

PRINTED MATERIAL ON OUR WEBSITE

By

Bob Messinger

The computer age, with its Internet, has given us many advantages over past methods of communicating with one another. In seconds we can get the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, or *the Washington Post*. We can order airplane tickets, or get hotel reservations, or reserve seats for a ball game. We can find out about products, procedures, and research subjects. We can even submit reports and applications to state and federal agencies. I can remember the old days and would have never imagined that the computer would become so useful. The New York Rural Association encourages you to use this unbelievable tool as we attempt to communicate with members and other interested parties on our website (www.nyruralwater.org). The Solid Waste Technical Assistance Program has developed a number of brochures, fact sheets, and lists that we hope you'll find helpful. You can review them by clicking on the NYRWA website and going to the DOWNLOAD section located on the left hand side of the home page. After you give us some very basic information, you can choose to review Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan templates or Solid Waste Issues. If you choose Solid Waste Issues and click on Access Files, you'll find four documents:

- **RECYCLING BILL STUFFER**
- **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING BROCHURE**
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SHEETS (1 & 2)**
- **DEBRIS HANDLING LETTER**

RECYCLING BILL STUFFER

We sometimes hear nowadays of recycling programs under attack in different parts of the state. They've been called too costly, ineffective and a waste of time. The "glow" that everyone seemed to have about recycling in the early 90's has lost a little of its luster. We believe that folks have either forgotten, or were never informed in the first place, of the true value of recycling. Recycling does help save natural resources like trees, oil, and minerals but it also helps PRESERVE OUR WATER SUPPLY. Recycling is not just a Solid Waste Issue - it is a Water Issue. This "bill stuffer" (brochure) tries to explain how recycling relates to clean water and attempts to do it in a way most folks can understand without a lot of technical terms. We ask that water systems help their customers become more aware of why we recycle by including this piece in their bills.

The pamphlet is done on **Microsoft Publisher** and can be downloaded on normal letter size paper. It is 2 sided and will require a 2 sided copy. It is also in color but you can print in grayscale and save color copying costs. You can help promote the recycling effort by using this material at little cost and time.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING BROCHURE

It has been estimated that between 1997 and 2007, almost 500 million computers will become obsolete. It is also estimated that over 3 billion electronic units will be scrapped in this decade. Much of this waste is considered hazardous since it contains lead, copper, iron, aluminum, silica, plastic, and other metals. A lot of this old equipment is being stored in people's attics or basements simply because they have no way of properly disposing it.

This brochure is a simple "How To" guide for small communities that would like to help their residents get rid of this unwanted waste. It attempts to help with planning an electronics collection program and reviews steps that could be taken to run a successful collection program.

The pamphlet is done on **Microsoft Publisher** and can be downloaded on normal letter size paper. It is 2 sided and in color. We do have a few of these copies already printed if you are interested. It would be a great service to your community to try and host an electronics collection event.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SHEETS 1 & 2

Many rural communities do not have access to household hazardous waste collection programs. Costs, staffing and lack of expertise are often cited as reasons for not offering these important environmental protection programs. We encourage rural communities to consider offering this service.

This "Fact Sheet" offers some practical advice for establishing such a program. It looks at funding, cost saving options, and types of events. It also reviews cooperative efforts between small communities to insure that all residents are served while holding down costs.

This is a simple **Microsoft Word** document and can be easily downloaded.

DEBRIS HANDLING & DISPOSAL.

The 9/11 tragedies at the World Trade Center are etched in our memory. Aside from the human loss, the clean up created a huge challenge. Many New York communities have faced their own natural disasters like the “ice storm” in the North Country or a huge fire in downtown Carthage. Recycling and beneficial use of all types of solid waste is encouraged during these clean ups. Often, disposal is the only method.

In conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, we have put together a list of approved disposal sites within the state. It includes approved solid waste landfills, construction and demolition landfills, construction and demolition processors, land clearing debris landfills, and transfer stations. It will give you locations, the owner and type, names and phone numbers.

There is a cover letter with links to the NYSDEC “Storm Disposal Handling & Disposal Guideline” and a Facilities List spreadsheet. The cover letter is in **Microsoft Word**, the Facilities List spreadsheet in **Microsoft Excel** (it takes a minute to come up) and will require a spreadsheet type printer although you can easily view it on your screen. We hope you never have to use it, but in times of emergency you should be able to find a disposal site close to you with a number to call.

We hope that you find these pieces informative and beneficial and ask that you check them out. If you have any questions, please call us.