

**New York State  
Environmental Investment Program  
Capital Project Summary  
Upstate Shredding, LLC**

**Project Background**

Ben Weitsman and Son, Inc. is upstate New York's largest scrap metal processor and recycling center and has been in operation in Tioga County since 1938. Prior to the project, Weitsman and Son lacked on-site scrap metal shredding capacity and brokered materials to steel mills and out-of-state shredding operations in the Northeast, Midwest and South. Consequently, much of the value-added from the processing and marketing of scrap metal directly to steel mills and foundries was being lost.

To address this problem, Weitsman and Son created Upstate Shredding LLC, a full-scale, state-of-the-art metal shredding operation on 16 acres in the Tioga County Industrial Park, Owego, NY.

**Project Description**

The total project included land acquisition, site and infrastructure development and purchase of machinery and equipment totaling over \$20 million. Ten inches of concrete were laid over twelve acres to control run-off and mud. A rail spur was brought directly to the site. The shredder itself cost \$3.2 million and is four stories high. A three-month supply of flattened automobiles, light iron and appliances was aggregated at the site prior to start up. The project included the acquisition and installation of an eddy current separation unit. The unit separates non-ferrous metals, (aluminum, copper, brass, bronze and stainless steel) from the "shredder fluff," the mix of non-ferrous, fabric,

plastic and some ferrous that exits the shredder after the majority of ferrous has been separated. Because of the eddy current, Upstate can market a high percentage of non-ferrous metal rather than disposing of it along with the shredder fluff. In August 1998, no other shredding operation in the Northeast had this system in place allowing them to produce such a pure non-ferrous stream.

**Project Results**

The new shredding operation has an annual capacity of about 180,000 tons. Nearly 80% of the material passing through the shredder is generated within NYS and about 60% of that is comprised of non-automobile scrap. In total, 7,200 tons/month of material generated by NYS businesses and municipalities that was formerly sent to landfill (15%) or brokered by Weitsman (85%) is now processed at Upstate Shredding.

Upstate is now able to pay customers a better price than before when material was simply being brokered. NYS businesses and municipalities are benefiting through increased revenues on the scrap they formerly brokered through Weitsman, and avoided disposal costs and new sales revenue on the low grade material that formerly went to landfill for lack of local markets. Using 1998 prices, this translates into about \$4 million per year in improved operating expenses at NYS businesses and municipalities.

<b>Contractor:</b>	Tioga County IDA	<b>NYS EIP Investment:</b>	\$300,000
<b>County:</b>	Tioga	<b>Contractor Match:</b>	\$3,332,115
<b>ESD Region:</b>	Southern Tier	<b>Total:</b>	\$3,632,115
<b>ESD Contact:</b>	518/292-5340	<b>Completion Date:</b>	August, 1998