

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING  
February 24, 2026**

Committee Members: CONOVER, Strainer, Bruno, Diamond, Patchett, Niles and Beaty

- I. Committee Meeting Call to Order by Chair**
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee Meeting**
- III. Privilege of the floor and public comment**
- IV. Action Agenda/New Business**
- V. Information for Discussion/Review**
  - 1. Presentation – Bob Gedert
  - 2. Stone Quarry Road – DEC Wetlands determination
  - 3. Working Group – update
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items**
- VII. Privilege of the floor and public comment**
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

Attachments:

- 1. Bob Gedert - Slides
- 2. NYS DEC Jurisdictional Determination & Wetland Map

# Warren County: Building a Sustainable Recycling Program

**Bob Gedert, Adjunct Professor**  
**Former President of the National Recycling Coalition**

**February 24, 2025**  
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**WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/BOBGEDERT**



## Building local recycling infrastructure

- Reduces long-term disposal dependence
- Reduces hauling expenses
- Increases recycling program stability
- Increases program options and flexibility

### Options to consider:

- Resident drop-offs – Separate material bins – avoid co-mingled collection
- Market clean sorted recyclables to nearby MRF or Regional markets
- Baled recyclables offer better revenues



# Recycling Market Volatility & Revenues

- Market volatility – “Commodities”
- Manage the volatility through increased volume and reduced contamination
- Seek long-term market agreements – avoid “spot” selling recyclables
- Contract with regional MRF or directly contract with regional markets
- Improve revenue stability through clean & sorted recyclables – avoid co-mingled single-stream collection



# Material Management Sectors Served

Residential (single-family units)

Commercial (includes apartments)

Industrial / Institutional / Government

Medical / Special Waste Streams

- Define your target sectors
- Different sector customer relationships
- Different potential revenue streams
- Service fees vary per sector served



# Programs offering Financial Self-Supporting

- Design programs aiming for increased volumes and reduced contamination
- Data collection & analysis offers efficiencies
- Diversify revenue streams
  - Collection Fees – supports direct costs
  - Market Revenues – supports educ & growth
- Calculate costs per household (not per ton)
  - Compare trash collection/disposal and recycling/marketing Exp & Rev



## Phasing in pilot projects

- Phasing in pilot projects before making major capital commitments
- Experiment with new pilot projects
- Seek program operational efficiencies
- Develop measures of success
- If moving pilot to full implementation, phase in geographically
- Phasing allows for slower expense growth
- Phasing offers revenue exploration



# Operational and Overhead Considerations

- Full cost accounting: evaluate all expenses
- Direct Expenses & Indirect Expenses
  - Contract fees
  - rent & utilities
  - salaries & benefits
  - fuel, supplies, office expenses
  - accounting, data collection expenses
  - governmental oversight expenses
  - public education expenses
- Evaluate costs impacts: trash vs. recycling



# Engaging residents and stakeholders

- Effective community outreach
  - Input from residents in the development of pilots and programs
  - Resident buy-in before program implementation
- Public events to increase recycling program awareness
- Community education – “Recycle Right”
- School education
- Data collection – direct feedback to residents



# The Economics of Recycling Markets

- Newspaper, Mixed paper, Magazines
  - White Office Paper: high market value
- Cardboard
  - Commercial sources: higher values
- Metals: Beverage and food cans
  - Aluminum highest value
- Glass
  - High weight diversion, Very low value
- Plastics
  - Complicated sort standards, low value



