

New Paltz Zero Waste Initiative

A Community Project



November 10, 2018

2011

Sustainable Materials Management: Helping Local Governments Advance Zero Waste Principles

The Local Government Initiative is a pilot designed to help local governments across the nation advance zero waste principles and associated strategies, by identifying ways to reduce material use upstream and better design existing source reduction, reuse and recycling programs to eliminate waste at end-of-life. This initiative provides an opportunity for participants, with assistance from EPA, to:

- 1) consider how materials are managed in their jurisdiction,
- 2) implement practices that will reduce overall materials use and waste in their communities, and
- 3) inform the development of a new and improved suite of tools and resources supporting local governments, including a new measurement tool developed under EPA's SMM Program.



EDUCATION

Program starts with public outreach and education to rethink waste reduction, diversion and reuse.



Reality Check – Garbage Doesn't Disappear At the Curb. No REALLY, it DOESN'T

2008 – 800 tons of garbage was going from New Paltz to a landfill 4 ½ hours away. Nearly 2500 gallons of diesel was being used for long haul transportation

One hundred and twenty (120) containers of mandated recyclable material had a 32 mile round trip to a MRF using nearly 720 gallons of diesel annually

40% of the waste stream is recoverable organics including food suitable for human and animal consumption or composting.

At 22.4 lbs of CO₂ per gallon of diesel (www.eia.gov) 16,128 lbs of CO₂ is created annually just to transport the Town's recyclables.

Series of Interactive Public Workshops Scheduled

- ▶ December 2011 – Kick off meeting at the historic Mohonk Mountain House to hear their “Green Story”.
- ▶ January 2012 First Interactive Workshop – 40 people attended.

March 2012 Second Interactive Workshop with Breakout sessions – 110 people in attendance. Key note speakers: Judith Enck, EPA and David Vitale, NYSDEC.



New Paltz Zero Waste Action Plan

Creation of Committees Based on Public Input

- Compliance/Enforcement
- Gardens, Composting and Biofuels
- Sub-Urban Planning and Financing
- Reuse, Recycling and Education
- Green Businesses
- Zero Waste in Government





Tonnage dropped by 63%



Volunteers



"The most important factor to the success of any program is volunteers, as well as partnerships with businesses and churches who support our Zero Waste efforts. Without these components, none of the New Paltz programs would be possible." -- Laura Petit, Recycling Coordinator for the Town of New Paltz

2016 SUNY New Paltz Dorm Cleanout (7) tons

2017 SUNY New Paltz Dorm Cleanout (5) tons

Textile Collection/Clothing Swap/Winter Coat Drive (8) tons

2017 NYSAR3 Private Citizens Award for Waste Reduction to our community volunteers

2018 NYSAR3 Award Public Private Partnership with Sodexo







Repair Café

Bring Your Beloved But Broken Items



“Table of Wonders” ReThink Café

**Partnering with the Repair Café at
the United Methodist Church**



Repair Café celebrated its 6th year

Local Farmers and Retailers Partner



Feed the Hog – accept holiday pumpkins for livestock
Shredded paper – for livestock and composting
Food Recovery – from local retail store for livestock

The Hunger Project/New Paltz Food Recovery Program

Why we have no excuse not to be donating more



New Paltz Becomes Part of the Food Insecurity Hub as New Distribution Location for Local Pantries

- 70,000 pounds of produce was donated by local farmers
- 2,300 quarts processed and frozen

Gleaning at Huguenot St Farm

SODEXO Feed the Hungry

December 2016 discussion – SUNY New Paltz Dining Hall food

February 2017 - To date, volunteers have collected 24 trays of food and two carloads of baked goods – 365 pounds

May 2017 18 cases of sandwiches were donated – 325 pounds

UPDATE: The New Paltz Food Recovery Program has collected 21 tons of food and been twiced recognized by the EPA



Volunteers Created and Initiated More Programs

- Bike Leasing Program (TBA)
- Clearwater Road Sculpture Park
- Film Series to engage public
- Food Recovery (now in final EPA hierarchy stage)
- Textile Collection
- Med Shed
- Spare Share
- Edible Trail and demonstration gardens
- Working Greenhouse with garden
- Scrapped Kitchen
- Cool Bot© refrigerated shed
- Donations tripled AND are continuing to increase
- The town still made its projected revenues

2018 Programs Zero Waste Programs



Med Shed



Bike Shed



Greenhouse



Sculpture Park

Ulstercorps

Key to Success:

- Form Partnerships
- Get Community Input
- Keep up the Energy
- Minimize Meetings
- Assign "Homework"
- "Organic Creation" of Sub-Committees
- Build a Pool of Volunteers

- Stay Organized
- Stay Focused
- Stay Involved

