

Who am I? Why am I here?



www.ipsecinfo.org
facebook.com/CLOSEINDIANPOINT
ipsec2009@gmail.com



www.SEnRG.org
facebook.com/SEnRGorg
 Twitter: @SEnRGorg



www.ResistSpectra.org
facebook.com/ResistAIM
 Twitter: @ResistAIM
ResistAIM@gmail.com



www.SAPE2016.org
facebook.com/groups/sape2016/
 Twitter: @SAPE2016

What is the Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions?

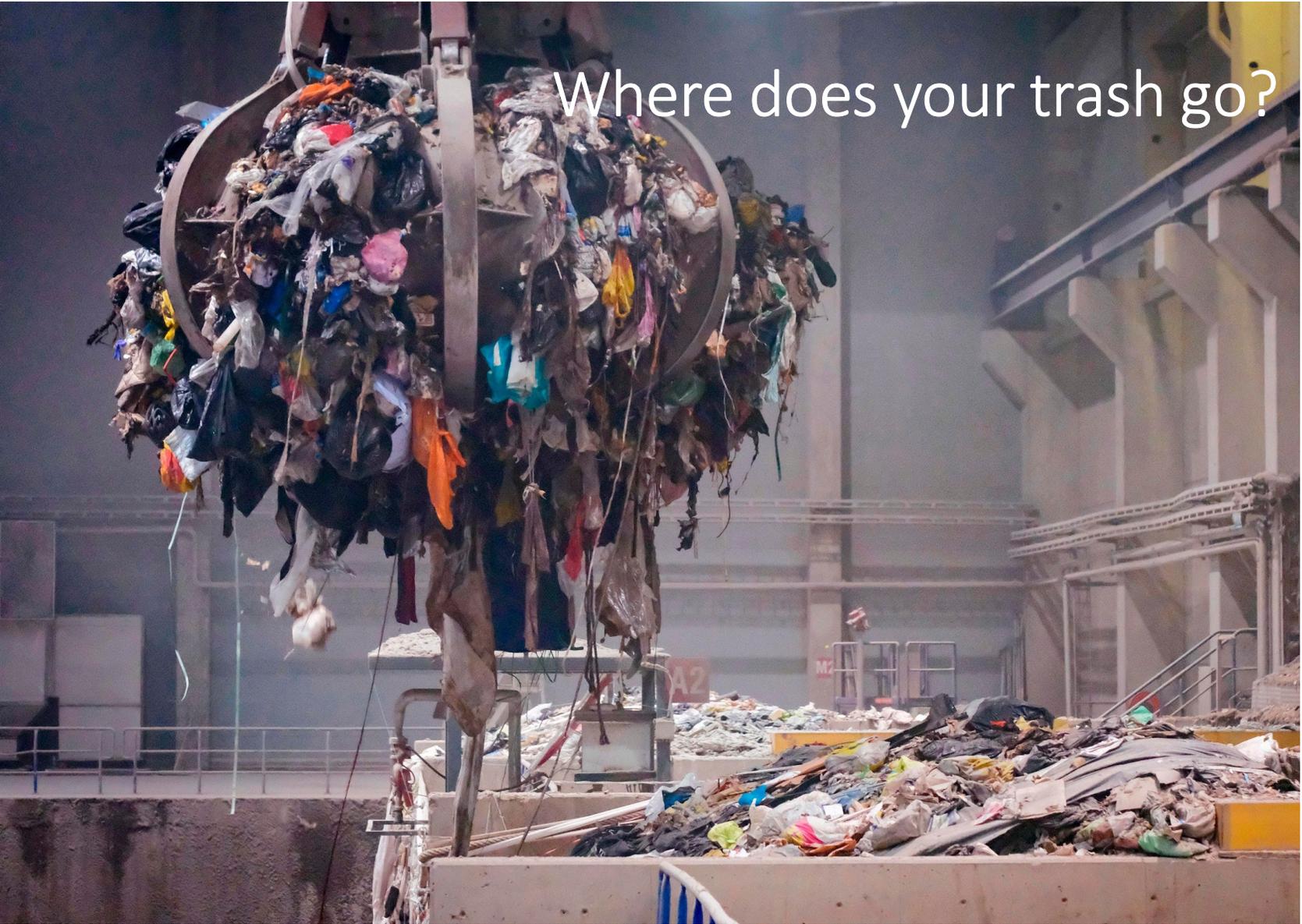


- WASS is a coalition of community organizations from Westchester County working to close the WIN incinerator in Peekskill where the county's trash is burned



"To Raise Awareness & Funding in the Areas of Activism, Environmentalism, & Celebration of the Arts"



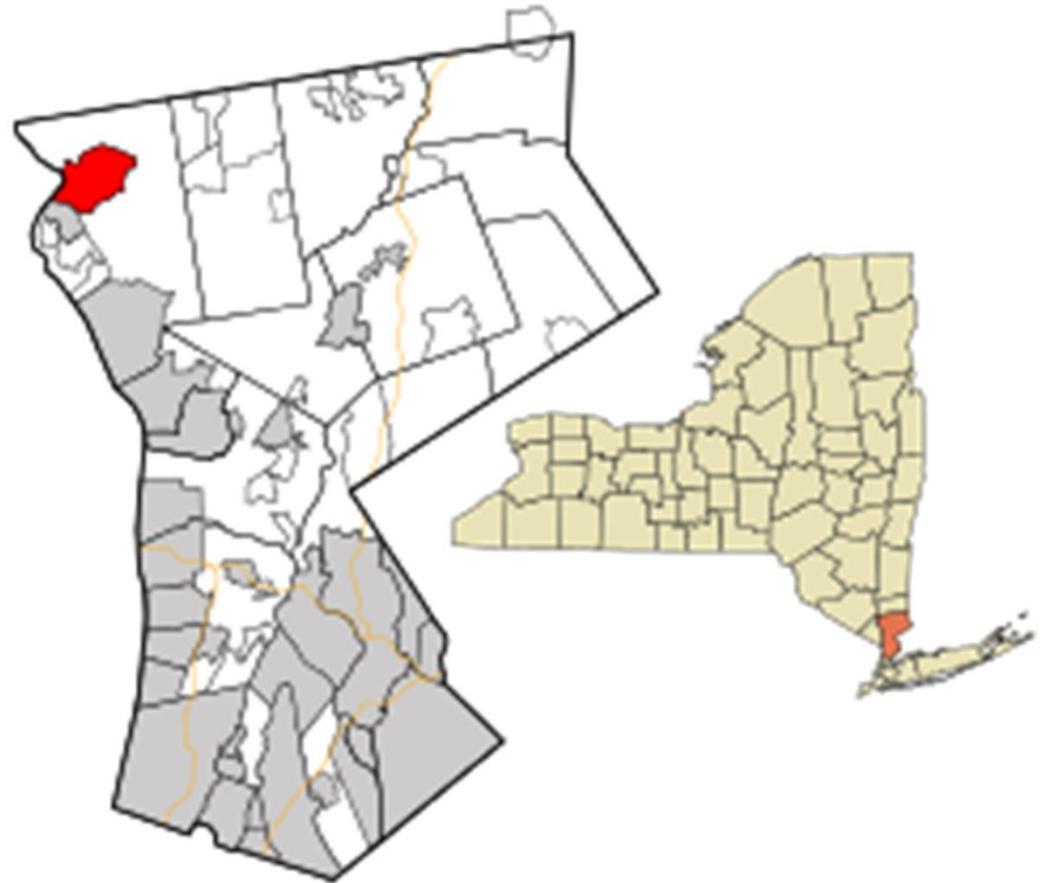


Where does your trash go?

- **Wheelabrator Peekskill**
- **80% of the trash burned in Peekskill is from Westchester County.**
- **19% is sewage sludge from Connecticut.**
- **4% is from Brooklyn**
- **1.6% is from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, and Rockland counties.**

About Peekskill: An Environmental Justice Community

- Peekskill has a population of approximately 25,000, with the majority being African-American or Latino.
- Neighborhoods within a 12.5-mile radius of downtown Peekskill are home to at least 2 hazardous waste handlers, 7 hazardous waste facilities, 19 solid waste facilities, 27 major and minor air polluters, 87 industrial surface water sites, 20 municipal surface water sites, 15 toxic release facilities, 47 hazardous waste handlers, and 23 toxic release sites. The majority of the toxic release sites, hazardous waste, solid waste facilities and wastewater facilities are located in predominantly African-American communities.
- Health data comparing Peekskill to surrounding communities indicates that Peekskill has unusually high rates of asthma, including emergency room visits and hospitalizations, respiratory cancers, death due to cardiovascular disease, and high incidents of low birth weight.

