



Fall 2015 Newsletter | Volume 24 | No. 3



SCHOOL'S IN PG 2

Download curriculum-aligned videos and activities that promote environmental education for elementary students.



PHONE BOOKS PG 3

Rhoda doles out advice on waste reduction.



WASTE-TO-ENERGY REPORT CARD PG 4

See how well the WTE Facility scored in 2015.



RECYCLING CHAMPION: SRC PG 6

Get your workplace recycling at all star status – like SRC.



TEXTILE EVENT PG 8

Purge your closet, recycle and help local families in need.

Purge your Mercury Therms, Get a Gift Card from Covanta

Attend Monday, October 5 Drop Off Event at Rock Cut Road Drop Off Site

Kathleen Carroll, Client-Waste Solutions Manager, Covanta Onondaga



Did you know that one mercury thermostat contains the same amount of mercury (4 grams) as about 800 compact fluorescent bulbs? While mercury thermometers contain less mercury, both items need to be properly managed.

Mercury can be toxic, and under certain circumstances, can have detrimental effects on human health and the environment. Removing mercury thermometers and thermostats from the trash or the sanitary sewers is of considerable benefit to the environment.

To prevent the potential hazards of mercury, OCRRA and Covanta, the operator of the local Waste-to-Energy Facility, are sponsoring a special mercury thermostat and thermometer take back day

on Monday, October 5.

Onondaga County residents are invited to bring any mercury thermometers and thermostats in to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station (5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville) from 7:30 am to 10:30 am on Monday, October 5.

This free event is for Onondaga County residents.

To keep traffic moving swiftly, **attendees must complete a drop-off certification form beforehand and bring it with them to the event.** The form can be accessed at **OCRRA.org**, or cut out below.

Do you have a mercury-containing item?

- **Thermometers** that contain mercury have a **silver, metallic grey or black filling in their tubes.** If

the filling is red, blue, purple, green or any other color, it is not a mercury thermometer and is not eligible for drop-off at this event. Unlike mercury thermometers, these can be thrown in the trash.

- **Thermostats** that contain mercury have **levers or dials that you must physically move** to change the temperature. If you remove the faceplate of your thermostat and see one or more glass ampoules (tubes) containing a silver substance, it is a mercury thermostat. Do not remove or break the ampoules. If your thermostat is digital / programmable, it is not eligible for drop-off; it can go in the trash.

As an added bonus for

keeping harmful mercury objects from the waste stream, attendees will receive a \$10 gift card to Lowe's*. Residents bringing in mercury thermometers will also receive a replacement thermometer (mercury-free and digital).

Can't make the drop-off event? You can still bring these items to **OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site**, year-round and receive a \$5 Lowe's gift card as a reward. Same goes for mercury thermostats*.

* One gift card per resident drop-off, regardless of the number of mercury items turned in.

Kathleen Carroll can be reached at kcarroll@covanta.com.



Mercury Therm Drop-Off Form

Complete this form in advance. Place it on your vehicle's dash on the day of the event.

Name:

Street:

Town: Zip Code:

Phone:

Email*:

*By providing your email address you are confirming that you want to be on OCRRA's email list (which keeps you up-to-date on OCRRA's services and upcoming events). You may unsubscribe at any time.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Number of **THERMOMETERS** Dropped Off:

Number of **THERMOSTATS** Dropped Off:



Educators: Download Curriculum-Aligned, Environmental Lessons for Your Classroom



Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist, OCRRA

Join local teachers who are helping their students have fun while learning to protect the environment. OCRRA's new curriculum-aligned educational videos, interactive games and classroom activities teach students about recycling, waste reduction, composting, waste-to-energy and other ways to save the world a little each day.

Aimed at third through fifth graders, this program provides a series of five short, professionally-produced videos, a volume of 30+ teacher-developed classroom activities and corresponding digital games that turn recycling education into plain old fun!

This program is accessible via the internet; it can be run on computers, tablets, mobile devices and classroom "Smart" boards.

The content addresses NYS curriculum requirements with specific standards outlined in the "Classroom Activities" section, making lesson planning a breeze. All topics include a list of vocabulary words with full definitions

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leads the state in recycling efforts. Many students went home and showed their parents the video and, as a result, become better recyclers at home too," said Robin Brenner, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Eagle Hill Middle School in Manlius. "In addition, students thoroughly

enjoyed exploring the smart board games as they were relevant, challenging and fun."

