

# ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED: 2003



This report submitted pursuant to NYSDEC Permit Number 7- 3142-00028/00002-0, Certificate to Operate the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility; NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3156-00047/00001-0 Permit to Construct and Operate the OCRRA Landfill; NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3148-00048/00001-0 Solid Waste Transfer Station-Ley Creek and NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3142-00036/00001-0 Solid Waste Transfer Station-Rock Cut Road.

Period reported: January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003  
 Date: March 1, 2004  
 Planning Unit: County of Onondaga including the City of Syracuse, excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles  
 Contact Person: A.T. Rhoads, Executive Director, OCRRA  
 100 Elwood Davis Rd. North Syracuse, NY 13412-4312

## 1.0 Mandatory and Voluntary Recycling Increase Again in 2003



OCRRA's Operation Separation recycling program again increased its recycling tonnage in 2003, demonstrating its on going commitment to the environment.

Approximately **767,347 tons** were recycled through mandatory and voluntary recycling in the community, **an increase of over 1,360 tons of material from 2002, for a recycling rate of 68%.**

For the seventh consecutive year, OCRRA met the NYSDEC permit goal that calls for 40% processible recycling with a **42% reduction** in the processible MSW \* within the service area. In this category, mandatory curbside and commercial recycling totaled **217,744 tons; an increase of 684 tons over 2002.**

OCRRA RECYCLING: 2003			
ITEM	TONS	RATE	Notes
MSW Ferrous Recycling	10,858		1. When calculating recycling rates, ferrous recovered from MSW is subtracted out so that it is not counted twice as both discarded waste and recovered recyclables.
Household Metal	1,665		
Incoming MSW	307,384		2. Sources for this data include recycling companies, retail and commercial firms, institutions, industries, and governmental organizations, who voluntarily report to OCRRA.
Incoming C&D	63,729		
MSW & C&D	371,113		
Curbside Recycling	43,688		
Processible Commercial	174,056		
Processible Comm\Curb Recycling	217,744	42%	
All Commercial	723,659		
Total Recycling	767,347	68%	

\* Processible MSW is the material that could be disposed of in the waste to energy plant. The formula for calculating processible recycling is: curbside recycling + commercial processible recycling./ curbside and commercial recycling + MSW - MSW ferrous recovery. The formula for total recycling is: all recycling/all recycling +MSW + C&D - MSW ferrous recovery. (MSW is municipal solid waste; C&D is construction and demolition debris.)

<b>OCRRA 2003 RECYCLING REPORT: BY COMMODITY (tons)</b>			
<b>COMMODITY</b>	<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	<b>CURBSIDE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
NonFerrous	8,780		8,780
Ferrous	186,080		186,080
Yard Waste	48,070		48,070
MSW Ferrous	10,858		10,858
Glass	4,045	5,889	9,934
Aluminum	13,205	122	13,327
Wood	14,688		14,688
Office Paper	35,657		35,657
Mixed Paper		1,472	1,472
Corrugated and Kraft bags	59,975	2,136	62,111
Newspapers and Magazines	14,888	29,087	43,975
Steel Cans and household metal		3,154	3,154
HDPE		1,284	1,284
PET		267	267
Gabled Cartons		275	275
Bottle Bill	5,918		5,918
Electronics and batteries	2,159		2,159
Food - Ind and Commercial	178,060		178,060
Textiles	9,477		9,477
Plastics	2,009		2,009
Sludge - D/S and papermill	115,473		115,473
Special Waste	12,596		12,596
Miscellaneous	1,714		1,714
<b>Total</b>	<b>723,659</b>	<b>43,688</b>	<b>767,347</b>

OCRRA inventories and records recycling tonnages of all material, mandated and non-mandated, which is diverted for recycling through the efforts of the curbside program, private sector commercial and industrial entities, public and private institutions. Material items include, but are not limited to: bulky metals (scrap autos are not counted), food waste (composted), textiles, unique plastics, sludge, oils and wood. Deposit beverage containers are also reported in the comprehensive recycling tonnage above.

