00pm

Register at <https://meetny-broadcast-pilot.webex.com/meetny-broadcast-pilot/e.php?AT=SI&From=GPS&MK=1791658173>

Some noteworthy provisions of the proposed regulations include:

- Food scrap generators (annual average of 2 tons per week or more) include supermarkets, food service businesses, restaurants, institutions of higher education, hotels, food processors, correctional facilities, sports and entertainment venues. DEC will publish a list of food scraps generators by June 1, 2021 and each year thereafter.
- Exemptions include cities with a population greater than 1 million, hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, elementary and secondary schools.
- Temporary waivers can be requested.
- Disposal of food scraps from designated generators at a landfill facility or a combustion facility is prohibited.
- "If food scraps are sent to a facility that accepts multiple waste streams (an anaerobic digester, for example), the portion of the resultant material derived from food scraps must be used in a beneficial manner and not landfilled or combusted unless otherwise approved."

Interest in recycling food waste is growing. Food waste recycling initiatives are targeting what is estimated to be 20% -30% of the total solid waste stream. Generators both large and small are starting to develop plans for separating and transporting food scraps while looking for a recycling facility to accept the food waste. Haulers are being asked how they can move food waste economically. Local solid waste managers are calculating whether or not they can provide a facility to process food waste on a sustainable basis.

All this presents significant challenges, not the least of which is estimating the impact of COVID-19 and how food scrap generation may change in the future. It may also be worth noting that while the law and regulations are targeting large scale generators, other initiatives are advocating an expansion of the law to include all generators of food waste. Local solid waste facility

owners and operators are likely to start getting questions about accepting source-separated food scraps and possibly the development of new facilities.

Comments on the draft regulations are being accepted through April 27, 2021 and should be sent to

FoodScrapsLaw@dec.ny.gov, or

NYSDEC
Materials Management Division
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7253

Announcements

NYSAC Emerging Contaminants Request

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is looking to get information from any NYS landfill operators who have had direct experiences with Emerging Contaminants (PFOA, PFOS, 1,4-Dioxane). They are in the process of advocating for funding for landfills from the State and would like to hear from anyone with real examples that could assist them with this request.

If you have anything you would like to share, please feel free to forward the information to Jeff Bouchard at jbnysaswm@gmail.com, or you can contact Steve Acquario at NYSAC directly at www.nysac.org.

2021 NY Federation Conference with Trade Show Converted to Virtual Event

Based on input from attendees and discussions with The Sagamore, the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations has regretfully decided to cancel the in-person May 16-19, 2021 event due to COVID-19 concerns, logistics, and the priority for the safety of participants. Instead, a virtual conference will be held on these dates. The 2021 virtual conference will have a separate registration.

Planning for the next year's event on May 22-25, 2022 is already underway. Deferred registration from the cancelled 2020 event will be transferred to the 2022 Federation Conference. Event details about the virtual May 2021 event and the in-person May 2022 event will be made available on the Federation's website, conference.nyfederation.org, as they become available. More to come!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from Page 1

borders. At that point we had all heard something about Coronavirus, but didn't realize the impact to our way of life that was imminent.

We returned home after that conference and the next day I assume most of us were involved with emergency planning meetings. The NBA postponed their season rather abruptly that evening. Tom Hanks had it. There was a very clear delineation between the vague concept that there was some new virus working its way around Europe and Asia, and the reality that we were in the midst of a global pandemic that would change how we approach everything.

It has almost been a year since that last conference but it feels like much longer. We missed the Fall conference in Lake Placid, but with the Federation we put on a virtual

event. This year's spring conference will be held virtually as well, and I encourage you all to sign up and attend. There's a lot to talk about, and I promise the virtual conference is better than you might think.

Personally, one of the most valuable elements to my involvement with NYSASWM over the years has been the opportunity to interact with all of you. The opportunity to speak with professionals who know the business of solid waste management is invaluable. While nothing is certain at this point, the odds of us having an actual in-person conference this fall are good. We're planning on it.

The pandemic has presented us with challenges, no doubt, and I'm sure we have all learned a lot over the last year. Global pandemic or not, people produce waste. It is essential that that waste is managed properly. We are a resilient bunch who were able to make things work when the chips were stacked against us. I, for one, am proud to be part of the solid waste community in New York and am looking forward to seeing you all in person on the other side of this.



