



Spring 2013 Newsletter | Volume 21 | No. 1

Help Us Kiss Litter Goodbye on April 12 & 13

Neighbors and co-workers invited to participate in Earth Day Litter Cleanup

Cheri Zajac, Typist

As the winter snows melt and the flowers start peeking through, tons of litter are there for all to see. Like the flowers, the roadside trash will pop up with the melting snows and spring breezes. Last year, more than 6,500 amazing volunteers scoured the roadsides, streets, parks, ditches, and gullies to collect over 57,500 pounds of yuck. Are you up to the challenge to collect even more this year? More than 2,093,880 pounds of litter have been collected since OCRRA's first cleanup 21 years ago!

When: Friday, April 12 and / or Saturday, April 13.

Who: Groups of all sizes and ages.

Where: Any public area within Onondaga County that needs a little (or a lot of) TLC.

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 5.

Registering is easy. Visit **OCRRA.org**, mail the form below, or call 453-2866, x 202. Groups will receive special stickers to attach to their litter bags and instructions on where and when to take the filled bags.

Interested in cleaning up an area of the City? Check out one of the ten "Clean Up 'Cuse" projects sponsored by the Mayor's office here: **VolunteerCNY.org**.

According to the International Earth Day Net-



UPS Store workers collect litter along Manlius Center Road in East Syracuse during the 2012 Earth Day Litter Cleanup. Groups big or small are invited to participate in this year's Earth Day Litter Cleanup - reportedly the largest event in the nation! Register by April 5 at **OCRRA.org**.

work, the dedicated and tireless volunteers along with the hard work of our local highway crews has made OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Cleanup one of

the largest cleanup events in the nation. Thanks for making Onondaga County cleaner and greener!

Cheri Zajac can be reached at czajac@ocrra.org



COMPOST PASS PG 2
Order your \$15 Compost Site pass **ONLINE!**



MERCURY PG 3
Rhoda talks trash about thermometers and thermostats.



TOXICS PG 3
OCRRA revamps program and offers year-round drop off.



RECYCLERS OF THE YEAR..... PG 6
Destiny USA wins top business honor.

How do I get rid of...



Scan to search our database.

2013 Earth Day Litter Cleanup Registration Form



Name of Group: _____

Number of Workers: _____

Name of Contact Person (one name only): _____

Address of Contact (where information/stickers are to be sent):

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: (W) _____ (H) _____ (Fax) _____

E-Mail: _____

Day(s) Your Group Will Be Cleaning:

Friday, April 12 Saturday, April 13 Both

You will receive two trash bag stickers per worker. Please indicate if you will need more.

Number of ADDITIONAL Stickers _____

Remember, **NO** chemical waste, paint cans, furniture, appliances, yard waste or gas tanks are acceptable. **OCRRA encourages groups to recycle any bottles and cans they find.**

Municipality (city/town/village) in which you are cleaning.

This information will be used to provide instructions on litter drop off.

What area are you cleaning? (OCRRA does not assign areas. You may choose any public space in the county. Be as specific as possible to avoid cleanup overlap):

Cleanup supplies are your group's responsibility. OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through the municipality.

Any questions, please call OCRRA at 453-2866, ext. 202.

Register Online at www.OCRRA.org

OR RETURN REGISTRATION VIA FAX (453-2872)

OR MAIL TO: OCRRA
100 Elwood Davis Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212



Join the Compost Challenge to Grow One Million Tomatoes!

Community gardens asked to partner with OCRRA to make a difference for local food banks

Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager

As part of a nationwide effort to help grow healthy food for schools, community gardens, and food banks, OCRRA is teaming up with the U.S. Composting Council (USCC) in the *Million Tomato Compost Campaign* by donating compost to gardens throughout Onondaga County. The campaign brings together the nation's compost producers, chefs, community gardens, and food banks to help build healthy soil that produces nutritious, sustainably grown, local food for the communities across the nation.

