

# **Town of North Hempstead**

## **Solid Waste Management Authority**

### **2014 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 5 town-wide STOP events
- Operate the Town's resident drop location every Sunday
- 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 stabilization of waste totals over the past 2 years after it went through several years of a decrease in Municipal Solid Waste. 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 construction debris is possibly due to the placement of code enforcement personnel and the continuous surveillance of solid waste carters. With direction from the Authority, code enforcement personnel have proven to be a noticeable help with the implementation and enforcement of Flow Control. Additional code enforcement could increase waste totals and a plan to add more will be presented to the Board in the future.

#### **Year in Review**

In 2014 the Authority began negotiations for the second 5 year term of the Hauling and Disposal contract for Municipal Solid Waste. The current contract with Progressive waste is set to renew or expire on April 30, 2015 and the Authority has decided to begin negotiations with Progressive for the second term. Negotiations yielded an approx. savings of \$1.4 million dollars over the next 5 years of the agreement.

It continued to be a busy year on the landfill, just like 2013. Several of the landfill operating systems were overhauled to improve efficiency and operation. The installation of a new Landfill Gas Flare was completed.

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 installation of the new Flare was the final piece in completing our overhaul of the landfill gas system. We tested a better way to conduct our leachate treatment process and tested a new filtration process equipment over a 6 month pilot project. The pilot project yielded unfavorable results and we have continued to treat the leachate as usual. In 2015 we will be overhauling our leachate plant to better and more effectively run the system.

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.

In 2014 SWMA added an additional STOP event to the 4 programs that already took place. The addition of the 5<sup>th</sup> event will allow residents to discard their hazardous materials more often and ultimately keep hazardous chemicals from our landfills and waterways. SWMA has seen a dramatic increase in residents attending our STOP program. In 2014 we averages approx. 800-1000 vehicles attending each event.

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.



The Authority received approx. **13,500 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 2014 we received **160 tons of e-waste**. E-waste collection has yielded the Authority approx. \$16,000 in revenue.

2014 saw a decrease in total waste accepted, but saw a small increase in MSW. The transfer station brought in approx. **200,000 tons** of material for an approximate 10% decrease from our busiest year of 2012, which was the year we received all of the storm debris from Super Storm Sandy. All waste was handled in a timely fashion and no set backs or violations had occurred.



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 over **3000 lbs pharmaceuticals**.

In 2014, the Caps Back for Recycling program continued its school contest, May We Have Your Caps 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 approximately 2 tons of caps this year.





In 2014, SWMA implemented a paper shredding program into our STOP program. Residents have the ability to bring down bulk amounts a paper shredding and can watch as their documents are safely and securely shredded. This not only creates a worry free disposal option for sensitive document, but it also yields hundreds of tons of clean high grade recyclable paper.

In 2014, SWMA partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to conduct a donation program at 5 STOP events. Residents can bring clothing and slightly used goods for donation.