Download this program today and immediately engage your students in a fun, dynamic, eco-conscious way! Just visit www.ocrra.org/educational_resources to download the program.

Theresa Mandery can be reached at tmandery@ocrra.org.

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"Our 6th graders were amazed by the recycling video showing how OCRRA leads the state in recycling efforts. Many students went home and showed their parents the video and, as a result, become better recyclers at home too! In addition, students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the smart board games as they were relevant, challenging and fun."

- Robin Brenner, Eagle Hill Middle School, Manlius.

to review with students, as well as pre- and post-testing questions to evaluate student knowledge.

"Our 6th graders were amazed by the recycling video showing how OCRRA



Students at Nate Perry Elementary school engage with OCRRA's new environmental education video series in their computer lab. The short videos, interactive games and curriculum-aligned lessons make classroom integration a snap. Download the free program the teaches kids how to be responsible for their waste at www.OCRRA.org/educational_resources.

www.OCRRA.org/educational_resources

Featured Food Scrap Composters: The Gelewskis of North Syracuse

The Gelewskis were one of the first to buy a Food Scrap Pass. Through this program and the effective use of their blue bin, their family of five reduced their trash generation to 1/2 a kitchen trash bag each week.

They compost everything from tissues, napkins and paper towels to egg cartons and, of course, all that food that small children just do not eat!

Over the past 20 weeks they reduced their trash by over 360 lbs.; if every household in Onondaga County did that, together we could reduce our community's trash by 32,000 tons!



Photo by Greg Gelewski

Nathan, Helena and Hayden Gelewski drop their food scraps off at the Amboy Compost Site that is now open year-round for the collection of food scraps.

Television Recycling

- **Best Buy** accepts unbroken TVs that are 32" or less. They do not accept console TVs (the kind that look like furniture). Call your local store for details.
- **Salvation Army** (on Midler Ave. and Erie Blvd.) accepts TVs that are working and non-working, but they must be intact. They also accept other electronics. Call 445-0520 prior to dropping off any electronics, including TVs.



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OCRRA's waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

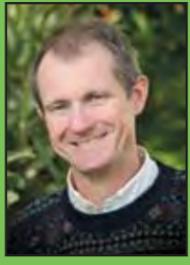
This quarterly publication is brought to you by

OCRRA

100 Elwood Davis Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212-4312

KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

FACT: From Dec. 1–Mar. 31, the Amboy Compost Site is open to pass holders for food scrap drop off only. (M–F, 7:30 am–4:00 pm.)



The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY - ESF

Putting Your Garden to Bed – Pull a "Sheet" Over it!

The trees, shrubs, perennials and/or annuals in your garden and landscape plantings are subtly responding to the shorter days and gradually cooling temperatures of fall. Many are forming flower buds for next spring's show, some are starting to reveal their fall colors, and others are just plain starting to look a bit tired.

We too respond to these conditions by putting our pruners, rakes and blowers to work moving all of this year's growth – leaves, stems, spent flowers, etc. – to the street so our municipal workers can take it "away."

Besides mowing tree leaves right into your lawn,

as I encouraged you to do in last fall's newsletter, this year I want you to add "sheet" composting to your garden management toolkit.

I know the thought of building a compost bin, filling it with stuff, turning it to keep it from smelling, etc. doesn't excite a lot of people – it's just too much work. Sheet composting, on the other hand, is much easier because you can actually let nature do a fair amount of the work for you! What???

In its simplest form, sheet composting is nothing more than spreading a layer of compostable materials (leaves, prunings, kitchen scraps, etc.) over



your vegetable garden, annual/perennial flower beds or landscape borders, and letting nature do the rest of the work.

You can neaten and speed up the process a little bit by spreading a two to three inch layer of compost or mulch over these materials, if you would like. Or, you can dig or rototill the materials into your garden. Not only will this give you a bit of a workout, it will



Covering landscape beds with "sheets" of tree leaves and spent perennials and annuals, instead of piling them at the curb to be hauled "away," will return nutrients and organic matter to the soil as they decompose.

also speed up the decomposition process!

So, even if you are reluctant to get into traditional composting, trying out one or more of the sheet composting techniques listed here can benefit your land-

scape and garden plantings, while letting nature do most of the work.

Terry Ettinger can be reached at tlettinger@esf.edu.



Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

Phone Books

Dear Rhoda,

I'm sick and tired of phone books piling up on my front doorstep. I never use a phone book anymore because looking things up on the internet is so fast. How on Earth can I make these books stop coming?!?

