



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Citation

Whereas, New York State is proud of its leadership in environmental protection and preservation and of its demonstrated commitment to promote responsible environmental practices among our people and communities, therefore, we take this opportunity to mark the significant milestone of the 25th Anniversary of the New York State Recycling Law, which became effective on September 1, 1992, requiring all municipalities within New York State to adopt a local law or ordinance mandating the source separation and segregation of recyclable or reusable materials from solid waste; and

Whereas, New York State's municipal recycling program is one of the most comprehensive and successful programs in the nation and, for the past 25 years, has greatly improved waste management in the state by diverting over 320 million tons of recyclable materials from the waste stream; and

Whereas, this program has also resulted in drastic reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating one billion metric tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and thereby helping to combat climate change; and

Whereas, over the past quarter century, a network of organizations has been developed to support and advance New York State's successful waste reduction and recycling initiatives including: the New York State Association of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSARR), the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management (NYSASWM), and the New York Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) – which together form the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations – and the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (P2I); and

Whereas, New York State has invested over \$155 million in grant funding through the Environmental Protection Fund to support municipal recycling infrastructure, recycling coordinators, and household hazardous waste management, and this funding will continue to assist municipalities in maintaining and expanding their waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs; and

Whereas, in addition to successes on the municipal level, New York State agencies have achieved significant waste reduction, recycling, and organic materials diversion through State procurement and sustainability investments which have resulted in a 51% decrease in the quantity of solid waste generated across all agencies; and

Whereas, each year, the New York State Returnable Container Act, or "Bottle Bill," helps to recycle over four and a half billion plastic, glass, and aluminum beverage containers, totaling over 300,000 tons, and eliminating approximately 200,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, New York State is home to some of the most modern and sophisticated recycling programs and facilities in the world which support the State's vital recycling and reuse industry and thousands of jobs across the State; and

Whereas, New York State will continue to work with local governments, business, and environmental stakeholders to promote and increase waste reduction, reuse, recycling, organic materials diversion and product stewardship policies, and

Whereas, New York State will continue to work with local planning units to develop a network of local solid waste management plans across the State that will incorporate the progressive elements of solid waste management, ensuring planning and priorities are carefully considered to assure limited resources are spent wisely on projects that establish rational, lasting foundations for environmentally-sound solid waste management at the local level; and

Whereas, New York State has adopted a materials management policy approach of extended producer responsibility (EPR) and has adopted product stewardship laws that require the take-back of electronic waste, rechargeable batteries, and mercury containing thermostats, and continue to explore adding EPR requirements for other problem wastes and products, and

Whereas, as a result of the New York State Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act, more than 520 million pounds of electronic waste has been collected from consumers across the state for recycling or reuse and diverted from landfills and waste combustion facilities; and

Whereas, New York State will continue to promote and focus on the diversion of organic materials from the waste stream to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will develop a comprehensive program to reduce the quantity of food and food scraps disposed in the State by significantly increasing food donations, improving the donation and recycling infrastructure, conducting education and outreach efforts and encouraging the development of new or improved organics recycling facilities; and

Whereas, New York State will continue to lead the country by example through the adoption of revisions and updates to our solid waste regulations and their proper implementation, ever mindful that the actions we take today will ensure a better world for future generations;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby issue this Special Citation recognizing September 1, 2017 as

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE RECYCLING LAW

reaffirming our State's support of policies, programs, and initiatives that emphasize waste reduction and pollution prevention so as to foster a more sustainable society.



Governor
September 1, 2017