

Department of Solid Waste Commission

2019 Executive Proposed Budget

Core Programs & Functions

The mission of the Westchester County Solid Waste Commission is to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Westchester County by seeking to eliminate the influence of organized crime in the solid waste and recyclables hauling industries.

Goals of the Solid Waste Commission

- To perform background checks on all applicants and principals requesting a license or registration so as to ensure the good character, honesty and integrity of licensees and registrants in Westchester County.
- To issue licenses and registrations for the performance of activities for which a license or registration is required by the Westchester County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Licensing Law (Chapter 826-a of the Laws of Westchester County).
- To ensure that only licensed carters haul solid waste and recyclables within Westchester County, and that licensed carters only use trucks registered with the Solid Waste Commission.
- To ensure that transfer stations are accepting solid waste and recyclables only from entities licensed by Westchester County.
- To investigate all complaints against haulers that occur within Westchester County.

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Operating Positions	8	8
Trust Positions	-	-
TOTAL POSITIONS	8	8
Personal Service	1,234,791	1,264,063
Equipment	31,500	36,000
Materials & Supplies	29,900	36,900
Contractual Expenses	147,279	136,999
Inter-Departmental Charges	444,965	460,370
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,888,435	1,934,332

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Inter-Departmental Revenue	-	-
Departmental Revenue	1,888,435	1,934,332
State & Federal Aid	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,888,435	1,934,332
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	-	-

New Initiatives & Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018

- Enhanced background checking activity resulting in better decision-making on prospective and current hauler licensees.
- Increased enforcement resulting in total # of violations surpassing 2017, and averaging over 100 for the 3rd year in a row.
- Continued cooperation with both local and federal agencies resulting in better industry oversight and monitoring.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2019

- Increased emphasis on fraud investigations and analysis.
- Working with IT on enhancements to SWMS database to provide better reporting and tracking.
- Review of processes to improve efficiency and enhance agency performance.



George Latimer
County Executive

Westchester County Solid Waste Commission

2019 Proposed Operating Budget

Presented to the
Westchester County Board of Legislators
Budget and Appropriations Committee

November 19th, 2018

Patricia A. O'Callaghan
Acting Executive Director

Westchester County Solid Waste Commission
2019 Proposed Operating Budget

Mission

The Mission of the Westchester County Solid Waste Commission is to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Westchester County by seeking to eliminate the influence of organized crime in the solid waste and recyclables hauling industries; ensuring that only individuals and companies of good character, honesty and integrity receive licenses to operate in the solid waste and recyclables hauling industries; increasing competition among haulers and enhancing consumer choice; and ensuring that solid waste generated within or brought into Westchester County is disposed of or recycled in an environmentally safe manner by assisting in the implementation of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Goals of the Solid Waste Commission

- a) To perform background checks on all applicants and principals requesting a license or registration so as to ensure the good character, honesty and integrity of licensees and registrants in Westchester County.
- b) To issue licenses and registrations for the performance of activities for which a license or registration is required by the Westchester County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Licensing Law (Chapter 826-a of the Laws of Westchester County).
- c) To ensure that only licensed carters haul solid waste and recyclables within Westchester County, and that licensed carters only use trucks registered with the Solid Waste Commission.
- d) To ensure that transfer stations are accepting solid waste and recyclables only from entities licensed by Westchester County.
- e) To investigate all complaints against haulers that occur within Westchester County.
- f) To encourage entry into the solid waste and recyclables industry and encourage competition within the industry in Westchester County.
- g) To inform the public of its rights under the Westchester County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Licensing Law.
- h) To ensure that solid waste generated within or brought into Westchester County is disposed of or recycled in an environmentally safe manner consistent with the requirements of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Ongoing Commission Initiatives

The Commission continues to receive and investigate complaints filed by citizens, businesses and other carters about pricing, collections, contracts, and possible violations of Chapter 826-a.

The Commission continues to conduct inspections at transfer stations in Westchester County to ensure that only licensed carters are dumping in the County, and that licensed carters are using only vehicles registered with the Commission.

The Commission continues to review dump records from transfer stations located within Westchester County to ensure that only licensed carters are dumping in the County.

The Commission continues to conduct educational sessions for interested municipal police departments about the municipal enforcement provisions of Chapter 826-a, and continues to field questions from police officers throughout the year about municipal enforcement. Since 2001, the Commission has briefed local government officials and/or police department personnel representing 31 of the County's municipalities.

