

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

J. Solid Waste

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1. Existing Conditions

The Town of Yorktown residential solid waste is collected by CRP Sanitation, a private company contracted by the Town. All commercial properties are required to contract independently for removal of their own solid waste. CRP Sanitation transports the solid waste collected from residential properties and any commercial properties they have contracted with, to the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility located in Peekskill, New York.

CRP also collects the recyclable materials from commercial developments in Yorktown. The paper products are brought either to the Brookfield Resource Management, Inc. located in Elmsford, or American Independent Paper Materials Recovery Facility in Tarrytown. The materials are then marketed and sold for processing.

The Town of Yorktown is a member of the Westchester County Refuse Disposal District #1. This district is responsible for the transportation and disposal of municipally-collected solid waste (MSW). The county's solid waste disposal system consists of four transfer stations, the Charles Point waste-to-energy plant, a fleet of tractors and transfer trailers for waste hauling, and recyclable containers for hauling recyclable materials, a landfill at Sprout Brook solely permitted for disposal of ash residue from the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility, a material recovery facility (MRF), and various equipment for organic yard waste processing and transport.

The Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility was built in response to a federal mandate to close the county's Croton Point Landfill and local incinerators. In 1982, twenty-six municipalities joined in a special assessment district, called the Refuse Disposal District #1 that enabled the County to build the Charles Point Facility. The facility began operations in 1984, by providing dependable, environmentally safe disposal of municipal solid waste for Westchester County, while generating clean, renewable electricity.

Designed, constructed and operated by Wheelabrator Westchester, the facility supports county residents by processing up to 2,250 tons per day of municipal solid waste. The Charles Point Facility has a permitted capacity of 710,000 tons per year. It is equipped with a magnetic separation system that extracts ferrous metals from the ash, which are then recycled. The plant has an electrical generating capacity of 60,000 kilowatts; the equivalent of supplying the electrical needs of 88,000 New York homes.

The facility accepts solid waste from all municipalities in Refuse Disposal District #1, which has grown to include 36 communities, representing approximately 90 percent of the county's population. In 2009, the facility processed 700,052 tons of solid waste and recovered 16,887 tons of ferrous metal. Refuse Disposal District #1 municipalities were responsible for 438,236

tons of solid waste, which was down 5,507 tons from 2008. Private carters and direct haul waste delivered the balance of refuse to the Charles Point Facility (ref: environment.westchestergov.com).

Westchester County adopted its Source Separation Law in 1992. (http://www.westchestergov.com/pdfs/ENVFACIL_SourceSeparationLaw.pdf) The law requires that all waste generators in Westchester County separate solid waste and recyclables at the source in accordance with Chapter 825 of the County Law. The purpose of this law is to reduce the need to dispose of solid waste through incineration or landfilling through the implementation of recycling. Compliance with this policy is required under penalty of law.

2. Potential Impacts

Based on data provided for a similar Costco facility in Nanuet, NY, the Proposed Action can be expected to generate approximately 1,650 tons of solid waste per year. Of that, approximately 45% or 750 tons is typically recycled with the remaining 55% or 900 tons being removed and transported offsite (see Appendix VII.N of this DEIS). Recyclable wastes typically include such items as cardboard, shrink wrap, light bulbs, automotive batteries, tires, lead wheel weights, pallets, waste grease / bone, organic (food) wastes, bottles and cans. Remaining wastes are compacted, collected and disposed of offsite.

Solid waste is compacted onsite and stored within the compactor located at the north end of the building and later transported to the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility. As noted above, the Charles Point Facility is operating under capacity and has the capability to process the Project's site generated solid waste.

Recyclables are stored onsite and later transported to recycling transfer stations. In association with the Tire Service, used tires and batteries are stored in environmentally safe containments and removed from the site by licensed transporters for recycling. As cited under existing conditions, paper and cardboard, which is baled onsite, can be transported to the Brookfield Resource Management, Inc. in Elmsford, or American Independent Paper transfer station in Tarrytown. Another local carting service, Affordable Carting, with a transfer station located in Peekskill, has the capability to remove a full array of recyclable materials including metals, plastics, glass, paper, food, tires, batteries, etc. The collected materials are packaged at these transfer stations, marketed and sold for processing. Communication with all of the referenced resource management companies indicated that they had adequate capacity to serve the proposed Costco Wholesale.

Potential impact can also result from abandoned shopping carts and uncontrolled litter escaping into adjacent woodlands and wetlands and must be managed by an internal housekeeping plan.

3. Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the Westchester County Source Separation Law Costco will be required to source-separate all recyclables as described in Chapter 825, including but not necessarily limited to corrugated cardboard, paper, metals, glass, plastics and automotive batteries in preparation for removal from the site. As also required, Costco will prepare a Nonresidential Waste Generator Plan for submittal to the County Commissioner for review and approval. The Plan will comply with the requirements of Chapter 825 and will include a descriptive plan for source separation and a schedule for collection of recyclables by a contracted hauler or delivery of recyclables to a recyclable broker.

Waste stream control and reduction is a major focus of Costco's Corporate Sustainability program. Warehouse stores generate tons of trash that once was discarded but now is being recycled and renewed into usable products. Following is a description of typical waste stream management policies that will be applied to this project.

Waste compactors are located at the north end of the building from where visibility to the customers as well as views from offsite will be minimized. Solid waste removal will be contracted with private vendors. Waste materials will be separated for recycling by Costco, and collected and transported to a local transfer station by a private carter for distribution to either a landfill or solid waste management center for recycling.

Solid waste is compacted onsite and stored safely within the compactor. Properly compacting wastes reduces volume. Compactors are electronically monitored to indicate when full and ready for removal. Removal is scheduled as compactors become full, thereby, minimizing the number of trips to the waste disposal facility. Costco's aggressive recycling program can be attributed to reducing the waste removed to a landfill or recovery facilities by nearly half (45%). Such innovative practices include: baling and recycling the corrugated cardboard and shrink wrap used to secure goods on the transportation pallets; capturing rotisserie chicken grease to be used in the biodiesel market; collecting produce and deli wastes for sale to composting facilities.

Further waste reduction is managed at the source through the innovative packaging to reduce, for example, plastic wastes by switching from traditional plastic clamshell packaging to a combination of plastic and cardboard packaging. Freight savings are realized through development of more efficient package shapes, whereby maximizing the number of product units that can be packed on trucks and minimizing the number of delivery trips. Cardboard boxes are used to package products for delivery to the store and then reused by customers to carry their products home.

Tires, batteries and lead weights used in balancing the tires are all collected, stored safely onsite and removed for reprocessing by recycling companies. Recycling of cans and bottles is made available to customers as shredding machines are located at the building site. Shredded wastes are emptied and removed for recycling.

Site housekeeping will be provided at the Costco site by Costco employees. With each trip through the parking lot to collect shopping carts, employees are required to collect litter from the grounds. The undeveloped western portions of the site as well as the wooded area north have the potential to become littered if not maintained regularly. Therefore, Costco employees will be instructed to provide regular inspections and collections of unwanted litter and potentially abandoned shopping carts from the parking areas and adjacent open space. In addition, landscape contractors will provide regular maintenance that will include collection of potential litter during regular maintenance operations.