Beyond the Curb

Successfully Managing the “Miscellaneous” Items

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Background: County Demographics

- 450 square miles
- 43 municipalities
- **Boundaries:** Bronx, Hudson River, Putnam County and Connecticut
- Urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods
- 960,000 residents
- **VERY DIVERSE COUNTY**
  - Many multi-tenant residential buildings
  - Universities
  - Farms and preserves
  - New York City watershed
Refuse Disposal District

- Unique structure
  - Solid Waste Management provided by Refuse Disposal District No. 1 (RDD), created in the early 1980’s
    - Includes 36 of Westchester’s 43 municipalities
    - 90% of the County population (about 1 million residents)
    - Managed and administered by DEF
  - Four Transfer Stations, MRF, H-MRF
Trends

RECYCLING

WASTE

Trending since 2005

• 2005: County disposed of 526,000 tons of MSW
• 2013: 392,000 tons, a 25% decrease!
Beyond Waste

• 2010
  • NYSDEC’s Solid Waste Management Plan
  • Titled “Beyond Waste”
  • 0.6 PPD by 2030
• Westchester County (2013)
  • 3.7 PPD
• 50% recycling rate
E-Waste

• DEF provides electronic waste (e-waste) collection containers for 27 RDD municipal sites
  • RDD residents can recycle their unwanted electronics
• County diverted over **1,700 tons** of e-waste from the solid waste stream through this program
• Following enactment of the Electronics Manufacturer Responsibility Law in Spring 2011
  • Eliminated e-waste disposal costs
    • Averaged ~$100,000 per month before Spring 2011
  • Currently being **reimbursed** $0.03 per pound
    • Almost $100,000 for the year in 2013
Paper

- Mobile Paper Shredder
  - Visits municipalities each weekend
    - Also provides paper shredding to schools, municipalities, and county departments during the week
  - Served ~70,000 households since 2008
  - Over 3,000 tons of confidential paper recycled and sold for $100-160/ton
- CNG Mobile Paper Shredder
  - One of a kind and the industry’s first
  - Shredders mitigate environmental impacts and identity theft

"It's not a total waste! At least you wrote it on recycled paper."
Boat Wrap

- Recognized the need to service an untapped market
- Boat wrap collected from local marinas along the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River
  - Summer of 2014: 41 tons
  - Up 6 tons from 2013
- An estimated 14 lbs. of boat wrap used per boat
  - In 2014 wrap was collected and recycled
  - ~6,000 boats in Westchester
Organics [OYWTS]

• Each participating municipality collects yard waste at a municipal depot
• County arranges for collection from the depot and transport to commercial composting facilities
  • Economic incentive: RDD member municipalities pay less per ton for collected yard waste than for solid waste
• Program allows participants to increase local recycling rates and to save money by diverting yard waste from the waste stream
• In 2013, the program collected 169,940 tons of yard waste
Organics [LELE]

• Mulching-in-place practice
• 23 participating towns (>50% of County municipalities)
Organics [Food Waste- Edible]

• Rock and Wrap It Up!
  • Non-profit hunger relief organization
• Food Rescue Forums
  • Food Bank for Westchester
  • Educated businesses, institutions, and residents
• Westchester County Food Rescue Coalition
  • Collaboration with county departments
Reducing our Planet's Poverty Footprint by Reducing Society's Carbon Footprint
Organics [Food Waste- Inedible]

• According to the various studies, food waste comprises between 14-30% of the solid waste stream.
• Food waste is mostly water (very heavy!)
• About 35 million tons of food waste reach landfills and incinerators each year in the U.S.
Food Waste Hurdles

- Collection
- Disposal Site
- Participation
- Cost
  - Currently $89/ton for solid waste
- Waste-to-Energy
  - Westchester’s food waste is not being landfilled
H-MRF’s CESQG Program

• Household Material Recovery Facility (Valhalla, NY)
  • Hard-to-get-rid-of residential wastes
• Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators Program
  • Must qualify as a CESQG
  • Small fee
    • Hazardous chemicals: $0.75/lbs.
    • Fluorescent tubes: $0.25/foot
    • CFL bulbs: $0.50/bulb
  • Scheduled drop-offs by appointment
• New service allows other county departments, schools, and the like, to safely and inexpensively dispose of these materials
Furniture

• Support of Furniture Sharehouse
• “Provides free furniture to economically disadvantaged individuals and families living in Westchester County, giving them the basic household furnishings that enable them to rebuild their lives and live with dignity”
Honorable Mention
[Medication Take-Back]

• Residents can drop off unwanted or expired meds at the H-MRF on the first Tuesday of every month
  • Public Safety personnel supervise transportation to the Waste-to-Energy Facility
• In 2013, disposed of 3,483 lbs. of meds
• Westchester County Police Departments participate in the Med Take-Back Program by hosting MedReturn Units
  • Allows residents to drop off unwanted medications confidentially and conveniently, 24/7
• Number of police departments continues to grow
  • Currently 25
Honorable Mention
[Promotion of Reuse & Upcycling]
Future [Carton Recycling]

- Estimated increase of 1% in the recycling rate
- High-grade pulp: about same value as office paper
- Many school districts already on board
Questions?