

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/executive/county-executive-mike-hein-signs-ulster-county-solid-waste-management-%E2%80%9Cflow-control%E2%80%9D-law>

COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN SIGNS ULSTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT “FLOW CONTROL” LAW

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Ulster County’s Flow Control Law spurs competition and small business development, addresses \$23 million debt and helps to protect the environment.

Kingston, NY– “Ulster County’s Flow Control Law helps eliminate the government’s subsidy of the RRA,” said County Executive Hein. “It spurs competition and small business development, honestly addresses the RRA’s \$23 million debt and helps to protect our environment. Though this law is not a panacea for past challenges at the RRA, I hope today does spur the additional Legislative action needed for a more comprehensive solution to the solid waste issues facing our community.” **Ulster County’s Flow Control Law will ensure the reliable delivery of waste to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (RRA), allowing the system to operate on a strictly fee-for-service basis. With flow control, costs for waste disposal will be distributed proportionately and fairly among those who generate waste. Flow control is designed to help the environment, ensure stable rates over time and create an equal playing field for all private haulers. It will also enable the RRA to ensure proper disposal of recyclable materials. This law provides a foundation for improved long term solid waste management planning, as the RRA will be able to monitor the flow of trash.** According to Ulster County Legislator Ken Wishnick, “Most residents do not know that Ulster County property taxpayers have been subsidizing RRA operations by \$200,000 a month. Most of that subsidy was due to the deep discounts given only to the large corporate garbage companies. The flow control law is far from ideal, but it will result in ALL private garbage collectors paying the same rates and shift the full cost of garbage disposal from taxpayers to those who dispose of garbage. I believe this makes for good public policy.” “I am happy that the County Executive and the Legislature have agreed to end the taxpayer subsidies of the Resource Recovery Agency and make it a more equitable option for all residents and businesses of Ulster County,” said Ulster County Legislator Carl Belfiglio, Chair of the Environment, Energy and Technology Committee. “I’ve spent many years advocating for a comprehensive solution to Ulster County’s waste via Flow Control, said Ulster County Legislator Hector Rodriguez. I’m pleased the day has finally arrived. I want to congratulate County Executive Hein as well as all legislators for making this decision and I look forward to the next steps towards making Ulster County greener.” The RRA’s mission is to provide an efficient, economical and environmentally sound solid waste management system in and for the County of Ulster. The RRA strives to carry out the principles of New York’s solid waste hierarchy in its work, emphasizing reuse of materials, reduction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), and the carrying out of an effective and user friendly recycling program, with landfill disposal of MSW

that cannot be reused or recycled. The RRA also provides a pilot organics composting project, and holds Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics recycling events for the residents of the County. Municipal drop off centers for disposal of solid waste and recycling developed by the RRA offer County residents a convenient alternative to private collection contracts. It is Ulster County's longstanding policy to reduce the amount of solid waste generated; reuse material for the purpose for which it was originally intended or recycle material that cannot be reused; recover energy from solid waste that cannot be economically or technically reused or recycled; and dispose of solid waste that is not being reused, recycled or from which energy is not being recovered by land burial or other means approved by law. This local law is intended to advance and support these policies.