

March 27, 2017

Mr. John Copanas

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2016

Mission: To sustain a world-class waste management system that benefits our community and environment“

Sir:

I am pleased to report that the Agency was both diligent and successful in carrying out our Mission in 2016. In achieving this goal the Agency acted in accordance with our core values of:

- People
- Operations and Assets
- Community Programs
- Innovation and Leadership

Our vision is to use effective and fiscally-sound strategies, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, disposal and public education, to make our community a more sustainable and healthy place to live. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you, in detail, the results of 2016.

2016 Program Highlights:

- In total, the community recycled over 480,000 tons of material in 2016, for a 56% recycling rate, resulting in waste disposal costs savings of over \$38 million. This environmental effort prevented the generation of over one million metric tons of carbon dioxide.
- Over \$1.27 million in state grants received in 2016: \$1.24 million for investments in public education and recycling personnel, and \$38,800 for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection expenses.
- OCRRA’s Earth Day Litter Clean Up was held on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23. Over 7,200 volunteers from some 288 groups participated; 95,000 + pounds of litter collected; nearly 2.5 million pounds of litter collected since 2003; one of the largest Earth Day litter collection events in the country.
- Major alkaline battery manufacturers, including Energizer and Duracell, again selected OCRRA as one of only five “Foundation Programs” in the country, paying OCRRA’s cost to transport and recycle over 100,000 pounds of alkaline batteries; annual cost savings exceeding \$50,000.
- OCRRA partnered with Covanta to host a mercury collection event on August 15th at Rock Cut Road. Thanks to 240 resident participation, 395 thermometers and 290 thermostats were collected. This amounts to approximately 3.5 pounds of mercury being removed from the environment, which is comparable to recycling 310,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs. Residents can recycle mercury thermometers and thermostats year-round at OCRRA’s Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site (and get a \$5 Home Depot Gift Card from Covanta and / or a replacement thermometer).

- OCRRA's recycling team members were recognized for their outstanding professional achievements on behalf of our community: Recycling Specialist Theresa Evans received the first "Incipiens Quercu Award" from her alma mater, the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for her leadership efforts in helping over 7,000 local students to compost their food scraps through the Amboy program, and Recycling Operations Manager Ann Fordock was recognized as one of "Forty Under 40" by Waste 360, a national professional trade publication, for her efforts to help our community reduce waste in apartments, coordinate the annual community-wide Earth Day Litter Collection, and manage our household toxics collection program; Ms. Fordock was also recognized by the CNY Business Journal as part of a local "Forty Under 40" award.
- OCRRA continued to play a leadership role in urging state legislators to establish the materials management economy of the future by supporting several Extended Producer Responsibility measures including paint stewardship, as well as mandatory separation of source separated organics.

REPORTING

The Agency supports transparency in all its operations, meetings and financial reporting. The Agency's comprehensive website (www.ocrra.org) contains several years' worth of useful reports including our Annual Reports, Recycling Reports, Compost Site USCC STA Test Results, WTE (waste-to-energy) Reports, WTE Air Emissions and Ash Testing Data, and Annual Budgets.

Agency Meetings <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/meetings/>

Annual Reports <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

Open Procurements <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/procurements/>

Agency Policies <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

For additional information we have a very convenient portal for submitting FOIL requests (<http://ocrra.org/contact-us/foil-requests/>).

The Agency received an unqualified, clean opinion from our external auditors for 2014; that is included in our Annual Report on the website. In addition, all New York State and Authority Budget Office reporting requirements and deadlines have been met and documents for these related requirements are available on our website at <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/#abo>

In conclusion, the Board of Directors, Agency employees and the community can be proud that the Agency has once again met its Mission in a manner that affirms what good government is all about.

Very truly yours,



Michael A. Mokrzycki

Business Officer