Announcements (cont.)

Climate Action Council Waste Emissions Advisory Panel Public Meeting

Contributed by Dereth Glance, Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

In late November 2020, the New York State Climate Action Council, the body created to help develop and implement the plan to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets established by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), created an advisory panel specifically focused on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector. The panel has met five times and hosted a public meeting in February.

The panel has identified several mitigation strategies, focused on:

- maximizing waste reduction, diversion, and recycling;
- improving markets for traditional recyclables and C&D debris;
- enhancing material recovery and recycling through extended producer responsibility and bottle bill expansion;
- promoting waste reduction and reuse through materials exchange and repair;
- expanding organics waste reduction, food donation, and organics recycling; and
- reducing fugitive emissions from landfills and other waste management facilities, including wastewater treatment plants.

The panel is specifically looking to identify short- and long-term strategies to achieve significant greenhouse gas emission reduction while ensuring sound material management practices that also help reduce burdens on low-income communities; provide workforce development opportunities; and create jobs as we transition to a more sustainable and reduced carbon future.

Members of the Waste Panel want to hear from the broader community and are hopeful that solid waste managers can join this important conversation to provide critical operational perspective and insights. Visit climate.ny.gov for more information on the panel's work to shape recommendations for the full Climate Action Council to consider as they develop New York State's Climate Action Plan.

Members of the Waste Emissions Panel

Martin Brand, NYSDEC Deputy Commissioner serves as the panel's chair. The panel is comprised of 17 members and include:

Dan Egan
Feeding New York State

Brigitte Vicenty
Inner City Green Team

Tok Michelle Oyewole, Ph.D.
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Jane Atkinson Gajwani
New York City DEP

Dereth Glance
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Steve Changaris
National Waste & Recycling Association

Eric Goldstein
NRDC

Resa Dimino
Resource Recycling Systems

Michael Cahill
Germano & Cahill, P.C.

Allen Hershkowitz
Green Sports Alliance

Paul Gilman
Covanta

John W. Casella
Casella Waste Systems

Lauren Toretta
CH4 Biogas

George Bevington
Barton & Loguidice

Bernadette Kelly
Teamsters Local 210, NYC

Announcements (cont.)

RRT Design & Construction Welcomes Kate Vasquez

Contributed by Carrie Rich, RRT

RRT Design & Construction (RRT) announces that Kate Vasquez has joined the leadership team as Director of Planning and Advisory Services – Solid Waste. She will be responsible for expanding RRT's consulting practice to incorporate program design elements into the firm's design, engineering, construction, project management, renewable energy engineering, and facility inspection services. Her 18 years of solid waste experience includes both public sector agencies and private sector consulting, with expertise in comprehensive planning; program design and implementation; and, regulatory and legislative analysis.

Ms. Vasquez holds a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University.



Vasquez

Pay-As-You-Throw Provides Financial Silver Lining During Pandemic

Contributed by Jim Bunchuck, Town of Southold Solid Waste Coordinator

With many municipal waste management budgets under stress this year due to increases in waste and recycling streams from home-bound residents that were never factored into 2020 budgets, some communities are finding this COVID-era challenge easier to manage than others. Operations relying on volume-based "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) pricing - as opposed to tax based services - have a far easier time dealing with the unexpected increase in disposal costs.

A case in point is the Town of Southold on Long Island, which has been a PAYT community since 1993, one of the State's longest running programs. Jim Bunchuck, Southold's Solid Waste Coordinator, says the 35% increase in residential waste this year has been absorbed without significant budgetary disruption. The Town's program uses a "Town Bag" system, i.e., most household waste must be bagged in one of 3 sizes of bags sold by the Town in order to be disposed at the Town's transfer station. The program is mandated for curbside as well as those who "self-haul" their waste to the facility (bulky items and waste that cannot easily be bagged is scaled and paid for by weight). "The beauty of PAYT is that the cost of disposal is paid for before it is incurred so it really doesn't matter how much waste is generated," Bunchuck said.