**Mandated Recyclables in 2003 are as follows:**

**Residential**

Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs  
 Home office paper and discarded mail  
 Milk and juice gable top cartons  
 Glass food and beverage containers  
 Metal food and beverage containers including foil  
 Plastic bottles #1 and #2  
 Aerosol cans  
 Corrugated Cardboard and Brown paper bags  
 Paperboard, Pizza boxes

**Commercial**

All office paper  
 Corrugated Cardboard  
 Paperboard  
 Blue bin items if economically justified

## 2.0 2003 Recycling Program Costs Exceed \$1 Million

OCRRA's trash tipping fee revenue provides the financing for critical recycling program components essential to achieving the mandated recycling rate. Waste and recyclable hauling costs are not part of the OCRRA service costs.

OCRRA manages the solid waste and recycling program for 33 municipalities in Onondaga County. Each Municipality is unique in its solid waste collection. Some provide waste and recyclables collection through their own public employees, some contract with one or more private waste hauling firms to provide services for their residents and still others require residents to arrange for disposal and recycling by contracting with a private hauler or bringing their MSW and recyclables to one of the two OCRRA transfer stations. OCRRA maintains two drop off centers for waste and recyclables where recyclables are accepted at no cost.

Program costs include OCRRA's Operation Separation comprehensive public education program. The program consists of radio, TV, billboards, and print media campaigns, personal visits to waste generators, a staff of recycling professionals offering technical assistance, a New York State certified school teacher, and numerous brochures and teaching materials.

The OCRRA recycling program arranges for the processing and marketing of residential recyclables collected and covers costs necessary to assure waste haulers a zero tip fee for residential recyclables. OCRRA also provides two drop off centers for the collection of blue bin recyclables for those without curbside service. The transfer station drop-offs are also collection points for additional materials such as textiles, paper from small offices/home offices, scrap metal, small appliances and household batteries. OCRRA costs cover the handling and recycling of these special items collected.

### ***During 2003, OCRRA's Operation Separation Program managed:***

- Two yard waste compost sites
- Three Household Hazardous Waste events
- Quarterly household computer and TV set collections
- Month long collection of hard cover and soft cover books
- A mercury thermometer exchange program
- A yearly collection of batteries through a network of local drop off points, including a curbside collection of household batteries in July.

OCRRA also administered special services and programs for businesses, schools, and apartment building managers and owners, each at a cost to OCRRA.

Direct program costs in 2003 (*unedited*), associated with the recycling services are as follows:

<b><i>Program Category</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
Recycling Personnel	\$361,736
MRF Fees	173,437
Public Education - Outside Service	256,959
Composting	52,229
HHW Collection Program	230,895
Battery/Propane Collection Program	15,842
Other recycling	158,473
<b>Total Cost - 2003</b>	<b>\$1,249,571</b>

Recyclables collected at the curbside are taken for processing and marketing to a material recovery facility, or MRF. The OCRRA MRF contract provides for a variable payment to the privately owned MRF, which receives curbside recyclables collected by the private haulers, municipal haulers, and municipalities with private hauling contracts. As a result of OCRRA's contract, the MRF accepts the recyclables at no charge to the waste hauler. It then sorts, bales and markets the residential recyclables.

Currently, OCRRA has two contracted material recovery facilities (MRFs) which process recyclable material from the County's curbside recycling program. The two contracted MRFs each use different processing methods when recycling material.

**Recycle America**, a service of Waste Management, opened a new \$3 million facility, which is processing material using the "single stream" method. Single stream recycling allows recyclable material such as paper, plastic, metal, glass and corrugated cardboard to be combined in one collection vehicle, taken to the MRF, dumped together and separated in one process. By compaction of all recyclables during collection on the street, the capacity of the trucks is maximized, saving trip costs for the hauler. This reduces the need for additional recycling trucks and reduces the time spent at each collection stop.



