

# 2023 Performance Measure Report

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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- ✓ Implementation of Local Solid Waste Management Plan including continuous review and application of new technologies.
- ✓ Compliance with environmental, employee health and safety, and all other federal and state regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Maintenance of long-term stable rates and prudent fiscal management.
- ✓ 100% compliance with all ABO reporting requirements.
- ✓ Operating with full transparency and good governance.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURE: IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LSWMP) INCLUDING CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR ALL SYSTEMS, FACILITIES AND PROCESSES:

- Completed 4<sup>th</sup> full year of operations of the Authority's Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility (Food2Energy).
- Utilized a force main pipeline to convey processed organic waste to the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant's anaerobic digesters for electrical generation operations.
- Processed 5,679 tons of food waste from local businesses and residents.
- Supported waste reduction through NYS Product Stewardship Council.
- Completed 12<sup>th</sup> operational year of single stream Recycling Center in Utica.
- Continued to process over 41,480 tons of recyclables at the Recycling Center.
- Achieved an overall recycling rate of 53% for Oneida and Herkimer Counties.
- Continued operation of the Landfill Gas (LFG) to Electricity Facility, which utilizes two generators to convert LFG (methane) into electricity. The facility represents a joint venture by the Authority and Waste Management Renewable Energy (WMRE) to provide green energy made from landfill gas to the market.
- Installed 12 new gas collection wells at the Regional Landfill (RLF) continuing to advance the active landfill gas collection system which brings the total number of wells to 207.
- Continued work with BERQ RNG to develop plans to reuse all landfill gas captured at the Regional Landfill. BERQ started negotiations with Iroquois Pipeline over the conveyance of landfill gas and began designing their facility and system that will be located at the landfill.
- Continued to safely and economically dispose and beneficially reuse over 352,658 tons of waste at RLF.

- Continued to process over 10,465 tons of green waste and converted it into marketable compost at the Green Waste Composting Facility in Utica.
- Continued to safely dispose of over 24,723 gallons of household hazardous waste received from over 15,741 area households at the HHW Facility.
- Recycled 35,370 gallons of paint through the PaintCare program.
- Recycled 271 tons of electronics and computers.
- Continued implementation of a “Go Green” School Recycling Program that assists teachers, students and staff on the value of recycling, conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Continued to achieve higher than expected waste densities at the Regional Landfill through the use of GPS technology and compaction equipment, extending the projected life of the Regional Landfill.
- Continued organics (food waste) recovery programs in schools and colleges and continued to accept spent hops from FX Matt Brewery for composting.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ALL OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**

- Maintained compliance with all Facility Permits and Regulations.
- Completed all necessary actions to comply with the new 6 NYCRR Part 360 Solid Waste Management Facilities regulations that became effective November 4, 2017.
- Developed and submitted the following Annual Reports: Eastern Transfer Station (including the Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility), Western Transfer Station, Green Waste Composting Facility, Spent Hops Organics Composting Project, Waste Transporter, Recycling Center, Regional Landfill, Webb Transfer Station, Webb Recycling Facility, two Land Clearing Debris Facilities, Brush Processing Facility, Pallet Processing Facility, Waste Oil, Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Electronic Waste Collection Site per 6NYCRR Part 360 Permits/Registrations.
- Developed and submitted Title V Permit, Air Regulations Compliance Certifications & Emission Statements for RLF.
- Developed and submitted SPDES (stormwater management) Annual Certifications and DMRs for RLF, Utica Complex, and Western Transfer Station in Rome.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required Closure Post-Closure Report for Ash Landfill, Rome, NY.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required quarterly Environmental Monitoring Reports for the Regional Landfill, Ava, NY.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required State Agency Environmental Audit.
- Conducted NYSDEC required weekly inspections related to RLF SPDES permits.

