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Fall 2011 Newsletter | Volume 19 | No. 3

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Learn how to do-it-yourself, inexpensively.

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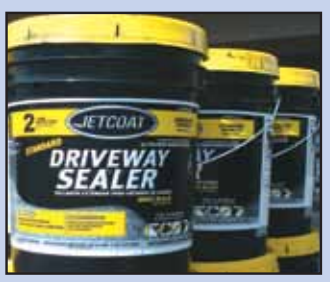
How this sorting process impacts the way your hauler collects your recyclables.

WASTE-TO-ENERGY REPORT CARD.....PG 6
See how well the WTE Facility scored in 2011.



HHW EVENT .....PG 7
October 15 is your final chance to properly dispose of your household hazardous wastes in 2011.

Save the world a little each day.

OCRRA.org

Paper Shredding Event is a Homerun for Those Looking to Prevent Identity Theft

September 24th Shred-O-Rama takes place at Alliance Bank Stadium

Dave Nettle

Shredding confidential materials is an important step in preventing identity theft. Personal records such as medical documents, bank information, tax documents and other personal items containing account numbers or private details may be potentially harmful if they get into the wrong hands.

So protect yourself from identity theft and attend OCRRA's 8th annual Shred-O-Rama! The event happens Saturday, September 24, from 8 am to noon at Alliance Bank Stadium. There is no charge; the event is open to households in Onondaga County.

If your workplace needs shredding services please visit **www.ocrra.org** or contact a shredding service listed online or in the phone book, as documents from businesses are not accepted at these events.

Participants must enter the event from the Grant Boulevard / Hiawatha Blvd. intersection. Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-O-Rama in 2004, more than 180 tons of personal papers have been safely shredded and recycled.

Participants may bring up to six boxes of personal documents, generated or received at home, to be shredded onsite at the stadium.

To prepare your paper for shredding:

- Pack confidential documents, loosely, in durable boxes, containers or paper bags.
- Avoid the use of plastic bags.
- Remove any CD cases, binders or other contaminants.

In past years, the wait in line is less than five minutes from start to finish! Frances Zollers, an Onondaga County resident, had this to offer about the event: "Frankly, I didn't know what to expect. Imagine my surprise when I drove up, got information, was directed to a spot, had someone unload my car, and I was able to watch my papers go through the shredder. It was a completely satisfying experience."

Ann Fordock of OCRRA unloads a resident's confidential papers, in preparation for shredding, at the 2010 Shred-O-Rama. No reservations are needed for the 2011 event happening on Saturday, September 24 from 8 am – noon at Alliance Bank Stadium.

Onondaga County Parks once again helped make this event possible by allowing OCRRA to use the stadium's spacious parking lot. The event would not be possible without the generous support of Confidata / SMR Fibre who has donated their services since the event started in 2004. This year Feher Rubbish will also donate their services. Both of these local companies will provide shredding trucks and employees to assist at the event.

Participants can witness their documents being securely shredded and leave satisfied knowing that all of the shredded paper will be recycled into new paper products. Recycling paper is easy and important because it conserves water and energy.

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnettle@ocrra.org

It is Raining Awards!

On August 23, OCRRA accepted three national awards at the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) WasteCon conference in Nashville, TN:

- Silver "Marketing" award in the "Communication, Education and Marketing Excellence" division
- Silver "Composting Systems" award in the "Recycling and Special Waste Excellence" division
- Bronze "Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems" award in the "Planning and Management Excellence" division

SWANA staff notes that receiving the awards, "is no small accomplishment given the excellent quality of this year's nominations and the challenges faced by many of the programs and operations in the solid waste industry."

OCRRA is proud to accept these awards on behalf of Onondaga County.

"FALL" in Love with Composting this Season

Learn how you can benefit from nature's most basic recycling process

Allison Stuart

Autumn brings nature's spectacular show of changing leaf colors. Eventually leaves fall to the ground and we rake them up. Did you know there is an alternative to bagging leaves or setting them to the curb? You can easily turn those leaves (and even your food scraps) into all-natural, nutrient-rich compost! Here's how:

Designate a location for a compost pile in your back yard. An ideal spot has good drainage, is close to a water source and avoids direct sunlight and high winds. Loosen the soil in a 3'x3'x3' area, or you can get fancy and build or purchase a bin.

Collect your yard waste and food waste. The compost process goes faster if you mow or chop materials into smaller pieces.