**Naef Recycling** is the other newly opened MRF, which began processing OCRRA's curbside material in December 2002. Naef is a dual processing facility where recyclables are delivered to the facility in a two-compartment truck. At this MRF, all paper is tipped on the floor in one section and all containers are tipped in another section. The material is sorted and baled along two parallel processing lines, one for paper and one for containers.



Since OCRRA does not collect or directly market recyclables, the process chosen by each facility to sort material (dual or single stream) does not affect the Agency.

Single stream recycling is a relatively new development nationally as well as locally, some discussion has been raised as to whether or not the baled paper fiber produced at the single stream processing facility meets the quality specifications of the paper mills. OCRRA is monitoring the situation by periodically contacting the paper mills to find out the quality of the paper bales sold to the mills from the two MRF, and by surveying other MRF facilities that utilize the single stream method.

Taking into consideration the value of the commodities in the blue bin, OCRRA pays the MRF for processing and marketing recyclables using a formula adopted in 1995.

OCRRA's MRF payments for the period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 total **\$173,437**. OCRRA costs for processing and marketing recyclables were determined as follows:

Each month OCRRA pays a charge for the processing and marketing of the recyclables collected under the mandatory program. Revenue received from the sale of the material offsets the cost to process. Using a formula based on the value and quantity of each material collected under the program, OCRRA arrives at the Weighted Per Ton Revenue (WPTR), the value, per ton, of program material. When the WPTR drops below \$52.25, OCRRA pays the difference between the WPTR and the \$52.25 per ton benchmark cost for processing and marketing materials by making a payment to the contracted MRF. The specific MRF payment is calculated according to the tonnage of curbside program recyclables delivered to the MRF. An additional \$3 per ton administrative fee is also paid to the MRF.

The Agency's MRF charges are connected to recycling market prices. Recycling markets performed better than expected in 2003, and OCRRA was able to benefit from the market pricing. The positive market pricing was due to the surging export demand for recovered fiber from mills in Asia. Asian mills are expected to continue strong buying while they build up inventories. Pricing for old corrugated containers started as low as \$50.00 ton in February and went as high as \$65.00 ton in April. The pricing for old newspapers was strong all year long, ranging from \$55.00 to \$70.00 ton.

Scrap iron and steel have gained steadily in price throughout 2003, with aluminum, copper and other nonferrous metals also enjoying more positive than negative fluctuations. One benchmark *American Metal Market* composite shows a \$106 per ton mill buying price for ferrous scrap in January 2003, followed mostly by steady gains until reaching a \$128 per ton price in September. Aluminum can prices made moderate gains throughout the year due to an apparent recovery in the U.S. and Japanese economies and solid demand from China, South Korea, and India as reported in *Recycling Today*.

The values of specific program commodities for December 2003 compared to December 2002, December 2001, December 2000, and December 1999 are shown in the chart below.

Commodity	Residential Recycling				
	End Market Value (per ton for each commodity, after sorting, processing, densification)				
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
ONP/OMG	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Mixed Paper/Paperboard	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$40.00
Clear Glass	\$15.50	\$21.00	\$15.00	\$31.00	\$29.00
Green Glass	(\$7.00)	(\$25.00)	(\$24.75)	\$3.00	\$3.00
Brown Glass	\$15.00	\$0	\$15.00	\$31.00	\$31.00
Mixed glass	(\$7.00)	(\$24.75)	(\$24.75)	(\$19.00)	\$0.00
Tin	\$94.03	\$40.17	\$5.36	\$22.32	\$50.76
HDPE Natural	\$430.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$260.00	\$172.51
HDPE Colored	\$330.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$260.00	\$185.00
Aluminum Cans	\$1,085.00	\$640.00	\$780.00	\$740.00	\$740.00
Aluminum Foil	\$890.00	\$640.00	\$780.00	\$740.00	\$740.00
OCC/Kraft	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$40.00	40.00	\$85.00

*Prices for ONP, Mixed paper and OCC are based on the Official Board Markets (Buffalo high)*

OCRRA's MRF contract is designed to provide stability to the local recycling program during market fluctuations. This stability makes the program more easily understood by the residents and therefore increases recycling rates. A key goal of the contract is to support commodities during market dips so that consistent recovery and growth in overall recovery continues.