- Continued annual employee health and safety training and provided regular toolbox talks to supplement safety awareness and training. All training follows New York State Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH). Annual training topics covered include: Hazard Communication, Hearing Conservation, Workplace/Sexual Harassment Prevention, Workplace Violence Protection, Spill Prevention, Lock Out Tag Out, Bloodborne Pathogens, Emergency Response, Confined Space, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention.
- Held regular Safety Committee Meetings with employee representatives from all facilities, including Administrative staff and the Executive Director. The Safety Committee allows employees and supervisory staff to discuss safety issues, operational recommendations, and provide updates on the Authority in general. Notes are compiled from each meeting. Supervisory staff addresses each issue and provides a solution and a written response attached to the meetings notes, which are posted for all employees to review.
- Employees received or renewed Landfill Operator Certifications through the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management (NYSASWM).

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURE: MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM STABLE RATES AND PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

- Tipping fees remained the same for 2023. Tipping fees remain lower than they were in 1992.
- The Finance Committee tasked Senior Management to prepare an extensive long-term financial plan that forecasts revenues, expenses, capital purchases and future tipping fees for the next five years.
- For 2023, the Authority earned \$1,784,571 in sales of recyclables. This was a decrease of \$846,265 or 32% from 2022.
- The Authority had a \$124,389 addition to its net asset position for 2023.
- The Authority continued to make yearly deposits to a Landfill Equipment Replacement Fund.
- The Authority assisted the City of Utica through reduced tipping fees for demolition and cleanup of ongoing industrial development projects at the Utica Harbor.
- The Authority realized \$335,040 in landfill gas sales for 2023. This was a decrease of \$166,271 or 33% in comparison to 2022.
- The Authority continued to find future landfill cell expansions with current tipping fees.
- The Authority made all necessary deposits to Landfill Closure Funds as required.
- The Authority processes recyclables from Oswego, Lewis and Fulton Counties. \$885,975 in processing fees from these agreements was received in 2023.
- The Authority entered into a new five-year agreement with Oswego County for the processing and marketing of recyclables.
- Carbon credits from the destruction of methane at the Regional Landfill continued to be marketed. The Authority realized \$821,349 in carbon credit revenue for 2023.

- The Authority paid down \$1,735,000 in scheduled long-term debt for 2023. The Authority has reduced long-term bonded debt by \$14,890,000 over the last five years.
- Completed equipment purchases and capital improvements in the amount of \$12,873,884.
- The Authority Board designated \$11,000,000 of unrestricted funds toward established Board restricted capital reserve accounts to help ensure long-term stable rates.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE: 100% COMPLIANCE WITH ALL ABO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATING WITH FULL TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE.**

- Authority filed all necessary reports with ABO on time.
- Authority updated its website to reflect all ABO requirements.
- Authority Board of Directors authorized and approved filing of all reports with ABO office.
- All Authority Board Members and Authority Senior Management have attended mandatory ABO training.
- The Governance Committee and Authority staff reviewed all ABO Policy Guidance and recommendations issued during the year.
- Operating with full transparency and good governance.
- The Governance Committee met and reviewed all Governance Policies and developed recommendations for the full Board.
- Board of Directors and Governance Committee reviewed and approved policies including procurement policy, disposition of property, ethics and whistle blower policy.
- Continued to publicly auction surplus equipment through Authority-approved Property Disposition Policy.
- Board of Directors and Governance Committee reviewed and approved its Mission Statement and Performance Measures without modification.
- All agendas and minutes of Board meetings and Committee meetings were posted on the Authority's website.
- Submitted 2024 draft budget to counties, municipalities and the public for review and comment.
- Conducted a public hearing required for adoption of the budget.
- Submitted 2024 adopted budget to the counties and state-wide officials.
- The Finance Committee conducted four meetings including one joint Finance-Audit Committee meeting during 2023 and reviewed and approved the Authority's Investment Policy.
- The Finance and Audit Committees met with the Authority's independent auditors to review the 2022 audit.
- The Finance Committee reviewed the Authority's five-year financial plan with staff.
- The Authority Board of Directors approved a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Authority and United Public Service Employees Union for the period 2024 through 2028.