*Acceptable food waste includes: fruits, vegetables, coffee and tea grounds and filters. Bury food waste at least 6" into the pile. Do NOT add meat, dairy products, or F.O.G. (fats, oils or grease.)

Loosely pile the wastes in a "parfait" fashion. Layer more carbon materials (or "browns" like leaves, straw, woodchips and sawdust) than nitrogen materials (or "greens" like fresh grass clippings, garden and food wastes). Keep the carbon:nitrogen ratio around 3:1.

Layering, watering, and turning are the key steps to getting good compost in a reasonable timeframe. If it gets dry, add water so that it is moist. If it is too wet, add more dry material.

The compost process works best when the temperature inside the pile is 90-140^{0}F. Backyard compost thermometers, which should go 2' into the pile, are available at most garden stores. (Don't worry about it getting too cold in the winter; the compost process will get going again in the spring if temperatures get too low.)

Finished compost is dark, crumbly, and has an "earthy" smell. It is a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner. Adding compost to your soil will improve moisture control and the health of your lawn, garden or potted plants - all without the use of harsh chemicals!

For more backyard composting details and troubleshooting tips, visit:
ocrra.org/yardwaste_backyard.asp
cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostbrochure.pdf
earth911.com/news/2009/08/31cheat-sheet-composting.

Also, check out Rhoda's tips on backyard composting on page 3.

Allison Stuart can be reached at astuart@ocrra.org

Composting yard waste and even food waste in your backyard is simple! You don't need to build or buy a fancy bin, you can create a pile and be on your way to making nutrient-rich compost that will keep your lawn and plants healthy, all without the use of harsh chemicals.

Compost Site Hours

SEASON DURATION:
April 1 through November 30, 2011

JAMESVILLE SITE	AMBOY SITE
Tuesday – Saturday	Monday – Saturday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Juice Pouches: Out With the Old, In With the New

Sarah Stewart

Last spring, first grader Bryce Walsh took up a collection in the cafeteria at his school, Blessed Sacrament School in Syracuse. No, it wasn't for bottles and cans, but another type of beverage container: juice pouches.

That may seem odd, because juice pouches usually go in the trash. Along with other common items like candy wrappers and chip bags, juice pouches are made from composite materials (a mix of plastic and foil), which makes them difficult to recycle in a standard recycling program like OCRRA's.

However, with a little time and dedication, any group can send these items to TerraCycle, a New Jersey company that makes use of things people would otherwise throw out.

What is TerraCycle? Maybe you have seen a tote bag made from juice pouches? Or, plant food packaged in an old soda bottle? Perhaps a pencil case made out of empty bags of chips? If so, you've seen some of the end products of their operation.

How does it work? Any group can become a TerraCycle "Brigade" by registering and sending them materials. You can choose from over 40 different common wastes. There is a list on their website: **www.terracycle.net**. They make waste items into cool new products, which are sold on their website, as well as some major retailers (think Target or Wal-Mart).

And, it does not cost a thing. In fact, they pay for certain items and the money goes back to your school or a charity of your choice.

Let us recap. Bryce wanted to do something about all the empty juice pouches going in the trash. So, he set up collection boxes and, with the help of his parents, registered and sent them to TerraCycle. Those juice pouches were made into backpacks and totebags. TerraCycle gave the school a little money back for their efforts. Over the course of the collection, Bryce's Brigade sent over 3,400 juice pouches to TerraCycle!

There are several schools in Onondaga County that have TerraCycle brigades. If your school has a great recycling program already and you are looking for a new environmental project, take a peek at TerraCycle. You can do a good thing for the environment, get a little money back for your school, and have fun doing it!

Sarah Stewart can be reached at sstewart@ocrra.org

Bryce Walsh, left, a Blessed Sacrament School first grader, started a collection of juice pouches at his school last spring. He and his twin brother Aidan, right, pose next to some collection bins. So far, the effort has gathered over 3,400 pouches, which are being recycled into new products through TerraCycle.

OCRRA Blue Ribbon RECYCLER

Robert Hoode and Ryan Ahart of Roberts Office Furniture Concepts prepare a remanufactured office storage unit for shipping. Among other green initiatives, Roberts takes "old" fabric (from furniture they have reupholstered) and wraps it around new products, before shrink-wrapping, to protect them during shipment.

