

### **2021 Executive Director Report:**

In 2021, Rockland Green helped Rockland County pull through COVID-19. **All** garbage and recycling pickups continued without interruption throughout the pandemic. Rockland Green helped ensure, in its capacity, the prevention of pandemic related health & safety issues for Rockland County residents, Rockland Green Staff and the sanitation haulers. Recently Rockland Green relaxed some of the previously mandated COVID-19 safety regulations at our facilities, as prescribed by New York State.

2021 was spent focusing on the new state of the art Material Recovery Facility (MRF). As the world becomes more conscientious about recycling, Rockland County residents in 2021 recycled over 36k tons of recyclable materials. Improvements to the Facility will provide Rockland Green the ability to process over 70k tons per year. In the Summer of 2021, Rockland Green issued \$35M of debt for the new MRF for recyclables processing in Hillburn and for a potential Anaerobic Digester project.

Through a rigorous RFP process, all contractors selected to work on the new facility were chosen. Two Brothers Contracting, Inc. was chosen to dismantle the original MRF. Butler Construction Group, Inc. was chosen as the general contractor to oversee the full project. Van Dyk Baler Corp. was chosen to provide and install design-build equipment specific for the new facility. Hauser Brothers was chosen to provide and install the HVAC system. Joe Lombardo P&H, Inc. was chosen to upgrade the plumbing. Rockland Electric was chosen to upgrade the Electric. W&M Fire Protection was chosen to install a fire protection and fire suppression systems.

The MRF project also includes a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to promote and foster apprentice training within the various union trades. PLAs also help ensure compliance with laws and regulations governing workplace safety and health, equal employment opportunity and labor and employment standards.

To date, the original MRF and attached former Administration offices have been demolished. The skeleton for the new facility building is completed and the design build equipment is arriving and being installed. HVAC, plumbing, electrical work, and fire suppression systems are being done simultaneously.

Rockland Green is actively seeking an operator for the new facility upon its completion in the fourth quarter of 2022.

### **Current Garbage and Recyclables Collection Agreements re/negotiated, assigned and updated in 2021 as follows:**

1. Village of New Hempstead 3-year agreement with Carlo Minuto Carting.
2. Village of Haverstraw 3-year agreement with Hiep.
3. Village of Sloatsburg 3-year agreement with Carlo Minuto Carting.
4. Village of Spring Valley 3-year agreement with Carlo Minuto Carting.
5. Village of Airmont, Assignment of the Collection Agreement

Grant payments received in 2021

Coordinator Grant (for 2021 expenses) filed in 2020	\$ 169,756.80
HHW Grant filed in 2018 (for 2019 expenses)	\$ 220,254.57

Grants applied for in 2021

FEMA – Isaias	\$ 307,627.50
FEMA – Covid	\$ 66,500.00
Recycling Partnership (to resubmit)	\$ 575,000.00
Coordinator Grant 2022 (prospective grant)	\$ 351,253.76
HHW 2021 (for 2020 expenses (retrospective grant))	\$ 709,645.93

Request to the House Appropriation Committee, Community Project Funding through Hon. Mondaire Jones (Congressman, NY-17). Funding of a ADG Project estimated to cost in excess of \$66 million dollars.

Administrative changes in 2021:

1. A proposed local law has been prepared to amend the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority Act to expand Rockland Green’s purposes, powers, and responsibilities to include animal management services, including providing services and operating facilities to protect and promote animal care and to protect public health and safety, including those in connection with the processing and disposal of animal waste; the disposal of dead wildlife removed from roadways following wildlife-vehicle collisions; the sheltering of stray, lost, abandoned or surrendered animals; providing animal control; and any other similar services related thereto (the “Proposed Local Law”), as defined in the Proposed Local Law.
2. RCSWMA, Rockland Green ratified a Collective Bargaining Agreement 2019-2021 for Local 456 International Brotherhood of Teamsters representing select Authority staff.
3. Rockland Green expanded its staff to include a Coordinator of Special Projects, General Counsel, an Assistant Attorney, a Confidential Assistant to the Executive Director, Laborers, and internally promoted staff, providing a path for succession within the organization.

New 2021 Initiatives:

Rockland Green is partnering with the Town of Orangetown in offering food scrap recycling to Town residents. Food scraps collected through the pilot program will be turned into rich soil amendment.

In addition to our recycling initiatives (Bins & Bags, Paper Shredding and Medication Takeback events), Rockland Green has initiated a ‘Feet on The Street’ program to increase the quality and quantity of acceptable curbside recyclable materials. This program puts a team of people on the streets of Rockland to distribute residential recycling information about contamination and provides residents real-time feedback on the quality of their recycling using educational materials