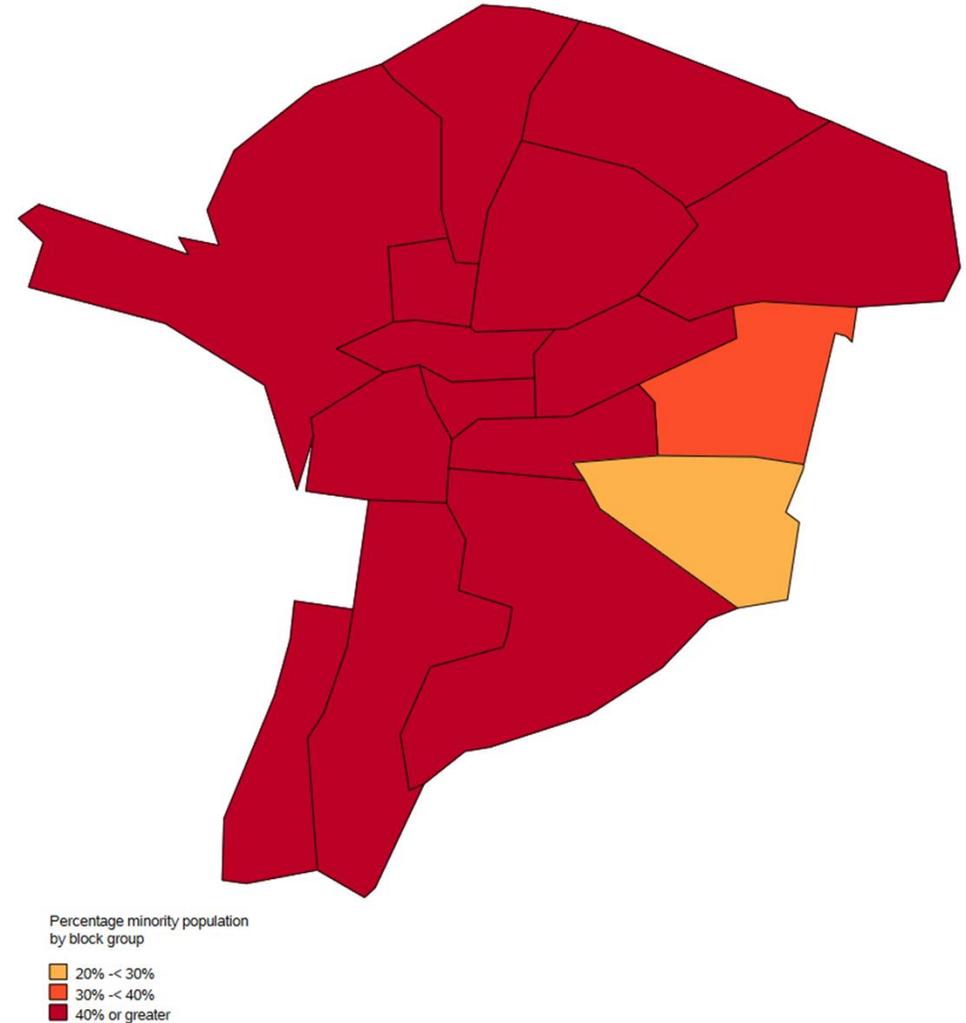


About Peekskill: An Environmental Justice Community

- Peekskill has a population of approximately 25,000, with the majority being African-American or Latino.
- Neighborhoods within a 12.5-mile radius of downtown Peekskill are home to at least 2 hazardous waste handlers, 7 hazardous waste facilities, 19 solid waste facilities, 27 major and minor air polluters, 87 industrial surface water sites, 20 municipal surface water sites, 15 toxic release facilities, 47 hazardous waste handlers, and 23 toxic release sites. The majority of the toxic release sites, hazardous waste, solid waste facilities and wastewater facilities are located in predominantly African-American communities.
- Health data comparing Peekskill to surrounding communities indicates that Peekskill has unusually high rates of asthma, including emergency room visits and hospitalizations, respiratory cancers, death due to cardiovascular disease, and high incidents of low birth weight.

City of Peekskill

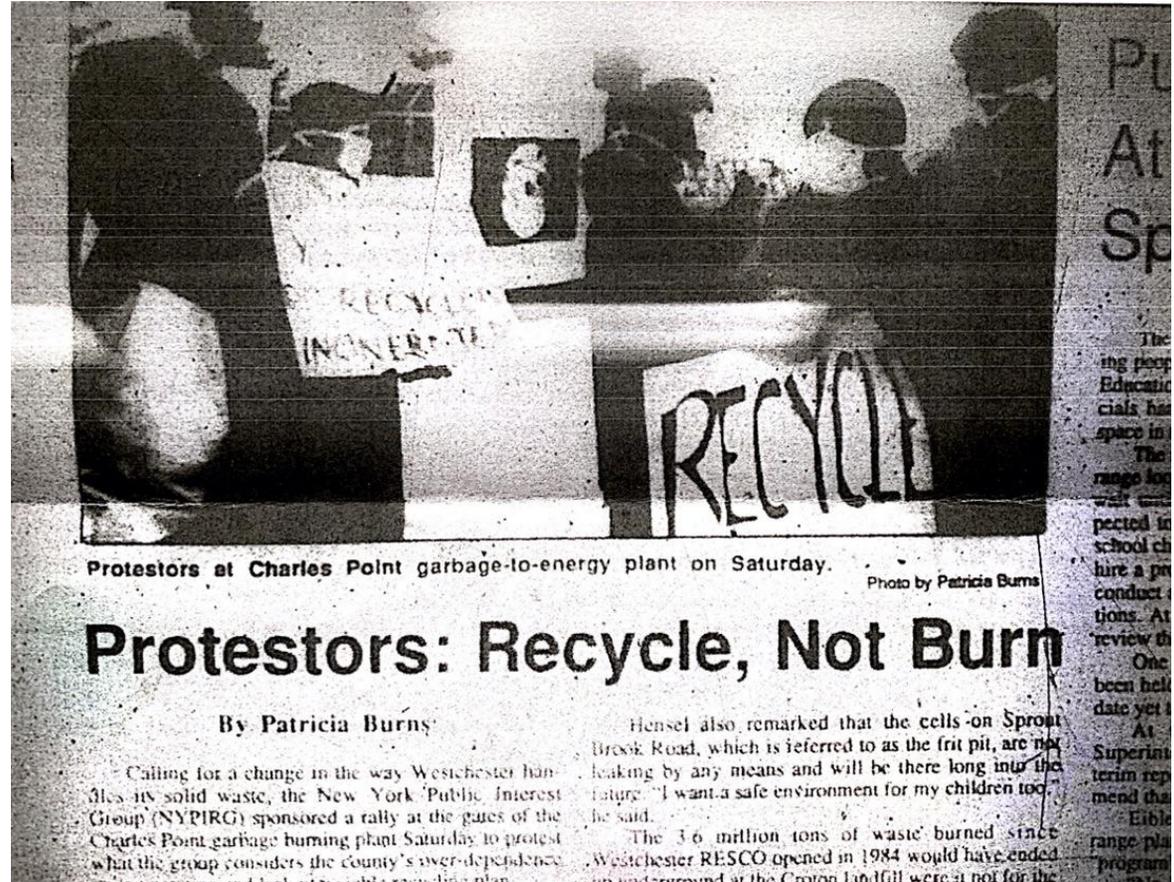
Minority population density map by census block group, 2010-2014



What is environmental justice?

According to Health and Human Services...

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

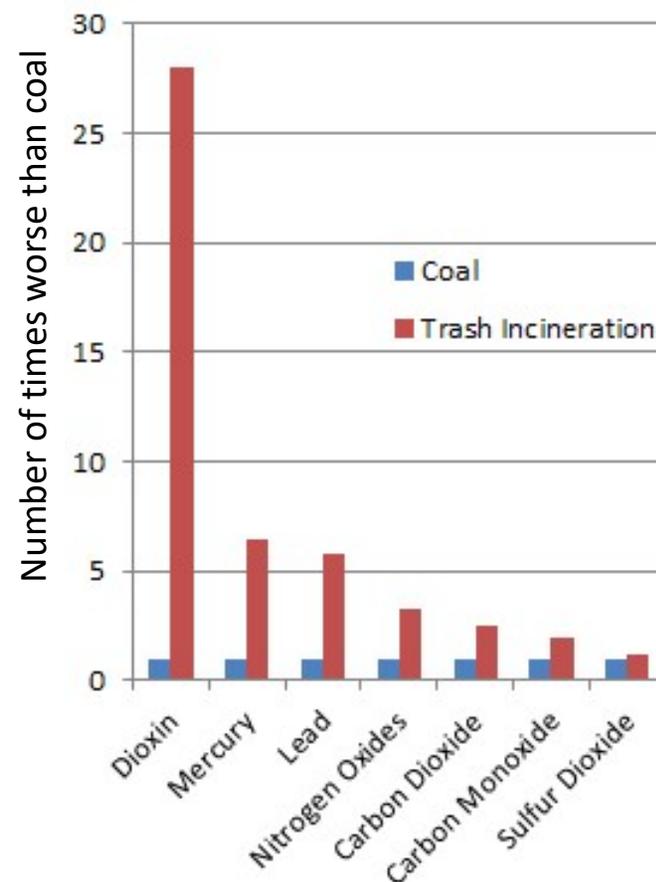


Peekskill Herald article from December 7, 1989 covering a protest at Wheelabrator



Burning trash pollutes more than coal!

