

2023 Executive Director Report:

Authority Organization and Structural Changes in 2023:

The Governor of New York State signed into law as Chapter 553 of the Laws of 2022 ("Chapter 553") on August 17, 2022, to the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority Act, as set forth under Title 13-M of the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York.

Chapter 553 authorizes RCSWMA d/b/a Rockland Green to operate an animal shelter and provide animal management services on behalf of one or more municipalities located in Rockland County. Rockland Green may now acquire, hold, own, lease, establish, construct, effectuate, operate, maintain, renovate, improve, extend or repair any of its facilities for the sole purpose of operating an animal shelter and providing animal management services.

In January of 2023 the Rockland Green Board adopted an updated mission statement reflecting this change in legislation.

"Our mission is to develop the education, programs, and technology to lead the waste prevention, recovery, responsible disposal movement, and animal management services in Rockland County."

Facility Improvements:

Materials Recovery Facility

Sims Municipal Recycling of New York LLC (SMR) operates and maintains the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Urban Mining was awarded the contract for bulk pick-up, transport, and recycling of the MRF container glass. Substantial completion was reached by all contractors for the construction of the new Facility. The MRF went fully operational on July 1, 2023.

The Rockland Green Residential Recycling Program reimbursed the Rockland County Municipalities \$708,750.00 for recycling 20,250 tons of recyclables at a rate of \$35.00 per ton.

Animal Management

Starting October 1, 2023, Rockland Green entered into a consultant Agreement with Four Legs Good for the operation of the Animal Shelter. To date, Four Legs Good has placed over 85 animals in safe adoptive homes.

Together, Rockland Green and Four Legs Good have initiated a Trap Neuter Vaccinate and Release program (TNVR). In the 3rd quarter of 2023 over 520 cats were treated and released through this new initiative, decreasing the population of feral cats for 2024 by over 5,000.

In December of 2023, the Rockland Green Board approved the General Bond Resolution (Animal Management Services) to allow for the future offerings related to paying for the costs associated with Animal Management related Capital projects.

In January of 2023 Rockland Green signed a Lease Agreement for the property at 427 Beach Road in the Town of Haverstraw, in anticipation of purchasing the property to build and house a state-of-the-art animal shelter. BDA Architects has been retained for design services for a new Animal Shelter at this location.

Agreements negotiated, re/negotiated, assigned, and updated in 2023:

1. Village of Pomona, Garbage Collection Agreement 3-year agreement with IWS.
2. Hillburn Transfer Station, Operation & Maintenance and Hauling Agreement with IWS.

2023 Grants:

Grant payments received in 2023

FEMA -4480DR-NY Covid-19 Pandemic	\$115,092.71
Recycling Coordinator Grant 2021	\$185,373.25
HHW 2021	\$268,909.00

Grants applied for in 2023

Recycling Coordinator Grant 2023	\$256,410.66
HHW 2023	\$264,578.14

Authority Initiatives 2023:

- Partnered w/ the Rockland County Department of Health to conduct inspections at a Rockland Green Designated Facility to ensure compliance w/ Article 17.
- Continue to develop a biosolids and source separated organics project.
- Continue to review and analyze Alternative Waste Processing Technologies.
- Continued review of expanding the Bio-Solids Co-composting Facility.
- Review implementation of planned improvements to Rockland Green’s Administrative Offices & Education and Outreach Center.
- Instituted the Town of Clarkstown food scrap recycling initiative for Town residents.
- Negotiated Amendment of assigned Easement Agreement and related issues associated with the West Nyack Yard Waste & CACF Facility.
- Continued ‘Feet on The Street’ program to increase the quality and quantity of acceptable curbside recyclable materials.
- Distributed Bins & Bags and administered Paper Shredding and Medication Takeback events.
- Participated in the Municipal Consortium in Support of Reasonable Water Rates in connection with Veolia Water New York Rate Case.
- Participated in an Apprenticeship Training Program / Project Labor Agreement Requirements - the promotion of apprenticeship training programs will expand the pool of skilled workers in the County of Rockland by providing many residents the means to earn a decent living thereby fostering the local and regional economies.