

For Immediate Release: June 10, 2002

Guess what I am!

I will save you money. I am neat and tidy. Worms love me. Residents are clamoring for me. They want to take me home. Cornell Cooperative Extension will teach you how to use me. I am a gift from the Rockland County Solid Waste Authority and the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation. What am I?

I am your new home composting bin!!

**FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING BINS SOON AVAILABLE
TO ROCKLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Rockland Backyard Composting Bin Program Workshop dates to be announced.

During the past year, an astonishing number of residents have telephoned the Rockland County Solid Waste Authority asking about backyard composting bins. Hundreds and hundreds of environmentally aware people with a keen will toward environmental action responded to a squib in the Journal News that noted the award of a grant from the NYDEC to the Authority for provision of compost bins to Rockland County residents. The Authority is now pleased to announce that the long-awaited Home Composting Bin for residents of Rockland County have arrived, and will be available to all households across the County who wish to have one. Watch for announcements of Composting Bin Program Workshop *dates and locations coming soon to your community*. Please call the Authority at 845-753-2200 for more information.

Composting is universally recognized as one of the most valuable, earth-friendly efforts promoted by environmentalists. Pointing out that Rockland County is an “exceptionally aware community,” Ramapo Supervisor and Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Authority, Christopher P. St. Lawrence adds that, “The enthusiasm our residents have for composting is right on the mark. My family composts at home, and we get the double-benefit of reducing the amount of our garbage, and at the same time,

beatifying the garden. It's easy, it's useful, and if we all work together on a project like this, our combined efforts result in a notable achievement.”

Bringing the composting initiative to the home-base level is part of the bigger picture. On a regional basis, The Rockland County Solid Waste Authority is already involved with two large-scale composting activities that are extremely beneficial to our community. Rockland county sludge is converted to commercial compost at the Cocomposting Facility in Hillburn, and leaves, brush and grass are processed into residential compost at the Yardwaste Composting Facility in Clarkstown. These large scale efforts are complex and involve the cooperation and efforts of many individuals and agencies.

Working as a team, our residents, Towns, Villages, Health Department, Solid Waste Management Authority, carting companies, businesses and institutions are all accomplishing the extraordinary. Together we are converting our waste into new products and renewable energy forms. Additionally, while some of the compost created by the Authority is used for community projects, the rest is sold to commercial buyers and the profits returned to our municipalities. Our yardwaste, food scraps and bio solids are no longer just waste – they are a useful income and a valuable resource. They are an essential ingredient in the magical alchemy of composting, neighborhood beautification, and building sustainable communities.