

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 29, 2020**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on June 29, 2020. Due to the current health crisis and the related New York State limit on gatherings, this meeting was held virtually through the platform WEBEX.

The proceedings were convened at 12:00pm.

The following Board members were present: Chair Fred Wadnola, Vice Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Treasurer Charles Landi, Member JoAnne Myers and Member Lisa Mitten.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Executive Director Tim Rose, Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker, Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France. Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker was absent.

From the public: Reporter Bill Kemble from the Daily Freeman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment from Rebecca Martin of KingstonCitizens.org are attached.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye
Beinkafner: Aye
Landi: Aye
Myers: Aye
Mitten: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Wadnola stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on July 27, 2020 at 12:00pm.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim Rose presented the MSW, Recycling Tonnage, Recycling Market, and Leachate Collection reports:

MSW

	May 2020		
	Target Tonnage	Actual Tonnage	Difference
MSW	11,206 tons	11,388 tons	182 tons
Sludge	367 tons	332 tons	-35 tons

Recycling Tonnage

	May 2020	May 2019
Commingle	164.02	125.96
Glass	72.10	55.94
Mixed News	102.13	185.85
Kingston City Hard Mix	71.36	N/A
Single Stream	N/A	N/A
OCC	203.37	216.16
Food Waste	297.10	402.67

Recycling Market Report

Tim Rose stated that the Recycling Market Report shows the price the Agency was offered for each commodity. NR means no response.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the May 2020 Recycling Market Report. Moved by Lisa Mitten and seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

- Wadnola: Aye
- Beinkafner: Aye
- Landi: Aye
- Myers: Aye
- Mitten: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

Leachate Collection

	May 2020	May 2019
Ulster	86,400 gallons	220,500 gallons
New Paltz	176,100 gallons	112,000 gallons

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Angelina Peone gave the program update for the month of June.

Important items from the update:

June

- Social media messaging included:
 - World Environment Day celebrated June 5
 - World Oceans Day celebrated June 8
 - Pledge to be Plastic Free
 - UCRRA Facility Updates
- Print messaging included:
 - Pledge to be Plastic Free
- Radio messaging included:
 - Wishful Recycling
 - Recycling Outreach Team
- The June E-Newsletter was sent out to 3,374 subscribers with a 42% open rate.
- Angelina discussed the Recycling Outreach Team's plans for a social media outreach campaign for Plastic Free July to raise awareness of the effects of plastic pollution and strategies to reduce use of plastics.
- She stated that despite the challenges of COVID-19 closings, the team continues to educate the public and provide facility updates through email newsletters, through the Agency website, and on social media.
- The Recycling Outreach Team presented at the Food Waste Collection, Contamination, and Composting Webinar hosted by the New Jersey Chapter of the US Composting Council.
- UCRRA's free electronic recycling program will resume on Saturday, June 27th from 7am-3pm and will be Saturdays only thereafter.
- The Agency will renew membership for the US Composting Council certified STA Compost Program.
- Quarterly STA compost testing was completed this month.
- UCRRA Organics Recovery Facility will be featured in Biocycle Magazine.
- Compost is currently sold out.
- The July 25 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event has been formally cancelled.
- Developing new media: Business Waste Reduction & Recycling Guidebook, UCRRA Display Banners, and Recycle Right Poster Series.
- The Recycling Outreach Team continues to participate in various webinars and conference calls for professional development, as well as to educate various local groups.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Tim DeGraff presented the May 2020 Treasurer's Report and MRF Cost Center Analysis.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of May, the Agency's MSW tons were 7,869 and C&D tons were 3,519. Revenue line item of note: HHW/MWRR Grant line shows \$1,856 received for the Food Scraps Recycling Grant. Total revenue for the month of \$1,407,009. Expense line items of note: Administrative Expenses were \$319,541 which includes 3 payrolls. Transfer Station expenses were \$12,757 which includes \$6,437 for wire tie (last purchase 5/2019). Capital Outlay was \$490,950 which includes \$271,950 for the new Trommel screen and \$219,000 for the new portable stacker. Total expenses for the month of \$1,225,145. Net operating revenue was \$181,864. For the month of May, the fund balance was a negative \$309,086. Year to Date fund balance is a negative \$2,559,975.