Celebrity Chef Nathan Lyon, co-host of PBS' *Growing a Greener World* and author of *Good Food Starts Fresh*, is the spokesperson for the campaign, encouraging schools and community gardens to grow their own tomatoes in soil improved with compost and offering healthy tomato-based recipes for families.

There is also a collaboration of local chefs and the Syracuse Chapter of the American Culinary Federation which will provide garden-based instruction on healthy food preparation.

"We're excited to be play-

ing a role in the *Million Tomato Compost Campaign*," said Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager for OCRRA. "We know that many of our neighbors right here in our community do not have access to healthy, fresh food that is grown in rich soil that includes compost. This is a great way to work together and use our compost for the betterment of our community," commented Gelewski.

As a leading member of the campaign, OCRRA is donating over 100 yards of compost and rain barrels to 32 community and school gardens that will grow crops to be used locally or to be donated to food banks. Participating gardens are asked to share their photos, videos, and stories for use in local media. Gardeners interested in participating should register at buy-compost.com (click on the "Community Gardens" link at the top of the page).

The Campaign will culminate at the end of July / early August, with the goal of growing over one million tomatoes and, by doing that, educate people on the value of compost and local-

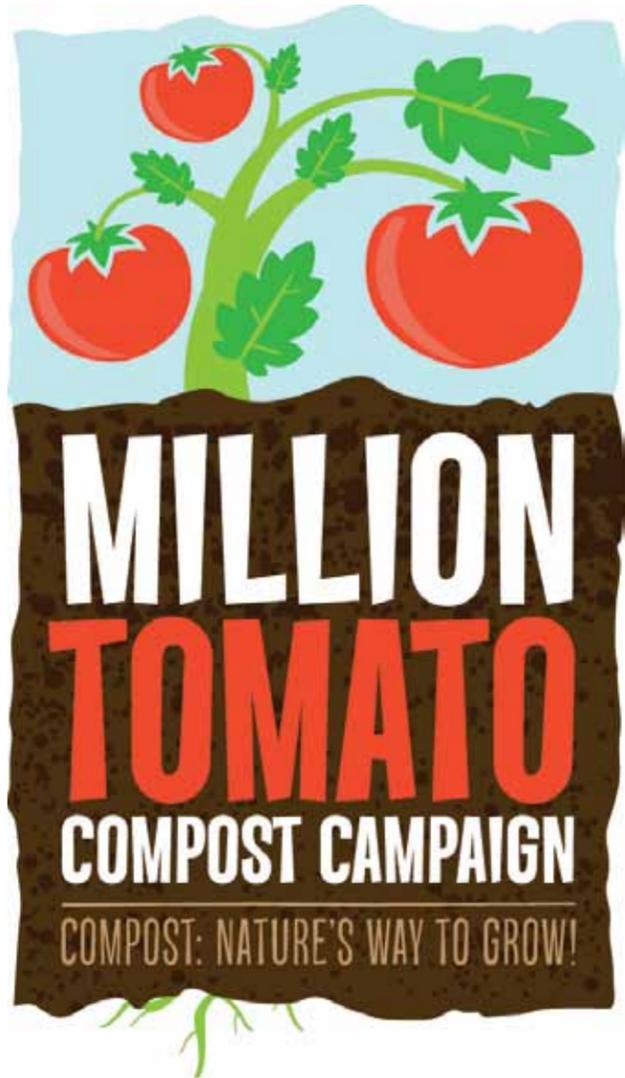
ly grown, sustainable foods.

OCRRA will be sharing local garden stories with the USCC and media outlets; highlighting the number of tomatoes grown, the number of tomatoes donated to food banks, the number of community gardens participating, and the quantity of OCRRA's Compost donated.

The *Million Tomato Compost Campaign* is a program of the USCC, a national organization dedicated to the development, expansion, and promotion of the composting industry.