The Commission also reminds public officials from both municipalities and school boards that the Commission investigates the backgrounds of, and licenses private carters. We recommend that they consult the list of licensed companies published on the Commission's website in order to ensure that they hire companies that have met our licensing standard of good character, honesty and integrity. We also invite them to contact us if they need assistance, if they have any questions about finding a licensed carter, or if they have problems with a carter.

The Commission continues to work with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety as it investigates possible criminal activity related to the solid waste and recyclables hauling industry in Westchester County. In addition, the Commission continues to work with law enforcement and other government officials from municipal, County, state and federal agencies throughout the region concerning Commission investigations.

The Commission continues to strive to ensure that all customers are provided with service contracts, and that all service contracts comply with the provisions of Chapter 826-a, and include a copy of the Customer Bill of Rights specifying a customer's rights under Chapter 826-a. By ensuring that all customers are apprised of their rights, thereby facilitating a customer's ability to change carters when appropriate, the Commission enhances competition and consumer choice.

The Commission continues to share licensing information with the Departments of Health and Consumer Protection. The Commission also coordinates enforcement with the Department of Consumer Protection in cases where a homeowner has a dispute with a private carter over payment for hauling of residential waste.

The Commission continues to work with the Department of Environmental Facilities in its enforcement of Westchester County's recycling requirements, and in its collection of information about where carters take the waste and recyclables they collect, and how transfer stations handle the waste and recyclables deposited at their facilities.

Department Accomplishments

On Going

A by-product of the Commission's close cooperation with the Department of Environment Facilities in the enforcement of the County's recycling requirements is that Inspectors for the Department of Environmental Facilities also monitor compliance with the provisions of Chapter 826-a. As a result, a number of the administrative enforcement cases brought by the Commission are based upon observations by the DEF's Inspectors. Concomitantly, Commission's inspectors refer recycling infractions to DEF for enforcement by that agency.

The Commission continues to review license applications and complete background investigations of companies seeking to operate in the solid waste and recyclables hauling industry in Westchester County in order to ensure that only companies and individuals of demonstrated good character, honesty and integrity are operating in the County. By encouraging reputable companies and individuals to operate in the County's hauling industry, the Commission seeks to promote competition, thereby keeping prices affordable for consumers.

The Commission continues to receive and investigate complaints filed by citizens, businesses and other carters about pricing, collections, contracts, and possible violations of Chapter 826-a. Commission staff interview the customers, witnesses and when appropriate, carters about these complaints. As a result of the Commission's efforts, disputes between customers and carters have been resolved; customers have been freed, when appropriate, to seek new carting services; and carters have been charged with violations of Chapter 826-a, when appropriate. In addition, the Commission has referred cases to the appropriate law enforcement or governmental agencies.

A full time detective from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety has been assigned to the Commission and his salary is funded by the Commission. In addition to enforcement work, the detective prepares complete background investigations and interviews every prospective licensee.

The Commission relocated their offices to White Plains and is serving the public more efficiently since the move.

In addition, the Commission on an ongoing basis, updates its website which includes a list of carters licensed to operate in the County; a list of transfer stations located in the County; copies of laws applicable to the hauling industry in the County, including the Customer Bill of Rights; and applications for licenses and renewals.

Recently, the Commission has commenced a Public Information Program consistent with its mandate to ensure a fair and competitive market by educating the public, specifically commercial establishments, on the proper disposal of solid waste and recyclables generated within the County. These efforts include educating the public on hauler licensing and reporting requirements, transfer stations and enforcement options, as well as detailing contractual rights they have under the Solid Waste & Recyclables Collection Licensing Law. Commercial businesses that use private carters are assured that through the work of the Commission the industry remains free from organized crime and other criminality. The Commission is currently coordinating a schedule with a representative of the business community to reach out to various business organizations such as local chambers of commerce.

Enforcement

During 2018, through the Commission meeting of November 14, 2018, the Commission authorized the initiation of 85 cases for a variety of violations, to wit:

- Unlicensed Operation
- Failing to register a vehicle used to haul solid waste and/or recyclables
- Failure to comply with the waste and recyclables reporting requirements of Chapter 826-a
- Failure to pay required Commission fees or fines
- Failing to display current Commission decals on a registered truck used to haul solid waste and/or recyclables
- Failing to properly label a container used to store solid waste and/or recyclables
- Violation of the good character, honesty and integrity stand

Tax Levy

The Solid Waste Commission proposed budget for calendar year 2019 is “tax levy neutral” as required by law.

The budget is based solely upon application, background investigation, licensing, vehicle registration and transfer station fees that the Solid Waste Commission anticipates receiving from licensees and applicants during the 2019 calendar year. Fines charged for violations of Chapter 826-a of the Laws of Westchester County are also considered.

