

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

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Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

HRRRA Members and Officers

HRRRA Representative Mike Gill, Vice Chair	New Fairfield	First Selectman Jerry Murphy	Brookfield
First Selectman Herb Rosenthal, Treasurer	Newtown	Mayor Mark Boughton	Danbury
First Selectman Dolores Schiesel, Secretary	Kent	Mayor Patricia Murphy	New Milford
First Selectman Alice Hutchinson	Bethel	First Selectman Natalie Ketcham	Redding
First Selectman Bill Stuart	Bridgewater	First Selectman Andrea O'Connor	Sherman

Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman

Hauler Meeting Recap (cont. from page 1)

Joe LoStocco, LoStocco Refuse Services, asked if HRRRA could provide recycling information for customers that could be inserted into monthly statements. He noted that having such information available in Spanish and Portuguese would be a real help to haulers who work in Danbury.

Mr. LoStocco said that his Company had recently done a recycling education program for an elementary school class in Danbury. He urged HRRRA to get more involved in recycling education in area schools and offered to help with that effort.



Haulers said 5:00 p.m. meetings would be more convenient than morning meetings.

The haulers present suggested public service ads in local newspapers, brochures for new-

comers to the area, and tax bill enclosures as other avenues for improving public recycling education.

Haulers said more household hazardous waste disposal days are needed in the region.

Mr. Caruso asked if WES could provide a more definitive holiday schedule for the transfer stations, and Mr. Langone promised that WES would send a holiday schedule to haulers with their billing.

Joe LoStocco, Pat Carsuo, and Dave Dunleavy were chosen by the haulers present to represent haulers on the HRRRA Grievance Committee.

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



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Trash Talk



Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Welcome To Trash Talk

Welcome to the first issue of Trash Talk, a quarterly newsletter for haulers and collectors of solid waste and recyclables in the Housatonic Region who use the HRRRA transfer stations.

In Trash Talk, we'll let you know about HRRRA activities that may be of particular interest to you, provide answers and information on questions that haulers frequently ask of HRRRA, and

basically just try to keep in touch with the 60+ haulers who use the HRRRA transfer stations.

We know you have a tough, but necessary, job to do. We understand that you struggle to control costs while maintaining excellent customer service. HRRRA faces many of those same challenges, and we want to work with you to meet those challenges. So, let's talk a little trash!



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Special Dates of Interest

- March 18—10:30 a.m.—HRRRA Meeting, Brookfield Town Hall
- May 12—5:00 p.m., Quarterly Haulers Meeting
- May 1- June 30—Permit renewal period for 2005-06
- June 17- 10:30 a.m.—Annual HRRRA Meeting, Brookfield Town Hall

Haulers Meeting Recap (cont. on page 4)

On Valentine's Day, HRRRA sponsored the first in a regular series of quarterly meetings for haulers and collectors with permits to use the HRRRA transfer stations.

Hauler attendance was light at the first meeting, but the discussion was lively. The haulers present suggested that future meetings be held at 5:00 p.m. on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday so as not to interfere with their work day.

Also in attendance at the meeting were HRRRA Chairman First Selectman Rudy Marconi of Ridgefield, Vice Chairman Mike Gill of New Fairfield, HRRRA members First Selectman Alice Hutchinson of Bethel, First Selectman Jerome Murphy of Brookfield, Ray O'Brien of New Milford, Wheelabrator Environ-

mental Systems (WES) Bridgeport Plant Manager, Vincent Langone, Jr., WES Controller Rob Pederson, and HRRRA Director Cheryl Reedy.

Mrs. Reedy explained that the HRRRA permit process for 2004 started almost 6 months late because of the personnel changes at the Authority. The 2005 permit process, will start in May as usual.

Because the information on haulers and vehicles using the transfer stations was so out of date, a full permit process was conducted. Future permit renewals will require substantially less paperwork. Mrs. Reedy also reviewed the insurance requirements for obtaining an HRRRA permit, and promised that haulers could rest assured that everyone would be asked to obtain the

same type of coverage.

Pat Caruso, of Associated Refuse Haulers of America, asked which towns' garbage should go to which transfer station. The Ridgefield transfer station is for solid waste generated in Ridgefield and Redding. The Newtown transfer station accepts solid waste from Brookfield and Newtown. And the Danbury transfer station is the appropriate location for tipping solid waste from all other HRRRA communities.

Vin Langone explained that haulers are no longer permitted to haul directly to the burn plant in Bridgeport. If there is a long backup at the White Street transfer station, haulers should first contact Greensphere, but then may call WES to be re-directed to another transfer station.

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New HRRRA Director

After 16 years at the helm, HRRRA Director Bob Palmer stepped down in mid-2004 to focus on his thriving florist business. In September, the Authority appointed Cheryl Reedy to be the new HRRRA Director.

HRRRA Chairman, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, said, "We all very much appreciate Bob Palmer's many years of service and dedication to the region. He will be missed."

Under Mr. Palmer's steady guidance, HRRRA took a leadership position on solid waste and recycling issues. During his

tenure, the Authority opened three transfer stations in the region, started the regional recycling program, sponsored annual regional household hazardous waste disposal days, and renegotiated its contract with Wheelabrator Environmental Systems to reflect the changed marketplace for solid waste after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Carbone* decision.