Compost builds healthy soil, may reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, and allows soil to hold water well, reducing irrigation needs and runoff. OCRRA, like all of the compost producers participating in the *Million Tomato Compost Campaign*, produces Seal of Testing Assurance certified compost, which means OCRRA compost meets Federal health and safety standards and has passed stringent testing measures which ensure on-going quality and safety.

"Compost has huge benefits for people growing local and sustainable food, but compost itself is a lo-



Community gardens are encouraged to take part in the *Million Tomato Compost Campaign*. Participants will receive free compost from OCRRA and are asked to plant tomatoes, which will be harvested for use at local food banks. For more information or to sign up visit buy-compost.com.

cal and sustainable product as well," said Al Ratti, Director of Market Development, USCC. "Compost producers like OCRRA use the organic materials available in their community including leaves, lawn clippings, and food scraps to create compost, which is in turn used to grow more local plants and crops.

It's a closed loop just like recycling."

People interested in participating in the *Million Tomato Compost Campaign* can track the number of tomatoes grown and learn more about the program at buy-compost.com.

Greg Gelewski can be reached at ggelewski@ocrra.org

Compost Passes On Sale Now

Wondering where you will get high-quality compost and mulch for your garden or landscaping needs this spring? OCRRA has the answer!

Purchase a \$15 Compost Site Membership Pass that can be utilized at our Amboy or Jamesville Compost Sites. \$15 gets you 6 cubic yards of compost or mulch as well as unlimited drop off of yard and garden waste. There isn't a better deal in town; buy your pass online today or visit OCRRA.org for details.

Purchase your 2013 OCRRA Compost Pass at OCRRA.org and get access to both the Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites. Pass holders can drop off an unlimited amount of yard waste and haul away up to 6 cubic yards of mulch or compost for their landscaping and gardening needs!



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OCRRA

100 Elwood Davis Road
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KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OCRRA Revamps Household Hazardous Waste Program

Convenient year-round drop off now available by reservation

Donato Mercuri, Recycling Aide

In the past, OCRRA held multiple Saturday events throughout the year where, with an appointment, Onondaga County residents could drop off their household hazardous waste at no charge.

By in large, community feedback was highly positive, though a repeated suggestion for improvement was to offer MORE events. Well, you've spoken and OCRRA listened! The OCRRA Board of Directors is excited to announce that through the cooperation of Environmental Products and Services of Vermont a year round drop-off location has been established, still free of charge.

Residents now have the option, with an appointment, to bring in their hazardous waste Monday - Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, all year long! Visit **OCRRA.org** to make an appointment and get directions to the new drop-off site, Environmental Products and Services of Vermont, located minutes from Destiny USA.

Scheduling an appointment is quick and easy. You simply need to provide your contact information and a summary of the types and amounts of materials you will be bringing in for drop off.

To learn what materials are accepted at the drop-off site, visit **tinyurl.com/toxics-OCRRA**.

After scheduling your appointment, OCRRA will contact you via email to confirm the date and time of your appointment as well as the materials you will be bringing in for drop off.

A reminder, latex or water-based paints are non-hazardous and are not accepted at the drop off site; visit **OCRRA.org** for disposal information on these materials.

All of us at OCRRA thank you for your interest in the environment and look forward to assisting you with your next drop off.

Donato Mercuri can be reached at dmercuri@ocrra.org

Latex or water-based paints are non-hazardous and are not accepted at the drop off'



Environmental Products and Services of Vermont employee, Bob Clarke, unloads a resident's vehicle at a 2012 Household Hazardous Waste Event. In 2013, OCRRA is now offering Monday - Friday toxics drop off, year-round, with an appointment at Environmental Products and Services of Vermont. Learn more and make your appointment at **www.OCRRA.org**.



Recycling Rhoda

Let's Talk Trash...and Recycling too!

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

While cleaning out my garage, I came across an old thermostat with a mercury switch in it-what should I do with it?

