

Summary of Sullivan County's Draft 10-Year Local Solid Waste Management Plan, July 2024

Folks, I read the [Sullivan County Draft Local Solid Waste Management Plan](#) for the next 10 years so you wouldn't have to. It appears to follow the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's template for developing such plans. Here's a breakdown of what's in the document:

Introduction. (1 page)

Description of the **Planning unit**—i.e., Sullivan County. (4 pages)

Waste generation and materials recovery estimates the current quantities and composition of the county's overall waste stream. (8 pages)

Existing solid waste management system describes the county's existing solid waste management system, including facilities, initiatives, and waste-reduction programs. (26 pages)

Description of the county's existing **Administrative and financial structure** for managing waste. (10 pages)

Regionalization reviews a feasibility study conducted in 2017 that looked at joining forces with Greene and Ulster Counties to create a regional Solid Waste Management Authority. This section also looks at a successful model for this approach, the Oneida–Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. (4 pages)

Technology evaluation and selection covers potential approaches to waste management, including exporting trash (which we currently do) and creating a local landfill. It also explains a broad range of composting techniques and anaerobic digestion. **Of greatest interest to those concerned about a possible incinerator are the 2 pages devoted to so-called Waste to energy - Thermal conversion (mass burn),** starting on pdf page 85 and document page 7-16. (29 pages)

The **Implementation plan and schedule** spells out what would happen when over the 10-year planning period—specifically, from 2024 through 2033. It consists of brief bullets and is double spaced, so there's not much text on each page. (35 pages)

Appendix A is the county's **Solid waste management rules**, which were passed into law in 1992 and amended in September 2021. (50 pages)

Appendix B is **Organics management**, which is all about collecting and composting food scraps. This program is already under way, and the plan calls for its continued expansion, as outlined in this appendix. (250 pages)

Appendix C is **Alternatives assessment**, and it devotes a page to each of 15 different approaches, **many of which could help reduce our waste stream. These include waste reduction, reuse, recyclables recovery and organics recovery programs;** education and outreach; and improvement of local and regional markets for recyclables. Reducing the volume of C&D (construction & demolition) debris also would help trim back the amount of waste we need to cope with. (15 pages)

Appendix D is for **Public comments and response**. It is up to us to populate it with our feedback on the plan. **Send your comments to recycling@sullivanny.us, or to Mark Witkowski, SCDPW Deputy Commissioner, P.O. Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701. Comments must be received by October 15.**