

**Chenango County
Department of Public Works**

DRAFT

**Comprehensive Solid Waste
Management Plan Modification**

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<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary	E-1
I. Overview of Chenango County’s Current Solid Waste Management System	I-1
A. Major Milestones from Approved Solid Waste Management Plan and Compliance Reports	I-1
i. Major Milestones from Approved Solid Waste Management Plan	I-1
ii. Other Major Milestones from Compliance Reports	
II. Description of Solid Waste Management Plan Modifications and Enhancements	II-1
A. Introduction	II-1
B. Extension of Planning Period	II-1
C. Recycling Data Survey	II-2
D. Mercury Collection Program	II-3
E. Institutional Organics Composting Program	II-3
F. Product Reuse Collection and Distribution Center	II-4
G. Expand Mandatory E-Waste Recycling Program	II-4
H. Product Stewardship Framework	II-5
I. Backyard Composting Program	II-5
J. Recycling at Schools, Public Facilities and Special Events	II-6
K. C&D Recycling Program	II-6
L. Increase Recycling Staff Levels	II-7
III. Implementation of Modifications to the Solid Waste Management Plan	III-1
IV. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination	IV-1
V. Public Participation/Notification to Neighboring Jurisdictions	V-1
VI. Plans for SWMP Modification Distribution	VI-1
VII. Resolution Adopting the SWMP Modification	VII-1

Tables

Table-1- Implementation Schedule for the Chenango County Solid Waste Management Plan Modifications and Enhancements	III-1
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Executive Summary

Chenango County (hereinafter referred to as “the County”) completed its original Final Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) in 1991. In general, the County’s original SWMP called for the continuation of its integrated solid waste management system consisting of a regional landfill, central and intermediate solid waste transfer stations, and recyclables collection facilities. In accordance with the SWMP, these facilities continue to be in operation today.

Chenango County’s integrated solid waste management system consists of one central landfill in the town of Pharsalia, two transfer stations (located in the Towns of North Norwich, and Brisben), and recyclables drop-off locations (at the two transfer stations and the sanitary landfill). In addition, at all three sites the County recycles special wastes such as used motor oil, used anti-freeze, vehicle tires, vehicle batteries, rechargeable batteries, white goods, bulk metals, and green wastes. At the North Norwich location the County operates a Latex Paint Exchange room, to accept good useable Latex Paint which is then given to County Residents free of charge. The Latex Paint Exchange Room is in operation from May 1st through September 30th, each year. In addition to the Latex Paint, computer components are also recycled at the North Norwich facility. Chenango County also encourages its residents to properly dispose of such household hazardous wastes (up to specific limits) by the County residents by co-sponsoring with the NYSDEC a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day every other year.

Chenango County has met the milestones outlined in their original SWMP, which expires at the end of 2010. The milestones include the permitting and construction of a County operated landfill to allow for landfilling of non-recyclable wastes, as well as waste reduction, recycling programs, two transfer stations, appointing a County recycling staff, instituting a County office paper recycling, instituting a public education program, coordinating a local recycling program, developing a program for the storage and transferring of bulky metals, automobile batteries, and tires, developing leaf composting sites, developing a recyclable delivery outlets, instituting a mandatory recycling program, establishing procurement policies for recyclable materials, planning household hazardous waste collection program, and developing sewage sludge management facilities. The County has also further bolstered its solid waste management system beyond the milestones outlined in its original plan, as described in the biennial compliance reports. Due to the fact that the County has met these milestones, and it is felt there are no major changes needed in the County solid waste management system, the County is seeking to extend the planning period for another ten years until the year 2020. The County has however, identified some enhancements to the system that it would like to complete during the extended planning period in order to further enhance its solid waste management system. These enhancements are described in this SWMP document.

This SWMP Modification report has been prepared in accordance with NYSDEC Part 360 Regulations for Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Planning and DEC Policy DSHM-SW-03-15, Extending the Term of a Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) Planning Period. In accordance with subpart 360-15.11(e), a detailed description of the proposed modifications and the reasons for these modifications are included in Section II of this report; the revised implementation schedule is included in Section III; and the remaining required components for a SWMP modification are included in sections IV through VII.