- Peekskill residents are breathing these emissions!
- Peekskill is suffering the health consequences
- Westchester gets an “F” for air quality from the American Lung Association for ozone
- **Our future is going up in smoke!**



Source: <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/worsethancoal>

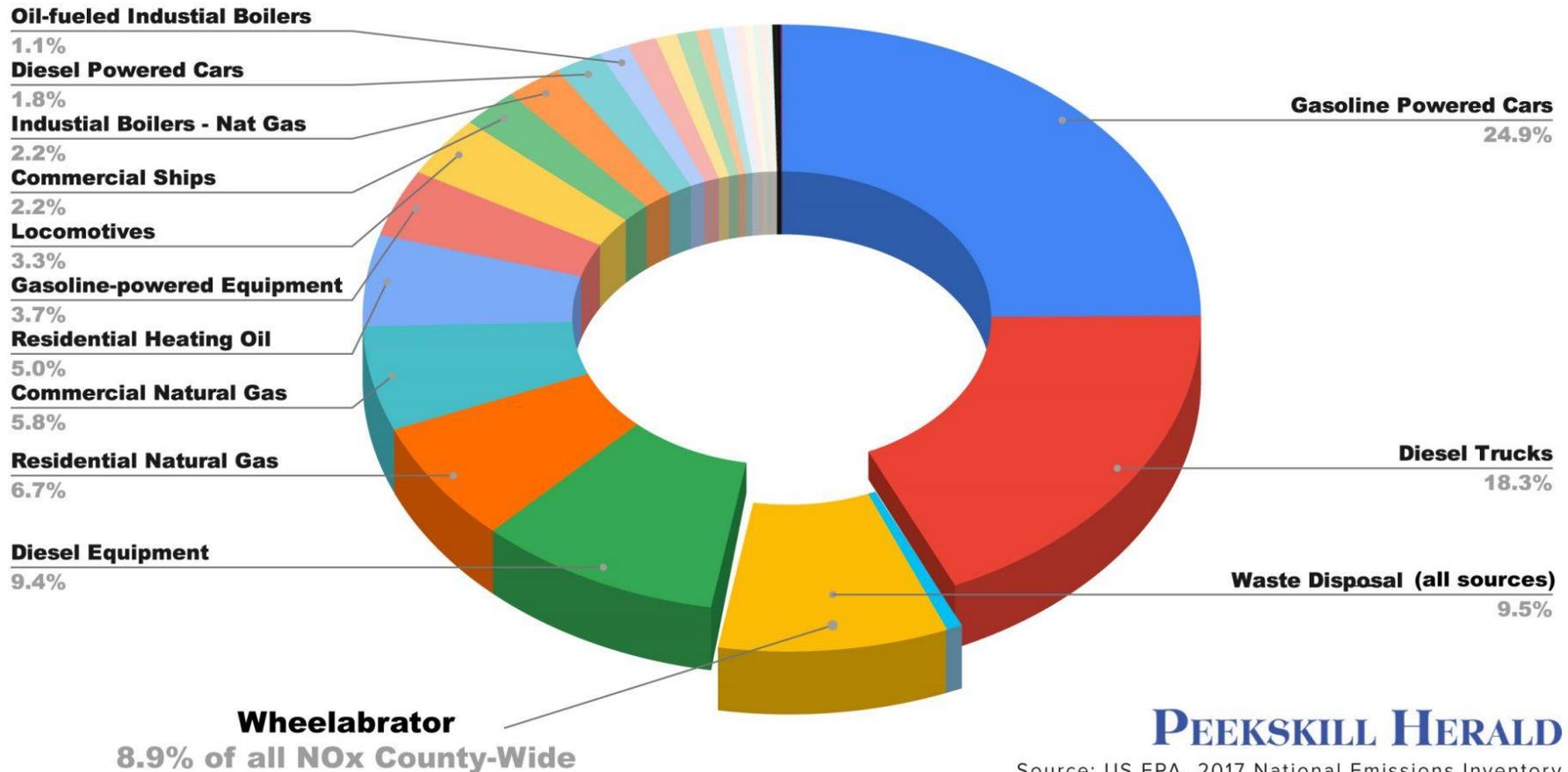


How polluting is the Wheelabrator Westchester trash incinerator in Peekskill?

The “Wheelabrator Westchester” incinerator in the City of Peekskill, NY is the largest air polluter in Westchester County. Based on data reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, they releasing more pounds of health-damaging air pollution than any other facility.

Pollutant (in pounds except CO ₂ e)	2017 Emissions	Rank in County	Health Effects
Global Warming Pollution (in tons of CO ₂ equivalents)	797,098	1	Extreme weather, disease, crop damage, species extinction
Nitrogen Oxides	2,093,339	1	triggers asthma attacks, chronic respiratory disease and stroke
Sulfur Dioxide	245,807	1	triggers asthma attacks; chronic respiratory and heart diseases; stroke
Carbon Monoxide	131,295	3	headaches and dizziness; increases lifetime risk of heart disease
Volatile Organic Compounds	70,473	2	eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination and nausea, liver, kidney and central nervous system damage, cancer
Particulate Matter	19,364	2	heart attacks, stroke, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, difficulty breathing
Fine Particulate Matter	15,911	2	same as above, but worse, gets deep into lungs and into blood stream
Benzo[a]Pyrene	165	1	skin, lung, and bladder cancers
Lead	57	2	damages nervous system and kidneys, lowers IQ, increases likelihood of antisocial behavior
Mercury	21	1	damage to nervous, digestive, and immune systems, lowers IQ
Cadmium	7	1	kidney disease; lung cancer

NOx Sources - Westchester County / Percentage of Annual Emissions by Category 2017 National Emissions Inventory



PEEKSKILL HERALD

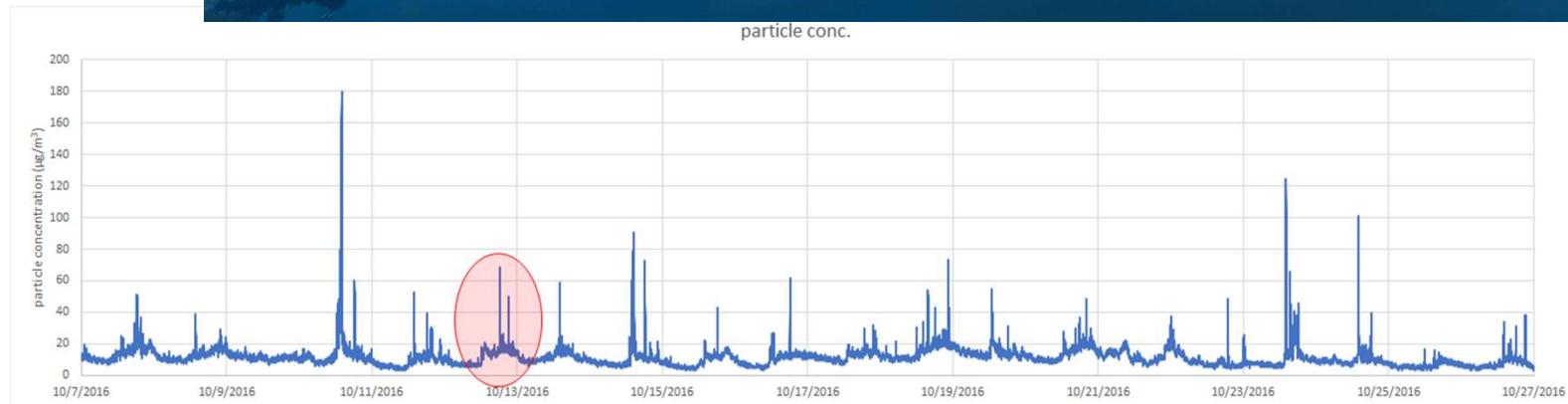
Source: US EPA, 2017 National Emissions Inventory

The dose makes the poison

- Annual releases are not informative from a public health perspective
- Are releases steady or periodic?
- Weather conditions can exacerbate exposure to pollutants



Drone Image
captured 10/13/16



Wheelabrator Westchester Facility Marks Major Milestone

7 million tons of highly toxic ash

Over 20 Million Tons of Waste Converted to ~~Clean, Renewable Energy~~

PEEKSKILL, N.Y.— (February 4, 2015) — Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. recently celebrated a major operational milestone when the total volume of trash processed at the Wheelabrator Westchester energy-from-waste plant surpassed the 20 million ton mark.

As a truck from City Carting rolled onto the check-in scale at the facility entrance on January 28, Wheelabrator Westchester employees gathered to congratulate driver Mike McKenzie and to observe over 30 years of helping Westchester County convert its residential and commercial waste into clean, renewable energy.



Where does the ash go?

- In 2020, Wheelabrator burned 659,116 tons of waste in Peekskill and produced 152,613 tons of toxic ash.
- In its lifetime the Wheelabrator has generated over 7 million tons of toxic ash
- 4 million tons in Sprout Brook "Frit Pit" closed in 2011
- Ash now sent to mega ash dump in Putnam, CT, where residents are fighting a massive expansion right now, and have been resisting this landfill for decades
- Trucks carrying ash pass through downtown Peekskill

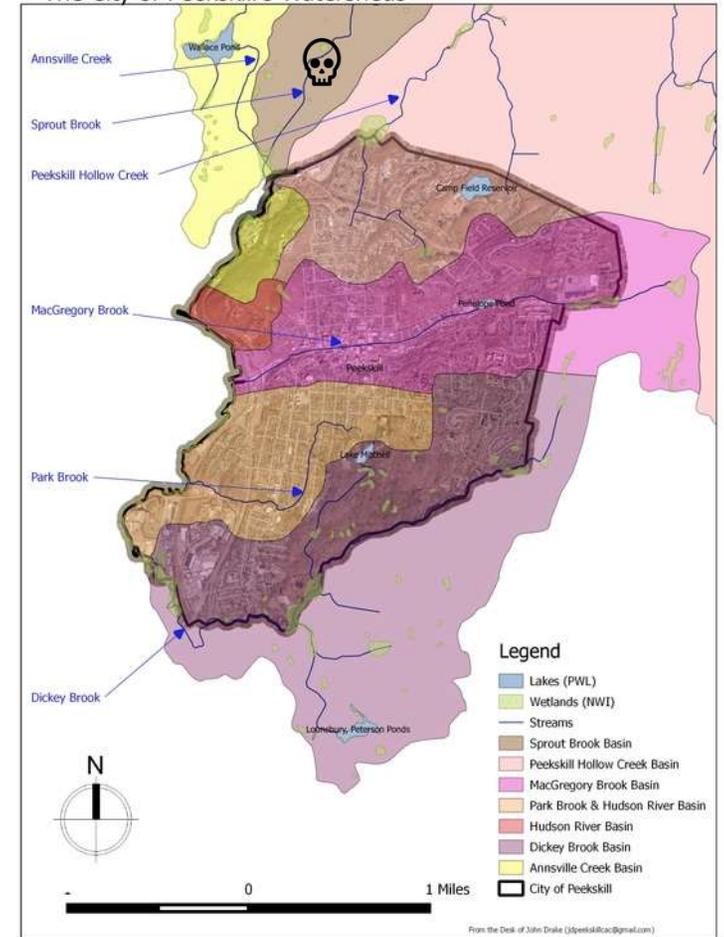


Sprout Brook "Frit Pit" in Cortlandt Source: Peekskill Herald

The Sprout Brook, part of the City of Peekskill watershed runs next to the Cortlandt "Frit Pit"

