

Supervisor Ed Romaine Announces Major Environmental Initiative as Town Moves to be First on Long Island to Implement Single Stream Recycling

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Pictured left to right are Green Stream Recycling (GSR) president Will Flower, Curby, Commissioner of Waste Management Matt Miner, Councilman Dan Panico, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilman Tim Mazzei, Councilwoman Connie Kepert, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, GSR Partner and Co-owner Joe Winters, Winters Brothers Vice President Sean Winters, GSR Partner and Co-owner Anthony Core and Johann McConnell from the South Yaphank Civic Association.

New Program will save taxpayer dollars through sale of materials and cutting disposal costs Residents will be able to commingle recyclables in single container for collection

Farmingville, NY - On November 12, Supervisor Ed Romaine held a press conference at the Town's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to announce the Town's Department of Waste Management's plan to negotiate an extension of the existing operations agreement with the Town's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Operator, Hudson Baylor Brookhaven LLC (a subsidiary of Green Stream Recycling, LLC) to provide for the processing of recyclables collected in single stream format. In October, the Town Board unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by Councilman Tim Mazzei to go forward with the plan. Single stream recycling has been implemented in several communities throughout New York State and the country, however, Brookhaven is the first on Long Island. The Town expects the new recycling program to begin as early as January 4, 2014.

Studies of communities that have converted to single stream have shown a 20% to 30% increase in the recycling rate. For every additional ton of material recycled, the Town is expected to save in excess of \$125 through the sale of the material and the avoided disposal cost. The Town also expects to increase revenue by accepting recyclables from other municipalities in the region that are not currently equipped to handle single stream processing.

"Single stream makes very good sense for the Town, because if it's easier for residents, they'll increase their participation and throw less recyclables into the trash," said Supervisor Romaine. "I believe that people will embrace this new program since they won't have to spend time sorting or need to remember what gets picked up for recycling before they put the container out to the curb. And, it's a common sense plan that is best for the environment and cost-effective."

Councilman Tim Mazzei said, "I am proud that the Town will be the first on Long Island to go with single stream recycling. It's much more efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly. I think residents will be very receptive to the change and I expect to see our recycling numbers go up once the program is implemented."

"The introduction of a single stream recycling system is a major step forward in Brookhaven's effort to secure a sustainable future for the residents of this Town. This new municipal recycling solution will improve the recycling rate, as it removes the process of having to separate recyclable materials, and will ultimately decrease the amount of waste being diverted to the landfill," said Councilwoman Kepert.

Joe Winters, partner / co-owner of Green Stream Recycling, LLC said, "I want to thank the Town of Brookhaven and Supervisor Romaine for their vision for a more sustainable future. We are very proud that this new facility will result in new construction jobs, and also approximately 30 full-time positions for workers at the facility. This is more than a \$7 million investment that Green Stream is making because of the value it brings to the residents of Brookhaven and all of Long Island."

Anthony Core, partner / co-owner of Green Stream Recycling, LLC said, "This new design represents the most innovative single stream recycling technology on Long Island. The best thing about our 'Green Stream Machine' is that it makes it easier than ever for residents to recycle. And when recycling becomes even easier, our environment benefits and we are all the better for it."

"We are delighted to hear that that single stream recycling is coming to the Town of Brookhaven," said Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters. "We commend Supervisor Romaine and his administration for bringing this important change to the town and we hope that residents embrace it as increased recycling is not only good for the environment but for tax payers as well."

Presently, the Town's MRF separates approximately 15,000 tons of paper, 9,000 tons of co-mingled (bottles, cans and plastics) recyclables from the residential waste stream. Under the current program, residents must place paper and co-mingled recyclables curbside on alternating weeks (Wednesdays). The new program allows residents to combine their paper and co-mingled items into one container, with no sorting required. In addition, once single stream recycling is fully implemented, the Town will expand its recycling program to include plastics # 3 to 7. Currently only plastics # 1 and 2 are recycled.

For more information about recycling in the Town of Brookhaven, go to www.brookhaven.org.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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