

**>>> NEWSLETTER <<<****TOP NEWS****WHO ARE WE****>>> SWANA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NY CHAPTER**

The SWANA YP Group provides a structured bridge from an entry-level to a mid-career leader in the resource management industry. The group aims to develop a pool of well-rounded leaders for the future of our industry and provide a platform to elevate new ideas and initiatives from the youngest members of the industry. [MORE ABOUT SWANA YP HERE.](#)

**CLICK HERE <<<**

[Solid Waste Project Manager, HDR](#)  
[Solid Waste Section Manager, HDR](#)  
[Project Administrator, B&L](#)  
[Environmental Program Specialist 1, NYSDEC](#)  
[Project Manager, NYC](#)

**JOB  
OPPORTUNITIES**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ➤➤➤ CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR 2026 NY ANNUAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING CONFERENCE, MAY 16-20, BOLTON LANDING, NEW YORK

Abstracts are now being accepted for next year's NY Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Conference. The 2026 program will put a spotlight on expansion of the circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, regulation updates for organics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), advancements in AI-powered sorting and data analytics, automation for efficiency, and the need to improve recycling rates through better infrastructure and reduced contamination.

For more information about topics and submission visit [conference.nyfederation.org](https://conference.nyfederation.org).

Abstract submission deadline is December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### TOPICS

#### Emergency Management

Contingency Planning  
Fire Prevention Strategies  
Natural Disaster Debris Management  
Pathogen Reduction & Exposure Pathways  
Safety Protocols  
Technology Systems Security

#### Employee Relations

Diversity, Inclusion & Equity  
Employee Retention & Shortages  
Recruitment Strategies

#### Innovation & Education

Alternative Energy Projects  
Biodiversity & Wildlife Management Projects  
Climate Smart Communities Waste Management  
Community Outreach Programs  
Environmental Education  
Innovative Equipment, Technologies & Operations  
Master Planning

#### Landfill Gas

Beneficial Uses of Landfill Gas  
Carbon Footprint Reduction  
Climate Action Council  
Climate Leadership Community Protection Act  
Energy & Climate Change  
Energy Recovery & Thermal Treatment  
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#### Organics Management

Anaerobic Digestion  
Composting & Biological Treatment  
Compost Contamination Solutions  
Food Waste Reduction & Composting  
Innovative Biosolids Management Methods

#### Recycling & Waste Reduction

C&D Recycling & Reuse  
Commercial/Industrial Recycling Program  
Community Recycling Programs  
Incentive-Based Recycling  
Electronics Recycling  
Odd Items Recycling  
Recycling Market Trends  
Reuse Programs  
Waste Minimization  
Zero Waste Policies

#### Regulations

Environmental Justice Impacts  
Extended Producer Responsibility  
Financial Assurance Requirements  
LSWMP & Biennial Reporting Tools  
PFAS Policies  
Product Stewardship  
Superfund & Brownfield Projects

#### Waste Management

Beneficial Use of Closed Landfills  
BUD Materials  
Collection & Transportation  
Engineered Solutions  
Landfill Expansions  
Landfill Reclamation  
Landfill Stability  
Microplastics Management  
Odor Management  
Post-Closure Management  
Vector Management Strategies  
Waste Characterization & Research  
Waste-to-Energy

#### Water Management at Facilities

Groundwater Remediation  
Leachate Conveyance & Treatment  
PFAS Treatment Technologies  
Pond/Tank Management Strategies & Innovation  
Stormwater Management

CONTACT: Lauren Laibach  
(914) 388-2222 or e-mail: [press@nyfederation.org](mailto:press@nyfederation.org)  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Call for Abstracts for 2026 NY Annual Solid Waste & Recycling Conference

BOLTON LANDING, NY – Each year, the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations' Conference with Trade Show attracts national attention and hundreds of attendees. As always, the Conference will address timely topics and trends through a diversity of expert speakers, serving as a forum for discussion and learning on the most pertinent issues—in New York as well as nationally—faced by solid waste and recycling professionals. The upcoming conference runs May 17-20, 2026 located at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, NY. The 2026 program will put a spotlight on expansion of the circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, regulation updates for organics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), advancements in AI-powered sorting and data analytics, automation for efficiency, and the need to improve recycling rates through better infrastructure and reduced contamination.

