



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JOSEPH J. PINARD

Chairman

MARK SCIMONE

County Administrator

EMILY C. BURNS

Clerk

138 N. Court St., PO Box 635

Wampsville, NY 13163

Phone: 315/366-2201

Fax: 315/366-2502

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Contact: Samantha Field (315) 366-2822

Samantha.field@madisoncounty.ny.gov

MADISON COUNTY REVIEWING OPTIONS FOR PRESERVATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

County to gather additional information and perspectives, allow new County Board members time to review options, create an Ad-Hoc Committee, and relaunch public information campaign for residents

Wampsville, NY - The Madison County Board of Supervisors today announced an extended review of the future of the County's waste management program as it considers options to preserve a waste management program that has been a model for collection and processing, environmental sustainability, job creation and retention, and offers services that provide significant advantages for residents.

The Madison County waste management program serves a population of more than 67,000 people in nearly 26,000 households in 15 towns, 10 villages and the City of Oneida. The program employs more than 30 people at the landfill, four transfer stations and the Materials Recovery Facility, which includes a decades-long partnership with the Madison-Cortland ARC. Collectively, the program responsibly manages 55,000 tons of garbage and 3,500 tons of recyclables generated in Madison County each year.

The County's waste management program is at a crossroads. Current fees do not sufficiently cover day-to-day operational costs and capital expenses, or fully account for anticipated regulatory mandates and long-term management of the program. To preserve these programs for the community who benefit from them, for those who work in waste management, and to protect our legacy of strong environmental stewardship, changes will be needed. The County has narrowed its focus to the following potential avenues for preservation:

Status quo, with likely cost increases and potential service impacts

Tonnage expansion at the landfill under continued county management

Tonnage expansion at the landfill under public-public partnership

Tonnage expansion at the landfill through a public-private partnership

“Preservation of services, long term-planning and sustainability, and fiscal prudence will guide the important decisions regarding the future of this community’s waste management program,” said Town of Lincoln Supervisor Melissa During, Chair of the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. “The County will continue to rely on internal and external analysis as we consider all factors. Community input and support will be essential to achieving a shared vision for the future.”

“**Status quo,**” and **tonnage expansion through a public-private partnership,** were among options that were explored in a [2021 Cornerstone Engineering and Geology report](#) commissioned by the County and released to the public in 2023. Cornerstone’s “Overall Recommendation” in that report was to pursue a public-private partnership. A potential partner was identified following a competitive RFP process. Late in 2023, the community requested additional information and the previous Board of Supervisors opted not to make a final decision at that time.

At the Solid Waste Committee meeting today, a [resolution](#) was passed requesting the Chairman of the Board to create a **Madison County Waste Management Ad-Hoc Committee**. In that resolution it also states that “based on a thorough and ongoing review of available options, the Board has determined that a **public-private partnership** is not currently the best available option and is no longer a course of action currently being pursued.”

The County Solid Waste and Recycling Committee conducted a preliminary internal review of a potential **public-public partnership with tonnage expansion** in 2023 after another New York State county-run waste management operator responded with interest as part of the competitive RFP process. Additional review and analysis will be required if the Committee and Board decide this is a favored option for preservation.

And finally, the County commissioned an additional Cornerstone analysis of achieving long-term sustainability via **program expansion under Madison County operation**, which had not been evaluated in the initial 2021 study. That [report](#) was released this morning at a Solid Waste and Recycling Committee meeting which was open to the public, streamed live by the County, and is available for viewing [here](#).

The County is now refocusing its review of the future of the waste management program with a commitment to ensure additional input and information is gathered, to provide a County Board with new members and new leadership time to review, and to relaunch a public information campaign that provides timely information to residents.

The Board will continue its review of all options for the preservation of the waste management program, create an ad-hoc committee, and in the coming weeks the County will announce a series of community informational meetings to help residents better understand all options under consideration and solicit feedback.

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