I. Overview of Chenango County’s Solid Waste Management System

Chenango County’s integrated solid waste management system consists of one central sanitary landfill in the town of Pharsalia, two transfer stations (located in the Towns of North Norwich and Brisben), 20tpd solid waste and 25 tpd source separated recyclables at each transfer station. The landfill accepts the same source separated recyclables as the transfer stations. Chenango County also continues to encourage its residents to properly dispose of their household hazardous wastes, by co-sponsoring a household hazardous waste collection day every other year.

A. Major Milestones from Approved Solid Waste Management Plan and Compliance Reports

i. Major Milestones from Approved Solid Waste Management Plan

Chenango County’s NYSDEC-approved Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan(SWMP) contains three primary elements, and twelve secondary elements for the managing of the County’s waste for the duration of the 20-year planning period. The primary and secondary elements of the Plan and the status of each are described below:

1. *A New County Wide Landfill*

This element of the Plan was implemented by siting and constructing the new NYSDEC permitted Sanitary Landfill in the Town of Pharsalia. The Pharsalia landfill was opened for operation on January 1, 1994. There are 7 cells that are currently permitted for construction at the current facility site. The first cell opened January 1, 1994, the second was constructed and permitted to open November of 2000, and the final constructed cell #3 was permitted and opened in November 2008. Partial closure of Cell 1 has been completed for approximately 7 acres. Closure is being done to reduce the amount of leachate that is collected and transported to the Norwich City Waste Water Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal.

2. *Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs*

This element of the Plan was implemented by creating and staffing a recycling program. The County passed a local law, resolution # 216-90 making the County a source separated County, mandate recyclables, and voluntary recyclables. The types of recyclables has been expanded on over the years to include things like, office paper sort,

PETE plastic, junk mail, anti-freeze, and latex paint. An education program for area schools, businesses, and residents has been developed and expanded upon as needed. The listing of accepted recyclables accepted at all three solid waste facilities has been expanded over the years to the following listing as of December 2008.

- Newspaper
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Boxboard
- Brown Paper Bags
- Junk Mail
- Office Paper
- Magazines
- Boxboard
- Plastic Containers 1-9
- Plastic bags
- #2 HDPE barrels
- #2 HDPE 5 gallon pails
- Tires
- Lead cell batteries
- Rechargeable batteries
- Computers
- White goods
- Anything 50% metal is scrap metal
- Glass containers (all colors)
- Metal food containers
- Used Motor Oil
- Used Anti Freeze
- Latex Paint
- Computer Components
- Ink jet and laser cartridges
- Leaves and Yard Wastes
- Brush

This listing includes mandatory and voluntary recyclable products.

3. *Opening of two transfer stations*

The County opened two transfer stations and recycling centers located at the closed Norwich and Brisben town landfills. They were part of the landfill system that the County took over.

4. *Waste Reduction and Recycling*

This element included the following:

- Appointing a Recycling Staff
- Instituting County office paper recycling
- Public education program
- Coordinating a local recycling program
- Program for the storage and transferring of bulky metals, automobile batteries, and tires
- Developing leaf composting sites
- Developing a recyclable delivery outlet
- Instituting mandatory recycling
- Establishing procurement policies for recyclable materials
- Planning household hazardous waste program
- Developing a sewage sludge management facilities

All of the above elements have been accomplished. In addition, the specific elements have been expanded upon through out the years. The staff has been expanded, the County recycling program now includes other things besides office paper. The education program now includes school presentations, tours, handing out literature, the Waste Management Program Assistant attending public events to further promote Waste Reduction and Recycling. The plan is to expand on the Public Education portion of the SWMP. The County plans to accomplish this by doing waste audits for area businesses and schools, assisting them to develop on site recycling programs. The County plans to develop a recycling collection program at special events such as the County Fair, Colorscape, and the Gus Macker Tournament. The leaf composting sites have been developed and expanded to include brush and wood chips. The plan will include looking into expanding the composting program to include food wastes from the schools and the County operated Jail. The County passed a law requiring certain materials to be mandatory recycled. The plan will include the expansion of current voluntary recyclables to mandatory recyclables as soon as practical.

