



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TOUR FOR ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATORS AND RRA BOARD MEMBERS**

(Kingston, NY) Trash has nothing on this group of Ulster County Legislators, Resource Recovery Agency Board Members and Staff. A day long excursion to tour the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Agency (OHSWA) was a lesson in state of the art processing of recycling materials and regional solid waste management planning.

The trip, coordinated by the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, delivered Ulster County Legislators and Environmental, Energy, and Technology Committee members Tracey Bartels, Carl Belfiglio, Kenneth Wishnick and Committee Clerk Krista Barringer with RRA Board Members Charles Landi, Dominic Tagliaferro, Leon Smith, and Albert Teetsel to the inner workings of their single source recycling facility. Joined by UCRRA Recycling Coordinator Michelle Bergkamp, newly hired Compliance Officer Thomas Briggs, Controller Tim DeGraff, Attorney Kenneth Gilligan, and Executive Director Tim Rose, the group was amazed by an efficient single stream recycling facility which increased the waste product marketability by about ten percent. The technology to sort plastics by air, metal with a high powered magnet, and aluminum by eddy current was enlightening to witness first hand and can be seen online in OHSWA's part three video located at <http://www.ohswa.org/about-us/ohswa-videos/>. The .5 percent of recyclable material which was not sorted by this system offered a look into a highly effective community recycling program.

Environmental, Energy, and Technology Committee Chair Belfiglio stated, "Ulster County needs to look at every option in our Solid Waste Management Plan and what better place to start than a successful plan already implemented at Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority."

As the tour progressed to the municipal owned landfill, the group learned more about this zero net service fee operation, its municipal contracts for solid waste that offered discounted tipping fees, a sub-contracted waste transportation program for solid waste disposal from transfer station to landfill, a GPS system that allowed for routing decisions and improved communication with the local communities, as well as a plan for continued reduction of tipping fees for solid waste disposal.

After many questions were asked and answered, the group began the two and half hour ride home, having traveled almost the same distance as the daily solid waste disposal trucks filled with Ulster County trash, in quiet contemplation of the responsible stewardship of County owned and County managed waste.

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[Photos attached and Photo #1 Credit: Krista Barringer; Photos #2-4: Carl Belfiglio]