Expenditures

The projected expenses for 2019 for the Solid Waste Commission totals \$1,934,332 calculated as follows:

Annual Regular (1010)

The 2019 Proposed is \$26,872 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Hourly Wages (1200)

The 2019 Proposed is \$4,000 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Overtime (1400)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Retirement Systems (1650)

The 2019 Proposed is \$1,514 more than the 2018 Adopted.

FICA/Medicare (1651)

The 2019 Proposed is \$176 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Employee Health Insurance (1680)

The 2019 Proposed is \$2,927 less than the 2018 Adopted.

MCTD Mobility Tax (1710)

The 2019 Proposed is \$8 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Unemployment Insurance (1720)

The 2019 Proposed is \$3 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Replacement Equipment (2300)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Additional Equipment (2400)

The 2019 Proposed is \$4,500 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Automotive Supplies (3010)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Books and Periodicals (3070)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

General Supplies (3240)

The 2019 Proposed is \$4,000 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Printing & Office Supplies (3600)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Postage Costs (3700)

The 2019 Proposed is \$3,000 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Equipment Service & Rental (4070)

The 2019 Proposed is \$900 more than the 2018 Adopted.

Membership Fees (4100)

The 2019 Proposed is \$500 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Travels and Meals (4110)

The 2019 Proposed is \$600 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Public & Legal Notices (4250)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Educational Training (4360)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Contractual Services (4380)

The 2019 Proposed is \$10,000 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Contribution - Workers Comp Fund (4945)

The 2019 Proposed is \$80 less than the 2018 Adopted.

Information Support Services (5205)

The 2019 Proposed is \$11,616 more than the 2018 Adopted based upon figures submitted to the Commission by the Department of Information Technology.

Services by Department of Public Works (5280)

The 2019 Proposed is \$4,879 more than the 2018 Adopted based upon figures submitted to the Commission by the Department of Public Works.

Services by Department of Law (5325)

The 2019 Proposed is \$88 less than the 2018 Adopted, based upon the figures submitted to the Commission by the Department of Law.

Services by Public Safety (5390)

The 2019 Proposed is \$1,002 less than the 2018 Adopted, based upon figures submitted to the Commission by the Department of Public Safety. The proposed also includes additional overtime wages that is warranted.

Services by County Center (5453)

The 2019 Proposed is the same as the 2018 Adopted.

Revenue

The Solid Waste Commission's revenues are based primarily upon application, background investigation, licensing, vehicle registration fees and transfer station fees charged to haulers licensed or applying for a license to operate in the Westchester County solid waste and recyclables hauling industries. Revenue is also collected from fines imposed on violations for non-compliance of Chapter 826-a of the Laws of Westchester County.

The projected revenues for 2019 for the Solid Waste Commission totals \$1,934,332 calculated as follows:

Application Fees (9122)

In 2019, we anticipate receiving application fees totaling \$97,650 from all licensing categories.

Vehicle Fees (9137)

In 2019 we anticipate receiving vehicle fees totaling \$950,200 from all licensing categories.

Transfer Station Fees (9138)

In 2019 we anticipate receiving a total of \$367,500. Transfer stations pay annual fees ranging from \$12,500 to \$20,000 depending upon the amount of materials they reuse or recycle. Additionally, the operators of the Wheelabrator /Westchester RESCO incinerator pay a fee of \$50,000 per year.

Background Investigation Fees (9141)

In 2019 we anticipate receiving background investigation fees totaling \$112,725.

Other Charges (9289)

In 2019 we anticipate receiving a total of \$168,957 from fines imposed on violations and from administrative fees charged.

Annual License Fees (9542)

In 2019 we anticipate receiving license fees totaling \$237,300 from all licensing categories.

Service Indicators

	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Estimated</u>	<u>2019 Planned</u>
<u>Class A Licenses</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>157</u>
<u>Class B Licenses</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Class C-2 Licenses</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Class D Licenses</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Class L Licenses</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Class C-1 Licenses</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>Class E Licenses</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Broker Registrations</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>378</u>
<u>Class A, C-2 and D Truck Decals</u>	<u>1114</u>	<u>1101</u>	<u>1101</u>
<u>Class B Truck Decals</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Class C-1 and E Truck Decals</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>496</u>
<u>Class L Decals</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Transfer Stations</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>1642</u>	<u>1661</u>	<u>1661</u>
<u>Monitoring Truck Registration</u>	<u>3460</u>	<u>4404</u>	<u>4404</u>
<u>Transfer Station Inspections</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>215</u>
<u>Violations of Chapter 826-a</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>92</u>