New HRRRA Director
Cheryl Reedy

Mrs. Reedy was New Fairfield's First Selectman for 10 years, served as a member of HRRRA for 6 years, and managed the CT District Office of former Congressman Jim Maloney for 2 years. She has been involved in public service in the region for more than 20 years.

In the next few years, the Authority plans to focus its efforts on public recycling education and improved compliance with state recycling laws.

What is HRRRA?

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, or HRRRA, is a quasi-governmental agency created by 11 municipalities in the greater Danbury/New Milford area in 1986 when landfills in the region were closing.

The towns decided to work together cooperatively to meet their responsibility under the CT law that requires each municipality to "make provisions for the disposal of solid waste generated within its borders."

HRRRA towns first tried to cite a garbage-to-energy burn plant within the region, but that was met by stiff opposition from area residents. No one wanted to have a burn plant in their town or neighborhood.

Thus, in 1993, the towns entered into a 26-year contract with Wheelabrator Environmental Systems (WES) for disposal of solid waste from the region in the WES garbage-to-energy plant in Bridgeport.

HRRRA also contracted with WES to

locate three transfer stations in the region, one in Danbury, Newtown and Ridgefield, so that haulers would not have to drive to Bridgeport to tip their loads.

The eleven municipalities that now make up HRRRA are Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, and Sherman. HRRRA was legally created by a vote of the legislative body of each of its member municipalities.

It's the Law! State Statutes of Interest to Haulers

CT State law, Section 22a-220a(d), requires any collector or hauler of solid waste generated within a municipality to register in that municipality.

Each city or town in CT sets its own requirements for such registration. Some towns charge a fee



Much of your work and ours is regulated by State and federal laws.

for registration. Other towns do not.

HRRRA towns require haulers to register annually at the start of the fiscal year. Check with the First Selectman or Mayor's office or the Public Works Department to find out the specific requirements

for the towns in which you haul.

Municipal registration is a requirement to obtain a permit to use the HRRRA transfer stations.

State law also requires that the door of any private vehicle used to haul solid waste be clearly marked with the business name and address of the hauler

Recycling Education

Based on a suggestion made by **Joe LoStocco, LoStocco Refuse Services**, at the last hauler meeting, HRRRA is developing a recycling informational flyer that haulers will be able to insert in their monthly billing to customers.

The insert will be available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, and will be sized to fit into a #10 envelope. The insert will weigh less than one sheet of regular paper so as not to increase the postage required for mailing the monthly billing statements.

A draft of the insert will be available for

your review at the next hauler's meeting on May 12, 2005. We need your input and advice at that meeting on whether the insert addresses the most common recycling problems you face.

After the meeting, the insert will be revised to take into account your suggestions. When the insert is finalized, it will be available in whatever quantity you need at no charge.

Please call the HRRRA office

at 775-6256 x304 at least one month in advance to let us know how many inserts you will need and in what languages.

If this insert is well received by your customers, we will develop new inserts on a regular basis to improve the public's understanding and compliance with the State's recycling laws and with our local recycling program.



Haulers say their customers need more recycling information and education.

WES Service Fee Set For 2005

WES has set the new service fee for 2005 at \$75.77 per ton. That is an increase of \$1.26 per ton over 2004, or 1.7%.

Under the terms of HRRRA's contract with WES, the service fee will be adjusted every calendar year based on 1/2 of the increase in the consumer price index (CPI) for the prior year. Because the CPI is not available until late February, haulers can expect to receive notice of the new fee in March of every year. The new fee will be retroactive to January 1st.

Based on a request made at the hauler meet-

ing in February, WES agreed to provide an estimate of the coming year's service fee each November, to allow haulers time to notify their customers of a possible rate increase.

The service fee is made up of four parts.

Tip Fee	\$62.45
Transfer Fee	\$ 7.62
Transportation Fee	\$ 5.15
Program Fee	\$.55

The tip fee covers the disposal costs for operation of the garbage-to-energy plant in

Bridgeport. The transfer fee covers personnel and operating costs for the 3 transfer stations in the region. The transportation fee covers the cost of transporting the solid waste between the transfer stations and Bridgeport. And the program fee covers the cost of HRRRA operations.

Program fee payment is not optional. It must be paid along with the rest of the service fee within 30 days of invoice in order to maintain transfer station access. The program fee provides more than 50% of the funds required for HRRRA's annual operation.

We're Not Big, But We're Here To Serve

If you have any questions about local recycling programs, HRRRA permits, or transfer station procedures, please stop by, give us a call or drop us an e-mail. We're here to serve the public, and that includes you!

The HRRRA office is located in the Old Town Hall in Brookfield at the



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intersection of Routes 25 and 133. We share the building with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO).

The HRRRA office is staffed, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The building is open from 8:30 a.m. M-F in case you want to drop something off or pick up information HRRRA

has left for you.

The Authority is not a big government agency. We employ one part-time employee, the Director, and work hard, like you, to keep our overhead costs to a minimum.

Feel free to pass on our phone number to any of your customers who may have questions about recycling or the disposal of household hazardous waste.