Buried in B'ville

Dear Buried,

With the amazing advent of the world wide web, scores of people now find phone books passé, myself included, but I would be remiss if I didn't point out that trees are not being eradicated by phone book publication. In fact, they are made

largely from leftover woodchips and other by-products of the lumber industry; some also include recycled content from newspapers, old directories and other paper-based products. So, try not to silently judge any of your friends who still want to consult a hardcopy phone book, rest assured, they aren't wiping out acres of virgin forests each year...

That being said, in a 2013 survey printed in USA Today indicated that only 58% of working US adults use phone books at home,

work or both. The internet and mobile technology have diminished the need for phone books. So, who do you send the cease and desist letter to? How do you make them stop coming each year? Rhoda has an answer for you.

Visit www.yellowpagesoptout.com which is a nationwide opt out site. The site is run by an association that includes more than 160 phone book publishers. It's a one-stop shop where Americans can limit or stop the delivery of phone books to their homes.

You will have to register and provide your email and mailing address. Don't get all squirrely, this is necessary or they can't confirm you want to remove yourself from the delivery circuit. They are also very clear that they won't harvest your info for marketing purposes, which means your personal information is secure. Scout's honor.

Now I know we are all getting used to instant gratification, but be aware, it can take up to 12 weeks to be fully removed from the delivery lists. So, in the

meantime, if you receive a phone book you do not want, remember, it can always be recycled in your trusty blue bin!

For more information about the need for additional sustainability in the phone book publishing industry, visit: www.tinyurl.com/phonebooks2015

Okay, I'm off to build a fort for my grandkids (using old phone books).

Over and out,

Recycling
Rhoda

OCRRA and Covanta Safely Turn Trash into Energy to Power 30,000 Homes, or 15% of Our County

Stack and Ash Testing Results for 2015

Amy Miller, Agency Engineer, OCRRA

While you read this article, the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility is busy converting our County's non-recyclable trash into electricity – enough to power about 30,000 homes. Air pollution control equipment and continuous monitoring systems are in place to make sure it is done safely. Read on to discover what testing is done at the WTE Facility and learn what this year's WTE report card says.



Onondaga County trash is sent to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility where it is burned at high temperatures and converted into electricity (enough to power 15% of households in our County). Around 9,000 tons of metal is also pulled out of the trash and recycled each year at the Facility.

Q: What is the purpose of annual air emissions "stack" testing?

A: Stack testing is an important tool that measures the amount of regulated pollutants being emitted from a facility. Stack testing consists of a series of sampling events, in which a probe is inserted into the stack to collect a representative sample of the gases released, over a defined amount of time. Sampling and laboratory analysis must be conducted in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) protocols. NYSDEC oversees, and is generally onsite during stack testing at the WTE Facility.

Q: How do the 2015 stack test results look?

A: The results from the 2015 stack testing indicate that the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the graph on the next page, many of the tested constituents were considerably below the permit limit.

Q: Does the WTE Facility conduct any other air emissions testing besides the annual stack testing?

A: Yes. The Facility has a continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) that measures combustion efficiency, air pollution equipment performance and stack emissions. The CEMS monitors carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides (NOx), as well as opacity and combustion temperatures.

Q: What is the status of the WTE Facility's Air (Title V) Permit?

A: The current NYSDEC air permit is effective August 8, 2011 through August 7, 2016. The permit can be accessed on NYSDEC's website at: www.tinyurl.com/WTEpermit.

Q: What is the purpose of the semi-annual ash testing and how do the 2015 ash testing results look?

