

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Rockland County Solid Waste Authority receives USEPA's 2016 Environmental Champion Award for Household Hazardous Waste Facility accomplishments**

By Kerri Scales

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**Hillburn, NY** – On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> the USEPA will be presenting the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority) with a 2016 Environmental Champion Award at the EPA Region 2 offices Manhattan. The award, which recognizes those who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to protecting and enhancing environmental quality and public health, is the highest recognition presented to the public by the EPA.

Year-round the Authority provides residents with a facility where toxic household chemicals and products can be delivered for reuse and safe disposal. Removing toxic materials from the trash means greater protection of our environment and natural resources.

“Rockland residents and small businesses are fortunate to have one of only 14 permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facilities in New York State, within miles of their homes,” says Anna Roppolo, Executive Director of the Authority. “We are committed to protecting the environment and natural resources through an integrated system of processing facilities and reuse programs,” adds Roppolo.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility on Firemen's Memorial Drive in Pomona, NY is available to over 300,000 residents and small quantity generators. Common hazardous items, such as paint, chemical cleaners, pesticides, mercury containing items and electronics, to name a few, can be disposed of Monday through Friday, as well as 10 weekend events.

In operation since 1995, the facility serves a critical role in pollution avoidance by annually recovering over 446,000 gallons of paint; 60,000 gallons of motor oil; 2,200 gallons of mercury; 72,000 gallons of pesticides; and almost a million pounds of electronic waste in 2015 alone.

Residents can visit <http://www.rocklandrecycles.com/index.php> for a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste brochure and other relevant information. Stay informed on Twitter @GreenUpRockland.

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The Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority manages waste within Rockland County, NY. The Authority operates as an integrated system under two contemporary environmental paradigms. First, natural resource management through waste management agreements and policies that govern household, school and business waste practices that guide Rockland communities on how to manage waste to protect natural resources and create new resources for the manufacturing sector. Second, eco-development to ensure that waste management practices protect natural resources and prevent pollution by landfill diversion and avoidance of environmentally detrimental waste disposal.