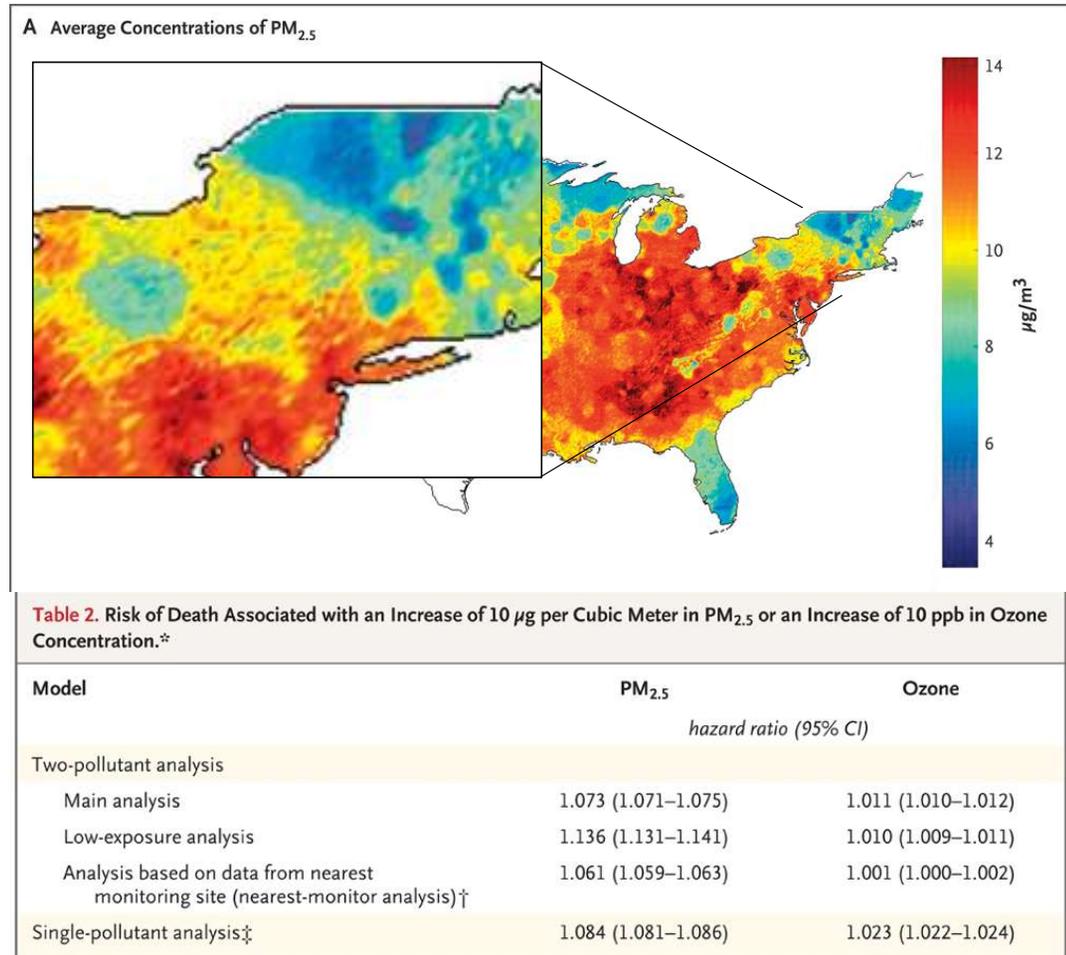


The City of Peekskill's Watersheds



Aren't there limits on emissions to keep us safe?

“The overall association between air pollution and human health has been well documented since the publication of the landmark Harvard Six Cities Study in 1993.²⁵ **With air pollution declining, it is critical to estimate the health effects of low levels of air pollution — below the current NAAQS — to determine whether these levels are adequate to minimize the risk of death.** Since the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set air-quality standards that protect sensitive populations, it is also important to focus more effort on estimating effect sizes in potentially sensitive populations in order to inform regulatory policy going forward.”
 – Di et al NEJM 2017

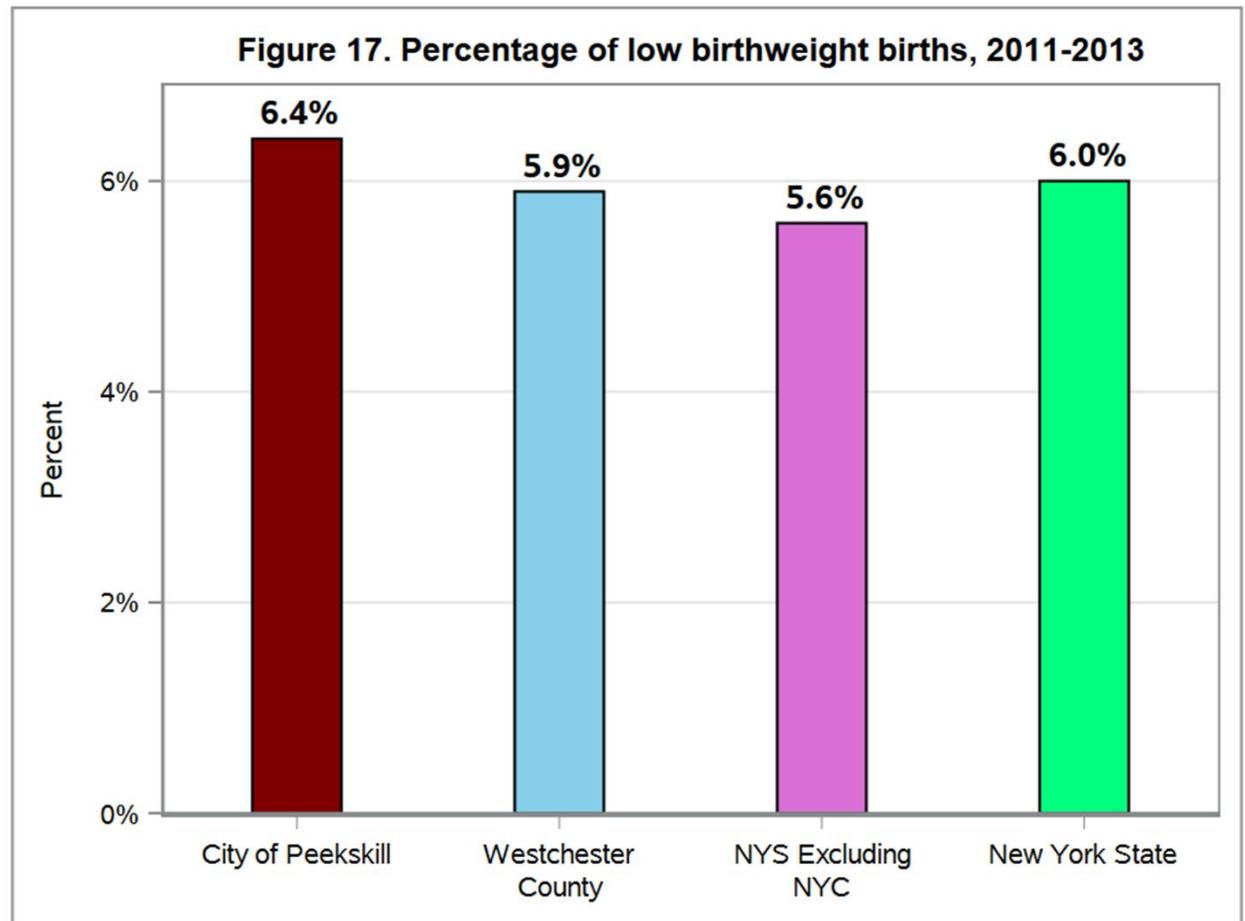


Rate of low-birth-weight babies born in Peekskill is higher than the state and county rates

Meta-analysis encompassing 54 studies and 27,087,009 participants

Prenatal exposure of the major air pollutants was associated with increased risk of LBW, among which the effects of PM_{2.5} and SO₂ were more pronounced.

