

2017 New York State Recycling Leadership Awards

COOPERSTOWN – Gary Feinland, David Lupinski and the Union College Sustainability Team were among recipients of the 2017 NYSAR³ Recycling Leadership Awards given out in November.



Gary Feinland, of NYSDEC (right) is presented with the 2017 Recycling Leadership Award by NYSAR³ President Kelli Timbrook.

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He has written multiple articles for newsletters, including a BioCycle article on medium scale on-site composting systems. Developed the “Easy Home Composting!” poster, which received honorable mention for the DEC Swinn Clear Communications Award in 2014. Other awards included:



David Lupinski, (on right) receives the NYSAR³ Lifetime Achievement Award from Andrew Radin of OCRRA.

Through Lupinski’s focus on market development, he has spearheaded regional recycling programs for electronics, household hazardous waste, bulky rigid plastics and hardcover books, resulting in thousands of tons of materials diverted from the waste stream. He has also contributed to the success of the Authority’s green waste composting program and organics. Lupinski previously served as president of NYSAR3; assisted with the statewide textiles recycling campaign; and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2011 from Utica’s Boilermaker Road Race.



Heather Coton

Gary Feinland, an Environmental Program Specialist at the state Department of Environmental Conservation, was recognized as a top New York state recycler when he was presented with the award for 2017 Recycling Leadership, Public Sector.

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR³), the professional recyclers’ association for New York State, recognizes a few outstanding achievers each year for their dedication, innovation, and passion for recycling. The awards were presented during closing ceremonies at the annual New York State Recycling Conference in Cooperstown on Nov. 4

Feinland’s enthusiasm for recycling and organics were noted, as well as participation in many community venues. He has started successful composting programs at DEC’s offices, his church – and readily participates in multiple associations,

including NYSAR³, and leads many working groups related to organics for these groups. In addition, he speaks and participates with many community groups and school districts on his own time, to educate and help.

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David Lupinski, recently retired Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction for the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA) was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Since the opening of the Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center in 1991, Lupinski played a major role in the success of the Authority’s comprehensive solid waste and recycling system. Throughout his tenure, he has managed the residential and commercial recycling programs that serve the 78 municipalities throughout the two-county region. In 2011 he oversaw the implementation of the Authority’s conversion to singlestream recycling “RecycleOne - One and Done.”

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Recycling Leadership, Private Sector - **Heather Coton**, environmental manager at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs was recognized for her commitment to recycling and sustainability. Coton was called a champion of GreenPath®, a comprehensive environmental management system at The Gideon Putnam. Her actions include waste reduction through diversion, re-use, and recycling of such items as carpet, ceiling tiles, guitar strings, pillows, shampoo bottles, uniforms and more. Water and energy conservation, and composting organic has also been under Coton’s radar. She continually networks with local groups to partner on stewardship programs.



MJ Wilson, accepting for Anne Jaffee-Holmes

Recycling Leadership, Citizen – **Anne Jaffee-Holmes** received the Citizen award for her work in the successful “Love Em and Leave Em” campaign, as well as the local nature center. Jaffee-Holmes is a Master Composter/Recycler of Westchester County, a member of the Green Policy Task Force in her community and a founder member of an initiative to retain fall leaves on properties to reduce hauling and to recharge the soil (LELE). At the Greenburgh Nature Center (GNC) she has organized meetings to bring together members from multiple municipalities to network, share best practices, discuss challenges and tell of success in the area of materials management.



Alexander Lykins, Sustainability Director at Union College.

Recycling Leadership, Team - **Union College of Schenectady's U-Stain** (Garnet Goes Green) Sustainability Committee. Union College composts all pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste from its dining halls, recently implemented post-consumer food waste collections, and works to promote food waste diversion at many campus events. The group hosts student campus-move out collections to reclaim unwanted but salvageable materials which is redistributed first to students and then diverted to many community charitable organizations.

NYSAR³, the premiere recycling organization in New York State, provides members with expertise and education on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment. The group advocates for policies and programs that support environmental sustainability in the Empire State and provides access to a network of individuals and organizations that share ideas about starting and improving reduction, reuse, and recycling programs, as well as information on education and funding. More details are available on their website: www.NYSAR3.org.