



Winter 2015 Newsletter

<http://www.greenossining.org>

WESTCHESTER CONSIDERS PLASTIC BAG BAN



Where to Recycle Your Plastic Bags and Styrofoam

Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled. When making the switch to reusable, drop off any plastic bags you have at these bag recycling receptacles:

- **Stop and Shop** (Arcadian Center, Ossining)
- **C-Town** (Croton Avenue, Ossining)
- **A&P** (Chilmark Center, Briarcliff Manor)
- **Home Depot** (Route 9A, Elmsford)

Polystyrene (Styrofoam) can be put in your household recycling if it's imprinted with the recycling symbol and the number 6. Make sure to clean off all debris first.

Where to Buy Reusable Bags

Looking for a reusable bag? You can buy most for only a few dollars at local supermarkets, as well as select vendors at the weekly Ossining Farmer's Market. Another great resource is Ossining's own **Eco-Bags Products** (www.ecobags.com), a pioneer in the reusable bag movement and a local business. ECOBAGS® are available at reduced prices for visitors to Ossining's Indoor Farmers Market.

On Nov. 14, The Westchester County Board of Legislators introduced a new bill that will limit the use of plastic bags, polystyrene foam containers, and polystyrene packing material (all non-biodegradable) by Westchester retailers and food establishments. Both are often discarded improperly and end up polluting the environment, clogging sewers, and endangering wildlife.

Upon adoption of the new legislation, retailers will have to provide only reusable and/or recyclable paper bags as checkout bags, and violators are liable for fines up to \$500. The new law will also restrict retailers and food establishments from using objects made from the chemically-produced material for containers and loose fill packaging. (Plastic produce bags, garment bags, and large refuse bags will be exempt.)

"This legislation is a natural next step in a cultural shift towards reusable items into our lifestyle," said Legislator Catherine Borgia, who's an Ossining resident and co-sponsored the bill. "In Ossining, the Farmers' Market has banned the use of plastic bags and community members are embracing this new habit. We are all moving towards integrating the concepts of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' into our daily lives."

BYOBag Comes to Ossining Farmer's Market

Green Ossining, Eco-Bags Products, Riverkeeper, and Down to Earth Markets formed a coalition to reduce single-use plastic bags at Ossining's weekly Farmer's Market.

Leading up to its launch on Sept. 27, Eco-Bags Products donated approximately 1,000 reusable ECOBAGS® to provide shoppers with a free alternative. Community members also donated their excess reusable bags, and volunteers from Ossining High School taught shoppers how to make reusable bags out of t-shirts donated to the market.

Vendors will charge 10 cents per plastic bag with the expectation of phasing out the bags in time. (Clear plastic produce bags will still be given out for pickles, fish, and other food items with liquid.)



Did you know that before BYOBag, Ossining Farmer's Market handed out an estimated 64,000 plastic bags annually?

Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff Kicks Off

Solarize Westchester has selected the Town of Ossining and the Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor to participate in a solar discount program—called **Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff**—that will make going solar easy and affordable for residents and businesses. After a thorough pre-qualification process, officials have selected Ross Solar Group as the designated solar contractor for residential properties and Best Energy Power for commercial properties. Residents and businesses who sign up for solar installations by June 1 will be able to take advantage of group rates significantly below market prices—and the more people who sign up, the lower the price will be for everyone, even the first to enroll. Learn more at two community workshops: Jan. 24 from 10am-12pm at Briarcliff Manor Public Library and Jan. 29 from 7pm-9pm at Ossining Public Library. More info can be found by visiting Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff's website at <http://www.solarizewestchester.com/Ossining-Briarcliff> or by contacting Ross Solar Group at 203-512-4500 x1 (residential properties) and Best Energy Power at 212-730-2267 (commercial properties).