Speaking of mercury, I also have some old mercury thermometers that I was planning on tossing, but my cousin says I'm not supposed to do that. What's the right way to dispose of these items?

Chillin' in Camillus

Dear Chillin',

Your cousin has the 411 on mercury. It should NEVER go in the trash (or the blue bin, for that matter). Mismanaged mercury can be toxic and under certain circumstances can have highly detrimental ef-

fects on the nervous system. Keeping mercury out of the trash and the sanitary sewers is also of considerable benefit to the environment.

Here's a few ways to protect your health and that of our precious environment:

- 1) Bring these items to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site. If you bring in a mercury thermometer, you'll receive a mercury-free thermometer in the mail, in exchange, courtesy of Covanta Energy. A portion of the program costs are also underwritten by a

grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Oh, and the nice folks at Covanta Energy also donate a \$5 Home Depot gift card to residents who bring in a mercury thermometer or thermostat.

One gift card per resident drop-off, regardless of the number of items turned in. Don't be greedy sweetie, one is enough, even if you bring in 15 items. This is a complimentary thing, not a requirement.

- 2) Drop them off, along with other household toxics, year-round, through OCRRA's new Household Hazardous Waste Program (see article above for all the exciting details).
- 3) Visit **www.thermostat-recycle.org** to find other local places that will accept thermostats for recycling.

Know a business looking to dispose of mercury containing items? They should contact a company well versed in dealing with these materials, like Environmental Products and Services of Vermont (451-6666).

Yeah, yeah, their name has "Vermont" in it, but they have a local spot right next to MaMa Nancy's Diner, or for those of you unfamiliar with the hidden gem that is Mama Nancy's (did I mention you should try the chicken and biscuits?), EPS of Vermont is not far from Destiny USA.

Okay, Chillin' - hop to it and put that mercury where it belongs.

Recycling Rhoda

Paper Shredding Event Lined Up to be Home Run

May 18th Shred-o-Rama takes place at NBT Bank Stadium (formerly Alliance Bank Stadium)

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist

Shredding confidential materials is an important step in preventing identity theft. Personal paper 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.

Protect yourself from identity theft and attend the first of OCRRA's two Shred-o-Rama's of 2013! The first event happens Saturday, May 18, from 8 am to noon at NBT Bank Stadium (the second is on September 21). These shredding services are free and no reservation is required to attend. Please note events are open to household residents in Onondaga County only.

If your workplace needs shredding services, please visit OCRRA.org or contact a shredding service, as documents from business-

es are not accepted at these events.

Participants must enter the events from the Grant Boulevard/Hiawatha Boulevard intersection into the stadium parking lot. Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-o-Rama in 2004, more than 276 tons of personal papers have been safely shredded and recycled.

Participants are asked to bring no more than five boxes of personal documents per vehicle, which were generated or received at home. These documents will be shredded onsite at the stadium.

To prepare your paper for shredding:

- 1) Pack confidential documents, loosely, in durable boxes, containers, or paper bags.
- 2) Please avoid bringing items in plastic bags.
- 3) Remove any binders or other non-paper contaminants.

Historically, the process of getting in line and having your boxes unloaded for shredding has been brief (between 5-10 minutes) from start to finish!

Onondaga County resident John Puopolo had this to offer about his experience at a past event, "how well planned and efficient the shredding operation was on Saturday. I was in and out of there in minutes. All employees were friendly and efficient. Please tell OCRRA management and the workers involved that at least one person, and I'm sure there are a lot more in the silent majority, was very grateful for their efforts."

Onondaga County Parks and the Syracuse Chief's Management have helped make this year's events convenient by allowing OCRRA the use of the stadium's spacious parking lot.