Become a recognized business recycling champion; submit your company's application today!

www.blueribbonrecycler.com

A Recycling Myth Dispelled: Plastic Clamshells…

Myth: ***Plastic "clamshell" containers are recyclable and belong in the blue bin.***

Fact: Plastic clamshells (think blueberry and strawberry containers from the grocery store) are **not** recyclable and do **not** belong in the blue bin.

Here's why: Plastics vary greatly by their resin types, how they are manufactured and by their differing chemical additives (dyes, plasticizers, ultraviolet inhibitors, softeners, adhesives and more). As a result, plastics have different physical properties, melt at different temperatures and cannot be processed together to make "new" plastic. Hopefully, this myth will have a happy ending; someday, these rigid plastic containers may be accepted for recycling as both technology and demand for these materials improve. Until then, the only plastics that belong in the blue bin are **plastic bottles** (don't even worry about the number), as well as **plastic tubs** that have a #5 on them (many dairy products are packaged in these containers).

Recycling Rhoda

Let's Talk Trash …and Recycling too!

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

I hate throwing food scraps away! It's such a waste of space in my trash, and after awhile it smells. I want to compost in my backyard, but am intimidated by compost tumblers (and their exorbitant costs!). I also don't want to chuck my food waste in a pile fearing it may attract vermin, or the ire of my neighbors who may dislike the look and smell of it as much as they dislike me. What should I do?

Signed,
Aspiring Composter
in 'da 'Cuse

Dear Aspiring,

Well, you have the goshdarn right idea. Did you know over 30% of Onondaga County's trash is actually compostable?!? If more people got a little industrious and did backyard composting, we could cut down on our trash and make nutrient-rich compost to boot.

Compost is beneficial to plants; it minimizes the need for those nasty chemical fertilizers that cause water pollution. Compost also wards off pests and disease and adds nutrients while retaining moisture, so you can water less.

So how do you make compost? You don't need to buy one of those fancy schmancy compost tumblers to get good compost (but you could). You also don't need any special knowledge to make compost. Heck, it is almost impossible to prevent food and yard waste from decomposing!

Just throw your materials in a pile or if you want to be all neat and tidy about it, make your own bin.

While Rhoda can't help you with vile neighbors (although she does know a good New Orleans voodoo specialist she could put you in touch with), with proper pile maintenance you can avoid pests, vermin and nasty odors.

Here are the basics:

Layer your pile, like you are making some tasty lasagna for Sunday dinner. Base layer = twigs and coarse woody materials. Subsequent layers = alternating layers of "browns" (leaves, straw, wood chips) and "greens" (food scraps, fresh grass clippings, garden wastes) – deposited in a 3:1 ratio. Make sure all food scraps are at least 6" from the edge of the pile. This will reduce odors that attract uninvited guests, just like Uncle Murray at that Sunday dinner.

Mix it. Without oxygen, your compost production will start to smell really funky. So, every two weeks, turn it or poke it with a pitchfork to let in oxygen.

Make sure it is moist, but not too wet. Squeeze a handful; it should drip a few drops of water, but no more. If it is too dry, add water or wet "greens." If it is too wet, mix it and add more "browns." Cap your pile with "browns," this will also keep Pepe Le Pew away.

Scope out my girl Allie's composting article on page 2 for more details.

Decompositionally yours,

Rhoda

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KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Single-Stream Recycling: A Cure for Separation Anxiety

New sorting process makes recycling at home even easier for residents

Andrew Radin

Our community has seen many changes and improvements to the blue bin recycling program since it began 21 years ago. The obvious changes are new items to the blue bin, most recently **soft cover books** and **#5 plastic tubs**, such as margarine containers. By working together, each year, we recycle about **80 million pounds** of blue bin items; that means over 1.5 billion pounds have been recycled since 1990!

Above, left & below: Split-compartment side loading vehicles have two compartments. Trash and recyclables can be collected in the same vehicle by placing each in their own compartment and recyclables to the recyclable compartment.

One recent change that caught the attention of many residents involves recycling collection practices. Residents see their hauler **combining** the contents of their carefully separated blue bins - mixing plastic bottles, glass jars and metal cans with paper materials, including newspapers, magazines and junk mail. After many years of OCRRA advising residents to put containers in one blue bin and place paper materials in a **separate** blue bin, or in a paper bag, this new practice is raising some eyebrows.

Today, with advances in technology, all of these recyclable items can be mixed together on the collection truck and sorted when they get to the recycling facility! It's all because of a new type of recycling system called "single-stream" recycling. (One important note: all trash must continue to be separated from recyclables.)