*Abstracts are now being accepted to develop next year's program.*

If you have an innovative program or improved process that you'd like to share with hundreds of your peers, please consider presenting at the 2026 Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations' Conference. Abstracts of up to 250 words will be accepted through Dec. 5, 2025, on any topic associated with solid waste, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, product stewardship, energy-from-waste (EFW), and landfilling operations. Topics which tie together recycling and engineering that are potentially eligible for professional engineer credit will receive immediate consideration due to attendee demand. Technical presentations on products offered by exhibitors are also encouraged. Abstracts may be easily submitted through the [Conference website](https://conference.nyfederation.org).

The Conference continues to offer an expanded program featuring three full days of technical sessions. Each breakout session typically includes up to three presentations of approximately 20 minutes in length, followed by questions and answers. Conference tracks are designed to provide more in-depth discussions of solid waste/materials management issues, catered to specific interests. Topics for the 2026 Conference are envisioned to include: climate change and carbon footprint reduction; emerging contaminants (PFAS); innovative design and case studies; operational optimization; conversion technologies; food waste composting and biological treatment; debris management; EPR; beneficial use of landfill gas and closed landfills; collection and transportation efficiencies; employee retention; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); safety best practices and training; and more (see the full list of potential topics on the following page).

The Conference will again take place at The Sagamore, a historic four-diamond resort on Lake George. The event draws upwards of 600 participants from not only the Northeast, Midwest, and Southern US, but also Canada and Europe. Due to the abundance of networking opportunities, newcomers are continually attracted and typically about 20 percent of attendees are first-time participants. For more information, contact Amy Davies at (518) 907-0637; [program@nyfederation.org](mailto:program@nyfederation.org) or reach out to us at [www.nyfederation.org](https://www.nyfederation.org).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ➤➤➤ SWANA NY CHAPTER SAFETY TRAININGS

Safety is of paramount importance in the Solid Waste and Recycling industry. Safety of not only the waste and recycling workers but also all those that they come into contact with.

The SWANA New York Chapter is currently working on a safety outreach event. This event will happen at a variety of locations across the state and will focus on continuing to promote a positive safety culture. We plan to directly engage with waste workers, providing them with safety information, resources, and the opportunity to take the SWANA Safety Pledge.

For updates about the trainings, follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

## FOR MORE UPDATES

*FOLLOW US ON [LinkedIn](#)*

*JOIN OUR [LISTSERVE](#)*

**HAVE A JOB OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE?**

Email us to feature it in our newsletter-  
[swananychapter@gmail.com](mailto:swananychapter@gmail.com)

We are actively looking for volunteers to join our passionate young professionals team and serve the community. Please fill out this [google form](#) with your interest

*Open positions:*

1.Engagement chair

## ➤➤➤ SWEET MODEL TRAINING WORKSHOP (FREE REGISTRATION)

As a goal of continued learning and training our young professionals, SWANA NY YP invites you a 1.5 hour training workshop on Solid Waste Emissions Estimate Tool (SWEET) where you will learn about:

1. WHAT IS SWEET
2. HOW TO USE IT FOR SOLID WASTE PLANNING AND EMISSION ESTIMATION
3. CASE STUDIES USING SWEET

To join this FREE training, register [here](#).

The workshop will be held in November 2025. Exact dates and timing will be announced soon on LinkedIn and will also be sent via email to registered participations.

