

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW - SECTION 2800

2010

Operations and Accomplishments

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (“UCRRA”) continues its commitment to work with the County, the Towns and the City of Kingston to find ways to decrease expenses; increase revenues and to make operations more efficient while striving to provide quality solid waste management and recycling services.

Solid Waste Management

The Agency and its operations are largely driven by volumes. The Agency’s agreement with the area’s largest commercial/residential hauler had a significant impact on volume in 2010. Agency tonnage increased by over 9% when compared to 2009, which represents an increase of over 1,000 tons per month. This increase resulted in an operating income that was over a half million dollars higher than the previous year. Thus, illustrating how important maintaining volume is to the Agency.

Recycling Services

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency projects measurable results through our recycling education and recycling enforcement programs. The current 2010 recycling rate for Ulster County is 36%. Great progress in reduction, reuse and recycling education efforts have been made, and through these efforts, progress in broader goals will be obtained despite economic conditions. Greater improvements can be made in the future with increased funding opportunities for waste reduction and recycling programs (i.e. food waste composting system and C & D recycling).

Distributing updated recycling information to the commercial and institutional sectors helped to increase the collection of recyclable materials. The Ulster County Green Schools program has had positive results yielding more recycling and less waste generated at both public and private schools. The Agency’s Recycling Coordinator, Michelle Bergkamp, has implemented recycling outreach programs to every school in Ulster County by conducting school-wide recycling assemblies and/or classroom presentations, waste audits, creating or amending recycling and composting programs, providing tours of the Materials Recovery Facility and providing waste reduction, recycling and composting materials and information. The recycling compliance and education program for the schools has also been expanded to include businesses in Ulster County. The Agency began an aggressive business recycling enforcement campaign to ensure that all businesses in Ulster County are recycling, and those with ten or more employees have a n Ulster County Business and Commercial Property Waste Reduction

and Recycling Plan on file with the Agency. Our plan: Keep Recycling Compliance Positive. The business recycling program follows the Ulster County Green Schools program and utilizes the 'We Recycle' window decal advocating their recycling efforts. The Agency rewards businesses by advertising (using the window decal) that they are recycling efficiently and each business becomes an *Ulster County Partner in Recycling*. These businesses are also listed on our website. Currently, there are over 100 entities participating in the *Ulster County Partner in Recycling Program*. The Agency has the supportive documentation in the business recycling plan on file by using a new on-line system which provides a means to track the business for future inspections. Ulster County businesses will benefit from this program by showing their customers they are environmentally responsible.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, which is partially funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, was created to bring hazardous waste disposal services into the community and to provide a drop off location for Ulster County residents. By offering alternatives for the safe disposal of household hazardous waste, Ulster County is taking a proactive role in protecting the environment by preventing these items from ending up in landfills or contaminating water sources and wastewater treatment plants. The Agency provides opportunities for residents of Ulster County to participate in these events at a minimum of two times per year.

In addition to household hazardous waste and electronics, residents also have the opportunity to discard their unused and/or expired medications at these events. When pills or liquid medicines are poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet they remain diluted in the water supply after treatment and these trace amounts are suspected of causing a range of health problems, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Over 600 lbs. of pharmaceutical was collected at the events. Other material collected at the events included over 100,000 lbs. of electronics for recycling.

100 billion plastic shopping bags are discarded in the United States every year. An estimated 12 million barrels of oil is required to make that many bags, according to the EPA. In an effort to raise awareness and reduce these statistics, event participants received reusable shopping bags as part of our commitment to reducing waste and improving the environment. Made from recycled material, the reusable bags benefit the Earth by helping prevent plastic and paper bags from ending up in landfills or consuming energy during recycling. The Agency received generous donations of the reusable shopping bags for distribution from the following stores: Adams Fairacre Farms, HomeGoods, Mother Earth's Storehouse and Shop-Rite.

As part of a waste reduction campaign, the Agency created a roadside billboard program for public display to promote recycling. An image of this is below.



Another waste reduction and recycling campaign was developed to promote good recycling practices through use of a video. This video contains footage of the Ulster Transfer Station and Ulster Materials Recovery Facility and discusses the environmental impact of landfilling. The main purpose of the video is to remind the public the importance of recycling. This video was made into a DVD for distribution to all Ulster County Schools and Ulster County Libraries. It is also available on the main page of our website at www.ucrra.org

Real Property

The following property is owned by UCRRA as of the end date of this report:

| <u>Property</u> | <u>Fair Market Value</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 999 Flatbush Road | \$11,131,940 |
| 1951 Frank Sottile Blvd | \$ 1,061,304 |

Internal Control Assessment

UCRRA management has a good understanding of the need for internal controls and the existing control structure at the Agency. Opportunities to strengthen controls are taken into consideration on a daily basis. In the previous years, a full review of the accounting system and daily operations was completed. During 2010, the Agency made the following minor internal control improvements – 1) approval/review of bank reconciliations by someone other than the preparer 2) additional segregation of duties were created with regards to received payments 3) in addition to nightly backups of our server, our accounting database is also backed up to an offsite FTP site. In the future, agency management intends to document the current internal control structure and

develop a formal process for evaluating the effectiveness of the controls that are in place, and presenting the results of this evaluation to the board and/or audit committee.