



Contact: Faith Tiemann  
607-433-8427  
tiemannf@arcotsego.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Awards Karen Sullivan of the Otsego County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling with the Lifetime Recycling Leadership Award, nominated by The Arc Otsego**

**Oneonta, NY (October 20, 2020)** – The Arc Otsego is proud to announce the nomination and awarding of the Lifetime Recycling Leadership Award to Karen Sullivan of the Otsego County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling. This award is given each year by The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3).

Karen has a long history of working towards making Otsego County more environmentally friendly; she initiated the mattress recycling program in the county, taking mattresses from SUNY Oneonta, Hartwick College, and seasonal rentals and setting up a collection container at the Oneonta transfer station. Once full, the mattresses are transported to Triad Recycling in Buffalo, NY where they are recycled and kept out of landfills.

She was also instrumental in the Annual Hazardous Waste Collection initiative that is over 20 years running, where residents of Otsego County can bring any paints, solvents, or toxic chemicals to two sites in the county for recycling. In 2019, they saw over 900 vehicles with waste to be collected in a concerted effort with the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA). Additionally, the volunteers from OCCA work to pull out any latex paints, which are then transported to Golden Artist Colors, where they are redistributed to 5 gallon buckets and donated to non-profits and members of the community.

Pat Knuth, Executive Director of The Arc Otsego nominated Karen, and had the following to say: “Karen has been an inspiration to our organization and worked with us tirelessly in starting our ReUse Center in 2017. To date, we have recycled and kept from the waste stream over 1.5 million pounds of usable material. This all started from a breakfast with Karen that discussed ways in which we could find employment for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as meet a need for recycling in our community. We also partnered with Karen on a joint grant for a Polystyrene Densifier, which has densified 10,000 pounds of Styrofoam, keeping it out of landfills.”

Due to COVID, this year the event took place virtually on November 19, 2020. During that virtual ceremony, NYSAR celebrated Karen, her work in eliminating waste in our community, and contributing to a greener, more sustainable Otsego County.



Pictured above: Karen Sullivan receiving the 2020 Lifetime Recycling Leadership Award from NYSAR3, presented to her by Pat Knuth, Executive Director of The Arc Otsego.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Arc Otsego, a chapter of The Arc New York, is a private, not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive, community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Otsego County, NY. For more information, visit [www.arcotsego.org](http://www.arcotsego.org) or call 607-432-8595.