



Press Release



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Task Force Stresses Importance Of Conservation, Honors Jaffee For Efforts In Securing \$250K State Funding For Important Study

Cornell, Day Highlight Water's Role In Supporting Strong Physical & Economic Health

New City, NY (April 26, 2016) – The Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management highlighted the need for ongoing water conservation and discussed its next efforts today while also acknowledging the work of Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee in securing a \$250,000 grant to help pay for conservation study.

The Task Force, chaired by Legislator Harriet Cornell and including County Executive Ed Day and Legislative Chairman Alden H. Wolfe as members, is working to insure that Rockland can delay or completely forgo the need for any new costly water treatment plant while also encouraging good water use practices.

“This is a unified effort to educate about the value of a precious resource – water - and to work as a community to use water wisely - by planning, by preventing over-development, and by conserving,” Cornell said. “With the help of our partners in the State Legislature, spearheaded by Assemblywoman Jaffee, Rockland will be a model for water conservation.”

Day said, “A secure and abundant water supply is crucial for the physical and economic health of Rockland. As stewards of this precious resource, we have to do all we can to protect and conserve it. We thank Assemblywoman Jaffee for securing this funding for the Rockland Water Task Force.”

Jaffee said she was proud to partner once again with the Task Force and to spearhead the effort to secure the \$250,000 in the State Budget so the Task Force can continue its work.

“Water conservation is paramount in Rockland County if we wish to avoid building expensive water sources that would also increase the cost of water for residents and businesses alike,” Jaffee said. “I congratulate the Task Force for its forward-thinking approach and focus on meaningful conservation of our most precious resource, so we can make sure we have the safe, affordable and sustainable water supply we need today and for generations to come.”

County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe said, “Water is a vital resource that needs our constant attention to insure we have enough and that it is of excellent quality. I truly appreciate Assemblywoman

Jaffee's hard work in obtaining the funding that will allow us to move forward for the benefit our residents and businesses."

Margie Turin, Water Taskforce Conservation Committee Chair said, "The Conservation Committee of the Task Force is extremely pleased to learn that funds will be available to Rockland County for water conservation planning and implementation. Water conservation is an important issue that communities everywhere will need to address. It is exciting that Rockland can be on the forefront, positioning us to be a model for others."

Today's gathering was held at the Orangeburg Public Library, where a rain garden has been installed to capture water from the roof and allow to sit in the garden so it can percolate into the ground to help recharge the aquifer.

Orangetown Town Supervisor Andy Stewart, a member of the Task Force, said, "We stopped Suez's desalination plant, now we are planning for sustainable water management in big ways, like Ellen Jaffee obtaining funding for the Task Force, and in small ways, like this beautiful rain garden here in front of Orangeburg Library, a great demonstration of green infrastructure.

"Ellen Jaffee finding funding for the Task Force's work on water conservation is a huge leap forward and shows how vital this work is to the future of Rockland County. We need sufficient water for health, industry and fire suppression purposes."

The Task Force is sponsoring a free two-hour workshop, Water-Wise Landscapes, including rain gardens, at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28 at the Orangeburg Library. It will focus on landscaping options and best practices that can benefit your property or enhance your business. Visit <http://bit.ly/1SzELjB> for more information.

R. Allan Beers, Coordinator of the county Division of Environmental Resources and executive director of the county Soil & Water Conservation District, said, "The Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District was pleased to partner with the Town of Orangetown's Highway and Parks Departments to install a demonstration Rain Garden at the Orangeburg Library.

"Small scale Green Infrastructure Projects which residents can install on their properties can have meaningful benefits in helping to preserve our water resources," Beers said.

Jim Dean, Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation District, said "The Board of Directors of the Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District are pleased to have the opportunity to fund and to work with the Town of Orangetown Highway Department, Orangeburg Library, County of Rockland, and State Assemblywoman Jaffee in completing this rain garden.

"Our Selection Committee chose this location because the Library is where people come for knowledge. It is also where the Town of Orangetown Building and Planning Facility is located and where permits and information regarding new construction are issued," Dean said.

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