

Town of North Hempstead

Solid Waste Management Authority

2015 Report

SWMA Operations and Accomplishments:

- Managed 187,230 tons of inbound waste at Town's transfer station
- Developed and managed the Authority's \$19.6 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 decrease in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) MSW 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 partially due to the economy and the effectiveness of recycling programs, but also reflective of a national trend. The increase in construction debris could be attributable to the placement of code enforcement personnel and the continuous surveillance of solid waste carters.

Year in Review

In 2015 the Authority negotiated a new hauling and disposal contract for Municipal Solid Waste with Progressive waste with more favorable rates. The new contract term is five years and due to expire on April 30, 2020.

There was a drop in residential and commercial waste received this year of 7,012 tons or 4.49% less than last year.

To ensure public safety and the environment, proper landfill maintenance is a costly and long-term commitment on the part of the Town. In 2016 SWMA will continue that commitment by starting work on upgrading the landfill gas collection system to enhance methane flow and control landfill gas migration. The recent installation of the new Flare system has successfully reduced and all but eliminated the need for natural gas supplementation, to ensure proper gas flow and control migration. SWMA tested an alternative way to conduct its 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 required.

SWMA employees continue to be instrumental in maintaining and the landfill's various systems, as well as implementation of the recycling programs, STOP ("Stop throwing out pollutants") programs, Pharmaceutical collection, and E-Waste collection events. All of these programs are both labor intensive, costly per ton and time consuming. SWMA staff have installed recycling bins and waste collection bins throughout the Town and along the Main Streets; they also manage the day to day operations of all of the recycling initiatives implemented by the Supervisor's office and the Office of Sustainability.

In 2015 the SWMA welcomed Roslyn and Mineola School districts to the School Recycling Partnership program. Since its inception 8 years ago, the Program has over 46,000 student participants, from 60 buildings throughout the Town's school districts. In 2015 the School Recycling Partnership Program recycled an estimated 401 tons of paper and 49 tons of comingled recyclables (plastic, aluminum, and glass). In 2015, the Town's S.T.O.P. ("Stop throwing out pollutants") program collected 45 tons of e-Waste, 5,600 pounds of expired and unwanted prescription drugs, keeping them out of the drinking water system and landfills and 26,525 pounds of other items.

In 2015, the 7th Annual Recycled Artwork Contest invited students to use their creativity to promote recycling in their schools and communities. The contest is intended to spread the powerful message of "reduce, reuse and recycle." The entries were judged by the North Hempstead Arts Advisory Committee. Each student was instructed to use materials that would have otherwise been garbage. The winners were honored and displayed at the Gold Coast Art Center.

In the fall of 2010, the Town became the first municipality in the United States to partner with cosmetics giant Estee Lauder on a new recycling program for plastic bottle caps. Using collected caps they have been able to develop ways to make new caps to use on their Aveda products that are shipped world-wide. In 2015, the Town collected 1.5 tons of bottle caps that would have gone into landfills, littered our beaches and endangered our marine life.

The Authority has always been the waste management division for the Town and is daily receiving constituent calls regarding waste collection services, recycling questions, and other related concerns. All calls are handled quickly and 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. 23,576 in 2015. 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 2015 we received 149 tons of e-waste.

2015 saw a decrease in total waste accepted, but saw a small increase in MSW. The transfer station brought in approx 18,230 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 3 tons of pharmaceutical waste.

In 2015, 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 1.5 tons of caps this year.





In 2015, 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 2015, 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.