A huge thank you goes out to Confidata / SMR Fibre who has been provid-



Ed Becker of Confidata / SMR Fibre empties confidential documents into a tote prior to shredding them at the September 2012 Shred-o-Rama event at NBT Bank Stadium. Gather your confidential papers and bring them to the, free, May 18 event; no reservation needed.

ing their paper shredding services since the inception of this program in 2004. Without their generous support and donation of their staff and trucks these shredding extravaganzas would not be possible.

Participants will leave satisfied knowing that all of the shredded paper is recycled into new paper prod-

ucts. Recycling paper is an easy and important way to protect our environment by conserving water, energy, and producing less pollution.

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnette@ocrra.org

Save the world a little each day.

'Product Stewardship' or 'Extended Producer Responsibility'?

Whatever phrase you prefer, it translates to environmental benefits for our community

Marjorie Torelli, Administrator, New York Product Stewardship Council

Have you ever had to dispose of weed killer or paint thinner? What about a mercury thermometer or an unwanted computer? Up until now, manufacturers had no responsibility to help you safely dispose of such items - some with toxic ingredients and components! As a result, manufacturers lacked incentive to make it easier to recycle or dispose of their products. Nor did they help bear the costs for safe disposal. Who paid? Local taxpayers, city and town governments, as well as all the residents and businesses using local waste management systems such as OCRRA paid. But all that is beginning to change.

In 2009, the not-for-

profit New York Product Stewardship Council was formed to promote mandatory and voluntary programs that shift responsibility for the disposal or recycling of a product from taxpayers / waste system rate payers to manufacturers / consumers.

Product stewardship or extended producer responsibility laws have numerous benefits:

- 1) Development of much more environmentally-friendly products.
- 2) Increased recycling, and safe disposal of toxic materials.
- 3) Conservation of natural resources by reducing the need for raw materials.
- 4) Job growth - more

recycling means more employment!

- 5) Reduced costs on local governments and taxpayers.

Items or materials that are bulky or hazardous are especially important targets of product stewardship laws.

New York State already has two examples of product stewardship legislation. One is the NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act requiring manufacturers to provide free and convenient recycling of electronic waste (including computers and TVs). Effective since April 2011, the law is turbo-charging the amount of electronic waste captured for recycling, and keeping heavy



Product Stewardship legislation holds manufacturers responsible for proper disposal of their products and encourages them to design products with end-of-life recyclability in mind. Currently, NYS has product stewardship legislation in effect for electronics and batteries. Contact your elected representatives and ask them to sponsor like legislation for mercury-containing products, paint, and carpeting.

metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury out of the environment. Economically, it is saving governments at the local and county level - and taxpayers - money.

The second example is the NYS Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act, signed into law in Decem-

— continued on page 5

OCRRA's 2012 Recycling Highlights

1 Collected more than 7,500 **mercury containing fluorescent lamps** (2 tons+) in partnership with local Ace and TrueValue hardware stores.

Over 40,000 fluorescent lamps collected since 2007.

2 Maintained, improved or **established recycling programs at over 65 apartment complexes and over 180 local businesses.**

3 Organized more than 6,400 volunteers who collected over 57,000 pounds of litter as part of OCRRA's annual **Earth Day Cleanup program.**

Over 2 million pounds of litter collected since 1994!

4 Received one of five **"Advocacy Awards for Sustainability"** from GreeningUSA.

5 Sold over 6,300 cubic yards of **compost** and 5,600 cubic yards of **mulch**; generated revenue exceeding \$246,000; a 34% increase over 2011.

Compost revenues increased more than 338% since 2008.

TODAY'S RECYCLING

WASTE-TO-ENERGY | COMPOSTING | RECYCLING

TOMORROW'S RESOURCES

See how at

Product Stewardship ~ continued from page 4

ber 2010. This law requires manufacturers of rechargeable batteries to collect and recycle the batteries, state-wide, in a manufacturer-funded program at no cost to consumers.

OCRRA has saved tens of thousands of dollars because of the electronics

law, just one example from around New York State.

