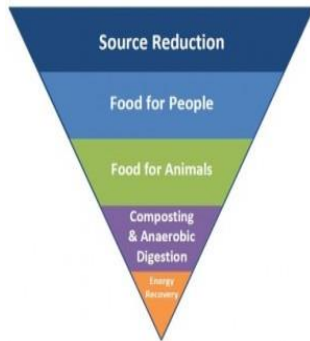


# TOWN OF NEW PALTZ ReUse and RECYCLING CENTER 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**Tried and True Pilot Programs:** New Paltz staff has been moving up the EPA Hierarchy since 2011: from a low-tech commercial food waste composting operation where material was received from three Mid-Hudson Valley college campuses and a local retail chain three times a week to diverting over eighteen (18) tons of food in 2019 to local pantries. The New Paltz Food Recovery program is thriving with the help of a few volunteers who pick up and deliver food donated by local retailers and a summer camp for distribution throughout New Paltz and the eastern part of Ulster County. Topping its 2018 recovery tonnage by more than three (3) tons, the program is expected to double the donations with the implementation of the Ulster County Mandatory Food Scrap Composting law beginning July 1, 2020. Based on information from the Vermont Universal Recycling Law 2015 (Appendix A), when the state mandated composting, the unintended consequence was a 37% increase of food donations.

The New Paltz pilot program for recycling rigid plastics has been discontinued due to the Ulster County Resource Recovery decision to phasing out single stream recycling in August 2018, and completely eliminated accepting single stream by February 1, 2019. With the decline in recycling markets due to contaminated, dirty material and the “Green Wall” ban by China, and most recently Malaysia, only soft plastic bottles, jugs and tubs are received at the New Paltz Recycling Center. This caused a decrease of material going out. Normally the forty (40) cubic yard commingled container onsite was pulled every ten (10) to fourteen (14) days. Now it is pulled to the Kingston Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) every six (6) to eight (8) weeks. With public outcry to provide other methods to recycle hinged take out containers “clam shells” and other molded plastic, New Paltz staff is encouraging smart shopping practices using reusable containers or mesh bags and purchasing in bulk while they continue to seek alternative recycling markets.

**Trends in 2019** Disposal costs for garbage out continues to decrease as residents adopt a zero waste philosophy and throw less out. To offset decreased revenues in landfill fees since New Paltz has a “Pay As You Throw” system, in addition to paying less in disposal costs, staff has worked to divert more materials of value to local markets such as metal and deposit bottles including items to the ReUse Center such as furniture and bikes. Increased ReUse Center sales will create a fiscally sound program that supports its own operating costs.

Staff recognizes that the zero waste initiative has been adopted by Ulster County as a local policy and the newly drafted UCRRA Solid Waste Management Plan. In 2020, the trend should be to limit purchases of items that come in non-recyclable packaging by changing consumer habits and offering sustainable workshops and/or events that utilize onsite materials.

Staff Laura Petit – Recycling Coordinator/Environmental Educator [recycling@townofnewpaltz.org](mailto:recycling@townofnewpaltz.org) Lloyd Luckett – Transfer Station Operator

Michael York – Municipal Worker I

[www.newpaltzreuse.org](http://www.newpaltzreuse.org)

# Town of New Paltz Recycling Center

## ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED: 2019

The summary of this report was submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to Part 360 regulations (modified 2019), updated NYSDC Registration No. 56T100004 to operate the New Paltz Recycling and ReUse Center located at 3 Clearwater Road, New Paltz, New York and to EPA Waste Wise Re-trak as a Waste Wise partner and Pilot Municipality in the Zero Waste Initiative.