During 2003, OCRRA's expenses for MRF payments were \$173,347. The amount was \$161,533 less than the previous year, thanks to favorable market conditions for recyclable commodities. **However, fluctuations in the commodity markets are difficult to predict from year to year with any degree of certainty. Consequently, recycling program costs are vulnerable to rapid and unforeseen increases in MRF costs as noted below.**

YEAR	TOTAL MRF PAYMENT
1999	\$369,506
2000	\$ 74,043
2001	\$432,000
2002	\$334,970
2003	\$173,347

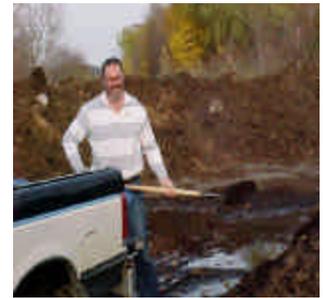
## *Other program costs*

### ➤ COMPOSTING

Over 32,400 community residents were served at the Agency's two yardwaste compost sites located in Jamesville and Camillus. Approximately 5,100 cubic yards of compost and 12,250 cubic yards of mulch were produced at both sites.

Residents also dropped off their yardwaste all season long by paying a one-time seasonal fee of \$10.00. The program direct costs were approximately \$52,229.

A lease with the City of Syracuse Dept. of Public Works allows the DPW to use a tub grinder (that OCRRA purchased with a 50% grant from NYSDEC) at no charge. In exchange, the City provides the necessary labor to operate and maintain the tub grinder and other services equipment on an as needed basis.



### ➤ HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Day continues to be one of the most popular services the Agency offers. The number of household hazardous waste collection days was increased from two times a year to three times a year, serving some 3,000 residents.

Direct costs included the fee charged by the vendor to conduct the event, battery and propane cylinder handling, the lab fees for testing the paint collected for recycling and the charges by Strathmore Paint to reformulate and package the collected paint for the paint give-away to municipalities and human service agencies. Indirect costs included the OCRRA personnel (minimum of 20 persons per site) to work on the day of the event as well as the countless hours beforehand taking reservations, recording the information and sending out information/confirmation packets to each of the more than 3,000 residents who made appointments for each event. OCRRA has been awarded a NYSDEC grant to cover nearly 50% of certain direct costs of the HHW events. Total direct costs in 2003 for this valuable community program were approximately **\$230,895**.



### ➤ HOUSEHOLD COMPUTER RECYCLING

The EPA reports that electronics are the fastest growing portion of America's trash. EPA estimated that 250 million computers are destined to become obsolete by the year 2005, and that more than 3.2 million tons of electronic waste will find their way into thousands of landfills across the country. To encourage the safe management of old computers, OCRRA took the environmentally sound approach of removing computer equipment from the waste stream by implementing a household computer recycling program. In 2003, OCRRA expanded its computer recycling program to include TV sets. The program ensures that material, which cannot be recycled or reused, will be disposed safely at an approved site.



Onondaga County residents were able to drop off old computer equipment and TVs at Rock Cut Road Transfer station and were limited to 2 computer systems per household. Over 122,000 pounds of old computer equipment and TVs were collected, comprised of:

- 3,964 monitors
- 3,466 computer towers
- 1,840 printers,
- 2,464 keyboards
- 217 laptops
- 1,086 mice
- 131 scanners
- 904 TVs.

The program costs OCRRA over **\$15,151**.

➤ **BATTERY COLLECTION**

County residents can drop off their old batteries at 10 area grocery and drug stores service desks. OCRRA staff collects them from the sites each week. In addition, OCRRA maintains two drop off centers at its transfer stations and there is an annual July curbside collection of batteries. OCRRA's battery collection program is a costly program with more than **100,000 lbs.** of batteries collected in 2003 at a cost of approximately **\$15,000**.