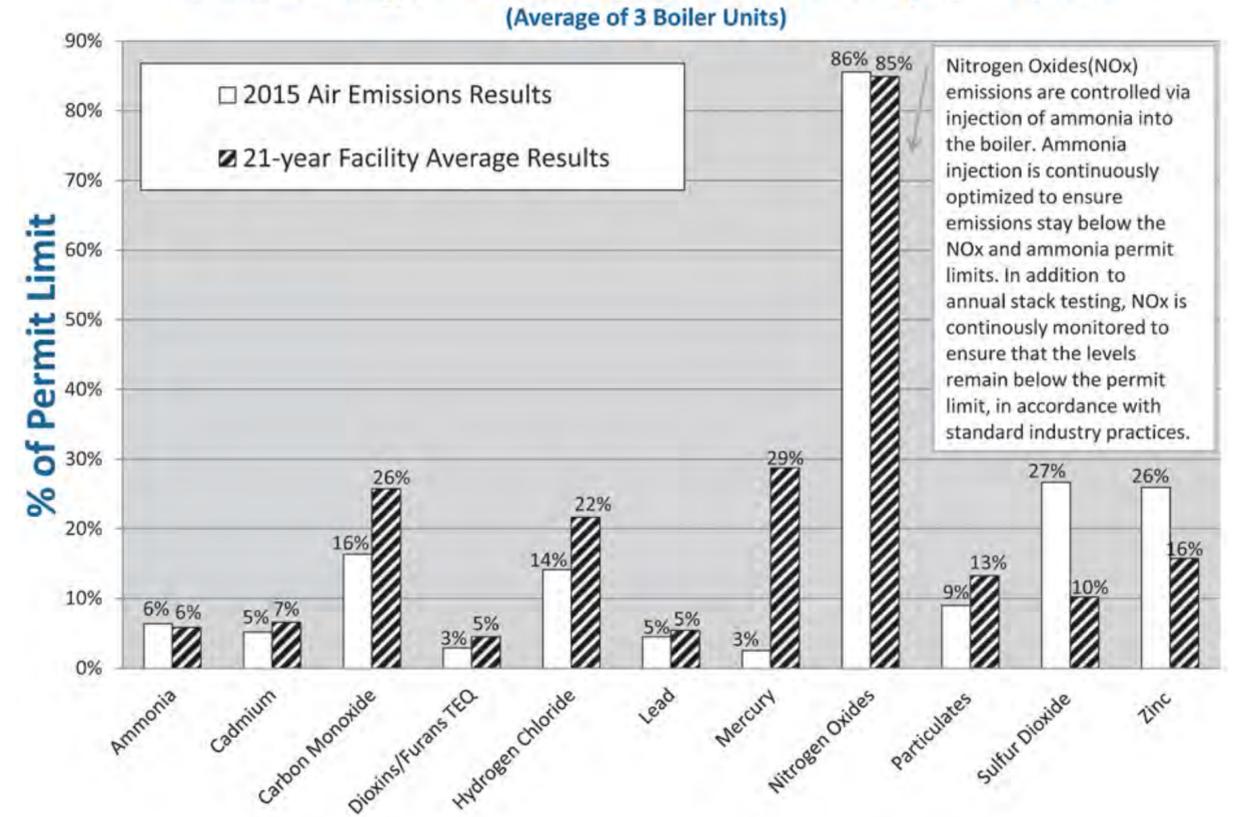
A: A representative sample of combined bottom and fly ash residue is collected according to NYSDEC protocols. This sample is then analyzed by an independent laboratory for leachable metals, according to EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). TCLP analysis simulates landfill conditions (the final disposal site for the ash) and determines whether the ash residue exhibits hazardous characteristics. Over the life of the facility (including the most recent 2015 results), TCLP analysis has always indicated that the ash residue is non-hazardous.

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: For more detailed information on the test results please contact OCRRA's Agency Engineer, Amy Miller, at 315.295.0743 or amiller@ocrra.org.

2015 ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS			
Semi-Annual Test Results - June 2015			
Constituent	Test Result	Permit Limit	Pass or Fail
Cadmium	0.05 mg/L	1 mg/L	Pass
Lead	0.31 mg/L	5 mg/L	Pass
CONCLUSION			
Ash residue does NOT exhibit a hazardous characteristic. As such, it should continue to be managed as a non-hazardous solid waste.			

Waste-to-Energy Facility Air Emissions as a % of Facility Permit Limits



Nitrogen Oxides(NOx) emissions are controlled via injection of ammonia into the boiler. Ammonia injection is continuously optimized to ensure emissions stay below the NOx and ammonia permit limits. In addition to annual stack testing, NOx is continuously monitored to ensure that the levels remain below the permit limit, in accordance with standard industry practices.