For more updates about the trainings, follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

# YP SPOTLIGHT

**Meet our YP** *“Hi, I’m Tania Thomas and I am a Solid Waste Staff Assistant for Westchester County Government under the Department of Environmental Facilities. My role consists of educating residents, municipalities and schools on the different recycling programs the county offers, and collecting data on tonnage of solid waste, recyclables and other materials disposed of from municipalities to complete the department’s annual reports. In the past, I conducted research at Stony Brook University to categorize waste in various counties across New York State to help study the curbside garbage and recycling discarded by residents as well as observe the trends over the time period the study was being conducted. I am currently the Outreach Chair for SWANA NY Chapter and we are hoping to expand the chapter by hosting more events and increase membership.”*

**If you were a piece of trash, what would you be?** *“I would want to be textiles. As someone who is interested in sustainable fashion, I want to research how to reduce the tonnage of textiles being discarded as trash. I also want to learn more about the different materials used to make fabric to buy clothing that is sustainable and eco-friendly to help reduce my carbon footprint on our planet.”*



Tania Thomas  
SWANA NY Chapter Outreach Chair

Westchester County Department of  
Environmental Facilities Solid Waste Staff  
Assistant

## ➤➤➤ Interested in attending this year’s RCON?

Don’t miss your chance to be part of the action!

Open to all, RCON is where you’ll network with experts, learn from groundbreaking sessions, and join in on exciting events.

Register today to secure your spot and stay updated on what’s coming up!

# Rcon 2024 Experience

## NY SWANA YP Reflects on an Eye-Opening Experience attending WASTECON 2024

By Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability at Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (Kingston NY)

In Fall 2024, I had the incredible opportunity to attend SWANA WASTECON in Grapevine Texas through the NYSWANA scholarship program. I was so excited to attend my first national waste and recycling conference and represent young professionals from NY. The industry buzz at this event was tangible – with discussions about how best to measure the waste stream, how to gain community support through improved recycling education messaging, stories of cities large and small incorporating organics recycling, and the overall state of recycling in America, and so many other topics.

### Professional Learning

The greatest professional value I gained from the experience came from the sessions that focused on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). As NYS continued to struggle to join 5 other states that have enacted successful EPR bills for packaging, this was not only timely, but extremely eye opening about the necessity to get these bills over the finish line!

Managing recycling and diversion streams are extremely expensive for municipalities, and recycling rates have been stagnant for decades. EPR will be a “shot in the arm” to boost recycling. EPR will bring significant benefits; stability and consistency in the recycling market, improved messaging and education, and EPR has power to shrink the disparity gap of recycling access in large cities vs. small rural communities where inconsistent services exist. I think EPR will also have an impact on consumers thinking more about the circularity of things, which can lead to more waste reduction overall.

Industry experts spoke about how everywhere that EPR has been implemented, it has increased recycling rates. The Recycling Partnership reported five states with packaging EPR resulted in a 28% increase to national recycling rate overall. If NY passes EPR for packaging, we can expect to see expanded recycling programs, along with a significant infusion of funding to make it happen. We can expect to see increased consumer education and more uniformity of recycling guidelines, reducing contamination and improving commodities quality. Post consumer recycling content mandates can create more demand, and more stable domestic end markets. I also learned that states can be better prepared (for EPR) by improving data collection so local government recycling programs can learn how to tell their story better. What does your recycling program cost and what’s the actual composition of your recycling? Successful bills will be built more collaboratively, harmonizing legislation with existing policies that are working well, and will not include impossible to achieve unrealistic targets.

Before attending this conference, I knew that EPR for packaging was an important policy model that could make a difference, but I did not realize the full potential and positive effects it could have on recycling in NYS. Hearing the conversation happening on the national stage by some of the most well-respected industry experts really helped me put this into perspective and lead me to where I could go to learn more – and that’s what events like these are all about! My advice for other YPs in NY would be to seek out as many learning opportunities as possible (not just about EPR but any other aspects of this industry that feels confusing or overly complex). Pull up a chair to join the conversation, because EPR may become a reality in NY sooner than we think!



