

Press



Release

For Immediate Release

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Rockland Forms Food Recovery Task Force First Of Its Kind In Region

DEC & EPA Leaders To Speak At Kickoff Gathering

Event Set For 10 A.M. Monday At Cropsey Farm in New City

New City, NY (Oct. 2, 2015) – Meet the members of the new Rockland County Food Recovery Task Force during a gathering at 10 a.m. Monday at Cropsey Farm, Little Tor Road, in New City.

The Task Force, organized by Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe, will work to identify ways to reduce and recover food waste for the benefit of hungry neighbors, taxpayers, local businesses and the environment.

Wolfe hopes to identify projects in anticipation of state and federal funding and wants to position the county as a leader on these issues.

The speakers will include Martin Brand, Region 3 Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Judy Ann Mitchell, Chief Sustainability and Multi-Media Programs Branch of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Rockland County Health Commissioner Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert; and a representative of the New York State Association of Counties.

As much as 40 percent of the American food supply goes to waste annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, local relief agencies estimate that in Rockland alone, more than 10 percent of the county's 315,000 residents go to bed hungry or without knowing where their next meal is coming from.

The Task Force follows two successful information sessions that focused on the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge and brought together anti-hunger advocates, business owners, farmers, representatives of the EPA and the DEC, and others.

The EPA's program aims to reduce food waste and in the process, help shrink costs for businesses, reduce municipal use of landfills and provide food to hungry residents.

The state hopes to reduce the amount of food waste New Yorker's dispose of each day from about 4 pounds per person per day to about half-a-pound per person per day in the next 15 years, according to the DEC.

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