

**Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairwoman Greene and Legislators Bruno, Criswell, Petit, and Wawro)

Chairwoman of the Energy and Environment Committee, Manna Jo Greene, Legislator Tracey A. Bartels, and Legislator Donaldson offer the following:

WHEREAS, the residents and business of Ulster County currently generate approximately 130,000-135,000 tons of solid waste annually; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency ("UCRRA") is responsible for, among other things, the management and disposal of the County's solid waste, the development of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan, and the implementation and maintenance of the solid waste management system as described in the Local Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, UCRRA currently arranges for disposal of the County's solid waste at the Seneca Meadows landfill in Waterloo, NY, 236 miles from the UCRRA transfer facility in the Town of Ulster; and

WHEREAS, the continued availability of space at Seneca Meadows is uncertain, and in any event transport there is relatively expensive and damaging to the environment; and

WHEREAS, a number of alternative solid waste management strategies may provide more efficient and reliable means of disposal, including self reliance, regionalization through cooperation with other counties, and alternative technologies, among others; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Ulster County Legislature adopted Resolution 451-19, which declared the County a Zero Waste Community and required the County to research measures to reduce the generation of waste by the County and its constituent residents, businesses and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, UCRRA, is responsible for the development of the County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan are to:

1. Reduce waste generation to move toward zero waste.
2. Use materials in the waste stream for highest and best use.
3. Maximize reuse and recycling

**Resolution No. 242 of 2020      February 16, 2021**

**Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

4. Engage state agencies, authorities, businesses, institutions, and residents in sustainable materials management programs.
5. Maximize the amount of energy recovered from the materials managed.
6. Engage manufacturers in end-of-life management of the products and packages they put in the marketplace with product stewardship programs.
7. Encourage self-reliance and sustainability at the local level.
8. Empower consumers to be accountable by encouraging smart purchasing, local purchasing and maintenance (i.e. Repair Cafes).
9. Develop a solid waste management system that is sustainable and enables Ulster County to be self-reliant and responsible for the whole waste cycle.; and

WHEREAS the County Legislature is the policymaking body for the county and has approval authority over the draft Local Solid Waste Management Plan and over any UCRRA bonding of more than \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, UCRRA retained Cornerstone, PLLC (“Cornerstone”) as its engineering and technical advisor in preparing the Local Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature created the Solid Waste Planning Commission, which includes six members of the Legislature and 3 UCRRA Board members to cooperate and coordinate on reviewing available strategies for solid waste management, including reviewing the Local Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Cornerstone submitted a final Local Solid Waste Management Plan for Ulster County to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for approval on behalf of the UCRRA; and

WHEREAS, DEC approved the Local Solid Waste Management Plan in May, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the final Local Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted by the UCRRA Board of Directors at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020; and

**Resolution No. 242 of 2020      February 16, 2021**

**Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

WHEREAS in June, 2020 the Solid Waste Planning Commission reviewed the Local Solid Waste Management Plan and has written to the UCRRA to request UCRRA's commitment to review waste diversion strategies and alternative technologies to approach Zero Waste not covered in the Local Solid Waste Management Plan, and to collaboratively develop **and participate in** a comprehensive Zero Waste Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, UCRRA has committed to ~~review~~ zero waste strategies and alternative technologies not covered in the Local Solid Waste Management Plan **that may be included in the Zero Waste Implementation Plan currently being developed**; and

WHEREAS, the Local Solid Waste Management Plan is subject to review and amendment every two years, and the UCRRA will submit biennial updates to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and shall also file a copy of each update with the Clerk of the Legislature upon submitting such; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature and the UCRRA agree on the importance of a self-reliant and environmentally responsible solid waste system for the County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that that the Ulster County Legislature hereby approves and adopts the Local Solid Waste Management Plan,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Donaldson)

No Action Taken in Committee: Energy and Environment on July 6, 2020 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on August 3, 2020 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on August 31, 2020 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on October 5, 2020 with consent

**Resolution No. 242 of 2020      February 16, 2021**

**Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on November 2, 2020 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on November 30, 2020 with consent

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment on February 1, 2021

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

Legislator Petit motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> WHEREAS clauses to strike certain language and to insert additional language as indicated above in bold font.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22              NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Donaldson)

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of February in the year Two Thousand Twenty-One, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of February in the year Two Thousand Twenty-One.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature