



County of Rockland
Highway Department
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Skip Vezzetti
(845) 638-5060

Rockland County's black roads turn "green"

Road Resurfacing Program focuses on preserving roads and the environment

New City, NY – The Rockland County Highway Department announces the launch of its 2009 Road Resurfacing program, which includes environmentally friendly repaving, resurfacing and road maintenance.

At County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef's direction, the County's Highway Department has initiated and implemented a three-phase green road program for the past eight years. The program addresses the maintenance, repair and restoration of the County road system using environmentally friendly, "green" processes. All roads are evaluated and analyzed on an annual basis and the technique required for that road is established every spring, said County Highway Superintendent Charles Vezzetti.

The three techniques recycle the existing pavement and at the same time reduce the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 90-percent per mile of roadway in comparison to conventional hot mix overlay, as well as reduce costs by 75-percent over standard resurfacing techniques. Not only are these techniques energy efficient, they reduce the County's cost per mile by approximately 50-percent.

The County continues to be a leader in addressing environmental concerns while providing safe roadways as environmental road resurfacing and construction processes evolve, Vezzetti said.

"With all aspects of road maintenance considered, both winter and summer operations, Rockland County's roads are looking greener on a daily basis," said Vezzetti. "When motorists drive in Rockland, they may see blacktop, but we see 'green' roads."

The three-phase approach to the road maintenance program includes:

- A standard 2" overlay, which is applied where required after milling in order to preserve curb reveal and re-establish the crown of the road. The millings derived from this process are reused and recycled by the Highway Department for shoulder repair and other highway improvements.
- "Hot-in-place" recycling, which is followed by either a quick set slurry or micro surfacing.
- Surface Treatment Program, which can be used with "hot-in-place" recycling when required. The surface treatment program commonly referred to as chip sealing is used primarily on those roads that have less traffic, and in particular, on those County roads that the local municipality has designated as historic. These roads require the use of historically correct resurfacing techniques whenever possible.

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Over the past five years, the County Highway Department has recycled over 22-million pounds of asphalt annually, and estimates that between 90 - 100,000 tons have been recycled since the beginning of the program, saving taxpayers approximately a million dollars a year.

The Highway Department is currently reviewing the possibility of incorporating permeable pavements into the road reconstruction capital projects, combined with the County's environmentally sensitive approach to winter maintenance by reducing the use of chemicals whenever possible without jeopardizing driver safety. During the winter months, the County has been testing green patch, a purportedly environmentally superior patching material.

For more information, please contact the Rockland County Highway Department at 845-638-5060.

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