What is Single-Stream Recycling?

Single-stream is a sorting process used at a materials recovery facility (MRF). It uses machinery, including conveyers, magnets, and light sensors, as well as human labor, to separate all the in-coming materials. The end-result of this process is **separate bales** of newspaper, cardboard, plastic materials and metal cans, each bale weighing at least a thousand pounds. Check out this video that demonstrates the process: **www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls_Y7cadISc**

There are two single-stream recycling facilities in Onondaga County; both are operated by private companies. One facility in Liverpool, Recycle America, is owned by Waste Management. The other facility in East Syracuse, Syracuse Recycling and Recovery, is owned by Cellmark. Both facilities receive, sort and market thousands of tons of recyclable materials generated by OCRRA's blue bin program, as well as from schools and local businesses.

COLLECTION VEHICLES

In the wake of single-stream recycling, some haulers are collecting trash **AND** recyclables in **ONE** vehicle. These vehicles have a "split" body, meaning the truck compartment is divided. One side is for trash, the other side is for mixed recyclables (containers and papers). From a collection standpoint, this is a more efficient process than using separate collection vehicles for trash vs. recyclables. Haulers only need to send one truck per route; less fuel is used, which **reduces greenhouse gas emissions.**

There are different styles of split body trucks. **Split-compartment rear loading vehicles,** have two separate compartments; one for trash, and one for recyclables. When watching your hauler dump material in the back of the truck (from your home, which does not give a clear view of the back of the truck), it may appear that trash and recyclables are mixed together; they are not.

Spilt-compartment side loading vehicles have a lever that directs trash to one compartment and recyclables to another. Again, it may appear that the trash and recyclables are being mixed together, because they are going in the same opening in the side of the truck, but in reality they are directed to separate compartments in the truck.

As a result of haulers using these new types of trucks, residents may see their trash and recycling going into the same opening in the vehicle, and think their carefully sorted recyclables are being trashed! Don't be fooled.

Here's one more collection approach that can be a bit confusing: Because all recyclables can now be mixed together in the collection vehicle and properly sorted at the MRF, some haulers use ***single-compartment*** rear loading vehicles - for recycling only. These trucks have only one compartment. In the past, most haulers used these for picking up garbage. Today, with the single-stream system in place, they can also be used for picking up recyclables only.

So, if you see a rear loading vehicle with one compartment, understand that it may be collecting recyclables instead of trash. (Determining the number of compartments in the back of a collection truck is almost impossible unless you are very close to the truck).

Split-compartment rear loading vehicles also have two compartments. Trash and recyclables can be collected in the same vehicle by placing each in their own compartment, through the back of the truck.

Single-compartment rear loading vehicles have only one compartment. They can be used to collect ***only*** recyclables (paper and containers mixed) or ***only*** trash, never recyclables and trash mixed together.

As long as the single-compartment rear loaders collect **ONLY** recyclables or **ONLY** trash (not the two mixed together), you can be sure they are doing their job correctly.

If upon close inspection you still suspect your recyclables are being trashed, please contact OCRRA and we will look into your concern right away.

For a look at other types of collection vehicles in use in Onondaga County, visit, **ocrra.org/recycling_haulers_collect.asp**

Andrew Radin can be reached at aradin@ocrra.org

As a conveyor belt whizzes past, Recycle America employees hand sort recyclables at their Liverpool facility.

How to Prepare Your Blue Bin(s)

So, if recyclables are all mixed together by your hauler, should you separate your recyclable papers from your recyclable containers? **It's up to you!** Many residents find that they can prevent litter on a windy day by placing a blue bin filled with recyclable containers **on top of a bin with their recyclable papers.** If separating your recyclables into two bins works for you, feel free to continue doing it. However, if you find it easier to mix papers and containers into one bin, you can do that too.

To receive immediate notification about any changes in the recycling program, sign up for OCRRA's email list at **ocrra.org**.

In addition to hand sorting, recyclables are separated by machinery including conveyers, magnets and light sensors.

Syracuse Recycling and Recovery employees look over finished bales of recyclables at their East Syracuse facility. Each of these massive bales weighs at least 1,000 pounds.

Waste-to-Energy Facility Gets A+ in 2011

Stack and ash testing results meet strict state and federal permit limits

Amy Miller

Each day, the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility turns our County's non-recyclable trash into energy – 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.

