



ROCKLAND COUNTY

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 7, 2005

To: media

Re: glass recycling

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R-R-R: REUSE

Solution is found for age-old question !

*The Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority(RCSWMA) produces
a new product for use in commercial and municipal projects ----
and it's FREE!*

*The press is invited to come see the new product in use, at two sites: one commercial -- and one municipal.
Meet at 1PM, Monday December 12,
at the entrance to the
Pearl River Hilton, 500 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Pearl River.
A Press packet will be available on-site.
(Directions attached)*

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is the litany of waste management – whether at home, or on a municipal scale. In theory, if every product could be re-used or re-cycled, there would be no ‘trash’ and no landfills. Manufacture, use, re-manufacture and re-use would create a continuous sustainable cycle.

On the whole, the waste management industry has made exceptional progress in moving toward a goal of sustainability: We compost leaves, kitchen scraps and yard waste. They are re-used as a soil amendment. We collect containers – metal, fiber, plastic and clear glass -- and they are re-manufactured into new products. We even re-use sewer waste, by combining bio-solids and clean wood waste to create compost for commercial use.

But the answer to one waste question has been elusive for centuries: How can we effectively and economically re-use mixed glass?

“We have the answer to that question,” says Authority Chairman and Town of Ramapo Supervisor, Christopher P. St. Lawrence. “The Authority has purchased new equipment that pulverizes our mixed

broken glass into a 'sandy' or small gravel-type product with no sharp edges. It is inert and environmentally safe – for instance, Grand Canyon National Park uses the product as an underlay for roadbeds, and even in some re-vegetation projects.”

Locally, municipalities and commercial enterprise are learning that the crushed glass product has applications in roadwork, landscaping, drainage pipe bedding, as an additive in asphalt, and a host of other applications.

The USEPA statistics point out that Americans generate over 12 million tons of waste glass. About of that glass is clear and uncontaminated, with a marketable value for re-manufacture into new products. But successful glass recycling collection programs also produce a supply of mixed broken glass without a marketable value.

“That is where the economic value of our new product comes into the picture,” continues St. Lawrence. “Our disposal costs for mixed glass were up to \$35/ton – now our disposal cost is \$0. Since we started our program on June 1st 2005, the Authority has saved \$133,000 in disposal fees.”

Rather than paying to dispose of the mixed glass, the RCSWMA currently offers the pulverized product to municipalities and commercial entities – *free of charge*. The commercially available alternate for this type of product would otherwise cost users about \$17-\$20/ton. Interested parties have only to call the RCSWMA, make an appointment, and come pick up the material. Please call Denis O’Donnell at 845-753-2200, ext. 32 or 845-590-9511 to schedule a pick-up or for more information on the product.

In Schenectady, New York, the Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant for researching various uses of cullet, and found that it serves well for farmland drainage projects, among other uses. David Mosher, District Manager of the Schenectady Soil and Water Conservation District praised the product stating, “We were very satisfied with the results of our research, and we have used the crushed glass product in a number of applications in the County -- from farmland drainage to road sub-base and as a sub-base for our own parking lot.”

One site in Rockland County where the cullet is already being used is in the construction of a Stej Developers project, “The Hollows at Blue Hill” -- a senior housing development. Stej has contracted with Harris Brothers for the installation of water and sewerage pipes to the project, and Harris Brothers are using the crushed glass as bedding for laying the pipes.

On the municipal side, the Orangetown Sewer Department is making use of the cullet for the same purpose -- along Shadyside Avenue -- where 1,400 linear feet of aging sewer pipes are being replaced, using the crushed glass as bedding for the new pipes.

Orangetown Supervisor, and RCSWMA Board Member, Thom Kleiner is enthusiastic about the product and its use. “Not only is this an environmentally sound process, but it also saves municipalities and residents money.”

St. Lawrence agrees, “This is truly a win-win-win situation: taxpayers save twice: first, on disposal costs that the Authority would have been paying, and second on the purchase price of materials their municipalities would have had to buy for projects where this product can be used for free. And third, commercial enterprises are also winners – we also offer the product to them for free, and this helps to lower construction costs.”