Source: Li et al Env. Res. Nov 2020



Source: NYS Dept of Health Health Equity Report, Feb 2017

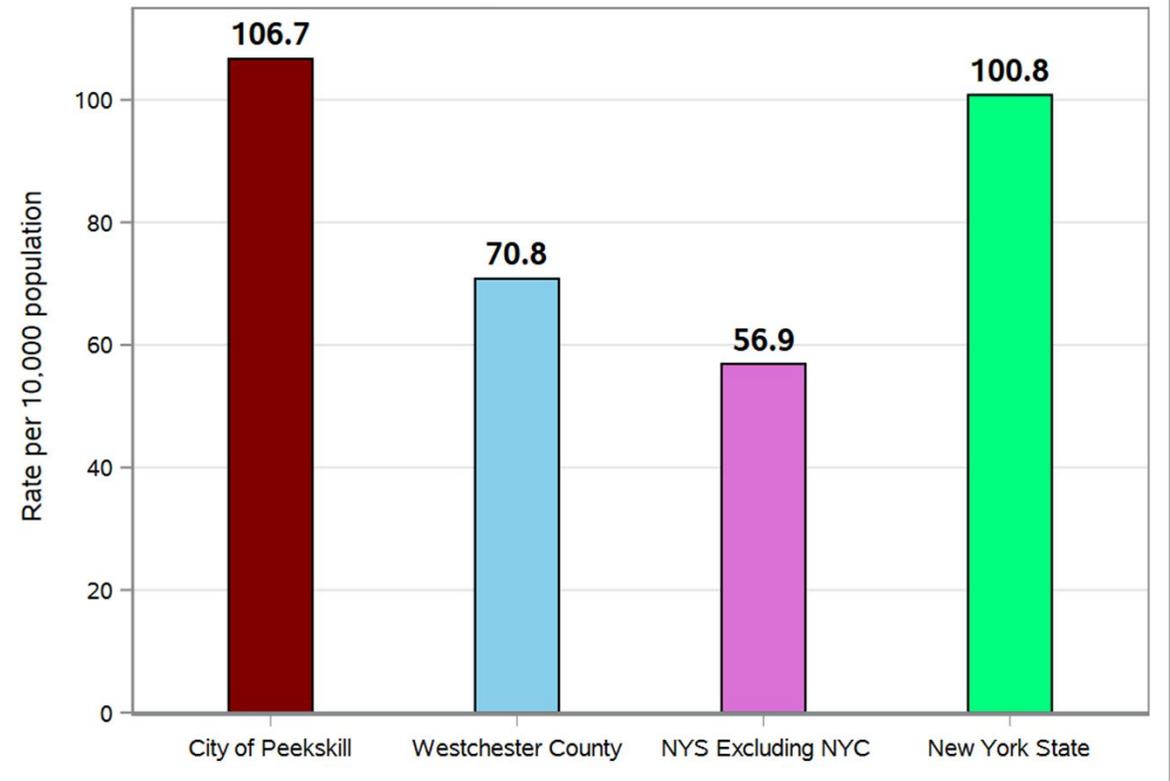
Rate of ER visits for asthma in Peekskill is higher than the state and county rates

Research shows that **air pollution can worsen asthma symptoms**. A study of young campers with moderate to severe asthma showed they were 40 percent more likely to have acute asthma episodes on high pollution summer days than on days with average pollution levels.

Another study found that older adults were more likely to visit the emergency room for breathing problems when summer air pollution was high.

Source: AAFA.org, Asthma & Allergy Association of America

Figure 7. Rate of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 population, all ages, 2011-2013



Source: Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)

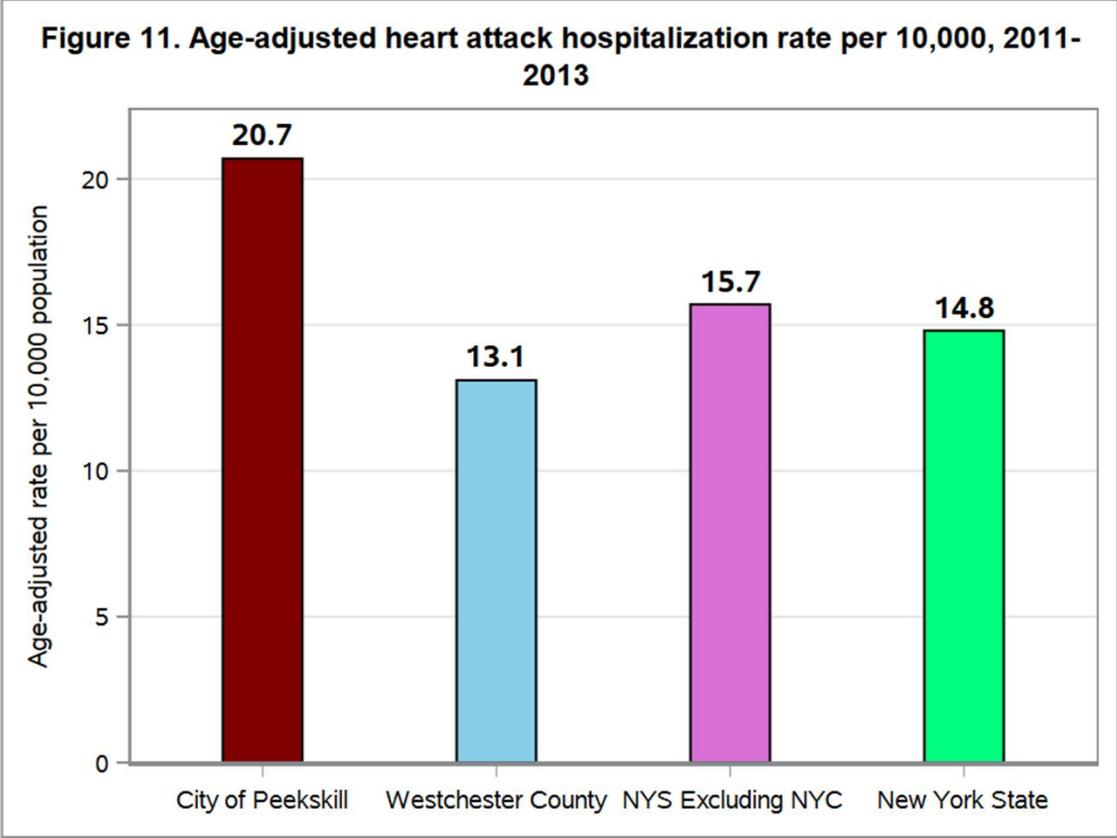
Source: NYS Dept of Health Health Equity Report, Feb 2017

Rate of hospitalization for heart attacks in Peekskill is higher than the state and county rates

Nearly 100 peer reviewed articles summarizing the findings of University of Washington completed the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis Air Pollution Study have been published since the research began in 2004, but in May 2016, the medical journal *The Lancet* published a seminal article by lead investigator Dr. Joel Kaufman. This study found that long-term exposure to particulate matter and nitrogen oxides at levels close to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) can prematurely age blood vessels and contribute to a more rapid buildup of calcium in the coronary artery.

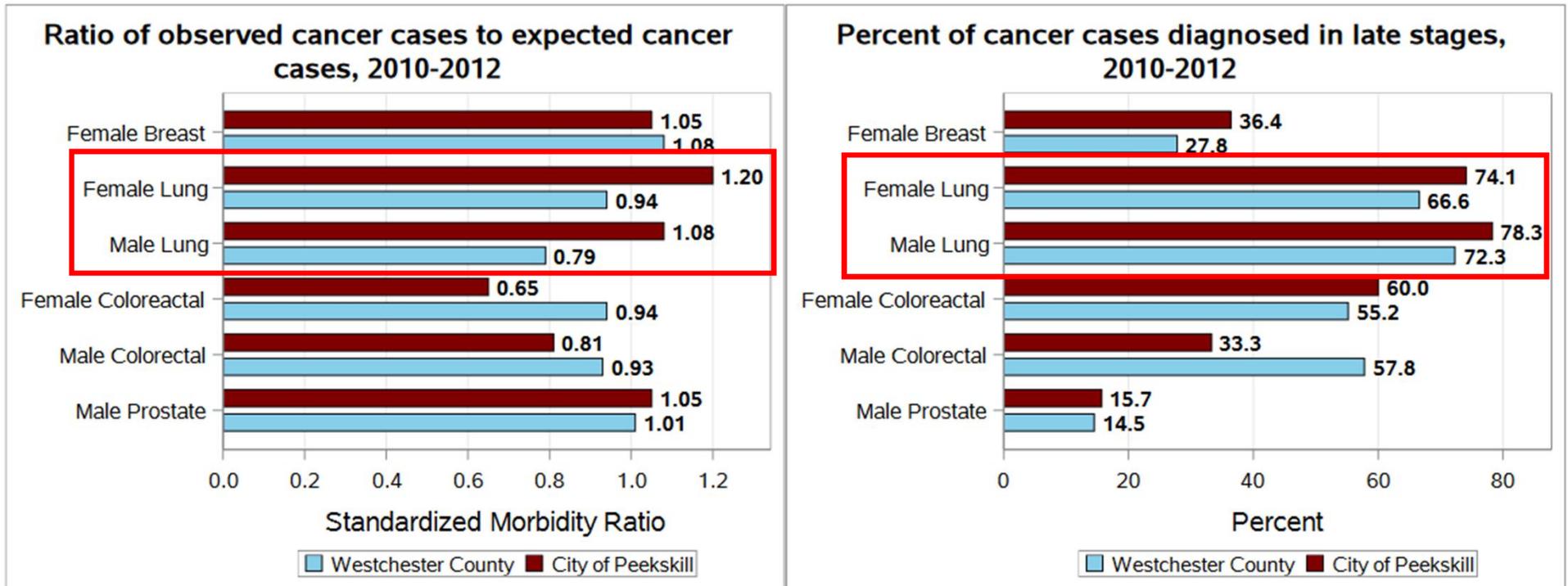
This buildup of calcium can restrict blood flow to the heart and other major blood vessels —increasing the likelihood of cardiovascular events like heart attack and stroke.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/linking-air-pollution-and-heart-disease>



Source: NYS Dept of Health Health Equity Report, Feb 2017

Peekskill has a higher-than-expected rate of lung cancer



Currently, there is substantial evidence from studies of humans and experimental animals as well as mechanistic evidence to support a causal link between outdoor (ambient) air pollution, and especially particulate matter (PM) in outdoor air, with lung cancer incidence and mortality. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of lung cancer deaths annually worldwide are attributable to PM air pollution.