5. *Medical Waste*

The County plan included the acceptance of destroyed medical waste from Chenango Memorial Hospital. The new plan will not change or modified the current process or procedure.

6. *Tires*

The County accepts tires at the landfill, and both transfer stations, it then contracts with a company to remove and recycle the tires. It is the intent to continue with this program until a more viable alternative becomes available.

7. *Household Hazardous Waste*

This element has been expanded to include electronics recycling and is being held more frequently than at implementation. It is intended to continue this program every other year until a better program becomes available.

8. *Safe Syringe Disposal Program*

This element of the Plan will continue as is. Syringes are accepted at all three facilities in the proper containers, and marked appropriately.

9. *Expanding the Composting Program*

The County is considering a pilot program of composting food wastes from the area schools, institutions, and jails with in the County.

10. *Consider Implementing a Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling or Exchange Program if and when Appropriate*

The County is considering a waste study to determine if a C&D recycling program or exchange would be a viable program

11. *Compact Fluorescent Bulbs*

The County currently collects for recycling regular fluorescent bulbs. The County will look at expanding this program to include compact fluorescent bulbs.

B. Other Major Milestones from Compliance Reports

As Outlined in their biennial SWMP Compliance Reports, the County has implemented some solid waste management and recycling enhancements, which go above and beyond the milestones laid out in the original SWMP framework.

1. *Flow Control*

The County has determined that at this time instituting flow control would not be in the best interest of the County. This element will be revisited as necessary.

2. *Landfill Gas Collection and Destruction*

Chenango County has installed flares at the landfill to destroy the methane gas generated at the landfill. The landfill is too small and new to make collection and utilization a viable program at this time. It will be revisited as the landfill grows and ages.

II. **Description of Solid Waste Management Plan Modifications and Enhancements**

A. Introduction

The County has implemented a majority of the milestones contained within their original SWMP and therefore proposes to modify this plan to maintain its current system, while identifying new milestones to work toward during a ten year extension of the SWMP planning period. The milestones set forth below were identified with the goal of further enhancing the reuse and recycling of materials within the solid waste management system to reduce the quantity of materials being landfilled.

B. Extension of Planning Period

The NYSDEC's rules and regulations for Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Planning (Subpart 360-15 of 6NYCRR Part 360) require that all solid waste management plans provide for the management of solid waste within the planning unit for a minimum of a ten-year period. The County's current Solid Waste Management Plan is based on a 20-year planning period beginning in the year 1990 and extending through the year 2010. The current NYSDEC policy for extending the term of a local solid waste management plan provides for the extension of the planning period through means of a SWMP modification, as long as no significant changes have occurred in the method of managing the solid waste generated in the planning unit (NYSDEC, 2003).

C. Recycling Data Survey

As described above, the County has a very comprehensive recycling program, with many materials being mandatory to recycle. While the County offers extensive recycling options, the Annual Solid Waste and Recyclables Inventory produced by the County consistently reports recycling percentages below the County's recycling goals set forth in the original plan. It is the County's belief that this is due to the fact that reported recycling numbers are based solely on the materials that are handled through the County's solid waste management system. While most solid waste is required to be handled through this system, and therefore is completely accounted for, the same requirement does not apply to recyclable materials. Therefore, large recyclables producers such as big box stores, and even private recyclables collection companies, may ship recyclable products directly to the end user for a profit, bypassing the County recycling facilities. As a result, these materials are not being accounted for in the County's recycling reports.

The County proposes to undertake a recycling data survey, which would be distributed to various sectors of the County in order to compile a more complete recycling data. These surveys will be used to help assess what materials could be available for use in new programs such as organics composting and construction and demolition (C&D) material recycling. The survey would most likely be conducted in stages, with the largest waste producers being contacted first. Survey recipients would be asked for data such as; recyclable material (metals, plastic, and paper) produced per year, organic material produced per year, C&D material produced per year, and current disposal/recycling methods. Intermediate facilities such as confidential paper shredding services may also be contacted to determine how much material they receive from within Chenango County. This information would then be compiled to help the County determine the actual recycling rate within the County, which recycling efforts are most effective, and which new recycling methods would be most prudent for the County to pursue.