2015 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

Constituent	Average Measured Emissions ¹			Permit Limit ²	Pass/Fail? ³	3-Boiler Average ³	% permit limit ⁴
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3				
Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	3.8E-04	1.1E-03	3.2E-04	3.5E-02	P	6.0E-04	1.7%
Cadmium (lb/hr)	6.1E-05	1.8E-04	5.0E-05	1.9E-03	P	9.9E-05	5.2%
Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.30E+00	1.05E+00	1.59E+00	8.04E+00	P	1.31E+00	16.3%
Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	1.9E+00	1.1E+00	5.0E-01	3.0E+01	P	1.2E+00	4.0%
Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	3.0E+00	3.5E+00	2.6E+00	2.5E+01	P	3.0E+00	12.1%
Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	7.39E-01	8.77E-01	6.06E-01	5.24E+00	P	7.41E-01	14.1%
Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.6	99.6	99.6	>=95	P	99.6	-
Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	1.02E-02	1.60E-02	5.23E-03	4.00E-01	P	1.05E-02	2.6%
Lead (lb/hr)	1.64E-03	2.68E-03	8.32E-04	3.81E-02	P	1.72E-03	4.5%
Mercury (lb/hr)	1E-04	< 1E-04	< 8E-05	4E-03	P	1E-04	2.5%
Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	3.9E+01	5.79E+01	5.2E+01	5.8E+01	P	5.0E+01	85.6%
Particulates (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	7.5E-04	1.2E-03	7.5E-04	1.0E-02	P	9.0E-04	9.0%
PM ₁₀ (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	4.3E-04	7.1E-04	7.4E-04	1.0E-02	P	6.2E-04	6.2%
PM ₁₀ (lb/hr)	1.53E-01	2.55E-01	2.80E-01	3.16E+00	P	2.29E-01	7.3%
Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	5.81E+00	1.33E+00	5.82E+00	1.62E+01	P	4.32E+00	26.7%
Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	1.9E+00	3.3E+00	3.1E+00	5.0E+01	P	2.7E+00	5.5%
Ammonia (lb/hr)	2.17E-01	3.84E-01	3.35E-01	4.88E+00	P	3.12E-01	6.4%
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	4E-02	2E-02	9E-03	4E-01	P	2E-02	5.8%
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	6.38E-09	3.45E-09	1.52E-09	1.29E-07	P	3.78E-09	2.9%
Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	7.7E-01	< 5.9E-01	< 5.0E-01	2.8E+01	P	6.2E-01	2.2%
Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	98	> 99	> 99	>=85	P	99	-
PAH (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 2.2E-01	1.5E-01	< 1.0E-01	1.0E+00	P	1.6E-01	15.9%
Zinc (lb/hr)	1.39E-02	1.67E-02	1.96E-02	6.45E-02	P	1.67E-02	25.9%

NOTES:

- ¹ Based on three test runs; used for compliance with permit limit.
- ² NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028
- ³ Average provided for informational purposes only; not used for compliance.
- ⁴ Based on 3-Boiler Average; informational only; not used for compliance.

UNITS:

- gr/dscf = grains per dry standard cubic foot
- ppmdv = parts per million dry volume
- lb/hr = pounds per hour
- dscm = dry standard cubic meter
- @ 7% O₂ = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen
- ng = nanograms
- µg = micrograms
- mg = milligrams

SRC: A Local Business that Protects our Environment

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist, OCRRA

SRC, Inc. is a locally headquartered government contractor that helps keep America safe and strong by providing innovative solutions in the areas of defense, environment and intelligence. In 2009, SRC received a LEED certification for their corporate office building.

The company is committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship and continues to implement strategies to further reduce its carbon footprint as evident from an environmental fair that they recently hosted. The fair was set up by the environmental committee made up of employees throughout the company to promote environmental awareness and opportunities for energy reduction.

Shawn Emmons, SRC's Facility Manager, provided a tour of some of the 400,000 square feet of SRC buildings and shared spe-

cific environmental strategies that have been implemented over the past ten years at SRC.

It starts with the basics – offices are set up with each employee workstation having a trash and corresponding paper recycling can. Due to the nature of their business operations, the company also employs a professional company to shred and recycle all sensitive documents.

While OCRRA works hard to ensure all office paper gets recycled, OCRRA also encourages businesses to reduce paper waste from the get go. SRC reduces paper waste by retaining digital copies of files (as opposed to hard copies) and printers are set to automatically double-side copies to reduce paper use.

Purchasing products made with recycled material creates demand for recycled material, which helps community recycling programs

to continue and helps keep the cost of recycled products down. SRC supports the recycling movement by purchasing recycled content paper products, recycled carpeting squares, at least 30% recycled content copy paper, and other green certified products.

