



# new york city wastes less!



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## “A new era for recycling in NYC”

### 20-year processing contract secures recycling's future

As a result of work initiated by the DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention Reuse and Recycling to secure longterm, economically viable outlets for the City's recyclables, New York City has reached a 20-year agreement with the Hugo Neu Corporation (HNC, [www.hugoneu.com](http://www.hugoneu.com)) to process and market the metal, glass, and plastic recyclables that DSNY collects.

Part of the agreement calls for HNC to build a \$25 million modern recycling facility on the Brooklyn waterfront that will be leased to HNC by the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

Similar to the City's mixed-paper contract with Visy on Staten Island ([www.visy.com.au](http://www.visy.com.au)), the new long-term contract with HNC benefits the City because it shifts market risk for commodity



Architect's rendering of the proposed new processing facility.

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The NYC WasteLe\$\$ electronic newsletter—reducing waste one click at a time.

Produced by the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse & Recycling (BWPRR)

## DSNY resumes fall leaf collection, sponsors electronics recycling events

From maple leaves to motherboards, DSNY is helping New Yorkers recycle more!

**Fall leaf collection resumes.** This fall, residents of Staten Island, Queens, and many neighborhoods in Brooklyn and the Bronx will be able to put their leaves and Halloween pumpkins out for special collection. DSNY will compost the collected leaves for use in New York City parks. The last time DSNY collected fall leaves for composting (in fall 2001), more than 19,000 tons of leaves were collected citywide. (For more on composting, see [NYC Compost Project returns](#).)

Here are the dates for 2004 leaf pickup:

**Bronx & Brooklyn** (see leaf-collection areas on [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org)): Saturday, November 20 and Saturday, December 4

**Queens & Staten Island:** Saturday, November 13 and Saturday, November 27

Look for detailed information on DSNY's leaf collection in the mail soon—or go to [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org).



👉 [LEAF & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING continues on page 2](#)

### TIP: Why brown paper bags are best for leaf collection

Paper bags decompose naturally with the leaves. Plastic bags don't decompose, and it takes time, money, and effort to remove and discard them. So using paper bags dramatically reduces the costs of the leaf-composting program, and results in a cleaner, more usable compost.

## “A new era for recycling in NYC”

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prices to the private sector, attracts millions of dollars of private investment for needed infrastructure improvements, and provides the City’s private-sector partners with the commitments they need to effectively market recyclable materials.

The landmark agreement, which was announced in September by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, DSNY Commissioner John J. Doherty, and Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President Andrew Alper, will also dramatically reduce truck traffic on City streets. [See full text of press release on www.nyc.gov.](#) “I am proud to announce that we are entering a new era for recycling in New York City,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “This long-term contract allows HNC to make the capital investment necessary to develop better markets for the City’s recyclables materials, and we will use our network of waterways to move our recyclables around our city, removing trucks from our roads.”

Construction of the new state-of-the-art facility is expected to begin in early 2006 and be completed by late 2007. The construction will be financed by HNC, and will create 160 construction jobs and 100 permanent jobs. The long-term contract will lower the City’s cost for processing metal, glass, and plastic—**saving nearly \$20 million a year** compared to prior contracts. •



Architect’s rendering: The new facility will be located on a pier in the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

**Tip:** See a list of what to recycle and how, on [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org).

**To order free recycling decals, flyers, posters, and brochures (even refrigerator magnets and bumper stickers!), call 311 or complete the [literature/decals request form on www.nyc.gov/sanitation](#).**

## Leaf collection & electronics recycling

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**DSNY sponsors electronics recycling events.** Nationwide, “e-waste”—discarded computers and other consumer electronics—is the fastest-growing portion of municipal solid waste streams. Although it is currently just .9% of the waste DSNY collects, electronic equipment contains hazardous elements such as lead, mercury, and cadmium that pose an environmental risk when the equipment is discarded improperly.

This fall, DSNY’s Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling (BWPRR) has been providing a convenient, no-cost way for computer owners in the City to recycle their unwanted equipment. With funding from Dell Inc., and Lexmark, DSNY worked with the **Lower East Side Ecology Center** to sponsor a series of electronics recycling events in communities around the City. The National Recycling Coalition gave additional assistance, and several community groups participated, including: Astoria Residents Reclaiming Our World, the Council on the Environment of NYC’s Greenmarket Program, the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, the Little Red School House, Snug Harbor Alliance, and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island.

