



Summer & Fall 2016

## SU-EFC Organizing Series of Tours to Promote “Waste Less in New York State”

**By Jesse Kerns**

Between barbeques and beach bumming, free time on the summer calendar can be hard to come by. Before you pencil in those final dates, however, the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) has a series of fun and inspiring events to pit against your pool party plans.

The SU-EFC team, in collaboration with NYSAR<sup>3</sup> and other local organizations, is coordinating tours across New York State of sustainable materials management (SMM) facilities. Haven't heard of SMM before, or find the term clunky and elusive? Think a holistic approach to the three R's – waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

The tours will highlight a wide variety of innovative SMM operations including materials recovery facilities (MRFs), compost facilities, anaerobic digestion systems, reuse centers, food banks, and more.

Led by facility tour guides, attendees will witness first-hand how materials such as recyclables, organics, textiles, electronics, and more are diverted from the waste stream and given a second, useful life. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with other materials management professionals and gain valuable insight to the unique challenges and successes of each SMM location.

Tours are open to the general public at a cost of \$15, which includes transportation among facilities and lunch. The tours are at no cost for current NYSAR<sup>3</sup> members (figured automatically at registration).

**The overall goal?** Bringing these lessons and inspirations home is key. Fostering the continued development of SMM programs and initiatives across the state will help protect natural environments, bolster our local and regional economies, and support the health and opportunity that we and our fellow neighbors need to flourish.

**The first two tours** of this upcoming series will be located in the Watertown and Albany areas. The Watertown tour is on Aug. 4 and the Albany area tour is scheduled for Aug. 12.

Other NY regions tentatively scheduled include Ithaca, Rochester, Buffalo, and Kingston.

**To register for a tour near you:** visit <http://efc.syr.edu/homepage-5/>

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Questions about this SMM tour series can be directed to SU-EFC Project Assistant Jesse Kerns at [jekerns@syr.edu](mailto:jekerns@syr.edu).