# Economic Considerations of Recycling

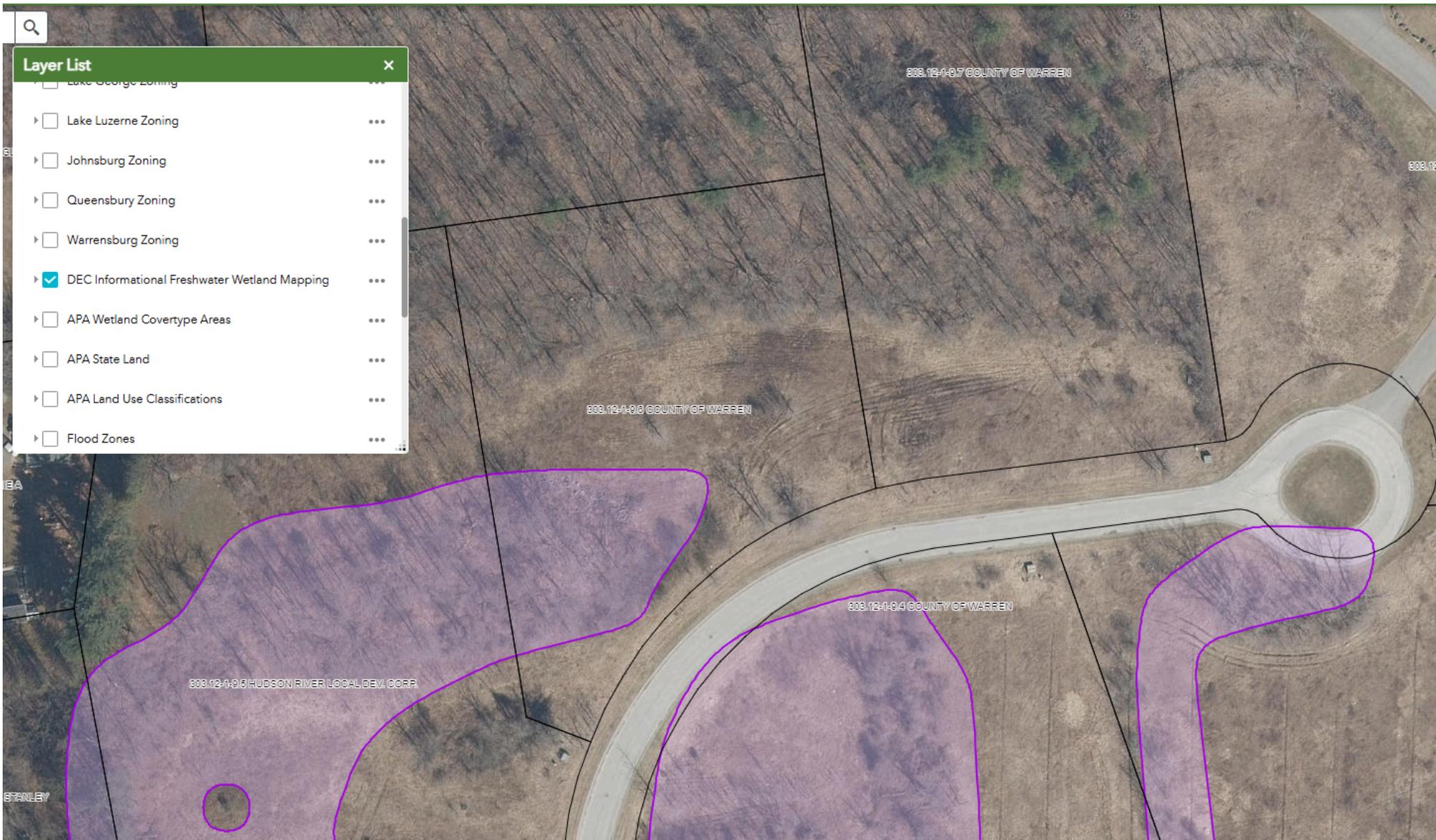
- Cost/Benefits of Residential Recycling
  - Goal: 10,000 annual tons recycled
  - Annual Reduction of 20,000 GHG Emissions (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) equivalent to: 50,000,000 Miles driven by an average passenger vehicle;
  - Reduced dependence on landfills;
  - Reduced environmental impacts;
  - Increases job creation opportunities by attracting new businesses.



# Warren County: Building a Sustainable Recycling Program



# Stone Quarry Road - Queensbury, NY





**LETTER OF POSITIVE JURISDICTION – FRESHWATER WETLANDS**

12/18/2025

Scott Royael

4028 Main St, Warrensburg, NY, 12885, USA

Sent via email to: royaels@warrencountyny.gov

Re: DEC Freshwater Wetlands, Non-Parcel, Area of Interest Jurisdictional Determination, Warren County

Dear Scott Royael,

Based on the non-parcel, Area of Interest identified in your request and presented in the map below, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has determined the area contains freshwater wetlands and/or freshwater wetland adjacent areas (AA) regulated by DEC pursuant to Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). Specifically, the Area of Interest contains freshwater wetlands and/or regulated adjacent area(s) that meet an Unusual Importantace (UI) criterion. Specifically, the wetland is located within or adjacent to an urban area, as defined and identified by the United States Census Bureau.

The table below identifies the highest class jurisdictional wetland and/or regulated adjacent area within the Area of Interest identified in the map below. In addition to the wetland and/or adjacent area referenced in the table, other jurisdictional wetlands or AAs may be present within the Non-Parcel area.

Area of Interest:	Highest Wetland Class:
See map below	Class II: it is located wholly or partially within an Urban Area as defined and identified by the United States Census Bureau (December 2022)(§ 664.5 (b)(13)).

This determination shall remain valid for five years from the date of this letter (through 12/16/2030).