Period Reported: January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019  
 Date: January 28, 2020  
 Planning Unit: Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)  
 Town of New Paltz Contact Person: Laura Petit, Recycling Coordinator

### 1.0 Mandatory and Voluntary Recycling 2019



Approximately 1,207.11 of materials were recycled through mandatory and voluntary enhanced recycling programs in the community - waste diversion included materials warehoused in the ReUse Center and shredded paper for a local farmer is part of the total tonnage recycled. The recycling rate for 2019 was 83% including commercial food waste that was received September through December 2019 (See Table 1)

unforgiving of common contaminants such as ceramic and tempered glass. Glass is by volume the heaviest recyclable material collected. (The 2019 weight reflects four (4) containers full at nine (9) tons each)

Glass continues to be a challenge. Although it is a material that can be recycled endlessly, the recycling process is

As there are fewer markets for recyclable material, especially plastic, the public is being encouraged to purchase items that come with no or packaging. Currently, cardboard is the only material that has any value, and that's minimal (January 25, 2020). The latest reports are that paper is becoming more difficult to market now at under \$1 a ton. [www.resource-recycling.com](http://www.resource-recycling.com)

<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Tons</b>
Regulated & Diverted Residential Recycling	1,207.11
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>83%</b>
Solid Waste Shipped Out:	239.65
<b>Total Garbage</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Total Material Handled</b>	<b>1,446.76</b>
*Commercial Food Waste Composting	108.93
Numbers included in the Recycling rate	

Our commercial composting program re-opened in September after a new back hoe was purchased with NYSDEC grant funds to replace the old Terex machine so windrows can be created for the anaerobic process to begin. Operational challenges continue due to a very wet winter that makes access and screening of finished compost very difficult.

In the words of Jim Marion, New York State Department of Correctional Services, "Composting is an ART not a science." A special thanks to Jim who helped set up the composting program for us many years ago.

New Paltz met the NYSDEC goal that calls for maximization of recycling efforts (more than 40%) by diverting 83% of processible recycling that passed through the New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center with a 12% reduction in outgoing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) based on 2018 weights.

<b>TABLE 2 - 2020 Tons of Recycling</b>	
Glass	33.29
Commingled Plastic and Metal Cans	18.65
Mixed Paper	60.35
Cardboard	41.63
<b>Non-Mandated Recycling</b>	
Shredded Paper (local Farm)	.82
Food (composting)	108.93
Food (donated)	18.21
Textiles	8
Tires	2.59
Waste Oil	2
ReUse Center	24.45
Scrap Metal	20.26
Electronics	2.01
Deposit Bottles	4.81
Aluminum Foil	.05
Brush, Dirt and Yard Waste	861.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1207.11</b>

Mandatory recycling collected in 2019 totaled 153.92 tons. Non-mandated recycling including brush, electronics, scrap metal, food waste (this will be a mandated recyclable as of July 2020) and textiles totaled 1,053.19.

With ongoing efforts to enhance recycling programs to accept additional/new materials for either recycling or diversion into the Reuse center (a 2,000 square foot onsite heated warehouse), a new 2020 program will include an **Extreme Recycling** area for avid, proven recyclers to break down items into over twenty-four (24) separate containers including molded take out containers, compostable items, deposit containers, toothpaste tubes and brushes. A selected test group of permitted holders has been chosen to start the program and work out any details prior to opening it up for all New Paltz Recycling users.

Solid Waste tonnages transferred out of the recycling center for landfill disposal dropped by 32 tons saving another 1.52 tons of CO2 emissions. Of the 239 tons transferred out, there is still more potential for reducing and diverting materials.

## 2.0 2019 Sustainable Materials Management and Recycling Operations

New Paltz disposal fee revenues provide the budget line offset for recycling center operations. Staff has additional opportunity to save on office supplies by monitoring material being disposed for use in the office. They frequently inspect the yard waste area for salvageable plants for landscaping and screening, and utilize fencing, lumber and other materials to save expenses.

Staff closely monitors incoming material to ensure that users pay for all items being disposed of and that they are following recycling procedures. Staff has had to enforce Town Code §66-16 that all users purchase either a day or have an annual permit affixed to their vehicle to limit sharing permits and claims that a permit was purchased but can't provide a permit number.

Commingled recycling (plastic and metal cans) dropped by five (5) tons due to the Ulster County solid waste authority making changes to acceptable items. The only plastic accepted at the recycling center in 2019 is plastic bottles, jugs and soft plastic tubs such as margarine. The forty (40) yard container that permitted users deposited was pulled every ten days in 2018 to the Materials Recovery Facility in Kingston drop to every six weeks in 2019.

