

March 26, 2018

Mr. John Copanas

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2017

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 2017. In achieving this goal the Agency acted in accordance with our core values of:

- Integrity & Honesty
- Safety
- Environmental Stewardship
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Public Engagement
- Excellence in Customer Service

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 2017.

2017 Program Highlights:

- In total, the community recycled more than 475,377 tons of material in 2017, for a 56% recycling rate, resulting in waste disposal costs savings of more than \$42 million! This environmental effort prevented the generation of 721,610 metric tons of carbon dioxide.
- More than \$77,000 in state grants were received in 2017, primarily in connection with reimbursement of Household Hazardous Waste collection expenses and curbside blue bin purchases. Four new grant applications were submitted to the NYSDEC.
- OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Cleanup was held on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22. More than 6,800 volunteers from some 290 groups participated; 73,000+ pounds of litter were collected; more than 2.5 million pounds of litter collected since 2003; one of the largest Earth Day litter collection events in the country.
- OCRRA partnered with Covanta to host a mercury collection event on August 7. Thanks to 274 residents, 304 mercury thermometers and 112 mercury thermostats were collected; 750 grams of mercury prevented from entering the environment, which is comparable to recycling 187,500 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 a replacement thermometer.

- 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.
- A new multi-year contract was signed with Waste Management for MRF services (sorting, baling, and marketing of curbside recyclables). OCRRA's existing MRF contract netted over \$130,000 in revenue in the wake of favorable commodity pricing of cardboard and newspaper.

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 2017; 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