An Article 24 permit from DEC is required for any regulated activity undertaken within regulated wetlands or their regulated adjacent areas. Prior to engaging in

any regulated activity, a freshwater wetland delineation is necessary to determine the precise boundary of jurisdictional wetlands and adjacent areas so they are avoided or necessary DEC permitting is obtained.

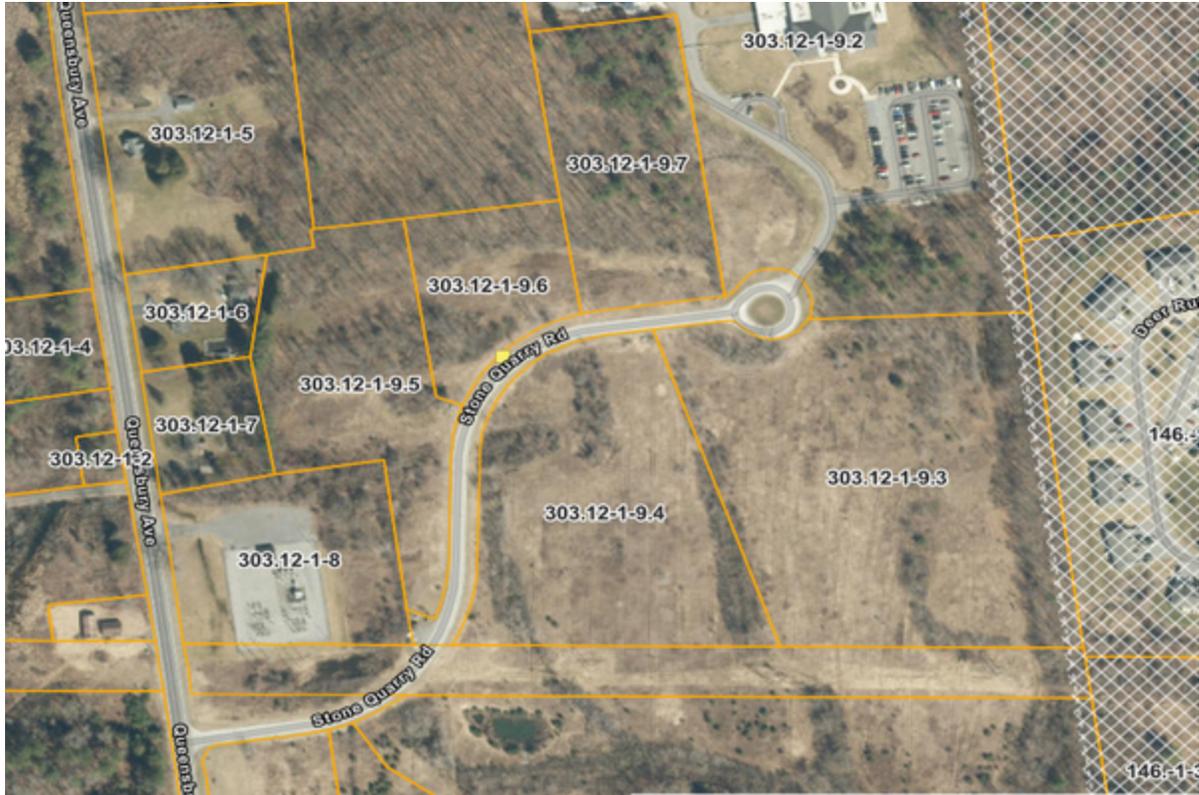
If you have a project planned within the referenced Non-Parcel area that may impact jurisdictional wetlands or adjacent areas, please use this [Map of All DEC Offices](#) to identify the appropriate DEC Regional Office, and this [Contact the Regional DEC Office](#) link to request and schedule a freshwater wetlands delineation. In addition, the following link provides more information about DEC jurisdictional determinations:

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/wetlands/freshwater-wetlands-program/freshwater-wetland-jurisdictional-determination>

Pursuant to ECL section 24-0301(4), there is a rebuttable presumption that areas meeting the definition of Freshwater Wetland are regulated and subject to permit requirements. If you believe this jurisdictional determination has been made in error, you may request an initial consultation with DEC by scheduling a meeting on the parcel or property with the appropriate regional office to review the jurisdictional determination, pursuant to 6 NYCRR 664.9.

Please note that this determination pertains only to state-regulated, freshwater wetlands and regulated adjacent areas. DEC also regulates protected streams, tidal wetlands, coastal erosion hazard areas, and other important environmental resources. Work affecting those areas may also require DEC permits. More information on other DEC permit programs is available online at <https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/environmental-permits>.

In addition, please note that this letter does not relieve you of the responsibility of obtaining any other necessary permits or approvals from other local, state, or federal agencies.



Area of Interest submitted with the request for this determination