The events run through early November; for dates and locations, go to [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org). Read an interview with BWPRR Director Robert Lange about the electronics recycling events, in [“Social Design Notes” on www.backspace.com](#). •



**TIP:** If you miss the fall events, there are still lots of ways to recycle computers and other electronic equipment. For info, go to [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org).



At the first three electronic recycling events held in October 2004, NYC residents dropped off approximately 16 tons of used equipment.

# Schools win cash prizes through DSNY's Golden Apple awards

Recycling is the law in New York City schools. An updated DSNY guide for schools describes not just how to comply with recycling regulations—but also how to win cash prizes in the process!

The new **“Guide to Recycling in New York City Schools”** was mailed to principals and custodians at the

City's public and private schools this fall. It provides detailed, updated information on how schools should set up their recycling programs and what they must recycle. It also tells schools how they can enter DSNY's annual **Golden Apple Awards**—three contests in which schools compete to win cash prizes for model recycling programs, waste-prevention initiatives, and neighborhood beautification efforts. Download a pdf of the guide from [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org).

In 2004, 28 schools won prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for their winning entries in the Golden Apple

Awards contests. Schools were required to present students' efforts in a binder with essays, photos, drawings, and other documentation. Environmental educators and government officials served as judges. For the 2004-2005 school year, DSNY hopes that even more schools will participate in the awards program.

## 2005 Golden Apple Awards deadlines:

- Pre-application forms are due March 1, 2005.
- Project entry submissions are due April 18, 2005.

For more info, go to [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org) or call 917-237-5759. •

School resources available on [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org):

• [recycling information for schools](#) (including downloadable “Guide to Recycling in NYC Schools”)

• [Golden Apple Awards info](#)

• [2004 Golden Apple Awards winners](#) (including samples of winning-entry binders)

• [request form for ordering free recycling supplies](#)



Ian Twine of BWPRR presents some of the 2004 Golden Apple Awards—top to bottom: David Porter School PS 94, (Queens borough & citywide winner for elementary school division in both the Reduce & Reuse Challenge and SuperRecyclers contests); P 771K @ PS 225 (Brooklyn borough & citywide winner in elementary division in the TeamUp to CleanUp contest); and Louis D. Brandeis High School 470 (Manhattan borough and citywide winner for high school division in the TeamUp to CleanUp contest).



New York City  
Department of Sanitation

Guide to  
Recycling in  
New York City  
Schools



2005 contest  
brochure

# NYCWasteLe\$\$ wins SWANA award

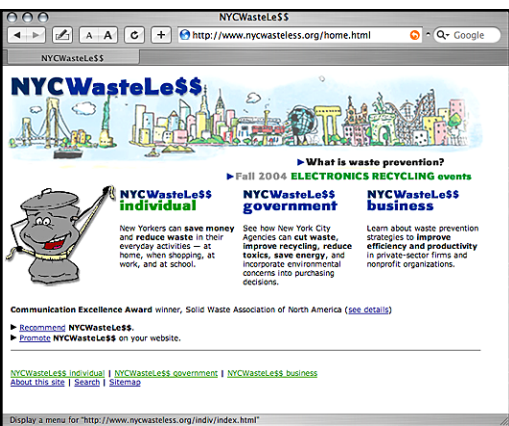
DSNY's waste-prevention website, **NYCWasteLe\$\$**—[www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org)—has been recognized with SWANA's 2004 Silver Communication Excellence Award. SWANA (the Solid Waste Association of New York,

[www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org)) issues these awards to honor "programs that promote socially, environmentally and economically sound waste management." In 2002, DSNY received the SWANA Gold award for School Curricula Excellence and the Silver award for overall Public Education Excellence.

**NYCWasteLe\$\$** is a one-stop waste-prevention resource for New Yorkers:

**NYCWasteLe\$\$ individual** shows how to save money and reduce waste through everyday choices at home, school, work, and when shopping.

**NYCWasteLe\$\$ government** describes how City agencies can cut waste, improve recycling, reduce toxics, save energy, and incorporate environmental concerns into purchasing decisions. **NYCWasteLe\$\$ business** provides businesses with information on the advantages of waste prevention, recycling, green building, extended producer responsibility, and energy efficiency.



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The SWANA Excellence Awards Luncheon was held during their 2004 annual conference (WASTECON) in Phoenix in September. Andriana Kontovrakis from BWPRR received the award on DSNY's behalf.