Source: Turner et al CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 2020

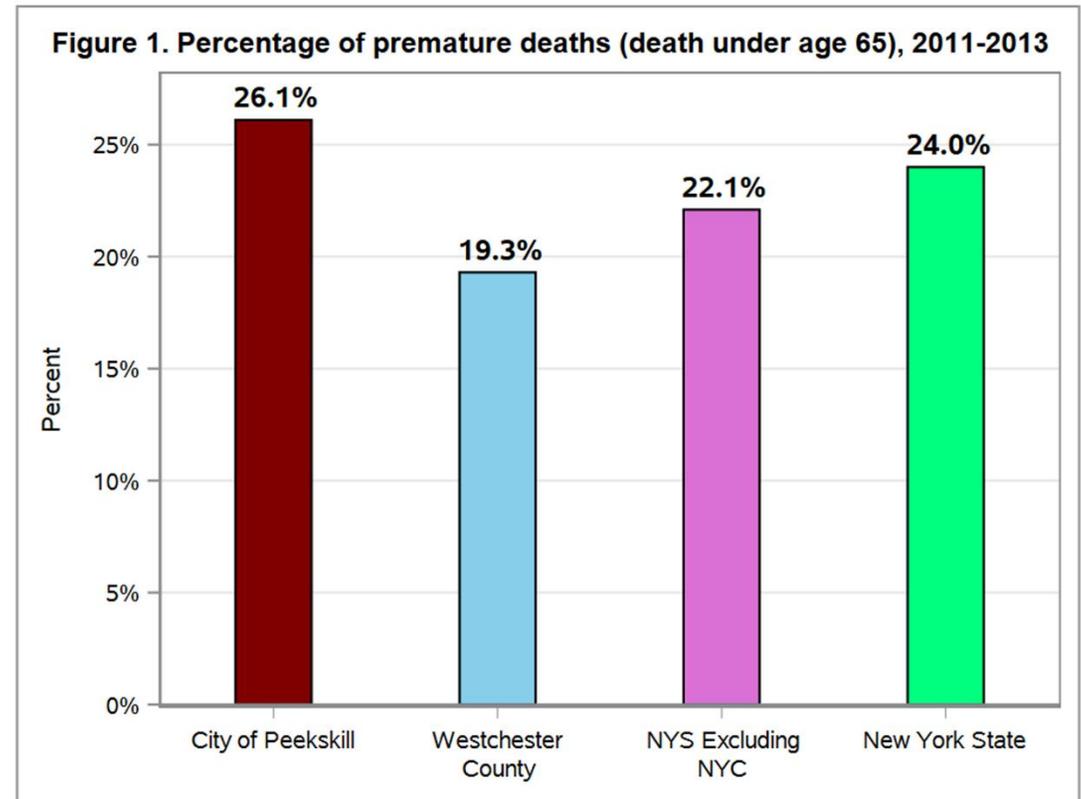
Peekskill has a higher percentage of premature deaths than the state and county

For the new study, researchers looked at 16 years' worth of data from 68.5 million Medicare enrollees—97% of Americans over the age of 65—adjusting for factors such as body mass index, smoking, ethnicity, income, and education.

Results were consistent across all five different types of analyses, offering what authors called “the most robust and reproducible evidence to date” on the causal link between exposure to PM_{2.5} and mortality among Medicare enrollees—even at levels below the current U.S. air quality standard of 12 µg/m³ (12 micrograms per cubic meter) per year.

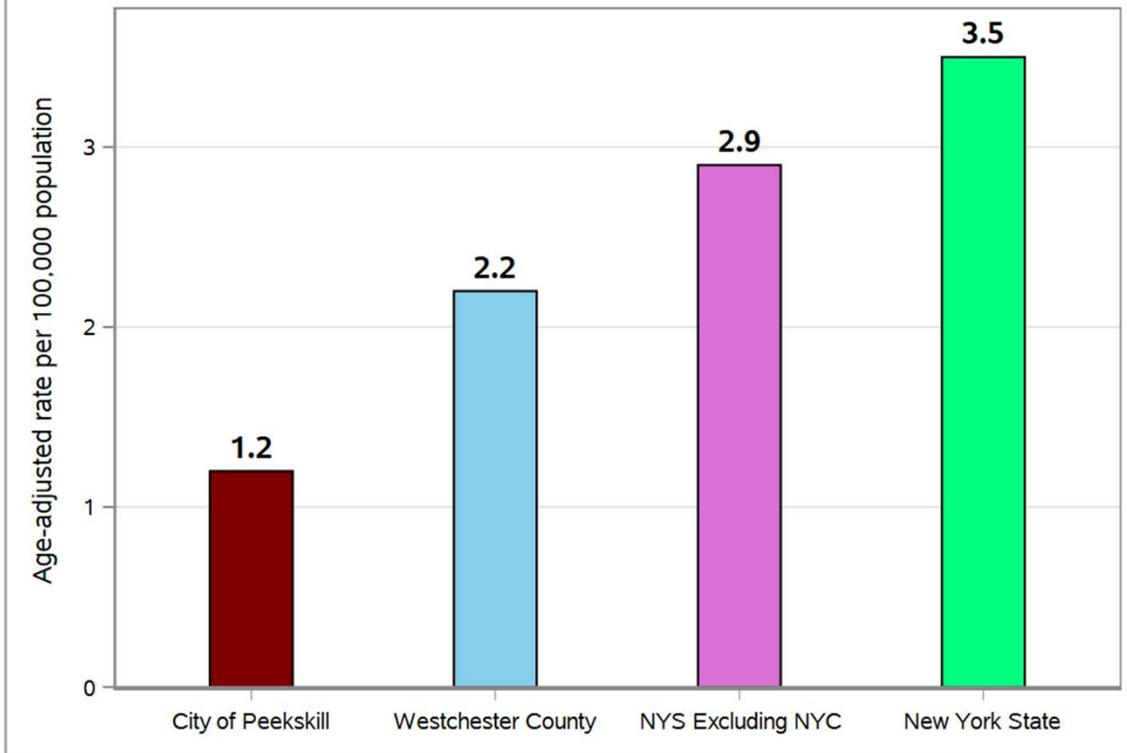
The authors found that an annual decrease of 10 µg/m³ in PM_{2.5} pollution would lead to a 6%–7% decrease in mortality risk. Based on that finding, they estimated that if the U.S. lowered its annual PM_{2.5} standard to 10 µg/m³—the WHO annual guideline—143,257 lives would be saved in one decade.

Source: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Wu et al, Science Advances, July 2020



Source: NYS Dept of Health Health Equity Report, Feb 2017

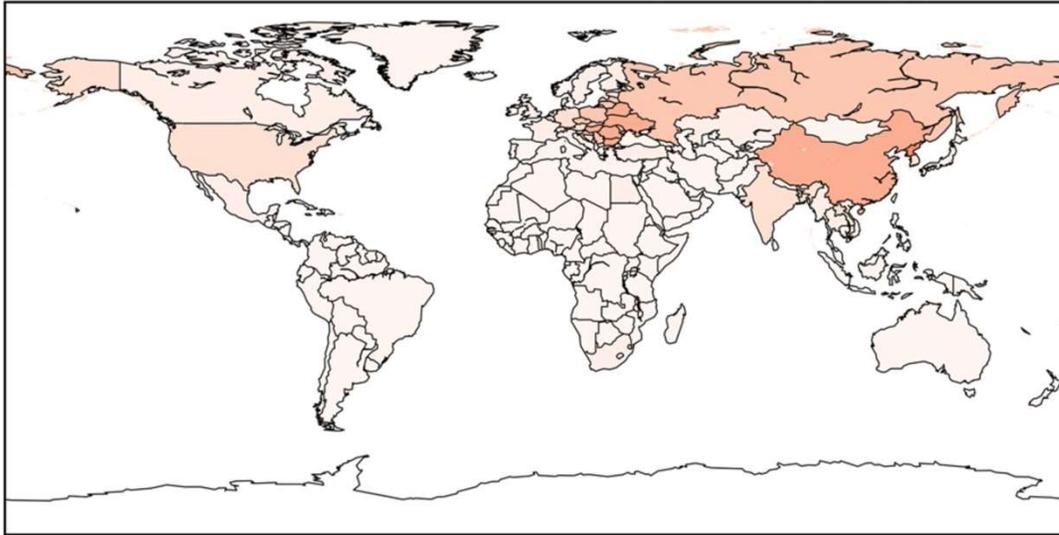
Figure 3. Age-adjusted homicide related death rate per 100,000 population, 2011-2013



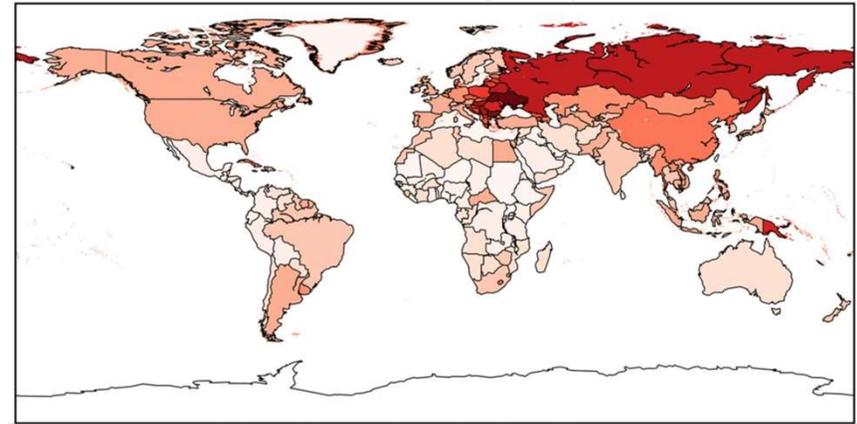
Source: New York State Vital Records

Imagine ignoring youth smoking in Westchester County...

