



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
244 FAIR STREET, 6TH FLOOR
KINGSTON, NY 12401

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION
• PHONE 845-340-3900
• EMAIL LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us
• FAX 845-340-3651

Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov

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The Ulster County Legislature and Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Finalize New Five-Year Solid Waste Service Agreement

(Kingston, NY) – After months of collaborative discussion and compromise the Ulster County Legislature and the Board of Directors of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) have approved a new five-year Solid Waste Service Agreement. Resolution No. 209 was approved by the Legislature on September 18th, signed by County Executive Metzger on September 25th and approved by the UCRRA Board of Directors on October 9th. The final agreement was signed last week by Legislature Chairman Peter Criswell and UCRRA Board Chair James Gordon.

Effective through May 31, 2030, the agreement preserves flow control and the net service fee, while expanding the Agency's bonding capacity to finance critical facilities. These include projects for waste reduction, reuse and recycling, municipal organic composting, sewage sludge management, and household hazardous waste collection. The agreement explicitly prohibits facilities for waste disposal through incineration, chemical recycling, or waste-to-energy processes.

The new agreement is a cornerstone in the Legislature's broader efforts to confront the growing local, regional, and global solid waste crisis.

"We are proud of the work that went into finalizing this agreement," said **Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature**. "Our partnership with the Resource Recovery Agency has never been more important. Ulster County generates 109,000 tons of waste per year, and with the Seneca Meadows Landfill set to close in the near future, we must double down on identifying sustainable solutions for managing our waste."

"Ulster County has long been a leader in environmental conservation and green energy," said **Chris Hewitt, Chair of the Legislature's Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee**. "We have the opportunity to be just as innovative and trailblazing in how we reduce waste. Through initiatives like Beyond Plastics, reducing, recycling, repairing, and eliminating organics from the waste stream with composting, we can make a lasting impact for our region."

"This contract will allow the UCRRA to achieve its goals of waste diversion and invest in necessary capital improvements while maintaining the Legislature's critical oversight of their operations. I look forward to continued updates from the agency on their progress and a transparent waste diversion process that prioritizes the wellbeing of our neighbors," said **Legislator Richard Walls, Deputy Chair of the Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee**.

“The County's new service agreement with UCCRA reflects our shared commitment to move beyond the status quo of waste disposal and take a more innovative and forward-thinking approach to how we manage solid waste in Ulster County," **said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger.** “By better positioning UCRRA to finance facilities for organics diversion, composting, and recycling, we can reduce our reliance on landfills and the long-term environmental and financial costs of that reliance. I want to thank Chair of the Legislature Peter Criswell, Environment, Energy, and Sustainability Committee Chair Chris Hewitt, UCCRA Executive Director Marc Rider, and members of the Legislature and UCCRA Board for getting this important agreement over the finish line, with waste reduction efforts at the center."

Resolution Number 209 and the full text of the UCRRA Agreement can be found [HERE](#).

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