SRC also recycles metal, batteries and toner cartridges. When packaging materials cannot be recycled, they reuse them. They also offer electronic waste recycling events for their employees. Pallets are shipped back to a local vendor for repair and reuse, saving half the expense of disposal!

Each employee is provided with a coffee mug at orientation and encouraged to use durable water bottles which can be filled at the popular El-Kay EZH2O water cooler, which includes a spout to conveniently fill bottles. All deposit bottles and cans are collected and given to "Good Returns" (a local nonprofit organization) to redeem and give the proceeds to charities.

Their buildings are gradually transitioning from fluorescent to LED lighting, saving energy and eliminating the need to dispose of mercury-containing bulbs.

SRC is also committed to green cleaning; they are certified as Green Seal-42, which means they follow



SRC offers many recycling programs in their facilities. SRC employee Jason Wasulko recycles a deposit can in one of SRC's combined recycling units. Businesses that place trash and recycling containers next to one another maximize employee recycling opportunity, which results in better recycling. Contact OCRRA for free workplace recycling supplies at 453-2866 or www.OCRRA.org.

an extensive cleaning and training protocol that protects human health and the environment.

OCRRA applauds SRC for implementing these measures, which help the environment and bolster staff morale. It is clear that employees are proud to work for an organization that cares about the environment.

Wondering how you can get your business on en-

vironmental par with SRC? Use OCRRA as a resource! Recycling specialists are available to help you start or improve a recycling and waste reduction program at your business. Visit OCRRA.org to learn more, or better yet, contact us at 453-2866 or info@OCRRA.org to get started today!

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnette@ocrra.org.

Household Hazardous Waste...

CONQUERED BY:



Photo by Ann Fordock, OCRRA

Kathleen LaBeaf of Solvay

LaBeaf is OCRRA's Fall Household Hazardous Waste appointment raffle winner. LaBeaf won a basket full of green cleaning products. Get rid of your household toxics safely at OCRRA's year-round drop-off; make an appointment at OCRRA.org and be entered for a chance to win too!

Looking for Quality Compost in Bags for your Landscaping?

You can purchase 1 cu. ft. bags of OCRRA's Premium Compost at any of the following retail locations in Central New York:



- Aspinall's Tree Nursery and Landscaping, Chittenango
- Ballantyne Gardens, Liverpool
- Buyea's True Value Hardware, Cazenovia
- Deaton's Agway, Pulaski
- Green Acres Garden Center, Liverpool
- Green Hills Farms, Syracuse
- Green Scapes, Jamesville
- Lan's Flower Farm, Clay
- Lee's Feed Store, Syracuse
- Manlius True Value Hardware, Manlius
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses, Fulton
- Silver Spring Farm Market, Syracuse
- Skaneateles Town Square Ace Hardware, Skaneateles
- Sollecito Landscaping Nursery, Syracuse
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus, Phoenix
- The Evergreen Mart, Syracuse
- Twin Oaks Nursery, Syracuse
- Vollmer Farms & Farm Market, East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms, Rome
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center, LaFayette
- Westvale Gardens, Syracuse
- Zerrillo Gardens, East Syracuse



From the Executive Director's desk...

The Cost of Recycling

Mark Donnelly, Executive Director, OCRRA

When people think of OCRRA, many times they think of our recycling efforts, but we are more than just blue bins! The OCRRA System also offers education and services related to waste reduction, composting and disposal. Believe it or not, **the costs of our green programs are covered by the fees we charge to process your trash.** Since OCRRA's inception some 25 years ago, most of our green programs have been offered at no charge. This was done to establish good recycling habits and to encourage community participation.

As an aside, our community's participation is stellar! On an annual basis, our **community consistently recycles 60% of our waste stream** (which includes blue bin materials as well as yard waste, food scraps, batteries, electronics, etc.) From a financial standpoint, this saves the community over \$18 million dollars annually in avoided waste disposal fees. As a testament to our community's effort, OCRRA recently accepted the National Recycling Coalition's Outstanding Community Recycling Award on behalf of Onondaga County. Kudos!

OCRRA set up a system that encourages recycling by providing constant education and establishing contracts with haulers and a Material Recovery Facility (a.k.a. MRF or recycling sorting facility) to keep the system working efficiently. To see how recyclables are sorted at our local MRF, visit [www.tinyurl.com\MRF-sorting](http://www.tinyurl.com/MRF-sorting)

Through the years, OCRRA has ensured that haulers are not charged to drop recyclables off at the

MRF. This, along with the County's Source Separation Law, has ensured that recyclables would not be disposed of as trash, because doing so would cost \$80 per ton.

