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NYSAR³'s Mission

To provide statewide leadership on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment.

For more than two decades, the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR³) -- and its members from the public and private sectors -- have played a leadership role in establishing environmental initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling. A key part of that effort includes advancing legislation on the state level with a twofold purpose:

- Promoting public and environmental health, and;
- Creating the sustainable materials management economy of the future.

NYSAR³ supports statewide policies aimed at capturing more materials for recycling-related industries, which help to create a vibrant state economy and job growth. Many of these materials, including plastics, food scraps, and electronics, were formally considered “waste” and were headed for disposal, but are now the raw-materials for new products and materials and support tens of thousands of jobs throughout New York State.

2018 NYSAR³ Top Legislative Priorities

1) NYSAR³ Supports Statewide Pharmaceuticals Take Back: S.7354 (Hannon), same as A.9576 (Gunther)

NYSAR³, the NY Product Stewardship Council, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), and the Product Stewardship Institute, are all working to build support for a comprehensive, manufacturer-funded safe pharmaceutical disposal program in New York State.

- While New York State has made laudable efforts to increase safe pharmaceutical disposal options statewide, many New Yorkers still lack convenient access to safe disposal options (i.e. collection receptacles at retail pharmacies or police precincts, municipal collection events or mail-back programs). The result is a threat to public health and our environment.
- NYSAR³ supports broadening take back programs that are funded and implemented by the pharmaceutical industry.

2) NYSAR³ Supports Statewide Ban of Lightweight Single Use Plastic Retail Bags

Specifically targeted through NYSAR³'s SUP “Single-Use Plastics” Committee and Legislative Committee, NYSAR³ strongly supports a statewide ban on single use lightweight plastic retail bags and a fee on thicker plastic grocery and retail bags and recyclable paper bags.

- Americans use an estimated 100 billion lightweight single use plastic retail bags annually and less than 5% are recycled. The remaining 95% end up as trash, litter or contaminating recycling.
- Consumers pay for lightweight single use plastic retail bags embedded in their purchases, as they cost retailers \$4 billion annually. The Wall Street Journal estimates \$18.00 - \$30.00 per customer per year would be saved with a ban on plastic bags.
- As demonstrated by programs across the country, the most effective solution to reduce plastic bag pollution is to reduce the amount of single use lightweight retail plastic bags and promote the use of reusable bags for customers to carry groceries and other retail purchases.

3) NYSAR³ Supports Statewide Paint Stewardship: A.1038A (Stirpe), Same-As S.881A (O'Mara)

A statewide paint stewardship program would require the paint industry to provide convenient, year-long drop off of unwanted post-consumer paint in New York, reducing the role of government and the burden on taxpayers.

- Nearly 4 million gallons of leftover paint are generated annually in New York State; most is currently disposed of in the garbage or poured down the drain.
- Nine paint stewardship laws have passed in other states, including Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island, that have saved taxpayers \$69 million, created over 200 green jobs, and recycled over 17 million gallons of paint.
- Upon passage of the paint stewardship law, several NY State businesses are ready to expand or launch new paint recycling operations and immediately create green jobs in the state.

4) NYSAR³ Supports Statewide Organics Recovery

A number of states, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, have already adopted organics diversion laws to reduce state and municipal management costs and encourage the utilization of this wasted resource.

- Approximately 40 percent of the food produced in the United States today goes uneaten, much of which is disposed of in solid waste landfills where it can be a source for greenhouse gas. Meanwhile, an estimated 2.5 million New Yorkers are facing hunger and food insecurity.
- The Governor's proposal, which has been included in the past two budget proposals but not enacted, would help reduce food waste and ensure that inedible food is managed in a sustainable manner, including composting and bio fuel generation. The legislation will lead to the development of new organics management facilities, reduce waste (currently about 15% of total trash), and recover the energy and nutrient value that is currently lost via disposal.

5) NYSAR³ Supports Pay-As-You-Throw

NYSAR³ continues to explore legislative opportunities to expand New York State's implementation of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) techniques to increase recycling and decrease solid waste generation.

- As seen in many other state and municipal examples, including Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon, and Wisconsin, PAYT creates a direct economic incentive to generate less waste and compost or recycle more.
- NYSAR³ is working to encourage further education on the topic to determine the best path forward for PAYT in New York State.

6) NYSAR³ Supports Product Stewardship for Alkaline Batteries: A.6280A (Englebright), Same as S.1448A (Avella)

Product stewardship for alkaline batteries requires battery manufacturers to take responsibility for the collection and proper management of their unwanted products at the end of their useful life.

