
NEWS RELEASE

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EARTH DAY AWARDS PRESENTED AT SUNDAY EVENT 23 municipalities, teachers, students, organizations and residents to be honored for their efforts

Once again, Westchester County residents and businesses reduced the amount of garbage they put out for disposal last year, helping the environment and saving themselves tax dollars. Municipally collected garbage went down 3% and about half of all garbage generated by residents and businesses was recycled, exceeding the state recycling rate of 36%.

At the annual Earth Day Celebration **Sunday, April 17**, County Executive Robert P. Astorino will recognize 23 local municipalities, teachers, students, organizations and others from the community for their efforts to help make this happen.

The awards presentation will take place at **1 p.m. at the county's Earth Day 2011 celebration, which is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 17 at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.**

The county and its taxpayers save \$85 for every ton of garbage that it doesn't have to incinerate. Last year, the amount of municipally collected garbage was 818,000 tons – down from 842,000 in 2009. The amount recycled was 403,000 tons. The recycled materials get sold for cash and the non-recycled materials get turned into electricity in the county's waste-to-energy facility.

The 2011 awards will be presented as follows:

Municipalities

- 1. Village of Bronxville** for being one of Westchester County's 2010 "top three" municipalities with the highest overall recycling rate of 71%
- 2. Village of Scarsdale** for being one of Westchester County's 2010 "top three" municipalities with the highest overall recycling rate of 68%

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- 3. Town of Bedford** for being one of Westchester County’s 2010 “top three” municipalities with the highest overall recycling rate of 68%
- 4. Town of Mount Pleasant** for conducting a model organic yard waste “give-back” program providing usable gardening material for local residents
- 5. Town of Eastchester** for conducting a model organic yard waste “give-back” program providing usable gardening material for local residents
- 6. Village of Pleasantville** for conducting a model organic yard waste “give-back” program providing usable gardening material for local residents
- 7. City of Peekskill** for producing comprehensive solid waste and recycling information materials for local residents
- 8. City of White Plains** for producing comprehensive solid waste and recycling information materials for local residents
- 9. Town of Yorktown** for producing comprehensive solid waste and recycling information materials for local residents
- 10. Town of North Castle and the North Castle Recycling Committee** for hosting “Zero Waste Day” events, a program providing residents with alternative resources to donate or recycle items otherwise destined for disposal as solid waste
- 11. Town of New Castle** for model thoroughness in reporting a 2010 Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Management Update to the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities
- 12. Village of Ossining** for model thoroughness in reporting a 2010 Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Management Update to the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities
- 13. Town of Mamaroneck** for collecting vegetable oil locally for refinement and beneficial reuse
- 14. Village of Mamaroneck** for collecting vegetable oil locally for refinement and beneficial reuse
- 15. Village of Tuckahoe** for collecting vegetable oil locally for refinement and beneficial reuse

Schools, Students & Teachers

- 1) 4th Grade Teachers and Students of Edgewood Elementary School, Scarsdale,** for development and implementation of an exemplary Earth Education “Ecosystem Project”
- 2) Janet McKenna, Social Worker at Graham Elementary School, Mount Vernon,** for design and leadership of the school’s gardening programs and recycling initiatives
- 3) Administration, Teachers, Students & Parents of the Rye Country Day School, Rye,** for development of a comprehensive school sustainability program

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Local Green Initiatives

- 1) **The Business Council of Westchester and Con Edison** for development of the Westchester Green Business Challenge, Phase II, an initiative designed to educate and encourage local businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve operational efficiency and save money
- 2) **Wheelabrator Westchester** for proven efficiency in plant operation, participation and generosity toward the development of the Charles Point Industrial Park in Peekskill
- 3) **The Bedford 2020 Coalition of the Town Bedford, NY** for development of the Bedford Sustainable Community Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and create a sustainable community that conserves its natural resources

Notable Mentions

- 1) **Pia Maenpaa** of White Plains, for leadership and voluntary service improving recycling performance at The Residences of Jefferson Place, a multi family residence
- 2) **James Petronella** for dedicated volunteer services assisting the Village of Tuckahoe with local recycling collection, education and outreach programs