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

A: Stack testing measures air emissions produced by the WTE Facility. A probe is inserted into the WTE stack to collect samples of the gases that are released. Several samples are taken during each test. Sampling and laboratory analysis are conducted in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) protocols. NYSDEC oversees stack testing at the WTE Facility.

Q: How do the 2011 stack test results look?

A: The 2011 stack test results indicate that the facility continues to meet high operational standards, that it meets all of the state and federal permit limits, and that the air pollution control devices are working properly. Many of the factors tested were significantly below the permit limits.

Q: Does the 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 equipment operations and stack emissions in order to continually track facility performance. The CEMS monitors carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides (NOx) as well as opacity and combustion temperatures.

Q: What is the purpose of the semi-annual ash testing and how do the 2011 results look?

A: Semi-annual ash testing determines whether residual ash, the byproduct of turning the community's non-recyclable trash into energy, should be managed as a non-hazardous or hazardous material. A representative sample of residual ash is collected according to NYSDEC and USEPA protocols. The sample is then analyzed by an independent laboratory for leachable metals, according to USEPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). TCLP analysis simulates landfill conditions (the final disposal site for the ash) and determines whether the ash exhibits hazardous characteristics.

Over the life of the facility (including the most recent 2011 results), TCLP analysis has always indicated that the ash is non-hazardous.

Q: How do I get more information on these test results or about the WTE Facility in general?

A: Visit **ocrra.org/trash_wte.asp** for detailed information on the facility as well as past and current test results. You may also contact Amy Miller, OCRRA's Engineer, at 453-2866 or amiller@ocrra.org for additional information.

Amy Miller can be reached at amiller@ocrra.org

2011 ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS

Semi-Annual Test Results - June 2011

Constituent	*Test Result*	*Permit Limit*	*Pass or Fail*
Cadmium	0.05 mg/L	1 mg/L	Pass
Lead	0.91 mg/L	5 mg/L	Pass

Ash residue does NOT exhibit a hazardous characteristic. As such, it should continue to be managed as a non-hazardous solid waste.

2011 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

		Constituent	Average Measured Emissions[1] Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Permit Limit[2]	Pass/Fail
TESTED ANNUALLY	FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O_2)	1.29E-03	< 2.87E-04	5.82E-04	3.50E-02	P
		Cadmium (lb/hr)	2.04E-04	< 4.52E-05	9.74E-05	1.90E-03	P
		Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.00E+00	8.60E-01	1.10E+00	8.04E+00	P
		Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O_2)	3.48E+00	2.62E-01	1.08E+00	3.00E+01	P
		Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O_2)	2.49E+00	4.16E+00	5.34E+00	2.50E+01	P
		Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	6.15E-01	9.95E-01	1.35E+00	5.24E+00	P
		Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.7	99.5	99.3	>=95	P
		Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O_2)	4.49E-02	3.43E-03	8.74E-03	4.00E-01	P
		Lead (lb/hr)	7.08E-03	5.42E-04	1.46E-03	3.81E-02	P
		Mercury (lb/hr)	7.75E-05	1.66E-04	7.77E-04	4.00E-03	P
		Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	5.23E+01	4.93E+01	5.12E+01	5.80E+01	P
		Particulates (gr/dscf @ 7% O_2)	5.86E-05	1.27E-04	5.76E-04	1.00E-02	P
		PM_{10} (gr/dscf @ 7% O_2)	2.43E-04	3.14E-04	5.21E-04	1.00E-02	P
		PM_{10} (lb/hr)	8.19E-02	1.12E-01	1.80E-01	3.16E+00	P
		Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	4.60E-01	7.00E-02	5.30E-01	1.62E+01	P
	STATE	Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O_2)	2.91E+00	< 7.10E-01	< 9.29E-01	5.00E+01	P
		Ammonia (lb/hr)	3.33E-01	< 7.93E-02	< 1.10E-01	4.88E+00	P
		Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O_2)	5.35E-02	1.10E-03	1.33E-02	4.00E-01	P
		Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	7.93E-09	1.64E-10	2.04E-09	1.29E-07	P
		Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O_2)	4.69E-01	1.05E+00	4.61E+00	2.80E+01	P
		Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	99.1	98.4	93.8	>=85	P
		Zinc (lb/hr)	1.36E-02	8.15E-03	6.86E-03	1.42E-01	P