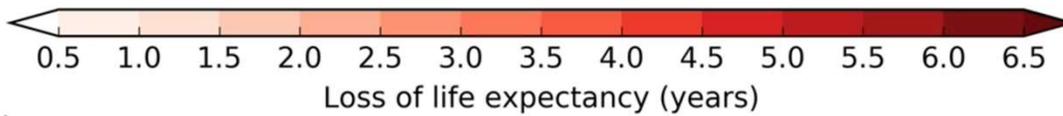
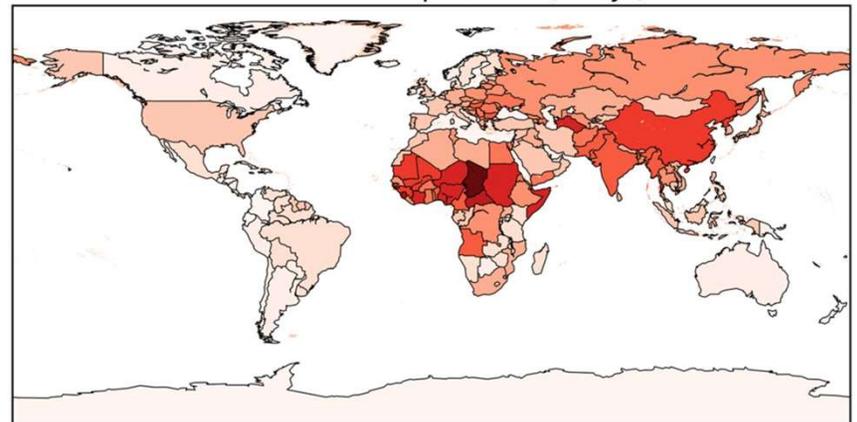
Ambient fossil fuel related air pollution (1.1 yr)



Tobacco smoking (2.2 yr)



All ambient air pollution (2.9 yr)

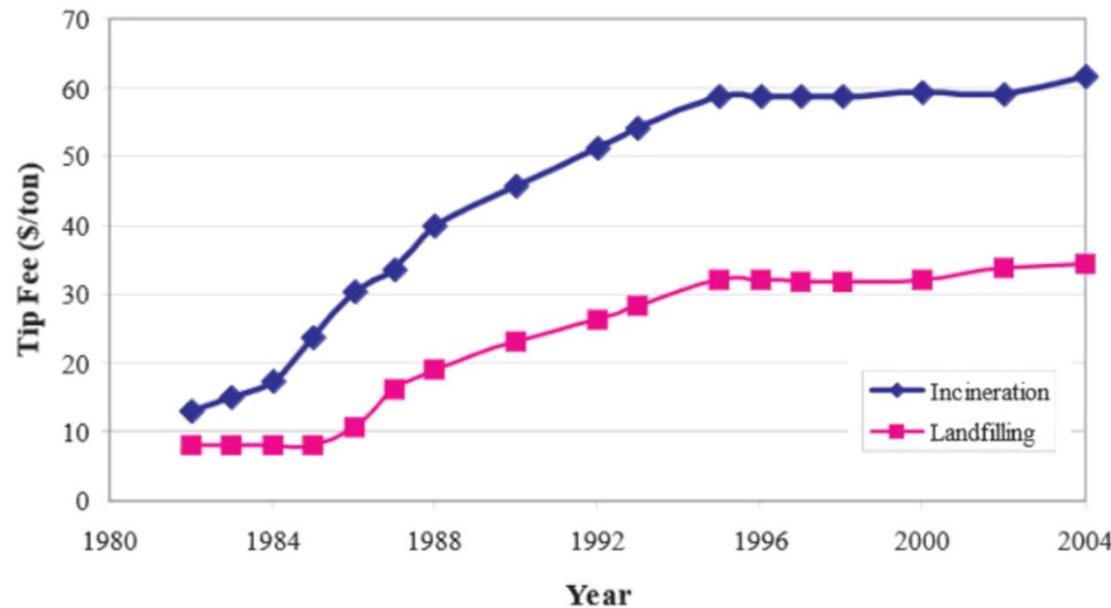


Global excess mortality from all ambient air pollution is estimated at 8.8 (7.11–10.41) million/year, with an LLE of 2.9 (2.3–3.5) years...exceeding that of tobacco smoking.

I don't care about air quality, public health, climate change, or environmental justice. What else you got?

- Incineration is the most expensive way to manage waste.
- Wheelabrator is OLD!
 - Average lifespan of an incinerator at retirement is 23 years old
 - Wheelabrator Peekskill is currently 36 years old!
- County governments need a reality check! We need to make changes now because Wheelabrator won't last forever.

Figure 3. Landfill and Incinerator Tip Fees



Source: National Solid Waste Management Association 2005 Tip Fee Survey, p4.
www.environmentalistseveryday.org/docs/Tipping-Fee-Bulletin-2005.pdf



A large word cloud shaped like a map of Africa, composed of various question words in different colors and sizes. The words include: WHO?, WHAT?, WHEN?, WHERE?, HOW?, WHY?, WHICH?, and WHOSE?. The word 'WHAT?' is the largest and most prominent in the center. Other words are scattered around it, following the outline of the continent.

A smaller word cloud shaped like a map of Africa, composed of various question words in different colors and sizes. The words include: WHO?, WHAT?, WHEN?, WHERE?, HOW?, WHY?, WHICH?, and WHOSE?. The word 'HOW?' is the largest and most prominent in the center. Other words are scattered around it, following the outline of the continent.

But what will happen to our trash if we don't burn it?

- From a climate change perspective, even shipping our waste to a landfill is better than burning it
- Our main priority must be **systemic change** to eliminate generating waste
- Sustainable Westchester has Zero Waste programming for participating municipalities
- Remember that it is not the sole responsibility of Peekskill to solve the county's waste problem
- **We are in this fight for clean air and healthy communities TOGETHER!**



We must work to create a Circular Economy



Can an individual accomplish this alone?

The baby steps of personal action

- Compost
- Recycle (Terra Cycle)
- Decrease consumption, increase reuse
 - Avoid non-reusable items
 - Make due
 - Borrow, Buy Nothing, Free Cycle, Upcycle
 - No fast fashion
 - Bring your own utensils, bags, etc.
- Repair what's broken
 - Take your items to a Repair Café
 - Find your local seamstress, cobbler, etc
- Look for places you can reduce waste
 - Menstrual products
 - Health and beauty
 - Around the home
 - Home renovations
 - School supplies
 - Support businesses that take Zero Waste seriously
- Watch out for [greenwashing](#)

BABY STEPS
still
MOVE YOU
FORWARD

artwork by JESS LEVITZ
juneletters.com | @junelettersstudio

Share yours in the chat!

The giant leaps of collective action!

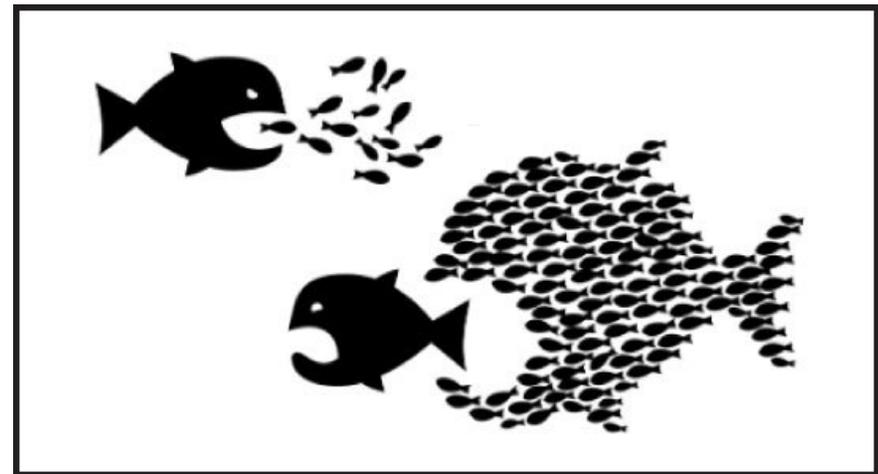
System change is necessary

- Get your municipality to compost
- Increase recycling in your town
- Decrease single-use items in your county/town
- Urge your municipality to adopt pay-as-you-throw
- Host a Repair Café in your community

- Push for legislation at county and state levels
 - single use bans
 - right to repair
 - Extended Producer Responsibility

Get involved with WASS and urge the county to close Wheelabrator and adopt Zero Waste policies!

To change *everything* we need *everyone*!



What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

- Producers responsibility for product extends to post-consumer management of product and packaging
- Shifts financial and management responsibility to produce (not consumer)
- Incentivizes producers to consider environmental impact info design of product (including packaging, weight, ease of recycling, use of toxic materials)



NY is considering Extended Producer Responsibility!

In her agenda, Hochul claimed that the State waste industry accounts for about 12% of NY's greenhouse gas emissions. She also said that the State has been recycling less each year since 2021 while seven million tons of paper and packaging waste are produced each year.

In an effort to address increasing amounts of recyclable products ending up in landfills, Hochul proposed an "extended producer responsibility" program. This program will require producers of recyclable products responsible for product throughout its entire lifespan, including recycling. This means taxpayers wouldn't have to pay for recycling anymore.