Upcoming Events

Every Saturday

Down to Earth Farmer's Market
Claremont School, 9am-1pm (indoor through May 2)

January 24, 2015

Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff Workshop
Briarcliff Public Library, 10am-12pm

January 29, 2015

Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff Workshop
Ossining Public Library, 7pm-9pm

April 18, 2015

Ossining Earth Day
Louis Engel Park, 11am-4pm

May 2, 2015

Ossining Town-Wide Tag Sale
Ossining & Briarcliff Manor, 10am-5pm
(Rain Date: May 3)

October 3, 2015

Ossining Town-Wide Tag Sale
Ossining & Briarcliff Manor, 10am-5pm
(Rain Date: October 4)



Ossining to Hold Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales in May and October

Want to make some extra money and declutter your home? Ossining will have its first-ever town-wide tag sale the first weekends of May and October, following successful events in nearby communities like Tarrytown and Cold Spring. We'll have more info on how to participate soon.



Monthly Eco-Challenge

January & February

While salt does a great job of melting ice, it's bad for your pets, environment, and garden. Consider eco-friendly alternatives with these suggestions from GreenMoxie.com: organic salt-free de-icer, kitty litter, urea, alfalfa meal, sugar beet juice, sand, fireplace ash, or coffee grinds.

Green Ossining Collects 300 lbs. of Unwanted Textiles

On Nov. 15, Green Ossining and local Ossining Girl Scouts collected 300 lbs. of unwanted clothing, footwear, accessories, linens, and other textiles as part of CLOTHES THE LOOP, a nation-wide collection to keep unwanted textiles out of our landfills and part of America Recycles Day.

Our next collection will take place in April as part of Earth Day.



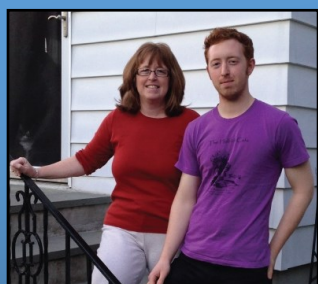
Did you know 1.4 billion pounds of clothing and textiles are disposed of in New York annually? The market value of these discarded textiles exceeds \$200 million, and over 9,600 jobs would be created across the state if those materials were recovered for reuse and recycling.



Seven Ways to Save Energy in Your Home This Winter

Jack Frost may be nipping at your nose, but that doesn't mean he has to make your house cold, too. Here are ways to save energy from **Energize Ossining**, the **Energize Energy Coach**, and the **US Department of Energy**.

- **Sign Up for a Home Energy Assessment with Energize Ossining**—To get started on the process of insulating walls and sealing air leaks, Ossining homeowners can have a free or reduced-cost home energy assessment through a New York State Program. An energy assessment finds out where a house is wasting energy and provides homeowners with a path to energy efficiency. Plus, there's a rebate. Get started today at www.EnergizeNY.org or call the Energize Office: 914-302-7300 (ask for Lauren).
- **Adjust the Temperature**—Lowering your thermostat can save you money. For every degree a thermostat is set back for eight hours, you save about 1% of your heating bill. When asleep or away, turn the temperature down. It actually costs less to warm up a cool home than it does to keep the house at a constant higher temperature.
- **Be aware of signs of heat loss**—Icicles dripping down from roof shingles and gutters are a sign of heat loss. These dangerous daggers are not only a threat to your safety but are a sign that cold air is stealing energy dollars from your wallet. Melted patches of snow on a wintry roof and an unusual amount of cobwebs are also signs of a leaky house. A home energy assessment is the first step to repairing heat loss issues.
- **Meet the Energize Energy Coach**—After having an energy assessment, give a call to Norm Jen, the Energize Energy Coach (914-302-7300). He's a third-party, independent contractor who's available to meet with Ossining homeowners for one hour—free of charge—to discuss the home energy assessment report and answer questions related to home energy efficiency.
- **Maintain Your Heating System**—Schedule service for your heating system to help it operate efficiently. If you have a furnace, replace your filter once a month or as needed. If you have wood- or pellet-burning heaters, clean the flue vent regularly and the inside of the appliance periodically.
- **Reduce Heat Loss from Fireplace**—Keep your damper closed unless a fire is burning. Check the seal on the flue damper and make it as snug as possible. Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warm air back in the room. And if you don't use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- **Lower Your Water Heating Costs**—Water heating can account for 14-25% of energy consumed in your home; turn down the temperature of your water heating to warm (120°F).