➤ **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Every year a significant percentage of the population hears the recycling message for the first time. Therefore, constant public education is an important part of the OCRRA program as reflected in the recycling budget.



In 2003, approximately **\$256,959** was spent on direct public education through radio, TV, and print media campaigns. OCRRA also employs a six-person professional recycling unit engaged in spreading the recycling message and bringing all levels of technical assistance to the residents, schools and businesses in the OCRRA service area.

NYSDEC awarded OCRRA a three-year \$500,000 grant for its recycling education that concluded in 2003. The grant covers 50% of expenses for public education such as advertising and flyers, and personnel costs for the recycling director, recycling educator and business recycling consultants. The public educator, a New York State certified teacher spoke to over 12,000 local students in 400 classes. The grant also covers expenses associated with the publication of the *Operation Separation Update*, a newsletter that goes out to approximately 40,000 residents on a quarterly basis.

In addition, the Agency's website, **www.OCRRA.org**, provides extensive recycling and waste reduction information, as well as recycling instructions in Spanish. Online registration for household hazardous waste collection and various other events such as Earth Day is also available on the OCRRA website.

### 3.0 Participation and Program Efficiency Remain High

The Operation Separation program efficiency is measured in participation, separation and processing efficiencies against the original Program Definition projections, which were developed in 1987 in the recycling program design.

- The participation rate is the percent of waste generators who are recycling.
- The separation rate/efficiency is the percent of accuracy the waste generators have in correctly recycling (e.g. sorting and handling recyclables to keep them in marketable condition).
- The processing rate/efficiency is the percent of recyclable material collected that is available for markets after handling and sorting the recyclables for the ultimate markets, processing which usually takes place at the MRF.

#### *Original Projections of Program Definition – 1987*

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Average Participation Rate</b>	<b>Average Separation Efficiency</b>	<b>Average Processing Efficiency</b>
I	35%	50%	95%
II	50%	60%	95%
III	80%	75%	95%

Program effectiveness is documented in the recyclables recovery rate of 68%. It is a result of the participation rate and affected by the separation efficiency and the processing efficiency. The recycling rate and tonnage are calculated after deducting residue. The residue fraction is a combination of material placed incorrectly by the generator (e.g. trash in with the bottles and cans), non-recyclables placed in the bin (e.g. plastic toys, metal cookware) which are separation factors and processing efficiency, losses caused as a result of sorting and processing the material for sale.

To calculate the separation efficiency and the processing efficiency OCRRA needs to know what is in the bin and what happens at the MRF where material is sorted and processed for market. OCRRA has examined trucks delivering recyclables, bin set outs and MRF processing. OCRRA calculates the separation efficiency at 97% and the processing efficiency at 95%

Through visual inspection and survey, Operation Separation has documented a participation rate of 98% in most neighborhoods and determined that over 95% of the county's 196,633 households and over 90% of the estimated 15,000 businesses are participating in the program.

#### *Current Recovery Rates*

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Average Est. Participation Rate</b>	<b>Average Separation Efficiency</b>	<b>Average Processing Efficiency</b>
III	98%	97%	95%

## 4.0 Program Enforcement

OCRRA continues to enforce the Local Law mandating source separation for recycling through a system of public education, outreach and surveillance.

The OCRRA Operation Separation business-recycling specialists follow through on complaints and inquiries about business recycling. They are on the road 5 days a week calling on institutional, industrial and commercial businesses. In 2003, OCRRA's business recycling specialists visited hundreds of local businesses, and schools.

The OCRRA's Operation Separation apartment recycling specialist calls on apartment buildings having more than 5 units to ensure compliance with the recycling law and to assist in designing effective collection systems for recyclables. During 2003, OCRRA continued to provide high visibility decals to be affixed to recycling totes at apartment buildings. The stickers use a combination of text and graphics to make it clear just where tenants are to place their recyclables. There are two types of signs suitable for interior and exterior containers.