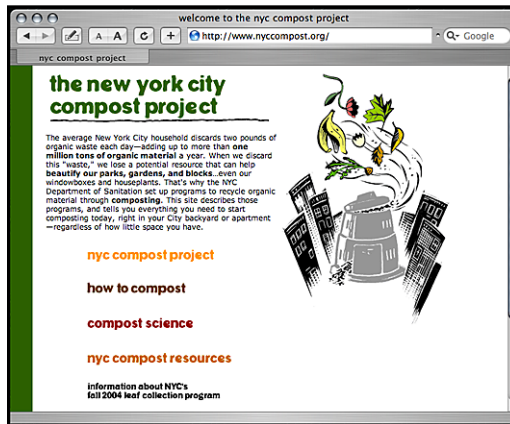
# NYC Compost Project returns!

Back in 1993, DSNY created the **NYC Compost Project** to provide compost outreach and education to City residents, institutions, and businesses. Under the direction of the Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, DSNY-funded staff at the City's botanical gardens operate the following NYC Compost Project programs:

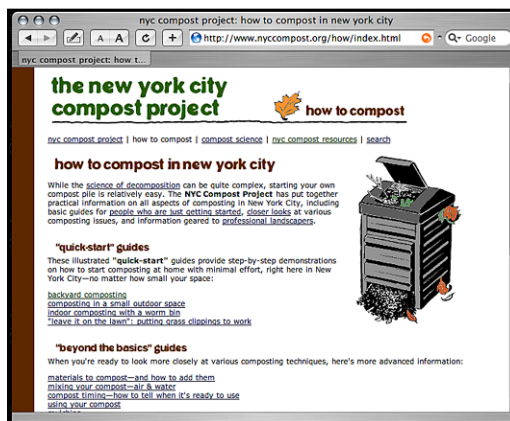
- composting workshops
- compost givebacks—free compost and discounted compost bin sales
- "leave it on the lawn" education—how to put grass clippings to work
- master composter certificate courses and landscaper trainings
- NYC teacher "wormshops"—worm composting for the classroom

In July 2002, the NYC Compost Project was suspended due to citywide budget deficits. **This great program is now returning!**

To learn more about compost givebacks, discounted compost-bin sales, and training programs, visit [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org).



The NYC Compost Project website has information about composting workshops and events, step-by-step how-to guides on both indoor and outdoor composting, info about the science of composting, links to composting resources, and more.



## Frequently asked question

**What can I do with unwanted furniture, large appliances, and other bulky items?**

To prevent these items from becoming waste, consider: **Is the item reusable?** If it could be cleaned and repaired to be useful again, check into donating it. Go to [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org) for a list of organizations that accept donations.

**If it isn't usable, can it be recycled?**

Appliances and furniture that are at least 50 percent metal can be recycled. These include, but aren't limited to, water heaters, metal file cabinets, metal desks, and box springs. For appliances containing CFC gas (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers), the CFC gas must be removed by DSNY before the items can be put out with other recyclables (call 311 to schedule the CFC removal, or go to [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation) to schedule an appointment online). **Bulk items that aren't reusable or recyclable** can be placed at the curb on your regular garbage collection day. For more information, see [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation).

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Published by the **New York City Department of Sanitation  
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling (DSNY-BWPRR)**  
PO Box 156, Bowling Green Station, New York, NY 10274-0156

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## Recycling highlights from the draft NYC Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

Every ten years, New York City (along with other local jurisdictions in the state) is required by New York State Environmental Conservation Law to submit a **solid waste management plan**. This plan characterizes the solid waste stream, assesses proposed solid waste management programs and facilities, addresses the views of concerned entities, and sets forth an implementation timetable.

This year New York City is updating its Solid Waste Management Plan. A draft of the plan can be found on the Department of Sanitation website:

[www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation).

The draft plan contains the following commitments related to recycling:

- A 25% diversion of residential recyclables (through DSNY's curbside collection program) by 2007.
- A 70% recycling diversion rate for the City's combined residential and commercial waste stream by 2015.
- Greater public awareness of and participation in recycling efforts.
- A stable 20-year curbside program for collecting recyclable paper, metal, glass, and plastic (see article on page 1).
- An infrastructure for processing, marketing, and exporting recyclables.
- Using the City's waterways, not long-haul trucks, for transporting recyclables.
- Reducing the price for processing metal, glass, and plastic from the curbside program, from more than \$100 proposed in 2002 to less than \$50 per ton.
- New jobs and economic development along the Brooklyn waterfront.