



# Sullivan County Recycling Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM  
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WINTER 2009 - 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Waste System Changes**
- **Your Question Answered**
- **Recycling Summary**
- **Water Bottle Deposits**



## Solid Waste System Changes...

The Sullivan County Sanitary Landfill has reached final capacity and is now closed. The way the County handles its solid waste and recyclables will undergo its biggest change in decades. Waste will be trucked out by a private company from the County's network of transfer stations to other landfills for disposal. To customers of the Sullivan County Solid Waste Management system, these changes should be relatively transparent. Private haulers will continue to collect waste and recyclables from the curb, with transfer station customer drop off operations remaining largely unchanged. Some transfer stations may be modified to handle increased activity. Sullivan County may construct its own central export facility at the for-

mer landfill site in Monticello.

The biggest news to the public may be the way program funding is managed in the new system. Previously, the County charged customers a solid waste tipping fee based on the volume or weight of garbage they disposed of. In the new system, a user fee based on County-wide parcel classifications will be added to fund the program in addition to the tipping fee. This should result in a revenue stream sufficient to fund all aspects of the solid waste program. The tipping fee-based system did not fully fund all operations, which resulted in the use of tax dollars to offset program costs. In this manner tax exempt properties will pay for all-in funding costs like other generators in the County system. Out-of-County waste would not be ac-

cepted for disposal at transfer stations, and haulers operating collection routes that overlap County borders may be subject to additional regulation.

With change brings opportunity as the saying goes, so it is hoped that as our society becomes more sustainable in its waste disposal practices new benefits will arise. Sullivan County has witnessed a significant reduction in the amount of garbage generated and disposed of in the county, and a corresponding increase in recycling quantities as well. One day waste disposal rather than waste prevention, reuse and recycling may be viewed as a habit from the past. A future free of waste is certainly one we can all live with!

## Your Question Answered...

### Q. If our garbage is shipped out to another facility, will we still have to recycle?

A. YES! Recycling is mandatory in Sullivan County regardless of

where our waste goes for disposal. Conserving natural resources remains more important than ever, so by limiting the amount of garbage produced,

shipping costs for exportation and disposal can be reduced. Recycling not only saves money and generates revenue—it lowers ultimate disposal costs as well.

## Nickel Deposits Now on Water Bottles...

Nobody likes the appearance of litter along New York's scenic highways and transportation routes. New York State enacted the *Returnable Container Act* on June 15, 1982 in an effort to control such unsightly litter, which resulted in the placement of a five-cent deposit on carbonated soft drink, malt beverage and wine cooler containers. Back in the 1980's these container types made up most of the portable container litter tossed out along our roads. In recent years however, bottled water has grown in popularity, which has

resulted in a new litter problem not envisioned when beer and soda containers were more evident in the waste stream.

Beginning October 31, 2009, bottled water – including flavored and nutritionally enhanced water which does not contain added sugar – shall require a 5-cent container deposit to be collected on each unit at the point of sale. Vendors are required to return said deposits to consumers upon redemption. Previously, all *unclaimed* deposits were kept by the beer and soda distributors who initiated the deposits; now,

80% of unclaimed deposits from containers that have not been returned must be remitted quarterly to the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance. It is in everyone's best interest to return empty beverage containers to the vendor and redeem the deposit; this will diminish litter and encourage greater recycling of our natural resources. For additional information about the New York State Returnable Container Act, please check out:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8500.html>

## Recycling Summary...

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**— recycle 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 form 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 lamps
- **Textiles**— unwanted clothing
- **Leaves-Compost**— Deciduous leaves, pine needles, corn stalks, and brown (kraft) paper compost bags
- **Used Motor Oil**— Motor vehicle engine oil and transmission fluid
- **Antifreeze**— Vehicle glycol-type coolant
- **Cell Phones**—Handheld cellular telephones

## Bethel Seniors Discuss Rx Disposal & Recycling...

On Monday, November 9, 2009 approximately 60 Seniors from the Town of Bethel and surrounding areas gathered over lunch to learn more about the proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste and recycling. Trace amounts of pharmaceuticals have been detected in groundwater around the nation, raising concern over the way our society disposes of unwanted drugs. In the past, it was widely recommended that unused medications be flushed down the sink or toilet. This action has been linked to the drugs found in the water supply, and the

Bethel Seniors requested updated Rx disposal information to prevent this from happening. Member Al Stagl and Recycling Coordinator Bill Cutler demonstrated a safe way to render medications unpalatable, for disposal with regular household trash instead of flushing medications away in the toilet.

Updates to the County Recycling Program were discussed as well, and Bethel Seniors like to recycle as a way to reduce the amount of garbage people generate, which saves money and the environment—a double win!



## 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) Visit us on the web at: [www.scgnet.us/index.asp?orgid=275&storyTypeID=&sid=&](http://www.scgnet.us/index.asp?orgid=275&storyTypeID=&sid=&)

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