Staff continued to collect shredded paper for a local pig and beef farmer to use for their livestock which is later composted on their farm – nearly a ton. Fewer people participated in “Feed The Hog” this year – a “used” pumpkin collection that took place right after Halloween that is used as livestock feed. The same farm used to pick



## FEED THE HOG

New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center

3 Clearwater Road, New Paltz, NY 12561  
Off Route 32 by ballfields at end of Clearwater

New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center is accepting "useful" pumpkins for livestock feed. According to the owners of Briar Creek Farms, a local farm in New Paltz, animals LOVE pumpkins. Food for animals removes a significant amount of usable organic material from the waste stream and provides a valuable resource to local farm businesses.

The ReUse Center is open Tues-Sat from 9-4:30pm and is located on Clearwater Road off Route 32 in New Paltz. This program runs through November 30th and is open to EVERYONE with pumpkins.

www.newpaltzreuse.org recycling@townofnewpaltz.org (845) 255-8436



up leftover produce from a local retailer to supplement their grain costs, but contamination which included plastic bag ties and dirt sweepings from the floor became too much of a concern and they discontinued pick up. (A loss of 65 tons to the New Paltz Food diversion program.)

Due to a shortage of volunteers, the annual SUNY New Paltz campus clean out was cancelled in 2019. This fifteen plus year program used to have fifty or more volunteers come out including Town employees who were given a choice of volunteering or reporting to work and students from the SUNY Recycling Club (the recycling club has been disbanded).

SUNY Students were encouraged to donate items that they didn't want to take home so it could be put out for the public to take at a community giveaway. Over the years, volunteers have dwindled and the cleanout was expanded to collect items over an eight day period instead of all in one day so the handful of volunteers were able to collect all donated items. Staff started to reach out to the public in January 2019 for volunteers, however, only four or five reliable people responded so the event was cancelled. The university did put out food donation boxes and two tons of food was collected and distributed to local shelters. Not a completed loss! The program will be revisited in 2020.

In March, New Paltz received \$92,000 in recycling grant funding. The grants were written for a leaf vacuum truck to pick up curbside loose leaves and transport to the Recycling Center for leaf mold composting. Part of the grant was also for the Recycling Coordinator's salary reimbursed at 50%. The funds paid for the purchase of a new back hoe in May 2019. Between user fees and grants monies received, the ReUse and Recycling Center had a net profit of \$61,421 over operating costs **before payroll**. The 2020 goal is to cover all personnel costs.



The first Plant Swap event was held in May to encourage people to share everything from vegetable plants to trees/bushes that they didn't want or had an abundance of in exchange for another plant. Over sixty people showed up to exchange over four hundred plants and visit the ReUse Center. The event was such a success that a second swap is planned for May 9, 2020: For the 2020 event load of compost and plastic pots will be available for anyone bringing in bare root plants.



One of the 2019 "leftover" plants grew to be a ten foot sunflower that staff collected hundreds of seeds from which were packaged by volunteers and will be distributed to encourage pollinator gardens throughout the county.

Over the summer, signage was painted and the last shed placed to completed "Recycle Town". The site has multiple shed and buildings to divert usable materials including: Med-Shed for durable medical equipment such as wheel chairs, walkers and shower seats that are available for anyone to borrow; Bike Shed for bikes diverted from the scrap metal container; Scrapped Kitchen used



for dry storage of food donations; the Education Center for school age interactive tours; the greenhouse to start plants for the demonstration garden by the backyard composting area; the Refrigerated Shed for perishable food donations cooled with an air conditioner and Cool Bot® thermostat; the ReUse Center – a 2,000 square foot warehouse for items and materials that were too good to landfill; and the Tool Share/Contractor’s Corner where permit holders can borrow tools for two weeks. Total material that was redistributed from the ReUse Center was 24.45 tons in 2019.



The Town Recycling Coordinator participated in several local events to share information on New Paltz programs, refrigerants effect on the climate, recyclable, waste reduction and composting. Outreach is done using various media and venues including facebook, Instagram, twitter, events at both SUNY campuses, tours of the Clearwater facility, invitations to local schools and other organizations with similar environmental causes.

Both plastics and refrigerants are gaining public attention with the recent **Project Drawdown** findings that refrigerants are the No. 1 cause of climate change. Plastic is causing extreme adverse impacts to the ecosystem.

