

## 2009 In Review

### Department of Solid Waste/Recycling

The Madison County Department of Solid Waste made great strides in 2009 toward the establishment of an Agricultural Renewable Energy (ARE) Park at the Buyea Rd. Landfill site.

Barton and Loguidice drew up an RFP to see if there was any interest in the community to develop a business park. In conjunction with the RFP, the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee looked into the possibility of offering those interested in developing in the ARE Park reduced rates on heat and power costs.

Throughout the year the committee met with representatives of the Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative Inc. to see if they were interested in expanding their territory into the Town of Lincoln and the new ARE Park. They were, and to that end held several meetings with the Town of Lincoln. These meetings were fruitful in that the end result was a signed franchise agreement with Oneida-Madison Electrical Coop. Inc. All of the pieces seemed to be falling into place including the start up of the gas utilization project that would provide excess heat from the generator that could be sold to tenants of the ARE Park at a reduced rate.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee was simultaneously meeting with the City of Oneida to put an agreement in place for a sewage line that would transport leachate to the City's Waste Water Treatment facility and would also serve the businesses that would eventually relocate to the ARE Park. After a long and tedious year of back and forth the County and the City of Oneida came to agreement during the City's last meeting of the year.

On top of a full schedule, the committee was trying to negotiate with the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) to bring public water to the Town of Lincoln and the ARE Park.

It was a full agenda by anyone's standards, but there was more -- construction of a new scale house/education and meeting room; and a complete overhaul of the Buyea Rd. transfer station along with the installation of a new heating system for the ARC MRF, the ARC Break building and the Scale house/education building. This heating system was not your average system "throw in a furnace" and you are done. This system provided free heat for the three aforementioned buildings through the use of about 3 percent of the excess heat produced by the gas utilization generator. "As we said before, it was quite a year for the Department of Solid Waste."

The only hold up at this juncture (end of 2009) seems to be the archeological survey that hinges on approval from the Oneida Indian Nation, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO).

Another major accomplishment for the Department of Solid Waste was receiving approval for the Solid Waste Management Plan Modification (SWMP). With the help of Barton and Loguidice Engineers the SWMP Modification was written and sent to the DEC. The DEC made comments, to which, the department responded. The plan was approved by the DEC December 2, 2009 and is a 10 year plan. The plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors on DeOne of the items listed in the 10 year SWMP is to undertake a recycling data survey, which would be distributed to various sectors of the County in order to compile more complete recycling data. The County also started a voluntary Mercury based product collection and is considering an institutional organics composting program with Colgate University. A product reuse collection and distribution center is in the works and the County stands firmly behind the creation of Product Stewardship legislation.

## Household Hazardous Waste Program December 29, 2009.

In the recycling arena the collection of televisions and computer monitors continues at an alarming pace – with trailer swaps every three weeks rather than the typical four to five weeks. We believe this is due in part to the switch from analog to digital; collecting 75.84 tons of electronics in 2009. (See HHW Charts included in Appendix A)

The HHW Program took care of the needs of 2,133 families in Madison County during 2009, collecting 635,271 pounds of HHW, including electronics at a cost of \$26,341.32. Half of that cost is reimbursable through the NYS DEC Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance program – in this case \$13,170.66.

## Mercury Based Products

The Dept of Solid Waste established a volunteer Mercury Based Products collection on the first Saturday of each months beginning December 5, 2009.

This program, as with any new recycling effort, was heavily advertised in the print media with free press releases and paid advertisements and on the radio. Brochures and posters were also made available at strategit locations throughout the County. This program was a requirement of the DEC. (See Appendix B)

## Rejuvenate Recycling Programs in area Schools

One of the goals set by Recycling Coordinator Sharon A. Driscoll for 2009 was to help the schools in Madison County rejuvenate their recycling programs. To that end, Ms Driscoll met with the students and administrators of most every school in Madison County over the year stressing the importance of recycling. The only schools yet to be visited are DeRuyter, Georgetown and Hamilton.

Driscoll and the Solid Waste landfill crew delivered hundreds of bins to area schools throughout the year. Recycling presentations were put on for the majority of schools that received free recycling bins, which succeeded in launching a renewed recycling effort for students, teachers and administrators. (See Chart for Recycling Bin Distribution in Appendix C)

The program received outstanding publicity, which in turn spurred more schools to become involved in this effort. (See copies of news articles in Appendix C)

## Safe Pill Collection – New Direction for County

Another new program was established by the Dept of Solid Waste and Sanitation in 2009 in conjunction with Bridges, Madison County's Promise and RSVP – a Safe Pill collection.

The first Safe Pill Collection event was an overwhelming success. One hundred and forty pounds of old and unused medication was transported to the Oswego County Waste to Energy Facility in Fulton, NY, which according the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the best possible way to dispose of old medications. The Madison County Landfill on Buyea Rd. was the site of the first Safe Pill Collection, where on September 12 approximately 100 families dropped off an estimated 160,000 pills for disposal. A number of prescription drugs were received, including over 2,560 prescription medications, 238 over-the-counter medications and 64 controlled substances. (See Appendix D)

The Safe Pill Drop off event was organized for two very important purposes – to help residents of Madison County properly dispose of old

and unused prescription medications in a way that would not harm the environment and to help reduce prescription drug abuse by decreasing availability of old and unused medications.

Flushing of old medications is not a good idea as the medications may end up in surface water. As for the environmental impact of flushing drugs it should be noted that Government scientists have concluded that

one out of five male black bass in American river basins have egg cells growing inside their sexual organs, a sign of how widespread fish feminizing has become.

The findings come from the U.S. Geological Survey in its first comprehensive examination of intersex fish in America, a problem linked to women's birth control pills and other hormone treatments that seep into rivers. The question is, "If this is what is happening to the fish in America, what is this contamination doing to us?"

Two Safe Pill Drop off events are scheduled for 2010 – the first on Saturday, April 24 and the second on Saturday, September 24.

## Tours and Recycling Presentations

Each year the recycling coordinator begins scheduling tours of the landfill and recycling center in January. Two Thousand and Nine was a particularly busy year for presentations as the recycling coordinator was working to enhance recycling programs in area schools. To that end, education and lots of recycling bins help to drive home the message. During 2009, Driscoll interacted with 1,746 students and adults during 16 tours and a similar number of recycling presentations. (See Appendix E)

As for the recycling coordinator's participation at the Madison County Fair on two consecutive days, it is difficult to calculate the actual number of people she interacted with and helped with recycling questions, but let it suffice to say many received answers to their recycling questions.