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by JoAnne Myers.

Roll Call Vote

Wadnola: Aye

Beinkafner: Aye

Landi: Aye

Myers: Aye

Mitten: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

MRF Cost Center Analysis

For the month of May, tipping fees were \$0. The total sale of recyclables was \$2,908. Total transport/disposal costs for May were \$5,104. Total personnel expenses were \$53,718. Total operating expenses were \$13,323. Total personnel/operating costs were \$67,041. Net loss for the month of \$39,317. Year-to-date net loss of \$174,221.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

OLD BUSINESS

Fred Wadnola stated that the Board needs to meet to discuss their goals and strategies for zero waste. He spoke about the public comments received from KingstonCitizens.org and the Institute for Self-Reliance.

Lisa Mitten said that she wants the Board to attend a zero waste program being hosted by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) on July 8. She continued that the Board should also discuss their next steps toward the zero waste goal stated in the plan.

Fred Wadnola spoke about his discussion with Manna Jo Greene that morning regarding the Legislature passing the plan.

Katherine Beinkafner stated that the Board must review the resolution on zero waste that was submitted by Laura Petit to the Legislature in November, 2019. She said that the document is an abomination, and she would be embarrassed to say that it came from the Agency. She said that the Legislature needs to go back and define zero waste. She said that she is uncomfortable with the Recycling Oversight

Committee telling the Agency how to proceed with zero waste – comments are fine but the decisions belong to the Agency. She continued that there should be no changes to the plan until the required two year mark, and entertaining more changes would be a waste of time.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Rose stated the scale replacement project has begun, and a crew is currently working on the Ulster inbound scale.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:25pm Fred Wadnola motioned to enter Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

The Board exited Executive Session at 1:45pm.

Resolution No. 2508 RE: Authorizing the Acceptance of the Executive Director's Resignation

Fred Wadnola motioned to approve Resolution No. 2508 RE: Authorizing the Acceptance of the Executive Director's Resignation. Moved by Katherine Beinkafner and seconded by Charles Landi.

Roll Call Vote

Beinkafner: Aye

Landi: Aye

Myers: Aye

Mitten: Aye

Wadnola: Aye

The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURN

Fred Wadnola motioned to adjourn the June 29, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

July 28, 2020

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of the July 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting was made by Fred Wadnola, moved by Charles Landi and seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. Absent: N/A

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant. Meetings are recorded and available upon request.

Signatures:

Fred Wadnola, Chair

Ken Gilligan, Secretary

Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant

Dear Members of the UCRRA Board,

We wish to commend you for your hard efforts in creating a Local Solid Waste Plan for Ulster County. From our early conversations with professionals, Ulster County and specifically UCRRA is seen as a leader on managing solid waste.

However, in regard to the BioMass section of your document (page 111-112), we request that the board consider a resolution to remove the BioHiTech facility in Ulster County from its plan.

Recently, we have learned about BioHiTech, a “Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility” with a facility that is now online in West Virginia and another currently under scrutiny in the City of Rensselaer.

The proposed facility in the City of Rensselaer initially called itself a “composting facility” in its Environmental Assessment Form for SEQR. Far from it. As we understand it, this “emerging technology” produces Refuse-derived Fuel (RDF) by first collecting municipal waste. After removing any valuable metals, the plastic and fibers are dried and shredded into confetti. They are then trucked away to cement plants where it is incinerated to supplement coal in creating energy. The remaining waste is dumped in unnamed landfills or garbage incinerators.

With a population of 9300 residents, the City of Rensselaer community is already shouldering four polluting facilities (a nearby massive asphalt receiving facility, the Rensselaer Cogeneration gas-fired power plant, a major Amtrak hub and the Dunn Construction and Demolition debris landfill - situated next to a pre-K to 12 public school - and across the river, Global oil terminal). The proposed BioHiTech facility project, situated near a DEC potential environmental justice area, would be built on top of a capped toxic waste site, the former BASF property, where existing contamination affects the soil, groundwater, and nearby Hudson River. It would accept constant shipments of municipal garbage. Trucks would make about 82 trips in and out of the facility every day, according to the applicant. This would be tragic for Rensselaer.

