

Supervisor Romaine Announces Expansion of Waste Management Cooperative Research Program with Stony Brook University

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Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine has announced that the Town's Department of Waste Management and the Department of Technology and Society at Stony Brook University have expanded their cooperative research program. Doctoral research students will now be in residence at Town Hall on a continuous basis, enabling program managers to call upon their expertise in the course of daily business, while expanding the students' awareness of the practical realities of managing waste in a Town with a population of approximately 500,000 people. The two students, who had previously conducted most of their work on-campus with only infrequent visits to Town Hall, will now alternate working in the Town's Department of Waste Management. Chief Deputy Commissioner of Waste Management Ed Hubbard will coordinate the researchers' work with department needs.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "Our relationship with Stony Brook University on waste management research has been of great benefit to the residents of Brookhaven Town by strengthening our knowledge base at a very reasonable cost."

"I see this as beneficial for both the students and the Town," said Assistant Professor David Tonjes, who is the project director. "I was fortunate to be provided with desk space at the Town offices when I was a student in the 1990s, and having daily contact with administrators and office staff broadened my experiences immeasurably."

The Town's Commissioner of Waste Management, Matt Miner said, "When I can immediately call on some of the nation's cutting-edge researchers on solid waste at any time, my staff and I can reach decisions armed with the best available information."

The Stony Brook research program has focused on solid waste planning and regulatory compliance, and analyzing recycling patterns and processes in the Town. Other researchers on-campus are conducting basic research that could expand the current Town program that uses landfill gas to generate electricity by allowing greater use of less suitable gases, and perhaps by allowing the gases to be converted to diesel fuel; creating a groundwater model of the area near the Town's landfill and the management of the Town's extensive groundwater monitoring database.

The work is conducted through the Department of Technology and Society and the Department of Chemical and Molecular Engineering, in conjunction with the Waste Reduction and Management Institute, the Long Island Groundwater Research Institute, and the Center for BioEnergy Research and Development at the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center.

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