



# ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 28, 2008**

## **Ulster County Public Works Division Of Buildings & Grounds Announces Improvements To Environmental Footprint**

Ulster County Public Works Division of Buildings and Grounds along with the Ulster County Department of the Environment is pleased to announce new operational changes that will help protect the environment in Ulster County. Vic Work, Ulster County Buildings and Grounds Administrative Manager, states that, “We have put in place a number of improvements in our environmental footprint and are very pleased to announce our latest efforts in recycling, surface water protection, and ‘green cleaning’ products.”

The County is phasing in “green cleaning” products and phasing out certain traditional cleaning products. The “green cleaning” products, which include several cleaning and disinfecting products, are manufactured by Hillyard industries. “Green Cleaning” products avoid the use of many volatile organic compounds - which can be toxic or harmful to people and the environment – in favor of vegetable based soaps and less harmful cleaning agents such as hydrogen peroxide or vinegar. Green cleaning products not only reduce the quantity of chemicals in our environment but often provide cost-effective solutions to traditional products.

On the recycling front, the County has partnered with several local businesses in order to

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insure that fluorescent light bulbs and batteries are fully and properly recycled. All bulbs, including compact fluorescent, tradition fluorescent, metal halide, and high intensity and mercury vapor bulbs, are package and transferred to the recycler who appropriately extracts any gas vapor and recycling the remaining bulb material. All batteries that are marked recyclable are disposed of at Interstate Batteries on Greenkill Avenue in Kingston free of charge with no required paperwork.

Finally, the County has instituted a vehicle washing policy which will help protect surface water resources. According to the policy, all County vehicles must be washed at an approved facility. This insures that the vehicles water runoff from washing, which may contain salt, grease or other chemicals commonly found on vehicles, is properly treated and does not enter our surface water resources.

These efforts highlight Ulster County's continued commitment to improving environmental stewardship efforts at a County level in a fiscally responsible manner. Ulster County Public Works Division of Buildings and Grounds is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all County owned or operated facilities which vary from office buildings, to County parks, to County highway garages and vehicle maintenance facilities.