D. Mercury Collection Program.

Mercury is an extremely toxic substance that does not break down easily once released to the environment. Its disposal needs to be controlled. The County currently collects fluorescent bulbs at all three of its facilities. The County currently assessing the feasibility of developing a comprehensive program for the collection and proper disposal of mercury containing products such as thermometers, thermostats, and compact fluorescent bulbs. The goal of such a collection program would be to provide residents with a convenient, safe, and timely method of disposal of these items and reduce the possibility of improper disposal. Currently the feasibility of working with other local government agencies is being investigated.

E. Institutional Organics Composting Program

One recyclable material stream that the County has not yet addressed on a long-term basis is the organic food wastes stream. With a college, ten K-12 schools, one hospital, two incarceration facilities, and a number of other institutions located within the County which have the potential of producing substantial quantities of organic food waste, this recycling stream may be readily available. As part of the Recycling Data Survey mentioned above, the County proposes to determine the quantity of material available, and will develop a list of institutions which may be interested in developing source separated organics recovery programs. If a reliable stream of this type of material is identified, the County will investigate the feasibility of implementing a composting program for institutional organic wastes.

F. Product Re-use Collection and Distribution Center

Product re-use is one of the most efficient forms of recycling. Chenango County proposes to assess the feasibility of providing a system by which their residents can drop off used, but still usable items free of charge. Items would be salvaged from the existing recycling streams, such as bulk metal, books, and small appliances, construction materials free of nails or screws, and used electronics. These items would then be made available to residents for a fee. This would be similar to the current drop off centers for the Salvation Army, currently are located at all of the County transfer stations. Latex Paint Exchange is located at the North Norwich Transfer Station. The materials considered for re-use would be transported to the North Norwich Transfer Station.

G. Expand Mandatory E-Waste Recycling Program

As described above, the County's list of mandatory recycled items would be expanded. As the technology in consumer electronics evolves, the quality of electronic waste, or E-waste, entering the waste stream will continue to grow. While the County currently accepts computer E-waste for recycling at its North Norwich Transfer Station, the County proposes to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the list of recycled items to include other E-wastes such as cell phones, digital cameras, and televisions. This would require the adoption of a local law to include these items as mandatory recyclables.

H. Product Stewardship Framework

Product Stewardship is based on the concept that producers selling a product should be responsible for designing, managing, and financing a stewardship program that addresses the lifecycle impacts of their products, including end-of-life management. It is a nationwide undertaking to encourage government, at the State level, to implement product stewardship legislation based on the same framework principles in order to maintain a consistent starting point for nationwide implementation of a product stewardship policy. It is the intent of Chenango County to adopt these product stewardship framework principles through a resolution.

I. Backyard Composting Program

Composting of all organic waste can be an effective method of low technology recycling reducing the stream of land-filled waste. Collection of these materials on a household basis can prove both difficult and expensive. Another option for encouraging the removal of these wastes from the waste stream is to implement a backyard composting program.

This would provide residents information regarding the methods of backyard composting. The Chenango County Cooperative Extension hosts a backyard composter sale every spring as part of their master gardener program. The County will explore entering into a partnership with the Cooperative Extension to provide composting literature and composting lessons with master gardeners.

J. Recycling at Schools, Public Facilities and Special Events

Chenango County has taken the initiative to promote recycling in local schools through presentations, waste audits, and distribution of recycling information. If financial and personnel resources allow, the County proposes to continue this program in the local schools, as well as expanding into public facilities (such as municipal office buildings) and at special events (such as the Chenango County Fair, and Gus Macker basketball tournament).