It is of great concern to us that in UCRRA’s most recent plan, it calls to contract a consulting firm to evaluate the possibility of permitting and constructing a local landfill or a BioHiTech Facility within Ulster County.

In section 7.11 Technology Selection, it says, “..three technologies have been selected to pursue in the 10-year planning period. Feasibility studies for siting a local landfill, installing a BioHiTech (biomass) Facility, and waste exportation by railroad will be conducted”

To be clear, we understand that to date, UCRRA has not included incineration as a solution to municipal solid waste within Ulster County. That’s wise given the history of environmental advocacy here, as the outcry would be fierce. Let it be known that we also do not support Ulster County engaging in incineration anywhere.

On page 74, section 5.2.9 Local Environmental Justice it says,. “Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and

policies. Environmental justice, under the NYSDEC Policy 29 aims to enhance public participation and the review of environmental impacts from proposed construction of facilities in environmental justice communities, and to reduce disproportionate environmental impacts in overburdened communities.”

If UCRRA is indeed concerned about Environmental Justice communities in Ulster County, then it should also be concerned in its role to potentially exploit communities outside of Ulster County, those who would bear the brunt of our shipment of shredded plastics and fiber for incineration. We encourage you to think hard about how you would feel if you and your family were living near an incinerator burning waste in general and then the waste of those from another state.

For all of these reasons, we request that the UCRRA board consider passing a resolution to remove the feasibility study of BioHiTech from its current Local Solid Waste Management plan.

In addition, we hired Neil Seldman from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance to provide us with a memorandum after reviewing UCRRA’s 2011 and 2020 Local Solid Waste Management Plans to outline the pros and cons for Ulster County to review. All incineration plans are stated as “a very bad idea.” He goes on to say that he “will not comment on this very outdated 20th century technology.” Most, if not all of us, are aware of Seldman’s work and hold him in high esteem. We are submitting the memorandum as an attachment to our public comment.

Respectfully,

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Rebecca Martin
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Discussion with KingstonCitizens.org Members

I have read the new 10-year Ulster County SWM plan. It contains excellent ideas for the future that should be vigorously pursued. But it lacks specifications as to next steps and detailed implementation steps. Finally, it has very bad ideas that I am surprised such a sophisticated county would even consider given what we know about garbage incineration and mixed waste technology performance and costs.

Excellent Ideas

A public landfill owned by the three GUS counties is a key to a sustainable waste and recycling future. The counties can protect this landfill for generations to come by forbidding out of district waste, locally generated recyclables and compostable and reusable/repairable items. The GUS counties can hire a private contractor to run the landfill, but ownership and control in the public's domain is essential.

A 75-acre compost facility is also a critical component of a sustainable future for the county. Organic matter is the largest component of the waste stream. This material can be managed by several of the technologies identified in the Plan. This facility can serve two purposes: It can reduce overall solid waste management costs as it has done in Seattle.¹ It can earn revenue through tipping fees for clean organics from out of the district and sales of compost products.² Further, the site could

¹ See, Seattle study by Jeff Morris, PhD, Sound Resource Management, 2020, <https://ilsr.org/composting-in-seattle-economic-and-environmental-savings/>

² Prince George's County, MD has successfully developed a site that is earning revenue in this way from outside jurisdictions and private compost hauling companies.

also be available to existing local compost enterprises as they expand in future years.

The County may want to engage with a composting company to market the finished compost products that will be generated. Montgomery County, MD engages the Maryland Environmental Services, a state agency, to market its finished compost.

Need for Implementation Details and Timeline

The Plan is short on details. Example: the Plan properly calls for increased backyard composting which is the ideal zero waste solution. 15% of household generated materials never enter the waste stream. Backyard composting is excellent for teaching children about nature and natural systems --- a gateway to environmental awareness. In Washington, DC households are given up to \$75 to purchase backyard-composting units. Homeowners have to take a short course to acquire knowledge and skills in order to get this incentive. ILSR is the contractor for DC and we can provide detailed workshop lesson plans. Plans could include subsidies for households to start backyard composting.

Resources can be provided for community scale composting and related gardening food production. The Filbert Street Garden in Baltimore, for example developed a compost pad, which in turn allowed it to spin off an organics collection enterprise for households and businesses, which creates jobs for youth.

