



# Sullivan County

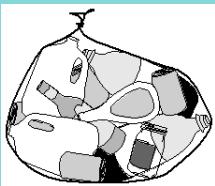
## RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM  
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SUMMER 2010 A

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next 2010 HHW Event Planned
- Your Question Answered... Why Clear Bags?
- Disposal of Household Medical Waste



### Next 2010 Household Hazardous Waste Day Planned for Saturday, August 7...

Sullivan County's tenth-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program Event #1 took place on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at the County Landfill in Monticello. Sixty five County households were able to safely recycle or dispose of potentially toxic materials free of charge.

In all, several tons of unwanted household hazardous materials were collected at the event, which included fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, creosote, solvents, pesticides, oil-based paints and even mercury!

Our second HHW Collection Event of 2010 is scheduled for

Saturday, August 7, 2010 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM at the County Landfill Scale House in Monticello. Please call the Division of Solid Waste at 845-807-0290 for details about this event and pre-registration information.

### Your Question Answered...

**Q. Why does the County want us to use clear plastic garbage bags at the Transfer Stations?**

A. Transparent garbage bags encourage greater recycling participation and save our customers money over traditional opaque (white, green or black-type) refuse bags at our Solid Waste Transfer Stations.

The cost to dispose of a conventional 30-gallon or smaller opaque garbage bag is \$4.00 each, while the fee for a 30-gallon or smaller clear bag has

been reduced to only \$2.00 per bag, a significant savings. 30-gallon clear bags are available from many local merchants, including Shop Rite, Trading Post, Pecks Markets, G-Mart, Home Depot and Walmart, to name a few. Clear bags definitely raise awareness about recycling, and combined with cost savings over non-clear trash bags the benefits outweigh the switch to clear bags.

Recycling in turn happens because markets exist that turn old, unwanted stuff back into brand-new items that people

desire and want to purchase. An economic 'loop' is created which enables programs like ours to cost-effectively sell recyclables to a willing buyer, thus moving the materials and creating a financial incentive for us to recycle. In a nutshell, free market forces such as price, quantity and distance to market determine if a particular item should be included in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. We then conservatively adjust the list of mandatory recyclables as new markets for these materials emerge. Markets that remain stable for new items are thus given consideration for designation as a new recyclable material.

### Proper Disposal of Household Medical Waste

**NO** medical waste (especially '**SHARPS**') of any kind can be recycled in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. Period. In fact, New York State regulations permit us to accept only one type of medical waste for disposal in Sullivan County Sanitary Facilities: 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' - may be deposited at Sullivan Co. transfer stations, provided it has been secured properly. Follow these preparation guidelines carefully or face unpleasant consequences:

1. Place home-generated 'SHARPS' (syringes, needles) in a rigid #2 (HDPE) plastic bottle with a screw-type lid. Empty bleach or detergent bottles work best.
2. Securely duct-tape the screw cap closed when the bottle is full.
3. Label outside of bottle 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' with indelible-ink black marker.
4. Place filled, taped and labeled bottle inside a plastic garbage bag for disposal in your trash. **DO NOT PLACE PLASTIC MEDICAL WASTE CONTAINER IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN!** (It is now a 'contaminated' recyclable, and must be thrown away. The SHARPS-filled plastic bottle is NO LONGER RECYCLABLE. THROW IT OUT.)

## Recycling Summary...



### Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, August 7, 2010 Next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

- America Recycles Day: November 15, 2010!



**Most recyclables are FREE—save money by recycling today!** Below is a handy list of acceptable Sullivan County recyclables to help you maximize recycling at home and work. Just keep the “like” materials together in their respective categories, and be sure to check with us first if you are uncertain about an item or category designation. Please note that this list applies to materials delivered directly to our facilities, and it may understandably differ from your waste hauler’s specific commercial recycling instructions. The following materials are recyclable in Sullivan County and therefore, should be separated from waste for recycling:

- **Mixed Paper**— Old magazines, ‘junk’ mail, telephone directories, chipboard fiber (cereal boxes, TV dinner cartons, paper towel tubes, gray notepad backer), envelopes, school papers and books (with hard covers removed) in this category
- **Newspaper**— Daily newspapers, including glossy inserts
- **Cardboard**—Old corrugated cardboard boxes and brown (kraft) paper bags
- **Glass**—Green, brown, uncolored and blue glass containers, and bottles
- **Mixed Containers**— Steel Cans, #1- #7 plastic containers, and aluminum beverage cans grouped together from this category
- **Plastic Bags**—Film plastic shopping bags
- **Portable Consumer Batteries**—AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt style batteries
- **Scrap Metal**— Old metal furniture, cabinets, piping, appliances, siding, iron, copper, tin, titanium, chrome, brass, steel, aluminum
- **Tires**—rubber vehicle tires, on or off rims
- **Electronic Scrap**—Televisions (all display types) computers, laptops, and monitors
- **Fluorescent Bulbs**—Straight tubes, U-shaped bulbs and compact fluorescent (CFL) lamps
- **Textiles**— unwanted clothing
- **Leaves-Compost**—Deciduous leaves, pine needles, corn stalks, and brown kraft paper bags
- **Used Motor Oil**—Motor vehicle engine oil and transmission fluid
- **Antifreeze**—Vehicle glycol-type coolant
- **Cell Phones**—Handheld cellular telephones

### Recycling Really is Mandatory...

Every so often a caller to the Division of Solid Waste asks if recycling is mandatory in Sullivan County. Yes, it is - Local Law #1 of 1992 made it a civil violation to willfully collect commingled trash and recyclables in the same container. In other words, recyclables and waste must be collected separately from one another, for proper recycling and waste disposal to take place. All private and municipal sanitation haulers are prohibited from collecting waste and recyclables which have not been separated. A hauler misrepresenting the separate collection of designated recyclables from solid waste risks investigation by the proper law enforcement authorities—violations of Local Law #1 of 1992 carry a penalty of up to \$5,000 per instance and denial of access to

Sullivan County environmental facilities upon conviction!

Many solid waste and recycling haulers that do business in Sullivan County provide great collection services. But in any case, if you suspect your hauler is not doing the right thing, ask him or her to provide you with written company-specific recycling instructions and a collection schedule. If they are unwilling to provide you with confirmation of their recycling efforts, seek another hauler who will. If you remain uncertain about a haulers compliance with the law, please don’t break the law yourself and throw valuable recyclables away. Instead, deliver them (recyclables are free of charge) to any Sullivan County Transfer Station - we can help you remain in compliance with the law, and offer a safe and cost-effective recycling/waste disposal alternative to unscrupulous means.

### Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact us regarding any recycling, composting, and sustainability questions or concerns you may have in Sullivan County. Our offices are located at 91 Landfill Drive, Monticello, NY 12701. Our telephone number is 845-807-0290. Our Email address is: [recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us) Web: <http://co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling/tabid/3198/Default.aspx>