Energize Ossining Success Story: The Davis Family

"We were skeptical when our son first approached us with the idea of having an energy audit done. We couldn't help but think that there had to be a catch, but there wasn't. From the application to the completion of the work, it couldn't have been easier. The contractor we used was professional, neat, and the work was completed in the expected time frame. The work on our home was completed the first week of December 2013, right at the start of one of the worst winters on record for both snowfall and cold temperatures—and we saved big!"

NEW NYS E-WASTE DISPOSAL RULES GO INTO EFFECT

Starting Jan. 1, consumers may no longer dispose of certain types of electronic equipment in landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, or in the trash.

The **NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act** requires manufacturers to offer free and convenient recycling of electronic waste to most consumers in the state. There are now three ways you can recycle your e-waste:

Option 1: Use Ossining's E-Waste Pickup Services

- **Town of Ossining** (non-Village) residents can put out bulk and e-waste on the second garbage day, which will be picked up by Suburban Carting. Questions? Call the Highway Department at 914-941-2241
- **The Village of Ossining** accepts bulk metals, TVs, computer monitors, and appliances for curbside pickup Thursdays. Questions? Call the Sanitation Department at 914-941-4660.
- **The Village of Briarcliff Manor** picks up e-waste on Wednesdays, but you must schedule a pickup by calling 914-941-9105.

Option 2: Use a Manufacturer's Takeback Program

Go to the DEC's list of electronic equipment manufacturers registered in NYS (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82084.html>) to find their brands' electronic equipment covered by law, their electronic waste acceptance program websites, and toll-free telephone numbers. Follow the specific instructions listed on the website or provided over the telephone on how to recycle your equipment, free of charge. Manufacturers are required to accept their own brand of electronic equipment for recycling; they're also required to accept one piece of electronic waste of any manufacturer's brand if offered by a consumer with the purchase of electronic equipment covered by the law of the same type by a consumer.

Option 3: Go to an Electronic Waste Collection Site

Call ahead before using an electronic waste collection site, as it may not accept your particular type of brand or equipment.

If the collection site is not affiliated with a manufacturer's acceptance program, you may be charged a fee to recycle your equipment.

Or hang on to your e-waste and bring it to the Earth Day Festival (April 18) where we'll offer a drop-off site.

Electronic Equipment Covered by Law

Computers (erase personal info before recycling); televisions; cathode ray tubes; computer peripherals (cable, cords, monitors, keyboards, mice, scanners, printers, fax machines); small electronic equipment (VCRs, DVRs, portable music players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, electronic or video game consoles); and small-scale servers. More info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/66872.html#consumer>.

Nearby E-Waste Collection Sites

IMPORTANT: If you decide to use an e-waste collection site, call ahead, as the site may not accept your particular type of brand or equipment.

- **LM Multimedia Computer Solutions**
155 Croton Ave., Ossining—914-502-0322
- **Westchester County Year-Round Municipal CRT & Electronic Waste Collection Program**
10 Buckout St., Briarcliff Manor—914-941-9105
- **BestWeb Corporation**
25 S. Riverside Ave., Croton-on-Hudson—914-271-4500
- **Goodwill of Greater NY & NJ**
440 S. Riverside Ave., Croton-on-Hudson—914-827-9311

Additional sites can be found at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/ewcolsites.pdf

Manufacturers are not required to have a physical collection location in every community.

If you have any problems trying to return e-waste for recycling, please call (518) 402-8706 or email ewaste@dec.ny.gov.



Did you know that industry experts estimate that U.S. consumers throw away 400 million units of electronic equipment per year? Recycling electronic waste protects human health and the environment by diverting thousands of pounds of waste from landfills and incinerators; keeping toxins from contaminating the air, water, and soil; and allowing valuable materials to be reclaimed and reused.