It is important to note that while recycling decreases the community's waste disposal costs, it does cost money. There is a cost for haulers to transport recyclables from homes, schools and businesses to the MRF. There is a cost for MRFs to sort, bale and market recyclables. These processing costs are increasing, and material values are unpredictable. Today, **sorting costs at the MRF often exceed the value of the incoming recyclables.** Under these circumstances, OCRRA pays the MRF to maintain the stability of our material recovery efforts. In addition, there is a cost for OCRRA to continually educate residents about what is recyclable.

Our recycling stream is ever-changing. Years ago packaging was pretty straight-forward, it was paper, metal, glass or plastic. Today, in an effort to minimize shipping costs, packaging has become lighter and more flexible. Think flexible pouches that are replacing a surprising variety of packages, including: paperboard boxes, metal tuna cans, glass wine bottles and plastic detergent bottles. Flexible packages are NOT recyclable. They may be plastic, but they are not recyclable in the blue bin because there is currently no market for them. That may change in the future as efforts are already underway to develop methods to recycle these items. That being said, right now there are less items out there that

can actually be recycled, which means it is increasingly difficult to maintain our 60% recycling rate.

So what can you do? OCRRA has three tips.

1) Know what is recyclable. Only put items in the blue bin that are on the recyclable list. Not sure what is recyclable? Check out the box below or visit **OCRRA.org** to get the most updated information.

"Over" recycling or recycling things that don't belong in the blue bin does not help the environment. **Throwing plastic bags, hoses or extension cords in the blue bin actually halts the recycling process** at the MRF. It clogs the equipment and raises the cost of processing due to equipment breakdowns and cleaning.

When you throw a non-recyclable item into the blue bin, such as a plastic strawberry container, it won't stop the equipment, but it also won't get recycled. It ends up as trash at the MRF. This is known as "contamination." If there is just a little contamination in a load of recyclables it can reduce the cost the MRF is paid for the load. If there is a lot of contamination, a load can be rejected entirely. So, "recycling" the wrong items can actually lead to a lot LESS recycling in that scenario. Either way, over recycling only increases the cost MRFs pay to do business. While this cost may not come back to you directly, it does



Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) sort thousands of tons of curbside recyclables by machinery and by hand, and produce bales of material, like the ones pictured here. The bales are then sold and made into new products. Today, sorting costs at the MRF often exceed the value of the recyclables, which is why it is so important to recycle only the things that belong in the blue bin. For a list of recyclables visit **OCRRA.org**.

come back to OCRRA. Ultimately, this can result in a reduction of the recycling services we offer or an increase in the cost of the trash services we offer; which, in the end, does come back to you

2) Use your purchasing power. When you are choosing items to buy, think about packaging. Is it recyclable? If not, see if there is another option available.

3) Let your voice be heard. Support product stewardship initiatives for packaging, meaning contact your legislator and let them know you think manufacturers should be responsible for the end-of-life management of

their packaging. It should not fall on the backs of municipalities and entities like OCRRA to bear the cost of disposal of non-recyclable packaging. Ultimately, this will encourage manufacturers to utilize recyclable packaging.

Each of us can *save the world a little each day*. Make conscious and informed decisions each time you purchase, reuse, recycle or discard something. Your grandkids will thank you.

Enjoy autumn in the northeast. It is a beautiful time of the year!

Mark A. Donnelly

Recycle This:

- **Newspapers, magazines, catalogs and softcover books** - Keep loose, don't tie.
- **Papers, mail and envelopes.**
- **Cardboard, pizza, pasta and cereal boxes** - Flatten.
- **#1 and #2 plastic BOTTLES** - Empty and rinse, no lids.
- **#5 plastic tubs** - Empty and rinse, no lids.
- **Cans and jars** - Empty and rinse out food residue, labels are okay.

Mark Donnelly can be reached at mcdonnelly@ocrra.org.

FACT: You can call your town, village or the city of Syracuse to order up to two new blue bins for free.

Take Part in ReClothe NY for America Recycles Day

November 14 drop off event at Destiny USA Solar Street parking lot benefits Rescue Mission and Salvation Army

Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction, OCRRA

Each year, about 20 million pounds of clothes and textiles, with a market value of \$3 million, are disposed in Onondaga County. It is a significant lost recycling opportunity, and an unfortunate lost job opportunity; capturing those textiles could create 100 new recycling jobs in our community.

