

Zeroing in on New Paltz: How our community can be a national model for
sustainable resource management
March 29 2012 public symposium, SUNY New Paltz

Following is a list of public comments received during the breakout session portion of the evening. All comments are included but have been arranged by topic into materials management hierarchy order (reduce, reuse, recycle/compost).

Organics – Groups 1&2

REDUCE:

- (1) Purchase just what you need;
- (2) Manage at the source;
- (3) Focus on the hierarchy with reduction being first;
- (4) Food Recovery Challenge: EPA will do a national launch soon - US wastes 50% of our food products;
- (5) Pay As You Throw: An economic incentive towards composting;
- (6) Less mess we make, the less we have to clean up;
- (7) Pigs and goats and chickens right out back of the restaurants eating the food scraps;
- (8) Permaculture and other techniques;
- (9) Create a system where it costs more to use fertilizers and such that are nonorganic;
- (10) Woodland Pond is a large resource...(potential organic waste source?): Keep in Touch!
- (11) Food Not Lawns: more gardens and food grown

REUSE:

- (1) Bring to local food shelters;
- (2) Use as feed for farm animal before composting;
- (3) Organic waste products to feed animals on farms or at people's homes (when we can keep chickens in the village!);
- (4) Scrap wood can be used to build other things;
- (5) Look up biomasstrader.org/ny to trade your organic materials

RECYCLE (COMPOST):

- (1) School gardens: more community support towards composting (K-12 and SUNY);
- (2) Expansion of local restaurants bringing food waste to local farms, CSAs;
- (3) Members may as well be bringing their compost to the farms each week since they are going there anyway;
- (4) Compost structure: Institutional level down to the individual level with businesses in between;
- (5) Teaching communities to use biomass energy;
- (6) Compost facility at the transfer station could lead to installing a bio-digester and creating a close ...(ed loop);
- (7) Local business idea: COMPOST HAULER!!!!;
- (8) Education on the SUNY Campus to make sure students know how to compost and recycle;
- (9) Compost sites at housing developments; apartment complexes don't have yards like private residences

Commercial/Institutional - Group 1

REDUCE:

- (1) SUNY New Paltz Business School Business Plan contest;
- (2) SUNY Food Services, Mohonk, Clearwater, Manufacturing and more (partners?);
- (3) Local food year round. Change mindsets on what kind of food people expect;
- (4) Can things become reusable rather than disposable? Look into the details of how to make this happen;
- (5) Plaza: groups like "New Paltz Green Association" -if you come to this Plaza, you KNOW that you are going to a store that thinks like you do;
- (6) Look at the big wastes: Styrofoam is a great example. Can we legally TAX IT?;
- (7) SUNY Program to train businesses;
- (8) Set a standard throughout New Paltz to attract the type of business we want;
- (9) Create a Reduction/ Reuse/ Recycling Group

REUSE:

- (1) Local processing or bartering; composting example: use a local farm's space and they get the benefit of having the compost;

RECYCLE (COMPOST)

- (1) SUNY Food Service: already moving towards composting, but we want to make everything compostable. Compostable items are considered novelty and we need to rethink our costs. Education on how to compost;
- (2) If things can be streamed into recycling and compost where everything given out is able to be put into those bins;
- (3) Two big institutions: Schools and Woodland Pond can be the start.

Reduction/ Reuse/ Recycling - Groups 1&2

REDUCE:

- (1) Sustainable business whether it's a transfer station or not
- (2) Centralized information data bank
- (3) Community solar, recycling collection, and composting
- (4) Compliance enforcement for businesses – fluorescents, recycling
- (5) Legislation to ban styrofoam
- (6) Work with businesses to do composting which creates an end product – can be a community event
- (7) Deconstruction, segregating local laws with a means to divert and educate
- (8) School education so kids can bring the information home to parents
- (9) Waste diversion data base to catalog items and keep track of diversion
- (10) Ethanol from food waste
- (11) Organics for animal food
- (12) Large box stores can divert organics for composting onsite or at another facility
- (13) SUNY campus education
- (14) Outreach to farms

