

MEDIA RELEASE
April 9, 2018
For Immediate Release



Volunteer to Clean Up Litter in Honor of Earth Day on April 20 or 21
Join one of the largest Earth Day Cleanups in the nation – register by April 13

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Apr. 9, 2018 – Melting snow unveils tons of litter that mars our community. Help make Onondaga County shine and volunteer at OCRRA’s annual Earth Day Litter Cleanup happening Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21.

Businesses, schools, friends and neighbors are encouraged to sign up for Onondaga County’s largest environmental event.

Groups of all ages and sizes can volunteer to cleanup any public area in the county. They can clean up on Friday or Saturday (or both days). The more people that help, the more litter that is eradicated.



Pinckney Hugo Group displays the litter they collected in downtown Syracuse during OCRRA’s 2017 Earth Day Litter Cleanup Event. Register your group at www.OCRRA.org by April 13 and be part of an environmental movement that has been going strong 27 years in a row.

“No one likes the sight of litter. Regardless of how the litter ended up wherever it is, its presence sends a subtle unintended message about the inhabitants of the land it rests on,” said Dale Cocca, OCRRA recycling specialist. “But we have the ability to counteract that. Seeing regular citizens out there picking up litter sends a contagious message that we are not just invested in the beauty of our community, but also its environmental wellbeing.”

Register your group at www.OCRRA.org by Friday, April 13 and get in on the action.

OCRRA makes this massive litter cleanup possible by organizing participants and providing free disposal for thousands of pounds of trash amassed. In 2017, approximately 7,000 volunteers collected more than 73,000 pounds of litter from public spaces in Onondaga County.

“Everybody can help our community by picking up trash together. Keep litter out of our waterways and protect wildlife while showing pride in our community,” said Dereth Glance, OCRRA executive director. “Be part of one of the largest Earth Day litter cleanups in the nation. Grab your gloves and a trash bag and inspire your friends, family, colleagues and neighbors to save the world a little each day, because together we make a difference.”

Keep America Beautiful (KAB), a national non-profit that provides the expertise, programs and resources to help people end littering, improve recycling and beautify America's communities, recognized OCRRA with a national award for our community's Earth Day Litter Cleanup efforts in 2010.

According to the largest litter study in the nation, conducted by KAB in 2009:

- Most roadway litter (76%) appears to originate from motorists and pedestrians.
- More than 51 billion pieces of litter appear on U.S. roadways each year. That is equivalent to 6,729 items per mile of roadway.
- Fast food, snack, tobacco and other product packaging comprises nearly 46% of litter greater than 4 inches in size.
- The presence of litter in a community decreases property values by 7%.

Since OCRRA began the local cleanup program more than twenty seven years ago, more than 2.5 million pounds of litter have been picked up by thousands of environmentally-minded volunteers.

***About OCRRA:** OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature in 1990 to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. OCRRA's system includes: a strong recycling and composting program, a foundation for local waste disposal at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, two convenient trash and recycling drop off sites, a robust education component and programs for hard to manage materials, such as household hazardous waste, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. OCRRA's award-winning programs are funded by trash drop-off fees and the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, NY. Learn more and get involved at www.OCRRA.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#).*

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