With no crystal ball to predict COVID when the 2020 budget was being put together in the summer of 2019, the system has kept Bunchuck's budget stable during the pandemic. "If disposal was tax funded," he said, "it would have been a major financial headache." However, the cost of handling recyclables, which saw a similar increase in volume, is covered through taxes (they stopped generating revenue a couple of

years ago), but the Town renegotiated the handling of its recyclables to a nearby processing center, with a significant savings in transportation costs, so the net increase in cost was negligible.

Bunchuck says of more concern was whether or not the large drop in revenue from commercial waste, especially over the first months of the pandemic, would have a significant negative impact, but even that has been manageable. Commercial waste has largely rebounded since mid-summer, he says, plus "our margin above cost on that stream is minimal" so, again, impacts of fluctuations in the commercial sector are relatively light.

As it turns out, the biggest challenge according to Bunchuck was ensuring enough bag inventory to meet demand. "By July it became apparent we would run out of bags by early September. With a lead time of 6-8 weeks for our manufacturer, Waste Zero, to run an order of bags we needed to move fast to stay ahead demand and not run out of bags which," he said, "would have spelled disaster." The Town got the extra bags in time, at a cost of \$40,000 which, while not budgeted, was still covered since the Town's bag costs are included in the retail price residents pay for the bags. He now has enough bags to get through the year, but not much further. The 2021 bag supply - which was budgeted based on this year's experience - has just been ordered. "We have a lot of seasonal residents on the East End who this year came out in March and many of whom never left. We anticipate that may continue through much of next year as well." While Bunchuck is well aware that PAYT has its detractors, the system came through for his town in a big way this year. "It really saved our bacon," he said. "And it's still inherently fair."

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**



c/o NYSAC
540 Broadway ■ Albany, NY 12207

WWW.NYSASWM.ORG

WASTELINE

VOLUME 26 ■ NUMBER 1 ■ WINTER 2021

NYSASWM Executive Director — Jeff Bouchard — jbnyaswm@gmail.com — (518) 568-2095

NYSASWM Officers

President: Rich Bills
Steuben County

Vice President: Mark Powell, P.E.
Oswego County

Treasurer: Susan McIntyre
Delaware County

Secretary: Amy Miller, P.E.
Madison County

NYSASWM Directors

At Large: William Rabbia Oneida-Herkimer SWA	South 2: Mike Kelly Town of North Hempstead	Central: 1 Charles Sudbrink Cortland County
At Large: Stephen Acquario, Esq. NYSAC	East 1: Mario Parise Westchester County DEF	Central 2: James V. Biamonte Oneida-Herkimer SWA
At Large: John Brusa Jr., P.E. Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.	East 2: Tim Rose Ulster County RRA	West 1: Steve Orcutt Steuben County
At Large: Matthew McGarry, P.E. Town of Colonie	North 1: David Rhodes Fulton County DSW	West 2: Pantelis K. Panteli, P.E. Chautauqua County
South 1: Sarah Dolinar NYCDOs	North 2: Patricia Pastella, P.E. DANC	Legislative Chair: John Brusa, Jr., P.E. Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

**NYSASWM
MEMBERSHIP
BENEFITS**

- Discount registration for the Spring Federation Solid Waste Conference and Vendor Show at the Sagamore Hotel in Lake George
- Discount registration for the Annual Fall NYSASWM Conference and Vendor Show
- Discount registration to annual Landfill Operator Training Program
- Subscription to the NYSASWM newsletter— *Wasteline*
- Track legislation on behalf of the membership and alert members to bills that may have an impact on their systems
- Scholarship Program with first consideration given to the children of NYSASWM members
- Countless opportunities for networking & technology transfer as a member of the largest organization representing solid waste managers in New York State

**JOIN NYSASWM
TODAY!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**New York State Association for Solid Waste Management
Established 1975**

Please complete the following:

Check type of membership:

- () Municipal, political subdivision or public benefit corporation
- () Other professional

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

*Note that dues are per person (not per company) and are in effect for the calendar year. Please make checks payable to: "NYSASWM" (dues are \$75.00 per person per calendar year) and mail to:

**New York State Association for Solid Waste Management
Membership Department, P.O. Box 13461, Albany, New York 12212**

Please note that while NYSASWM is a not-for-profit organization, membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. To the extent permitted under the Internal Revenue Code, dues may be deducted as a business expense.

This newsletter is a membership benefit.