Similarly funds for school based composting and gardening should be made available. There are many reports on how school based composting reduced costs, reduce nature deficit disorder and stimulate learning.

The report covers the reuse sector very well and the region benefits from several reuse operations including repair cafes, recently documented by local activists and writers John Wackman and Elizabeth Knight.³ Here again details on implementation are needed. In Berkeley, CA the City Council recently decided to provide a service fee to a company for recycling and reuse at their transfer station. Urban Ore now gets \$47 per ton, the equivalent of the cost of landfilling this material.⁴ This is a game changer for recycling and reuse economics. Such incentives should be provided to reuse operations in Ulster County that will help the reuse sector reach full maturity and impact on the waste stream and the economy.

Need to consider additional options

Cities and Counties have been banning single use plastic products. These bans eliminate excessive 'take out' restaurant waste. These laws stimulate new businesses that specialize in reusable food take ware, and also reduce school cafeteria budgets by as much as \$25,000 in the first year of implementation.⁵

Industrial internship programs with recycling, composting, reuse companies for high school and community college students. The industry pays well and has a constant demand for workers. ILSR adage - Students who study garbage will never be unemployed!

Alameda County, CA instituted a surcharge on all garbage disposed of in the county landfills in the 1990s. This program, named Stop Waste, now

³ <https://ilsr.org/neil-seldman-reviews-the-repair-revolution/>

⁴ <https://ilsr.org/gamechanging-service-fee-for-recycling-approved-by-berkeleys-city-council-and-zero-waste-division/>

⁵ Information available from Palo Alto Unified School District and UC - Berkeley.

generates about \$10 million annually for investment in public, community and private sector recycling programs and enterprises.

Ulster County can stimulate much higher levels of recycling if haulers that serve households were allowed to use the recycling infrastructure at the County's trash transfer stations. Right now only households that drop off their recyclables and waste at the transfer stations can use the recycling facilities. The Plan correctly indicates that, in effect, this is a "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) system in which citizens pay only for the waste that they drop off. But if households engage a hauler there can be no PAYT impact because there is no incentive to reduce waste and

purchasing habits. Several jurisdictions have set up recycling programs that require haulers to make PAYT available to households.⁶

The County should undertake a financial impact analysis to determine the economics of providing PAYT to all households.

The County is committed to dual stream recycling which is good. The Plan does not indicate what the recycling rate in the County is at this time. As Plans for increased recycling are introduced the amount of materials handled will increase possibly requiring an expansion or reconfiguration of the processing facility. The emergence of mini MRFs (processing centers) should be explored as the need for more recycling capacity is needed. Transferring single stream materials to a Dutchess County facility should be eliminated as a costly recycling option. The City of Kingston should be required to implement a dual stream collection program.

⁶ <https://ilsr.org/metering-residential-garbage-can-pave-the-way-to-zero-waste/>

The County should consider a law that requires all demolition and construction permits to require minimum amounts of C&D recycling. Jurisdictions have set 50% recycling requirements. Companies pay for a bond when they get their permits. This bond is returned to the company when it demonstrates that at least 50% of their materials are recycled. Further, the County should encourage and provide incentives for specialized C&D recycling companies such as Revolution Recovery in Philadelphia to expand into the GUS region. Clients of this company can reduce their cost of managing C&D materials by organizing their materials according to specifications by the company such as bins of different C&D materials: concrete, wood, bricks, cardboard, plastic. The City of Baltimore provided Second Chance a building deconstruction company with warehouse space. The company started with 6 workers and now employs 170 workers, mostly selected, trained and hired from the TANIF rolls of hard to employ workers. The company is poised to add 50 workers in the near future based upon recommendations for policy changes by the Fair Development Zero Waste Plan prepared for community leaders by ILSR and Zero Waste Associates.⁷

Citizens should request participation in the decision-making process used by UCRRA to determine how the Plan will be implemented. The City Council of Honolulu just passed a resolution calling for zero waste experts to be part of decision-making for the \$2 billion of federal pandemic relief funds that have been allocated to the city.

The County should develop a zero waste purchasing/procurement guidelines that are available from organizations.⁸ These programs reduce costs and reduce the County's environmental footprint.