- When producers are responsible for ensuring that their products are reused or recycled responsibly at the end of their useful life, there is an incentive to design and market products that are less toxic, more durable, and easier to reuse and recycle.
- Alkaline batteries contain metals such as zinc, manganese and steel that can be recycled thereby reducing the need for mining and refining such materials.
- NYSAR3 supports a Statewide Alkaline Battery Stewardship Program as presently embodied in New York State Legislation S.1448a and A.6280a, following inclusion of provisions to increase the number of convenient drop off locations in each county.

Other Priority Topics for NYSAR³ include:

NYSAR³ Supports Fair Repair Legislation: A.8192A (Morelle) and S.618C (Boyle)

The promulgation of these bills will allow broader access to diagnostic and repair information, which will support the repair market and promote Fair Repair.

- More repair options for consumers will slow the growth of electronic scrap in the waste stream, enable more extended use of products through multiple owners, and help New York State meet our diversion goals.
- In fact, many items enter the waste stream because there is currently no viable repair options. The organizations that are in place for electronic repairs and repurposing are limited by lack of access to basic information, parts, and tools. Bills A8192 and S618B would help to foster and grow these repair mechanisms.

NYSAR³ Supports Full Funding of the Environmental Protection Fund

A \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) was included within the FY 2018-2019 state budget.

- Continuing the \$300 million EPF enhances the state's ability to leverage federal, local and private dollars, and enable communities to seize opportunities to implement programs that will make New York an attractive and healthy place for businesses to locate, and for families to live.
- NYSAR³ particularly supports continuing the \$14 million funding level for the Municipal Recycling Line of the Solid Waste Account. This program assists municipalities with enhancing their recycling programs by providing funding for local governments to provide household hazardous waste programs, recycling education and coordination and making capital improvements to their recycling infrastructure. NYSAR3 also supports the cut-out in this line for implementing and enhancing organics/food scraps management programs.
- EPF programs continue to be implemented to conserve open space and farmland, protect and improve water quality, build community resilience, sustainably revitalize waterfronts, create local parks and trails, promote recycling, reduce waste, prevent pollution, provide community health programs, support our zoos and botanical gardens and much more.

NYSAR³ Supports Requiring a Recycling Notice On Political Campaign Flyers: A01659 (Magnarelli) / S05796 (Valesky)

A no-cost measure to increase recycling in NY State! And the first-of-its kind in the USA.

- Printed paper items are among the materials that can easily and cost-effectively be recycled in community curbside recycling programs across New York State.
- During elections and throughout the year, millions of households throughout the state receive an abundance of recyclable printed campaign literature. Stating on the literature that it is recyclable will be of zero cost to the candidate and will inform or remind the recipients to recycle the item once they have reviewed the material.
- Encouraging resident recipients of campaign literature to recycle will save municipalities money; it is more cost effective to recycle these materials than to dispose of it as waste.

NYSAR³ Supports Establishing a “New York Recycles” Special Cause Plate: A.00874 (Gunther)

- The establishment of the New York Recycles license plate as a Special Cause plate, which is currently an Organization Plate, will allow for the \$25 plate fee to support Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) recycling programs similar to the way that the Bluebird Plate supports EPF land protection programs. It would also allow the plate to be easier for potential customers to find on the Department of Motor Vehicles Website.



NYSAR³ Supports Updates to the Solid Waste Management Act of 1988

- The Solid Waste Management Act of 1988 first established New York State's materials management programs including requirements, funding and guidance on waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- The Act is almost three decades old and significant policies and program changes have occurred since its adoption that needs to be updated.
- NYSAR³ urges the New York State Legislature and NYSDEC to develop an updated materials management policy and legislation facilitating New York State's continued national leadership in sustainable materials management.

NYSAR³ Supports Textile Recovery

- Each year, 1.4 billion pounds of recyclable/reusable textiles are trashed in New York, with an economic loss of over \$100 million.
- NYSAR³ in partnership with the Council for Textile Recycling and the Secondary Materials Association for Recycled Textiles (SMART) launched #ReClotheNY, a statewide campaign reminding New Yorkers how easy it is to recycle textiles at local collection boxes and drop-off locations in their community.
- NYSAR³ developed extensive public education resources this past year as part of a statewide, award-winning outreach campaign to promote textile reuse, recycling and take back programs. NYSAR³ believes this material stream is ripe for greater diversion and is considering potential legislation to further support textile recovery in order to reduce waste, recover the value of the materials, and create jobs.