

# **Town of North Hempstead**

## **Solid Waste Management Authority**

### **2013 Report**

#### **SWMA Operations and Accomplishments:**

- Managed the operations of the Town's 225,000 ton per year transfer station
  - Developed and managed the Authority's \$22 million budget
  - Administered 5 garbage district contracts
  - Maintained the L4 and L5 landfill including the gas collection system, leachate collection system and pump and treatment facility
  - Handled constituent calls and complaints regarding waste collection services
  - Implemented and managed town wide recycling initiatives
  - Staff and operate 4 town-wide STOP events
  - Operate the Town's resident drop location every Sunday
  - Accepted, handled, and processed all debris associated with Super Storm Sandy
  - The Flow Control law has allowed the Authority to secure waste flow into the transfer station and allow the Authority to track waste streams and recycling percentages.
- 
- The Authority has seen a decrease in Municipal Solid Waste the past 2 years, but has seen very high total waste numbers over the past 2-3 years. Municipal solid waste totals have been steadily decreasing all over the region, but the other waste categories have seen an increase in totals. The decrease appears to be due to the economy and the effectiveness of recycling programs. The increase in yard waste and construction debris due to the placement of code enforcement personnel and the continuous surveillance of solid waste carters. With direction from the Authority, code enforcement and building department personnel have proven to be a noticeable help with the implementation and enforcement of Flow Control. The past year saw a large increase in yard waste at the transfer station due to Super Storm Sandy and in addition, a large increase in Construction waste was received.

## Year in Review

The year ended not as a busy as it had started, with the beginning of the year seeing throughput amounts that have not been seen in over 10 years. The continuous down turn in the economy has brought less and less solid waste to the transfer station.

However, it was a busy year on the landfill. Several of the landfill operating systems were overhauled to improve efficiency and operation. New and exciting recycling initiatives were implemented while old programs were enhanced.

The transfer station saw a small drop in residential and commercial waste received this year to a tune of approx 4,000 tons or 2.5% less than last year. The major reason for the drop in waste quantities which can be seen all over the island was the bad economy. While other areas of the island saw decreases of about 20%, SWMA's decrease of only 2.5% can be attributed to flow control and the addition of solid waste enforcement personnel. The overall throughput of waste to the transfer station decreased from 223,000 tons to 218,000.

Landfill maintenance is perennially an expensive and time consuming endeavor for the Authority. This year we have worked on upgrading the landfill gas collection system to enhance methane flow in an effort to eliminate the need for natural gas supplementation. The newly Flare will go online soon and will be the final piece in completing our overhaul of the landfill gas system. We have researched a better way to conduct our leachate treatment process and have been testing a new filtration process equipment for a 6 month trial period. This will give us a better understanding if the new process will effectively treat our leachate.

SWMA employees have been very instrumental in the implementation of the recycling programs, STOP programs, Pharmaceutical collection, and E-Waste collection events. All of these programs have required implementation strategies from their inception and require constant attention every single week. They have set up, distributed, and maintained recycling bins in schools, parks, and Town facilities. They have installed recycling bins and waste collection bins throughout the Town and along the Main Streets. SWMA personnel manages the day to day operations of all of the recycling initiatives implemented by the Supervisor's office and the Office of Sustainability.

The Authority has always acted as the waste management division for the Town and is daily receiving constituent calls regarding waste collection services, recycling questions, and complaints. All calls are handled quickly and all complaints are resolved as soon as possible. The Authority has developed a good relationship with the three largest vendors in the Town and is able to contact the proper channels and get results immediately. SWMA has

worked closely with the 311 group to enhance constituent questions and to develop more specific SR's increasing productivity and response time. As you can see from the chart an average of 502 calls are received per month for a total of **6034 calls in 2012** regarding solid waste questions and most have been answered within 24 hours.

SR TYPE	2012 Monthly Averages	
	# of SRs	Avg. Response
SWMA TOTAL	502	1.0
SWMA - Call Back	30	1.0
SWMA - Carting Complaints	9	1.0
SWMA - Compost SR	25	0.9
SWMA - e-Waste	28	1.0
SWMA - From Transfer	1	0.6
SWMA - Garbage Not Picked Up	11	1.2
SWMA - Informational	265	1.0
SWMA - Lost Property	0	0.0
SWMA - Recycling Informational	56	1.0
SWMA - Stop Program	77	1.0
SWMA - Strange Odor	0	0.0



The Authority received approx. **14,500 tons of recyclables** in 2013. All recycling items ranging from paper, plastic, glass, and metal was received from residential collection, commercial collection, school recycling program, and metal recovery from residential collection and transfer station tipping floor recovery.



The E-Waste collection programs are yielding overwhelming totals of e-waste collected every year. This year we initiated a collection program at the SWMA administration building and it has turned out to be an overall success. Each day the collection bin is filled up with residents bringing in their used electronics. Combined with our STOP program collection of e-waste, our January school collection events, and our resident drop off e-waste, in 2012 we received **148 tons of e-waste**. Additionally, our new contract which was only implemented in September of 2012 has yielded the Authority approx. \$15,000 in revenue.

2013 has been one of the busiest years with inbound waste in the past 10 years. The transfer station brought in approx. **218,000 tons** of material for only a 2% decrease from our busiest year last year. All waste was handled in a timely fashion and no set backs or violations had occurred.



Super Storm Sandy debris completely inundated the transfer and the landfill as can be seen in the picture. We took in just under **60,000 tons of yard waste** from the storm. We took in yard waste from all over the town, 21 town villages, outside villages, and other neighboring towns. All of the yard waste found its current resting place at either the landfill or North Hempstead Beach Park. The Authority ground up all of the material and shipped it to a mine reclamation site out of state and to a nationwide distributor to use as mulch.



Through its office of Sustainability, the Authority continued the collection of Pharmaceutical waste at all of the STOP events and introduced collection of pharmaceuticals at each school district. This year, our STOP event collected **3000 lbs pharmaceuticals**.

In 2012, we introduced the Caps Back Program into 2 new private schools. We also started the May We Have Your Caps contest in which all schools participated in a Caps Collection event. With these new schools and new initiatives into this already successful program we have brought in just less than 2 tons of caps this year for a total of **3946 lbs**.