Source: www.news10.com

Senate Bill S1185C

2021-2022 Legislative Session

Establishes the extended producer responsibility act

SHARE THIS BILL



SPONSORED BY



Todd Kaminsky
(D) 9TH SENATE DISTRICT

CURRENT BILL STATUS -

In Senate Committee [Environmental Conservation Committee](#)

Right to Repair

What does Right to Repair do?

- Right to Repair is simple. It requires manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with fair access to service information and affordable replacement parts. So you can fix the stuff you own quickly—and get back on with your life.

That sounds great! Who would be against that?

- Well, manufacturers like John Deere and Apple don't like the idea. When your tractor breaks or your cell phone stops working, they want to be the only people who can fix it. And they get to set whatever prices they want for parts and service.

www.NewYorkRepair.org



REPAIR MANIFESTO
WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT

IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, YOU DON'T OWN IT.

REPAIR IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING
Making our things last longer is both more efficient and more cost-effective than mining them for raw materials.

REPAIR SAVES YOU MONEY
Fixing things is often free, and usually cheaper than replacing them. Doing the repair yourself saves you money.

REPAIR TEACHES ENGINEERING
The best way to find out how something works is to take it apart.

REPAIR SAVES THE PLANET
Earth has limited resources. Eventually we will run out. The best way to be efficient is to reuse what we already have.

REPAIR CONNECTS PEOPLE AND THINGS | REPAIR IS WAR ON ENTROPY | REPAIR IS SUSTAINABLE



NY is considering Right to Repair law!

This year, New York could be the first state in the nation to pass the Fair Repair Act: [S 4104](#) in the Senate, and [A 7006](#) in the Assembly. We have a chance to guarantee our right to repair electronic equipment—like smartphones, computers, and even farm equipment. We have a chance to protect local repair jobs—the corner mom-and-pop repair shops that keep getting squeezed out by manufacturers.

It's not going to be easy. Manufacturers are standing in the way. When your stuff breaks, they want to be the only people allowed to fix it. So far, they've managed to stop Fair Repair legislation before your representatives get a chance to vote on it. We've got to be louder than their lobbyists.

We need you to write and call your state representatives now and ask them to co-sponsor the Fair Repair Act.

Source: www.NewYorkRepair.org

Senate Bill S4104

2021-2022 Legislative Session

Enacts the digital fair repair act

SHARE THIS BILL



SPONSORED BY



Neil D. Breslin
(D, IP, WF) 44TH SENATE DISTRICT

CURRENT BILL STATUS -

In Senate Committee [Consumer Protection Committee](#)

Pay-as-you-throw (aka Save Money And Reduce Trash (SMART))

- Pay-as-you-throw is a policy that charges people for the amount of trash they toss out. It's also sometimes called variable-rate pricing or pay-as-you-waste.
- Incentivizes composting and recycling
- We already pay for waste collection! SMART makes the cost more visible
- Over 7,000 municipalities in the US have pay-as-you-throw waste policies

In Massachusetts towns with pay-as-you-throw systems generated an average of 1,239 pounds of trash per household in 2020, compared with 1,756 pounds per household in towns that didn't use this approach – a **30% reduction**.



A pay-as-you-throw trash bag for the city of Waterville, Maine. Local grocery and convenience stores sell the bags in two sizes: large (30 gallons, \$2.60 per bag) and small (15 gallons, \$1.63 per bag). All trash put out for collection must be in the purple bags. City of Waterville

How would SMART costs add up for Croton-on-Hudson?

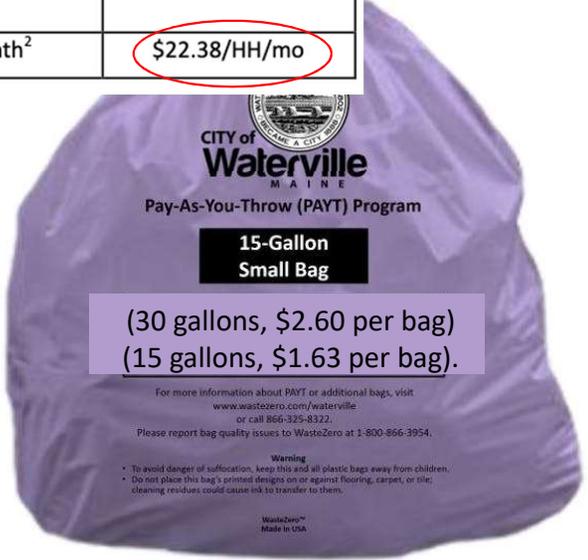
Table 2-1: Current Residential and Commercial Waste Quantities

Village Collected Waste	2009
Resident Population (number of people) (1)	8,070
Total Number of Housing Units (1)	3,123
Total Number of Occupied Households (1)	2,956
Total Solid Waste Generated (tons per year) (2)	7,815
Total Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposed (tons per year) (2)	3,820
Total Estimated Commercial / Institutional Waste (tons per year) (3)	1,070
Total Estimated Residential Only Solid Waste Generated (tons per year) (3)	2,750
Per Capita Generation (lbs/person/day) (5)	5.31
Per Capita Residential Generation (lbs/person/day) (5)	1.87
Household Generation (tons per year per household) (6)	2.64
Household Residential Generation (tons per year per household) (6)	0.93
Recyclables Quantities by Category	
Commingled Paper (tons per year) (4)	782
Commingled Containers (tons per year) (4)	422
Total Bulk Metals Recycled (tons per year) (4)	63
Total Yard Waste Recycled (tons per year) (4)	2,332
Additional Recycled Materials (tons per year) (7)	396
Total Waste Recycled (tons per year)	3,995
% Recycling	51%

Table 3-1: Estimated Cost of Services (June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010)¹

Cost Item Description	Total Budget
Annual Sub-Total Cost for Service (\$000s per year)	\$936 K
Total Waste Generation (tons per year (tpy)) ³	7,815 tpy
Annual Average Cost Per ton	\$119.82/ton
Annual Avg. Cost Per Household (HH) Per Month ²	\$24.99/HH/mo
Annual Refuse and Garbage Revenues (\$000s per year)	\$89 K
Annual Scrap Metal Recovery Revenues (\$000s per year)	\$9 K
Annual Recycling Reimbursements (\$000s/year) ⁴	\$0
Annual Total Revenues (\$000s/year)	\$98K
Total Revenue Adjusted Annual Average Cost Per Ton (\$/ton)	\$107.30/ton
Revenue Adjusted Annual Avg. Cost Per HH Per Month ²	\$22.38/HH/mo

\$22.38 per household per month in 2010



Source: Refuse Collection Route Study prepared by Res Oak Consulting for Croton-on-Hudson

How would SMART costs add up for Croton-on-Hudson?

VILLAGE OF CROTON ON HUDSON 2020-2021				2019/20	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	
ACCOUNTS FOR:		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	FYTD	ADOPTED	PROPOSED	ADOPTED
GENERAL FUND		ACTUALS	ACTUALS	ACTUALS	ACTUALS	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
8160	REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL							
A8160	1000 REFUSE-PERSONNEL SRVCS	182,549	190,810	195,217	142,065	-	-	-
A8160	1100 REFUSE-PERSONNEL SRVCS PT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A8160	1200 REFUSE-PERSONNEL SRVCS OT	990	2,931	2,438	1,321	1,000	1,000	1,000
A8160	1999 REFUSE-PERSONNEL SRVCS COMP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A8160	2000 REFUSE-EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A8160	4000 REFUSE-CONTRACTUAL	1,007	670	836	823	1,000	1,000	1,000
A8160	4150 REFUSE-DISPOSAL FEES	84,998	106,408	99,841	59,263	110,000	105,000	105,000
A8160	4200 REFUSE-SUPPLIES	1,001	485	4,971	3,962	4,000	4,000	4,000
A8160	4210 REFUSE-VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES	10,567	10,956	13,990	10,330	14,000	14,000	14,000
A8160	4700 REFUSE-EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	3,383	282	4,041	2,730	4,000	4,000	4,000
A8160	4710 REFUSE-VEHICLE REPAIRS	12,057	14,526	15,367	13,347	15,000	15,000	15,000
TOTAL	REFUSE COLLECTION & DI	296,552	327,068	336,700	233,841	149,000	144,000	144,000

Source: CoH adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

2019 CoH had 2,938 households by US census

\$114 per household per year

\$9 per household per month in 2019





Resources for Creating a Zero Waste Community & Lifestyle

Sustainable Westchester is the “go-to-resource” for insights and recommendations to move our communities toward zero waste. Reducing trash and more efficient recycling is not just good for the planet but for the community’s bottom line, too. Let us help you determine if this is right for you or find other cost-effective, innovative, and collaborative solutions toward a goal of zero waste.

WHAT CAN WE DO? Sustainable Westchester can help you navigate the available resources and solutions.

[COMMUNITIES](#)[RESIDENTS](#)[BUSINESS](#)

**Bottom line: Trash incineration is NOT green, NOT clean, NOT sustainable.
It's harming Peekskill residents and adding to Westchester County's poor air quality.**

TAKE ACTION!

- Participate in existing diversion programs (recycling glass, plastics, metals, food scraps)
 - If your community doesn't participate in food scraps recycling, pressure them to!
- Join the Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)
 - Individuals can join our mailing list at www.WASSPeekskill.org to keep up to date on actions and efforts
 - Organizations can become part of the alliance. Reach out to wasspeekskill@gmail.com.
- Activate YOUR community to implement Zero Waste strategies
- Activate YOUR community to engage Westchester County to adopt Zero Waste solutions county-wide



www.WASSPeekskill.org
@WASSPeekskill
WASSPeekskill@gmail.com

What did I miss?

How is your municipality doing with its waste?

What steps are you going to take from here?