

NYSAR³ Members Tour Monroe County Ecopark

By GARY CARREL

NYSAR³ Chapters 7, 8 and 9 held a joint meeting and tour over the summer, which offered great information and time for networking. The group met at the ecopark in located in Rochester and enjoyed a welcome by staff of the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services (DES). The facility is “an innovative partnership between Monroe County and Waste Management to provide a ‘one stop drop off’ for residential recycling and hazardous waste.”

The facility is set up as a self-service drop-off for a large variety of recyclable materials and Waste Management operates an appointment-only collection of hazardous waste, (open only to Monroe County residents). The DES staff noted that it is the collaboration with Waste Management that enables this service to the community. Tour participants all expressed great interest in this model. To find out more, visit [Monroe County Ecopark](#).

After the tour, a majority of the members and guests headed to the Rochester Institute of Technology campus for lunch at the headquarters of the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) in the



Golisano Institute for Sustainability. This site houses the RIT-led consortium that recently won a \$19.5 million, five-year award from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to operate NYSP2I.

NYSP2I Director Chuck Ruffing provided a warm welcome and highlighted the NYSP2I funding for community-focused pollution prevention initiatives. Each fall, proposals are solicited from community organizations, municipal departments and other public sector and not-for-profit entities for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level. Lunch, of course, was waste-free!