

Romaine Announces 24.6% Increase in Recycling Rate Due To Single Stream Recycling

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New Initiative Results in over \$287,000 Savings for Taxpayers

Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine announced today that the Town's recycling rate has jumped by 24.6% since the introduction of Single Stream Recycling. Brookhaven residents have realized a savings of over \$287,000 since the program was introduced in the beginning of this year.

"Recycling has never been easier since we introduced Single Stream Recycling earlier this year. Our residents have embraced this program and stepped up the amount they recycle, making Brookhaven a cleaner, greener place to live," said Supervisor Ed Romaine. "Recycling is good for the environment and good for our taxpayers, and we are clearly seeing the results of this successful program."

Brookhaven is the first on Long Island to implement Single Stream Recycling. This new recycling initiative allows residents to combine their paper and co-mingled items into one container, with no sorting required. In addition, the Town has expanded its program to include plastics #1 to #7. In the past, only plastics #1 and #2 were recycled.

"Our recycling numbers are up because Single Stream Recycling is more convenient," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, the Town Board liaison to the Department of Waste Management. "As time goes by, more people are recycling, and recycling more - which is a good thing for the Town and the environment."

Brookhaven residents recycled an average of 7,401.55 tons of material over the past three years during the period of January-April. Since the introduction of Single Stream Recycling this year, residents recycled 9,116.21 tons, an increase of 1,714.66 tons, or 24.6 percent. This produced an additional \$34,293.13 in recycling revenue from previous years. By increasing recycling, town residents produced 2,411.93 fewer tons of solid waste, resulting in a savings of \$253,252.30

The Town also expects to increase revenue by accepting recyclables from other municipalities and school districts in the region that seek to convert to the Single Stream collection format. The Comsewogue, Center Moriches and Rocky Point School Districts have all signed agreements to begin recycling and have their material sent to Brookhaven. This results in a savings on waste removal costs for taxpayers in the district, and provides revenue to the Town.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258