

March 29, 2016

Mr. Michael Reilly

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2015

“OCRRA provides a comprehensive solid waste management system that is environmentally, socially and financially sound. Through innovative strategies such as waste reduction, recycling, composting, disposal and education, we make our community a more healthy and sustainable place to live.”

Sir:

I am pleased to report that the Agency was both diligent and successful in carrying out our Mission in 2015. In achieving this goal the Agency acted in accordance with our core values of:

- Integrity and Honesty
- Environmental Stewardship
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Excellence in Services

Our vision of maintaining a world-class waste management system that benefits our community and environment was achieved by our adherence to our mission and core values and recognized with several national awards received in 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you, in detail, the results of 2015.

2015 Program Highlights:

- Over \$605,000 in state grants received in 2015: \$41,754 for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection expenses; \$124,568 for compost development, and \$438,708 for Blue Bin expenses (2009-2013).
- OCRRA received a 2015 Environmental Education Excellence Award from the Interactive Media Council (IMC) for the agency’s web-based, classroom video series. IMC is a national nonprofit organization of leading web designers, developers, programmers, advertisers and other web-related professionals. The video series is accessible at: https://ocrra.org/educational_resources
- OCRRA continued to urge state legislators to pass legislation supporting Extended Producer Responsibility, including resolution no. 1940, supporting a manufacturer-funded and managed paint recovery program; a paint stewardship bill passed unanimously in the NYS Senate in 2015, and is making its way through the Assembly.
- Compost revenues grew 30% compared to 2014 (and increased 100% vs. 2012), approaching \$500,000. Nearly 3,000 tons of food scraps composted in 2015, a 50% increase over 2014. Bagged compost sales grew over 30% vs. 2014. Additional schools now participating in food scrap recovery include Fayetteville-Manlius and Westhill (joining Marcellus and Jordan Elbridge).

- OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Clean Up was held on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25. Over 7,400 volunteers from some 340 groups participated; 100,000 + pounds of litter collected; nearly 2.4 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 of \$70,000).
- OCRRA again played a leadership role in a statewide textile recovery campaign (over 1.4 billion pounds of textiles trashed in NYS annually with a market value exceeding \$200 million); statewide campaign received EPA Region 2 Environmental Excellence Award; OCRRA's local textile collection event at DestinyUSA in November netted over 12,000 pounds of clothes and textiles for the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army; a first-time collaboration between the two organizations.
- OCRRA partnered with Covanta to host a mercury collection event on October 5th. Thanks to resident participation, over 461 thermometers (47% increase over 2014) and 168 thermostats (44% increase over 2014) were collected! This amounts to approximately 956 grams of mercury being removed from the environment, which is comparable to recycling 239,300 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 established a new two-year agreement for MRF services with Waste Management that establishes reasonable financial risk during current period of depressed commodity markets for recyclables and continues to guarantee a zero tip fee to haulers.
- OCRRA Recycling Specialist Theresa Mandery received an Outstanding Service Award from GreeningUSA, a not for profit organization that advocates for sustainable communities to the benefit of local economies and environments.

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 <https://ocrra.org/about-ocrra/meetings>

Annual Reports <https://ocrra.org/about-ocrra/reports-and-policies/reports>

Open Procurements <https://ocrra.org/about-ocrra/procurements>

Agency Policies <https://ocrra.org/about-ocrra/reports-and-policies/policies>

For additional information we have a very convenient portal for submitting FOIL requests (https://ocrra.org/contact-and-interact/forms/foil_form).

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 <https://ocrra.org/about-ocrra/reports-and-policies/reports>.

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,

Warren D. Simpson

Business Officer

WDS/mrf