UNITS:

gr/dscf = grains per dry standard cubic foot

ppmdv = parts per million dry volume

lb/hr = pounds per hour

ng/dscm = nanograms per dry standard cubic meter

µg/dscm = microgramsper dry standard cubic meter

mg/dscm = milligrams per dry standard cubic meter

@ 7% O_2 = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen

NOTES:

[1] Based on three test runs

[2] NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028/00009

From the Executive Director…

Planning for the Future of Solid Waste

The tricky business of forecasting trash and recycling volumes

Tom Rhoads

Time to talk trash, well at least think about it. I assume that the world will not end with the Mayan Calendar in 2012 and solid waste will not end either. In fact, OCRRA needs to lead the community plan for the management of its trash and recyclables for the next decade. As always, we could use your contributions.

Creating this plan starts with figuring out how much waste we will generate in the future; doing this is very difficult. While it is true that with more disposable income there are generally more disposables, we are stumped to find a leading indicator on economic activity that we can use to reliably predict trash tonnage. Common economic variables such as employment, retail sales, unemployment, or sales tax collections don't provide a clear picture on the economy for the next decade.

In the end, OCRRA's ideas on how much trash and recyclable material the system will need to manage fall back upon forecasts based on population. However, population forecasts vary widely on what Onondaga County's population will be in the future. After careful consideration, OCRRA chose to base its forecasts on the data developed by Moody's Analytical. Their forecasts for the past decade tracked well with the actual population figures measured in the last census. The forecast of disposables is not a declaration of what will actually be disposed of; instead, it is a forecast of how much material the system will need to manage. That's "all in," not just what is sent to the Waste-to-Energy Facility, but what is recycled or reclaimed for future use too - think electronics, fluorescent bulbs, household hazardous wastes, C&D materials, batteries, etc. Carefully considering the potential amounts the system will need to manage creates the foundation for future policy decisions on waste reduction and recycling, as well as disposal needs.

Our best forecast is that the quantities to manage, before any new programs may be instituted, will be similar to the quantities seen over the last few years, with a very slight increase due mostly to slow population growth. We all share the system goal of minimizing waste, increasing recycling and being certain that the remaining material is always managed properly. The programs to do that are developed around the quantity of waste and what it will be comprised of in the next decade.

Please take a moment to examine our forecast (found here, **www.ocrra.org/about_annual_reports.asp#plan**). We invite your feedback on our efforts. Do you think there is a better way to predict the quantities we will need to manage in the future?

A critical part of the planning process is understanding what the solid wastes and recyclables, from almost one-half million people and over 12,000 businesses and institutions in the community, will amount to in the coming decade.

OCRRA doesn't make the waste, but it determines the best solution to serve our community by providing a comprehensive system that is environmentally, socially and financially sound. With the critical contribution of stakeholders like you, OCRRA implements innovative strategies such as waste reduction, recycling, composting, disposal, and education. With your help and support, together we make our community a more healthy and sustainable place to live.

Knowing how much trash and recycling our community will generate in the future determines how OCRRA manages our system. Give us your thoughts on what is the best way to predict future generation rates; visit **www.ocrra.org/about_annual_reports.asp#plan**.

Last Chance to Chuck Your Crud in 2011

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is October 15

Donato Mercuri

It's time to check your garage, basement or shed and load up your trunk with old pool chemicals, insecticides, herbicides, automotive products, or any other hazardous items you have hanging around.

That's right, OCRRA's last Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day of 2011 is happening on Saturday, October 15, from 8 am to 2 pm at the Ley Creek Transfer Station (5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool).

Make your reservation today at **ocrra.org**. Advance registration prevents surges in attendance meaning you get in and out in quick fashion. Want to make an even bigger impact on the environment? Ask your neighbors if they have anything you can bring for them. Consolidating materials into one vehicle means, fewer people are in line and you wait less time!

In the past six years alone, OCRRA, along with the help of Environmental Products and Services, collected over 227,000 gallons of hazardous materials from Onondaga County residents. That makes these events the most efficient way for households to properly dispose of these materials!

If you are not able to make the event and still have hazardous waste to dispose of, contact Environmental Products and Services at **www.epsofvermont.com** or (315) 451-6666.

One Onondaga resident who attended the July event had this to say about their experience, "I believe this event to be an absolute necessity. I can't think of any way that it could be improved. Personnel were awesome. I cannot say enough great things about it. My appointment was at 10:00 am. I was back on the highway at 10:13. Time is money; your organization respects my time. Love you guys!"