⁷ <https://ilsr.org/report-baltimore-zero-waste/>

⁸ <https://ilsr.org/state-and-local-government-environmentally-preferable-purchasing-programs-and-policies/>

The County should work with the state to implement minimum content requirements for products sold in the state including plastic, paper and glass products.

The Plan does not elaborate on recycling collection. There may be steps taken to reduce costs such as bi weekly collection and co-collection, which should be considered.

The Plan does not indicate how e-scrap is fully managed. Is there a program for repair and reuse of machines, working parts? Are valuable aluminum alloys source separated for higher market value? Where does all the collected e-scrap go after processing? E-scrap is the most valuable component of the waste stream. Local and regional reuse is essential for closing the digital divide, creating good jobs for hard to employ residents.⁹

Very Bad Ideas

The economic, environmental and social shortcomings of garbage incineration are well documented. I will not comment any further on this outdated 20th Century technology. I suggest that citizens review the materials posted by the Energy Justice Network.¹⁰ EJN recently

⁹ E-scrap repair and reuse enterprises dramatically reduce recidivism of former offenders by providing good wages and benefits and social coaching.

¹⁰ ENERGYJUSTICE.NET

documented that the city and residents of Baltimore, 600,000 people, spend \$55 million annually on health care as a result of garbage incineration in that city. Further the capital and operating costs for incineration are prohibitive. Incineration does not lead to zero waste. Incineration is among the largest obstacles to developing zero waste systems.

Mixed waste technology has a poor performance track record. Like garbage incineration the outcome of this type of processing --- very low materials recovery, poor quality of recovered materials, recyclables and organics --- is not desirable. Mixed waste processing does not generate the level of pollution as garbage incineration. But many mixed waste systems seek to turn their plastic, organic and paper residue as a fuel to local industrial boilers.

The Plan calls for additional research into the feasibility of these technologies. Citizens should urge UCRRA to drop these tasks and divert research funds accordingly pilot and full-scale projects that help the county realize a sustainable recycling and waste management system for the rest of the 21st Century.

Attention could be focused on attracting companies that can use materials generated in County (and GUS district) to process and manufacture new products, which expand the local economy and tax base.

The report calls for the application of Extended Producer Responsibility. But the Plan is confusing at it does not distinguish between Extended Producer

Responsibility that turns the entire recycling system over to Fortune 500 companies without any input from local government or citizens and small businesses from Product Stewardship, which calls from companies to

contribute their fair share of the cost of recycling and waste management to the cities and counties to develop their own local programs.¹¹

¹¹ <https://ilsr.org/state-and-local-government-environmentally-preferable-purchasing-programs-and-policies/>

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Manna Jo Greene
Chairwoman of Energy &
Environment Committee
Chairwoman of Climate Smart
Committee
Chairwoman of Solid Waste
Planning Commission
Legislator, District No. 19
Representing the People of the
Towns of Marletown and Rosendale



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June 29, 2020

Fred Wadnola, Chairman &
Ulster County Resource Recovery Board Members
999 Flatbush Road
PO Box 6219
Kingston, NY 12401

Dear Chairman Wadnola and Board Members

By now you are aware of Legislator's concerns regarding the 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) that we hope can be addressed in advance of the Plan coming before the Legislature for final approval. An environmentally-sound and locally self-reliant solid waste system is a central goal. We support feasibility studies for siting a local or regional landfill and other local options, but we feel the plan requires further attention to specific waste diversion efforts.

Ulster County Resolution No. 451 of 2019: Establishing A Policy That Ulster County Shall Be A Zero Waste Community clearly stated the County's vision to support waste diversion and approach zero waste and it is vital that the UCRRA be a leader in achieving this goal.

The Local Solid Waste Management Plan itself affirms these goals on p. 10 to:

1. Reduce waste generation to move toward zero waste.
2. Use materials in the waste stream for highest and best use.
3. Maximize reuse and recycling... etc.