When needed, an enforcement officer supplements the efforts of the business and apartment recycling specialists. An enforcement officer calls on businesses and apartment buildings where it is determined other venues have not resulted in cooperation.

The enforcement officer spends a portion of the week inspecting loads of solid waste at the waste-to-energy plant looking for loads containing recyclables and issuing warnings and/or violations. Pictures are taken of the loads and the waste hauler must identify the origin of the waste. Then the business or apartment recycling specialist calls on the waste generator to determine the source of the problem and assist in designing a recycling program which will capture the mandated recyclables.

## 5.0 Highlights of the 2003 OCRRA Operation Separation Recycling Program

### ▪ *Hard cover and soft cover books recycling*

OCRRA added soft cover books to the book recycling program.

County residents, businesses, and schools had the opportunity to drop off their old hard cover and soft cover books at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station during the month of July.

The program was a tremendous success, resulting in the collection of over 191,000 pounds of books, doubling the 2002 book recycling total.



### ▪ *Household mercury thermometer exchange program*

OCRRA launched a mercury thermometer exchange program at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. The Agency teamed up with Bristol Myers Squibb and Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection to provide residents with over 500 non-mercury thermometers in exchange for mercury thermometers. The mercury thermometers that were collected were then properly disposed as part of the Agency's household hazardous waste collection program. The mercury thermometer exchange program helps prevent mercury contained in household thermometers from escaping into the environment when the thermometers are broken or thrown away.

- ***Recycled Paint Give-Away***

The Agency implemented a direct mail campaign to reach out to hundreds of community organizations, inviting them to use recycled paint from OCRRA’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection. As a result, over 2,000 gallons of recycled/reprocessed paint were provided to over 50 non-profit agencies, municipal entities, park systems, and other human service organizations. OCRRA conducted the paint give away on November 15, to coincide with the America Recycles Day celebration. Some of the organizations receiving the recycled paint include, Porter Magnet School, in the City of Syracuse, The Boy Scouts of America, Carpenters Brook Fish Hatchery, and Concerned Actions Citizen Program.



- ***Bottle Bill Law Expansion***

The Container Recycling Institute cites that as many as 9 out of 10 non returnable containers are currently trashed. The return rates for deposit cans and bottles in Onondaga County ranged from 77 percent to a whopping 95 percent in a 1998 study. But the *discard* rates for non-returnable containers in Onondaga County, a national recycling leader, ranged from 68 percent to 87 percent.



OCRRA is taking a proactive role to change the discard statistics by supporting an expanded New York State bottle bill deposit law to include non-carbonated products such as water, juices, teas and sports drinks. OCRRA has obtained over 5,000 signatures from residents who support the expansion of the bottle bill through petition signings at various local events, such as the New State Fair and the annual flower and garden show. OCRRA also encourages visitors to our web site, [www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org), to show their support of an expanded bottle bill by completing an online petition and writing their State Assembly member and Senator.

The Agency Board resolution to expand the “bottle bill” underscores the Agency’s commitment to the New York State solid waste management hierarchy, which emphasizes waste reduction, reuse, and recycling first, and then waste to energy, followed by landfilling. By creating a deposit for the additional bottles, we hope to see more of them recycled and fewer littering our neighborhoods and roadways.

- ***OCRRA’s Community Events and Public Outreach***



OCRRA is committed to maintaining high levels of community participation in the Operation Separation recycling program. In 2003, OCRRA's recycling team were part of numerous area events and fairs, including the New York State Fair, the Flower and Garden Show, the Golden Harvest Festival at Beaver Lake Nature Center, and Onondaga Lake Community Day at Onondaga Lake Park. A variety of recycling information was distributed including over 2,000 blue bins, recycling instructions, battery bags, household hazardous waste sign up, and compost site registration. OCRRA promoted its "two bins are better than one" recycling campaign by partnering with the City of Syracuse Department of Public Works and Naef Recycling as part of a direct-mail public education/blue bin distribution effort, resulting in over 4,710 new blue bins delivered to city residents. The Agency gave away recycling bins at the Regional Farmers Market, Juneteenth Celebration in Downtown Syracuse, and Nojains supermarket. Over 25,000 people were contacted through these events.