In the coming months, the New York State Legislature will consider product stewardship legislation on mercury-containing products, paint, car-

Product Stewardship or Extended Producer Responsibility is a government strategy to place responsibility for end-of-life management of products on producers and consumers rather than on taxpayers, ratepayers or local governments.'

pet and other materials. These laws will help prevent pollution, reduce waste, generate jobs, increase recycling, AND save money. To learn more, please visit www.NYPSC.org and contact your elected representatives to en-

courage them to support product stewardship legislation. Your email, call or letter will make all the difference in protecting the environment.

Marjorie Torelli can be reached at marjorie.torelli@gmail.com



Powering 30,000 Households Using Our Trash

Amy Miller, Agency Engineer

Did you know that the residential and commercial trash collected in Onondaga County generates enough electricity to power 30,000 households annually? That's about 15% of Onondaga County households. Given that the alternative is hauling the trash to a distant landfill and relying on fossil fuels for electricity generation, the local Waste-to-Energy Facility just seems to be a much smarter option.

The large landfills to the west of Onondaga County (including Seneca Meadows, High Acres, and On-

tario County Landfill) all have landfill gas collection systems. They direct landfill gas, primarily methane generated from the degradation of organic material, to an internal combustion engine, where it is burned to generate electricity. However, these landfill gas-to-energy systems generate much less energy per ton of trash than our Waste-to-Energy Facility does (a maximum of about 125 kWh/ton compared to 630 kWh/ton at the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy Facility).

Transportation of trash

to the landfill also requires much more fuel than is required for what happens in our County (we simply transport the ash residue that is leftover from the waste-to-energy combustion process. This residue is only 10% of the original volume of the trash). Furthermore, the Waste-to-Energy Facility recovers about 8,000-9,000 tons of metal that would otherwise be lost forever in a landfill; this means energy savings from recycling the metal.

How else is electricity generated in Onondaga County? Besides the On-



ondaga County Waste-to-Energy Facility, the only other major power plants are WPS Syracuse in Solway, Syracuse Energy Corporation (formerly Trigen) in Geddes, and the Carr Street Generating Station in East Syracuse, all of which utilize fossil fuels (natural gas, oil, or coal).

Upstate New York's energy profile is a bit more diversified with hydro, nuclear, and some wind and biomass. The energy profile for the U.S. is still heavily dominated by coal. See the table at left for more information on how electricity is generated in Upstate New York and in the U.S. **Utilizing trash for power**

generation undeniably reduces our dependence on fossil fuels.

So there you have it, the local Waste-to-Energy Facility efficiently fulfills two of society's greatest needs - disposal of non-recyclable materials and electricity generation. It keeps about 325,000 tons of garbage out of landfills each year and converts what can't be recycled into electricity. Ultimately, OCRRA's Waste-to-Energy Facility helps create a cleaner County and a brighter future. Learn more about how waste-to-energy works in our County at OCRRA.org

Amy Miller can be reached at amiller@OCRRA.org.

Electricity Generation Profile

| | Upstate NY | U.S. |
|--------------|------------|--------|
| Hydro | 30.50% | 7.00% |
| Nuclear | 30.50% | 20.00% |
| Natural Gas | 19.00% | 23.50% |
| Coal | 14.50% | 44.50% |
| Wind | 2.50% | 2.00% |
| Biomass | 1.50% | 1.50% |
| Oil | 1.00% | 1.00% |
| Other Fossil | 0.50% | 0.50% |

Waste-to-energy facilities fit into two of the categories in the table - "biomass," due to the organic component (think disposable paper products and food scraps) and "other fossil," due to the non-organic component (think non-recyclable plastics), with a split of about 60% "biomass" and 40% "other fossil."