**INTERESTED IN WRITING  
OUR NEXT ARTICLE?**

Email your articles about a site you visited or other great work you are doing at your current site to us at [swananychapter@gmail.com](mailto:swananychapter@gmail.com)

# Are We Miscounting a Mountain of Paper Waste?

## New Study Reveals Major Discrepancies in U.S. Data

By Sagarika Srivastva, PhD Student, Department of Technology and Society  
Stony Brook University

Researchers from the Waste Data and Analysis Center (WDAC) at Stony Brook University have uncovered significant inconsistencies in U.S. paper waste data that could have far-reaching consequences for national environmental policy and climate change models. The new study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Waste Management*, highlights a critical need for more accurate data in our efforts to manage waste and mitigate climate change.

The study, titled “EPA model estimates and waste characterization studies: US paper disposal dynamics,” compared two primary methods for calculating municipal solid waste (MSW) in the United States. The first method, used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), relies on a modeling approach called Material Flow Models. The second method provides a direct, physical measurement through Waste Characterization Studies (WCS), where researchers manually sort and weigh actual samples of waste to determine its composition. The results showed a significant divergence in the data patterns for total paper, newspaper, and corrugated cardboard

### Key Findings

- In 2018, disposal estimates for all paper from the WCS were 25.5 million tonnes higher than the EPA's figures.
- For corrugated cardboard alone, the WCS estimates were 10.5 million tonnes higher in the same year.
- Newspaper disposal estimates from WCS were also higher, by 0.2 million tonnes.

### Why is the Study Important

The discrepancies are more than just an academic curiosity. The EPA's data is the bedrock of national solid waste planning, impact assessments, and the climate change models that inform policy decisions. Inaccurate data could lead to flawed policies and ineffective strategies for waste reduction and climate change mitigation.

As the WDAC research team emphasizes, “*Using the most accurate data is essential for making informed policy decisions, particularly for climate change avoidance and mitigation strategies.*” This study serves as a critical call to action for a re-evaluation of how we measure and manage our nation's waste.

The full study can be accessed here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0956053X25004854>



**INTERESTED IN  
PUBLISHING YOUR OUR  
NEXT ARTICLE?**

Email your articles about a site you visited or other great work you are doing at your current site to us at [swananychapter@gmail.com](mailto:swananychapter@gmail.com)

# A Path Forward Through Diversion:

## Town of Islip's Weekly Paper Collection Pilot

By: Lisa Van Guilder-Merto and Riley Perkowski

Facing mounting waste management challenges—including limited disposal capacity, rising costs, and increased cardboard generation from online shopping—the Town of Islip launched an innovative pilot in June 2025 to boost paper and cardboard diversion. Traditionally, the town followed a bi-weekly dual-stream collection schedule, which many residents found inconvenient. The pilot shifted select neighborhoods (5% of municipal households) to weekly paper and cardboard collection while maintaining source separation to preserve commodity value. This change aimed to improve participation, reduce contamination, and offset disposal costs.

The program included targeted outreach, dedicated recycling bins delivered directly to households, and public events to raise awareness. Baseline surveys showed only a 35% participation rate under the old schedule. Within 60 days of launch, results were promising:

- 26% increase in paper diversion rate
- Noticeable drop in contamination
- 28% increase in participation in the pilot area
- Positive resident feedback, with convenience cited as the top benefit

These findings are shaping Islip's upcoming MSW contracts, which now include flexible "dual-bid" options for weekly vs. bi-weekly collection, allowing the town to adapt based on performance and budget.

If scaled town-wide, this approach could significantly reduce waste volumes, lower disposal costs, and inspire similar initiatives across Long Island. Islip's pilot underscores how a simple, targeted operational shift—backed by community engagement—can deliver environmental, economic, and operational gains.



The Town of Islip's Multi-Purpose Recycling Facility, Holbrook

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**SPOTLIGHT YOUR SOLUTIONS IN  
THE SOLID WASTE INDUSTRY**

Sponsor our newsletter for exclusive features, ad placement, and access to a network of sustainability leaders. Email us at [swananychapter@gmail.com](mailto:swananychapter@gmail.com) to join the movement!"