

Supervisor Romaine Thanks Residents for 22.4% Hike in 2014 Recycling Rates

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Single Stream Recycling Program benefits the environment and saves Town \$425,000 in 2014

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine has announced that increased recycling by Brookhaven residents has resulted in a 22.4% hike in recycling rates and saved the Town \$425,000 in 2014. He thanked residents for quickly adopting the Town's Single Stream Recycling program which was launched in January of 2014, and asked that they make a pledge to recycle more in 2015. The net savings is comprised of the revenue from the sale of recyclables and the avoided cost of disposing of material that was recycled.

The year-end results of the Town's Single Stream recycling program are impressive. Prior to implementation of single stream, the Town averaged 173,257 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and 23,046 tons of recyclables (2012 - 2013 average). In 2014, the first year of single stream, the Town saw its amount of MSW decrease by nearly 3,000 tons. At the same time, the Town realized a 5,500 ton increase in collected recyclables.

"It's clear that many residents have embraced Single Stream Recycling," said Supervisor Romaine. "However, as a community, I know we can do better. People who are not recycling need to know that placing recyclables in the trash is bad for the environment, a waste of natural resources and expensive for taxpayers who ultimately pay for the cost of waste disposal. I thank all those who have helped to make Single Stream Recycling a success and I look forward to seeing our numbers improve in 2015."

Recyclables from the Town's 490,000 residents are collected on Wednesday and delivered to the Brookhaven Material Recovery Facility in Brookhaven, New York. At the recycling center, the material is sorted, processed and made ready for recycling. The Single Stream recycling initiative in Brookhaven is the largest and most successful recycling effort on Long Island. Residents can get information about recycling by going to the Town of Brookhaven web site at www.brookhaven.org or by visiting www.LongIslandRecycles.com.

Since the start of the Single Stream recycling in Brookhaven, several other municipalities have adopted the program, including the Villages of Bellport, Mastic Beach, Poquott and the Town of Southold. On January 1, 2015, the Towns of Smithtown and Huntington and the Village of Northport all implemented a Single Stream program with recyclables being processed at the Brookhaven Material Recovery Facility. The Town of Brookhaven is pushing for opportunities to grow the number of municipalities who recycle using the Single Stream program.

"The more we recycle, the more waste we can keep away from incinerators and out of landfills. Brookhaven is the leader in recycling on Long Island and we invite other communities to use our material recovery facility," said Supervisor Romaine.

About Green Stream Recycling Green Stream Recycling is dedicated to advancing recycling on Long Island. The company operates the largest and most effective recycling facility on Long Island at 352 Horseblock Road in Brookhaven. The company is focused on processing recyclable material and assisting communities who are interested in improving their recycling programs. In Brookhaven, the company planned, designed and constructed the new recycling system at the Town of Brookhaven Material Recycling Facility. The new facility now employs 40 full-time workers.

About the Brookhaven Material Recovery Facility A variety of processing technologies is used to sort, separate, segregate and clean residential recyclables which come from homes throughout the Town of Brookhaven and other parts of Long Island. Material traveling through the system goes on a journey where it is subject to mechanical, physical and automated sorting. The system uses articulating screens, electromagnet fields, eddy currents, optical sorters, manual labor, trommels and crushers to separate and clean recyclables. Once sorted, the various materials are baled and shipped to manufactures where they are used as raw material to make new items for consumers. Additionally, the new recycling capabilities at the Brookhaven Material Recovery Facility provides additional infrastructure which can help increase recycling rates on Long Island. Brookhaven is offering to help other Towns and Villages with their recycling efforts by allowing municipalities to utilize the Town's Material Recovery Facility.

