

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Remember:
**Reduce and Reuse First,
Then Recycle!**

The Mission of the Solid Waste Management Division is to manage the solid waste of Tompkins County in a manner that is environmentally sound, cost-effective, socially responsible and safe. This will be accomplished through coordinated administrative, operational, and educational projects in waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and disposal.

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Tompkins County
Recycling &
Solid Waste Center

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SOLID WASTE MANAGER'S REPORT

During 2005 the Solid Waste Management Division continued to provide reliable recycling and solid waste services to Tompkins County residents and businesses. Revenues from the sale of recyclables exceeded 2 million dollars this year. The County marketed 16,812 tons of recyclables and handled 25,039 tons of waste. Actual recycling revenues exceeded budget projections by over \$200,000. Approximately 185,000 vehicles used the Recycling and Solid Waste Center in 2005. This increase prompted the need to conduct a traffic study at the facility to improve traffic flow. A flat fee system was approved for cars and a three-tier system for loads less than 1,000 pounds

In light of the high degree of financial stability we were able to continue funding several ongoing initiatives to reduce and reuse waste. These programs include Cooperative Extension's food waste composting for residents, including apartment dwellers and small restaurants; Historic Ithaca's building materials reuse program; (Significant Elements); the City of Ithaca's computer reuse program (Computer All-Stars), and the Sciencenter's Reinvention station. In addition, six well-attended Household Hazardous Waste collection events were held at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center.

Our public information efforts continued to expand in 2005. We attended many local events and visited schools to provide education about recycling, reuse and waste reduction (3R's), educating around 500 adults and 3500 students. Several hundred visitors attended our America Recycle's Day event at the Pyramid Mall. Our staff worked with Cooperative Extension to produce lesson plans about the 3R's at the request of local schools.

We have several new initiatives planned for 2006. The Solid Waste Division will be developing a new department website. In addition we re partnering with Sustainable Tompkins to launch a green purchasing website which will educate consumers and provide purchasing information for environmentally friendly products. The Division will also fully implement its' Rebusiness Program to help businesses reduce waste and recycle more. In addition the County will implement a pilot food waste composting program, conduct an analysis for possible single stream recycling in Tompkins County and develop plans for a centralized Reuse Facility in the County. All of these programs were included in our 20 year Solid Waste Management Plan approved by the Legislature in 1995.

Barbara Eckstrom
Solid Waste Manager