■ **Recycling Containers**



Recycling containers were distributed to various schools, businesses, restaurants and parks to encourage separation and recycling of paper and beverage containers.

A total of 85 recycling receptacles for bottles and cans were obtained (at no charge) from the American Plastics Council for use in such public venues as the New York State Fair, the Rosamond-Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park, P&C Stadium, and the Museum of Science and Technology.



■ **Earth Day**

OCRRA highlighted Earth Day with numerous activities. OCRRA honored Seymour School in the City of Syracuse with the Dr. Vonnell Mastri Recycling Award at a school assembly attended by County Executive Nick Pirro and a representative from the Mayor's office. A large maple tree was planted on school grounds and an Earth Day flag was presented to the student body to commemorate their recycling accomplishments.



OCRRA ran ads on WSYR radio and in the *Syracuse Business Journal* promoting Earth Day litter clean up. Finally, the annual Earth Day litter clean up on the Saturday after Earth Day, which OCRRA coordinated, saw over **100,000 pounds** of litter and 1,000 tires collected by approximately **5,800 volunteers in 255 community groups**.

■ **America Recycles Day**

OCRRA participated again in the NYS Steering Committee for the national America Recycles Day on November 15 that promotes the purchase of products made of recycled materials. OCRRA submitted over 5,000 pledge cards collected during the State Fair.



Beyond these noteworthy activities, a host of other services continued to be provided through the recycling program, including the following:

- ✓ Ran a recycling drop off six days/week, year round for mandatory recyclables at the Agency transfer stations. Provided a no-charge drop-off for household scrap metal and office paper from small businesses.
- ✓ Guaranteed a zero tip fee for haulers who deliver curbside recyclables to the Agency's contracted Material Recovery Facility. OCRRA paid \$173,437 for the processing of recyclables collected from the households of the community.
- ✓ Coordinated a curbside collection of phone books during a six-week period that coincided with the distribution of the Verizon phone book. Verizon Yellow Pages and Alltel provide free space to OCRRA to run its recycling instructions in the phone books.
- ✓ Facilitated textile collections at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in cooperation with the Salvation Army.
- ✓ Expanded its web site activity with emails to thousands of businesses and residents with handy recycling reminders and offers to contact the Agency for recycling assistance.
- ✓ OCRRA operates an automated hotline answering common recycling questions twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- ✓ Submitted grants to support a variety of Agency programs, including advertising and public education, household hazardous waste collection, computer recycling and recycling personnel costs.
- ✓ The Recycling team actively participated in solid waste associations. Jan Scober served as a NYSAR board member and Angie Scafidi as the Region 7 Chairperson for NYSAR, the state recycling organization. Andrew Radin is a member of New York State Association for Solid Waste Management, and Jeff Cooper is a member of the Solid Waste Association of North America.
- ✓ Expanded email list to over 7,300 addresses; worked closely with Agency Public Communications Officer to communicate OCRRA environmental programs and services to the community.

The Recycling Department added one new member to the team this year. Michele Carey is the Business Recycling Specialist and brings with her an abundance of experience and knowledge. Michele was previously employed by SUNY Cortland. She is a graduate of SUNY Oswego and holds a degree in marketing.

**The rest of the recycling team members are:**

- Angie Scafidi, Recycling Operations Manager
- Jeff Cooper, Recycling Operations Manager
- Jan Schober, Business Recycling Specialist

**The remaining team members are:**

- Elaine Van Avery, Recycling Educator (Contracted Service Provider)
- Tom Monty, Compost Site, and
- Numerous community volunteers.