As a reminder, latex paint is a non-hazardous waste and is not accepted at these events. It can be dried out, with cat litter or paint drying crystals, and put in with regular trash for pickup. If the paint is in good condition (at least 1/3 of a gallon in original can with legible label) and you would like to donate it please contact Habitat for Humanity's Restore at (315) 475-9172.

Hope to see you at the drop-off event!

Donato Mercuri can be reached at dmercuri@ocrra.org

Anthony Woolson of Environmental Products and Services empties oil-based paint cans at a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day in 2010. Dispose of your toxics like old driveway sealer, pool chemicals, automotive or garden products properly; make a reservation for the October 15 event at **www.ocrra.org**. *(Latex paint is not accepted at these events.)*

OCRRA Bids Adieu to Longtime Executive Director

By the time you read this, OCRRA will have said farewell to Tom Rhoads, the executive director who deftly lead OCRRA for the past 15 years.

Tom stepped down at OCRRA to help *save the world a little each day* in a slightly different manner; he is taking over at the Department of Water Environment Protection (WEP), where he will oversee wastewater treatment facilities and lake clean-up efforts. We know his enthusiasm and passion for the environment will help make great things happen at WEP.

Tom's integrity, vision and good humor will be missed by all at OCRRA.

Thanks for guiding us, Tom. The pleasure was all ours.

Tom Rhoads hands out blue bins at a summer event. Rhoads, OCRRA's executive director for the past 15 years stepped down this month. He will be greatly missed.

For over 15 years, it has been my privilege to work with OCRRA and the community toward the highest environmental standards in solid waste management.

I thank all my co-workers at OCRRA for their continuous support. Their contributions will help preserve the environment for generations to come.

Tom Rhoads

Compost Word Search

L	E	L	I	P	V	A	W	O	L	C	O	C
N	E	W	O	T	S	B	S	D	S	H	O	G
P	D	A	T	F	G	L	R	F	K	B	Q	E
H	W	E	V	V	C	E	L	S	D	I	S	V
N	V	E	L	E	U	R	O	T	N	N	P	R
I	H	B	B	B	S	U	L	N	D	X	A	Z
C	K	A	V	J	N	T	P	E	L	T	R	T
G	J	C	N	P	E	S	O	I	U	B	C	S
R	D	K	V	G	G	I	T	R	Q	A	S	O
A	O	Y	S	G	Y	O	N	T	Z	L	D	P
S	F	A	E	K	X	M	L	U	R	I	O	M
S	C	R	Y	N	O	P	T	N	S	O	O	O
S	W	D	H	S	E	U	Q	V	C	S	F	C

backyard
bin
compost
food scraps
grass
leaves
moisture
nutrients
oxygen
pile
soil
turn

AND ALL THESE YEARS I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE VERY PROFICIENT.

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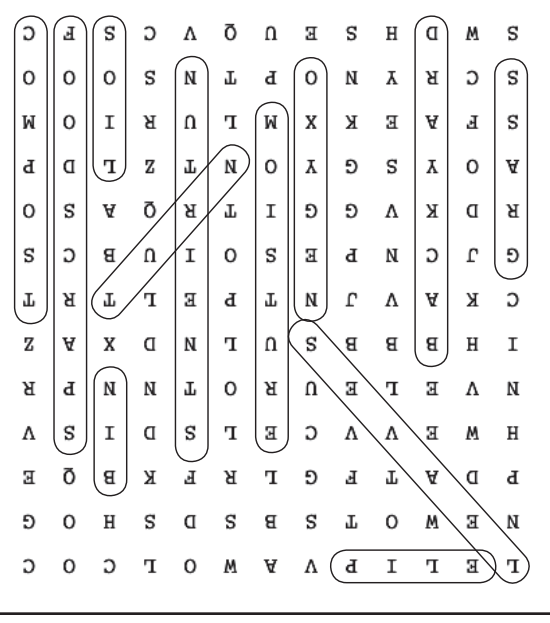
OCRRA has a Facebook page!

Search Facebook for "OCRRA.org" and "like" us to start saving the environment.

Word Search Answer Key



Mark Your Calendar

SHRED-O-RAMA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
8 am - noon
Alliance Bank Stadium
(Enter from Grant Blvd.)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
8 am - 2 pm
Ley Creek Transfer Station
Sign up at www.OCRRA.org

COMPOST SITES CLOSE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Drop off your yard waste and pick up your compost before the season ends