The good news: ReClothe NY, a statewide textile recovery campaign is spurring increased textile recovery across New York State. In honor of America Recycles Day (Nov. 15), OCRRA invites local residents to participate in ReClothe NY and help our community reap the economic, environmental and social benefits of increased textile recycling. The campaign is a collaboration of the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse,

and Recycling (NYSAR³), the Council for Textile Recycling (CTR) and the Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries (also known as SMART).

How You Can Make the Campaign a Success:

- 1) Learn what materials should be recovered, including DRY clothing, bedding, towels, hats and shoes. It is okay if buttons are missing, if zippers are broken, or even if there are a few small stains or tears. See list to the right for details.
- 2) Find a textile drop off location near you by visiting www.tinyurl.com/CNY-textiles, or come to a special textile drop off event on Saturday, November 14, from 8 am to 12 pm, at the Solar Street Parking

Lot of Destiny USA. Attendees receive a coupon book with special offers to Destiny USA retailers. All textiles will be donated to the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army.

- 3) Visit www.NYSAR3.org to learn more about the statewide ReClothe NY campaign to create jobs, reduce waste, and recycle more textiles.

An estimated 1.4 billion pounds of textiles are trashed by New Yorkers annually (about 5% of the total trash stream), with an estimated market value of over \$200 million. Some 9,000 jobs would be created statewide if all that material was dropped off for reuse and re-

cycling. Across the country, only 15% of recyclable textiles are actually recovered; 85% ends up in the trash; that is equal to about 70 pounds trashed per person each year!

Thank you for helping to prevent the trashing of these reusable and recyclable materials!

Andrew Radin can be reached at aradin@ocrra.org.

Recyclable Textiles

ALL FOOTWEAR.

CLOTHING: Clean and dry; rips, stains, missing buttons, non-functioning zippers are okay.

ACCESSORIES: Hats, gloves, scarves, pocketbooks, duffle bags, totes, belts, ties, etc.

LINENS: Sheets, blankets, comforters, dish towels, throw rugs, draperies, table linens, placemats.

STUFFED ANIMALS.

Event Partners



destiny usa



rescue mission
Life Changing



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Facebook Question of the Quarter



PAINT RECYCLING

Chris Cassoni of Syracuse asked us a great question...

Q: When is the next paint recycling day?

A: OCRRA now offers Onondaga County residents a year-round paint* (and other household toxics) drop off option, Monday – Friday from 6:30 am – 6:00 pm. All you have to do is register online! The free program is only for Onondaga County residents (we are unable to take items from businesses free of charge).

For details on what is acceptable and how to register, visit: www.tinyurl.com/toxics2015

*Regarding paint - this program is for **oil-based** paints only; latex paints are not considered hazardous. To properly dispose of liquid latex paint, dry it out; add cat litter or paint drying crystals (available at most hardware stores). Leave the lid off in a well-ventilated area and wait for the paint to be absorbed. When solid, place the can in the trash with the lid off. After your trash is delivered to OCRRA's Waste-to-Energy Facility, a magnet will capture metal paint cans for recycling.

In Memoriam: Andy Brigham

It is with great sorrow that OCRRA mourns the July passing of Andy Brigham, a local media legend and our (beloved) former Public Information Officer.

Andy was the backbone of OCRRA's media presence for 17 years (1991-2008). His standout qualities as a coworker and person were many, but perhaps most memorable was his quick wit, which kept us all from taking ourselves too seriously.

Rest in peace, Andy.



Mark Your Calendar

Search our disposal database



MERCURY THERMOMETER/THERMOSTAT DROP-OFF
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
Rock Cut Road Drop Off Site
7:30 am - 10:30 am
Complete form on page 1 in advance of event

TEXTILE EVENT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Solar Street Parking Lot at Destiny USA
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED
NOVEMBER 26 & DECEMBER 25
Happy Holidays

COMPOST SITES CLOSE
NOVEMBER 30
Yard Waste Pass season ends, but Amboy Site remains open for Food Scrap drop off only. (From 12/1-3/31, Mon. - Fri., 7:30 am - 4:00 pm)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF
Year-Round by Appointment
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
6:30 am - 6:00 pm
Register at OCRRA.org

FACT: 85% of recyclable textiles end up as trash. Recycle old clothing, shoes and accessories. www.tinyurl.com/CNY-textiles.