After several meetings about the Plan, on June 23, 2020 the Ulster County Solid Waste Planning Commission (SWPC) requests a formal commitment from the UCRRA Board to help develop and implement Zero Waste policies for Ulster County. This would begin with agreeing to work with the Recycling Oversight Committee, the appropriate County Departments (Dept. of the Environment, Planning and others, possibly Economic Development and the IDA), the Legislature and community members with expertise in Solid Waste Management to jointly develop a Zero Waste Action Plan that focusses on Waste Diversion to be completed and adopted by the UCRRA by the end of this year, and amended to the LSWMP in 2022. This will include the same level of detail, with an implementation schedule that parallels the LSWMP. It can be enhanced in 2021 and new information becomes available, before it is amended to the LSWMP in 2022.

Among the programmatic commitments UCRRA could consider include updating its website with specific options for various materials, developing policies and guidelines to promote and implement waste diversion, enforcement, and, most importantly, expanding opportunities for waste diversion at the UCRRA transfer stations.

To realize these goals, we specifically request the UCRRA adopt a resolution to develop a comprehensive zero waste initiative, which would then be incorporated into the LSWMP at the first 2-year review.

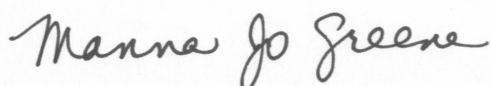
In addition, as discussed at the June 23, 2020 meeting of the Solid Waste Planning Commission, we suggest the following minor changes to the 10-year LSWMP

- **Food Waste Diversion:** Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Local Law No. 1 of 2020 is being updated by [Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2020: A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators](#), to change the initial implementation date for food waste generators of more than 2 tons per week to January 1, 2021 and to extend the other implementation dates by six months. The LSWMP should note that this **law will divert approximately 10,000 tons per year of food waste when fully implemented in 2023**. This minor clarification should be included in the waste forecast, if other changes are made.
 - In Appendix C, Replace Proposed Local Law 5 of 2019 with Local Law 1 of 2020 - A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators, or Proposed Local Law No. 6, once signed and filed with NY State.
 - Add Resolution No. 451 Establishing A Policy That Ulster County Shall Be A Zero Waste Community to the LSWMP either now or when amended in 2022.
- **Alternatives Evaluation and Selection:** On p. 111 of the LSWMP, it states that capital investment for MSW composting would be \$53,000,000. There is no summary table for MSW composting as there are for the other technologies, but there is a long appendix. On p.112 it lists BioHiTech biomass costs as Capital Investment of \$30,000,000 and Additional Costs of \$16,000,000 for equipment and \$14,000,000 for building. Please clarify additional to what? Then the summary table says \$42,070,000 for capital costs, which is not much less than the \$53,000,000 predicted for MSW Composting. Please explain and revise these discrepant numbers.
- **2020 Implementation Plan and Schedule:** On p. 122, under Feasibility Studies, it states that the UCRRA will “Contract a consulting firm to evaluate a local landfill or a BioHiTech Facility within Ulster County.” If both will be evaluated the word “**or**” needs to be changed to “**and**”. The word “consultant” could also be “consultants” as these Feasibility Studies may not necessarily be performed by the same firm. Again, this is a minor correction, but an important one.

To summarize, the SWPC requests that the UCRRA Board adopt a formal resolution to support and expand efforts to approach Zero Waste in Ulster County by agreeing to jointly participate in the development of a comprehensive Zero Waste Action Plan, as described above, to be completed and adopted by the end of 2020 and formally amended as a supplement to the LSWMP in 2022. Most of the other issues can be worked out moving forward. For example, the Landfill Feasibility Study can include looking at Landfill Reclamation and the Recycling Oversight Committee’s Zero Waste Action Plan can consider a more robust composting initiative, including composting dewatered sludge. The SWPC recommends that the rail export technology be studied only if necessary as a temporary measure, or for export of recyclable product, however the pros and cons of rail export can be further deliberated without delaying the adoption of the LSWMP by the Legislature.

We trust that this commitment by the UCRRA Board to advance the County’s Zero Waste Policy will be key to the future of an independent, self-reliant and environmentally responsible solid waste system for Ulster County.