K. C&D Recycling Program

The County proposes to do a feasibility study of recycling C&D material to determine if it would be cost effective to recycle this material instead of land filling. One method the County will explore as a means to reduce processing costs would be to encourage the source separating and removal of any contaminants, such as nails, prior to accepting wood materials for recycling or reuse. Another method to be explored will be a reuse program, similar to our Latex Paint Exchange. Participants would bring in source separated building materials of certain sizes, and masonry products free of nails and other contaminants. These materials would be accepted at a reduced cost.

L. Increase Recycling Staffing Levels

Many of the solid waste management program enhancements outlined above will require considerable effort on the part of the recycling staff to implement and maintain. The County plans to pursue the possibility of hiring additional recycling program staff to help evaluate and implement these programs, specifically the recycling data surveys, backyard composting education, and recycling education at schools, public facilities, and special events. The county will pursue the creation of one or more internship positions for students from the colleges located within the County, who have specific interests in public relations and/or environmental sustainability. The feasibility of implementing this program will depend heavily on the availability of necessary funding.

III. Implementation of Modifications to the Solid Waste Management Plan

While some of the program enhancements outlined above are already in the planning stages, some will require a higher level of feasibility analysis, funding, and planning before implementation. The preliminary implementations schedule for the proposed modifications is outlined in the table below. As pursuit of implementing these proposed modifications continues, and further information is gathered regarding the feasibility of implementing these programs, this schedule will be updated as needed via the biennial SWMP Compliance Reports, which are issued by the County every 2 years.

TASK	TIMEFRAME
1. Extension of Planning Period	Current planning period ends 12/31/09. Submit SWMP Modification to NYSDEC for approval by 10/30/09. Receive extension approval by 12/31/09.
2. Recycling Data Survey	Begin survey for select businesses in 2009. If survey is successful, expand to smaller businesses and institutions by 2010.
3. Mercury Collection Program	Currently handling through the HHW Collection Days every other year, and fluorescent bulb recycling program.
4. Institutional Organics Composting Program	Use 2010 Recycling Survey Data Survey information to identify potential partnership with a local institution. Work to implement composting program by fall 2011.
5. Product Reuse Collection and Distribution Center	Tour similar existing facilities in 2009. Develop operating plan and implement program by spring 2010.
6. Expand Mandatory E-waste Recycling Program	Evaluate annually based on recycling tonnages and estimates of waste stream percentage collected.
7. Product Stewardship Framework	Develop and present resolution to County Board of Supervisors by 2009.

Table 1 Implementation Schedule for the Chenango County Solid Waste Management Plan Modifications and Enhancements		
TASK		TIMEFRAME
8. Backyard Composting Program		Develop public information materials in 2009 for posting on website and for public distribution in spring 2010. Evaluate feasibility of implementing training program in subsequent years.
9. Recycling at Schools, Public Facilities, and Events		Continue education program at schools and provide recycling bins as funding allows. Begin education at public facilities and events as staffing allows.
10. C & D Recycling Program		Evaluate markets for end product and conduct cost benefit analysis by December 2012.
11. Increase Recycling Staffing Levels		Evaluate on an annual basis during budgeting process.

IV. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination

A SEQRA review for the SWMP Modification was undertaken and a negative declaration dated , 2009 was made by the County, acting in its capacity as SEQRA Lead Agency. All required SEQRA documents will be maintained in a file at the County Office Building.

V. Public Participation/Notification to Neighboring Jurisdictions

The County will hold a public information meeting on August 19, 2009 to gather public input on the proposed modifications to the SWMP. In addition, all neighboring counties will be mailed a copy of the draft SWMP modification, and it will be posted on the County website for public review and information by July 17, 2009. Public comments will be collected through September 21, 2009 and incorporated into the draft document as necessary.

VI. Plans for SWMP Modification Distribution

All holders of the original SEMP will be sent copies of the final SWMP Modification. Instructions to insert the modification into the original SWMP will be included in the submittal. As stated above, the SWMP Modification will also be available on the County website.

VII. Resolution Adopting the SWMP Modification

The Chenango County Board of Supervisors will be responsible for consideration and enactment of a resolution to adopt this SWMP modification. A copy of this resolution will be forwarded to NYSDEC subsequent to its adoption by the County.

Direct Your Comments To:

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