- (15) Multifamily dwelling challenges for composting
- (16) SUNY Student CSA to/can bring compost to farms
- (17) Bring institutions to local level (consider what the community is looking for)
- (18) Join food recovery challenge (EPA)
- (19) Biodigester – create biofuels from organic composting and convert local DPW equipment to biofuel
- (20) Join NY Biomass Trader network

REUSE:

- (1) Expand the Reuse Center: creative center for art projects or children's parties;
- (2) Reuse/Recycling Events to draw attention to Reuse Center and the idea of sharing more;
- (3) Fliers around town to let people know what resources are available;
- (4) REUSE TO REDUCE Every May on Campus: Students don't just dump their stuff in the dumpster, they bring it to the main lounge of their dorm and then it is given to charity orgs and we are able to take stuff too;
- (5) Wolf Bravo: look into Hudson Valley Tool Share;
- (6) Spring Cleanup: NEW PALTZ CLEAN SWEEP APRIL 28TH 8AM ST JOE'S CHURCH. FREE BREAKFAST!!!
And annual Town Spring Cleanup for reusables
- (7) HOW DO WE GET MANUFACTURERS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY?-Education, Enforcement, Incentives
- (8) Generate and allocate different resources
- (9) 30 % of the waste stream is organics: reduce that number through gleaning, redistributing food, composting, and make educated decisions when shopping
- (10) Catskill mountain keeper has carbon reduction program
- (11) Use reuse materials at events to make instruments with kids and have them do a kids parade

RECYCLING

- (1) Community composting program
- (2) Native American women in Bronx teaches people composting, friend and came up with a garbage dragon idea where kids build dragon out of garbage and go around with it to pick up trash and litter around their area
- (3) **Wendy Toman** who just moved from Delaware and has worked with 8 different schools on composting programs; interested in volunteering !!!!
- (4) How can we get deposit bottles out of regular plastics?
- (5) Sustainable transfer station?
- (6) Is there a way to have source that all counties can go to? Central transfer station/ central place for unity between Ulster co. towns?
- (7) Kids out of business school started multimillion dollar business out of composting
- (8) Sort bin to recycle C&D materials – roll off with divided sections for each material
- (9) **Sarah – Beacon** does electronics recycling and bike recycling
- (10) Japanese style composting including animal waste
- (11) C&D Recycling
- (12) Repurpose old wood for crafts

Legislative Group - Group 1

REDUCE:

- (1) Pay- as- You- Throw will decrease waste;
- (2) Use New Paltz as a model community for waste management;
- (3) FUND FUND FUND sustainable waste management;
- (4) Local bans on Styrofoam and plastic bags;
- (5) Why don't the town and village get more involved????;

RECYCLE (COMPOST)

- (1) Better education on the existing laws and how to report who is not following recycling laws;
- (2) Flow control for recycling: county laws would have to be changed on the state level;
- (3) UCRRA: if the laws change they can focus more on recycling and less on solid waste to create revenue;
- (4) People don't understand that single stream is not trash and recycling (just recycling);
- (5) Creation of a solid waste management district (people can get together and have a lower cost for their waste hauling)

AUDIENCE Q&A WITH PANEL FOLLOWING BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

There are examples for most of what came up tonight, IN NYS.

There are so many pieces to food waste and reduction is where we start.

Many grocery stores have a policy like if there is one bad orange in the bag then the whole bag is thrown out: There is a federal law that allows for the redistribution of food.

Branding: for instance, make composting sexy!

Everything is actually linked together . . . look for where everything overlaps.

What kind of funding is available? There is a loooooong waiting list. Fund it ourselves through local taxes and local institutions?

Anything having to do with composting should be run by Terry Laibach (DEC). The state supports composting initiatives and most of what was talked about tonight would be exempt from permitting requirements.

Transition Community. LOOK UP TRANSITIONNETWORK.ORG

There is a transition movement in New Paltz, Saugerties, Kingston, Woodstock, Marbletown, Rhinebeck and Poughkeepsie.