Sincerely,



Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator, District 19
Chairwoman, Solid Waste Planning Commission

Attachment No. 1: The following note was sent to Cornerstone, SWP Commission members and the UCRRA Board Chairman on Tue, Jun 23, 2020

Fawn, Mark and all. I spoke with Legislator Bartels, who has been following the development of the LSWMP since this version was undertaken (and following the previous versions) and has been actively contributing to the current Plan's development. Several outstanding issues include:

1) The plan is very weak on **Waste Diversion**. The Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC) is actively working on a plan to approach Zero Waste, as specified in the County's Zero Waste Policy, which is not included in the LSWM Plan (not sure if the Plan was approved before this was adopted, but it should be added now or when amended in 2 years). The UCRR Agency staff and Board, along with several legislators and knowledgeable volunteers, have taken the Zero Waste USA training and started to work on developing a plan to approach ZW, consistent with Agency and County policy, but with the Covid-19 pandemic that work seems to have been put on hold. We need to see a real commitment to complete the development of that implementation plan with a real timeline, benchmarks, markets, costs/benefits, and outcomes, including volumes of waste that will be diverted over the course of the 10 year LSWMP. IMHO, there needs to be a resolution by the Agency Board to do this work this year and to append it in 2022, when the Plan come up for a 2-year review. I have spoken with Mark about this and pointed out that Cornerstone will also benefit from this research and planning because it can be a model for other clients. In any case, we believe a jointly developed plan to address waste diversion and conform to **Ulster County's Zero Waste Policy** adopted Nov. 19, 2019 is essential.

https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/451%20-%2019_0.pdf

Resolution No. 451: Establishing A Policy That Ulster County Shall Be A Zero Waste Community

"RESOLVED, the Ulster County Department of the Environment and the Planning Department shall review and make recommendations on waste reduction, reuse and zero waste, and publicly present, on or before July 1st of each year, an annual report on its findings, and work cooperatively with similar task forces and organizations within Ulster County and in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts compliment and reinforce one another; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Energy and Environment and Recycling Oversight Committees shall be charged with investigating the following and making recommendations to the Ulster County Legislature regarding the same: 1. Reduce Solid Waste Disposal Through Zero Waste Initiatives..."

2) **Rail export** is treated with the same importance as landfill siting and other waste technologies, not as a backup, if needed. Rail for exporting materials for reuse or recycling may make sense, but the feasibility study treats rail export is as much of a solution as landfill, in direct contradiction to the Legislature's intention that Ulster County become locally self-sufficient with regard to solid waste management.

3) **Food Waste Diversion:** While Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2019 is included (now updated as [Local Law No. 6 of 2020: A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators](#)), there is no mention that this **law will divert approximately 10,000 tons per year of food waste when fully implemented in 2023**. This is a minor clarification that should be included in the waste forecast, if other changes are being made. (We can provide calculations, if needed.)

4) I believe that **Landfill Reclamation** has some possibility in Ulster County. This can be done as part of the landfill siting feasibility study and should be included, not ruled out without study.

5) **MSW Composting:** Rather than considering this technology for a full feasibility study, as recommended by the SWPC, the Plan includes an Appendix that is similar to a response to an RFP and uses that as a reason to not do a real feasibility study. This is still a moderate cost technology and should have been included for a feasibility study, as the SWPC recommended.

There may be other suggestions and concerns that come up this evening.

I have spoken to Mark Swyka about these, so he should be prepared. I would like to speak with UCRRA Chairman Fred Wadnola and invite him to please call me at 845-687-9253 or 845-807-1270.

The overall Plan is a good document, if these deficiencies can be acknowledged and addressed.

Many thanks,

Manna

PS. Fawn, please forward to SWPC members. I am not sure I have included everyone.

Attachment No. 2: Jun 23, 2020, at 5:56 PM, mannajo@aol.com wrote:

I found a couple of other things related to the list below.

p. 111 of the LSWMP states that capital investment for MSW composting would be \$53,000,000.

There is no summary table for MSW composting as there are for the other technologies, but there is a long appendix/

p.112 lists BioHiTech biomass costs as

Capital investment of \$30,000,000

Additional costs of \$16,000,000 for equipment and \$14,000,000 for building.

Additional to what?

Then the summary table says \$42,070,000 for capital costs, which is not much less than the \$53,000,000 predicted for MSW Composting.

Please explain these discrepant numbers.

There is a 15% to 35% residual, indicating that we would need both a Biomass facility and a Landfill -- not one or the other. Same for MSW composting. The reason it is cost effective to do MSW Composting in Delaware County is that it is located at their landfill.