Data source: USEPA's eGRID 2012

The Waste-to-Energy Facility is the only power plant in our area that relies on a waste material to generate electricity (our trash). All other local power plants utilize natural resources like gas, oil, or coal. The WTE Facility keeps about 325,000 tons of garbage out of landfills each year and converts what cannot be recycled into enough electricity to power 15% of Onondaga County homes!

Destiny's Green Efforts Culminate in Prestigious Award

2012 'Recycler of the Year' goes above and beyond in waste reduction and recycling areas

Donato Mercuri, Recycling Aide

What does it take for a business to be considered for OCRRA's *Recycler of the Year* award? First, a business must meet specific criteria set forth by OCRRA's Blue Ribbon Recycler Program (BRR). Next they must undergo a thorough evaluation by an OCRRA Recycling Specialist, where they are rated on a point system.

In short, they must show exceptional recycling and waste reduction techniques and prove themselves above others in their industry field.

OCRRA instituted the BRR Program in 2009 as a

way to recognize local businesses going above and beyond for the environment.

Sharing success stories not only inspires other businesses to be green, it also helps eco-conscious customers recognize and support environmentally-friendly businesses.

The BRR Program offers distinction in eight different business categories (business, education, food services, government, housing, medical/healthcare, retail, tourism/leisure). Each category has their own set of requirements. For example, the business category requires applicants

to recycle their old electronics and fluorescent bulbs, and purchase copy paper containing at least 30% recycled content, amongst other things.

This year there were numerous applicants in the business category, and one stood out head and shoulders above the rest. A sincere congratulations goes out to Destiny USA, the Onondaga County 2012 *Recycler of the Year*!

Some examples of Destiny USA's stellar environmental practices include:

— continued on page 7



OCRRA Recycling Staff and Board Members present Destiny USA Facilities Staff with the 2012 *Business Recycler of the Year* award on March 1. The award is made of 100% recycled glass and wood harvested from fallen pine trees in Colorado.



From the desk of Mark Donnelly - Executive Director

Chose Your Own Adventure

OCRRA makes trash and recycling decisions a snap

As we live our daily lives we constantly make decisions. Sometimes we have no choice. We do what is best for ourselves and our family. Other choices are discretionary and come with logical consequences.

At OCRRA, our tagline is "Save the World a Little Each Day." We take this very seriously. We are so passionate about the fact that human behaviors make a difference in the environment that we created "the OCRRA System."

The OCRRA System is a combination of programs that handles the County's waste streams in an environmentally effective manner.

Through our public education programs and our website, **OCRRA.org**, we provide a solution for every disposal choice you make.

Do you need to:

Renovate or clean out your home or business?

We have a system for that.

Recycle papers, plastics or metals?

We have a system.

Destroy confidential records?

You guessed it, we have a system for that.

Do you have:

Household hazardous waste such as old pesticides, oil-based paints or cleaners?

We have a system for that.

Trash?

We have a system that is clean, creates energy, and does not leave a legacy of landfills for our children's children.

Brush and wood products from your landscaping or a windstorm?

We have a system for that too.

OCRRA's Amboy Compost Facility handles organic wastes such as leaves, lawn clippings, brush, branches and even large trees. That's not all. We now handle food scraps from large scale generators!

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation strongly encourages taking food scraps out of the waste stream. The intent is the reuse and repurposing of this biodegradable product, rather than landfilling or disposing of it through waste-to-energy technology.

To accommodate highly progressive large volume food scrap generators in our community, an expansion of the Amboy Facility is in the works. Orga-

nizations that recycle food scraps are leaders in the community.

If you know of a large restaurant, grocer, or institution that wants to reduce their waste disposal costs and wants to make a commitment to the environment, ask them to contact OCRRA today. A Recycling Specialist will visit them, free of charge, and teach them how to separate their wastes and "Save the World a Little Each Day."

OCRRA.org has more details on this program as well as the others mentioned above. The website also shares a healthy dose of information on programs other groups offer, electronics and fluorescent bulb disposal options, to name just a few.

OCRRA shares the benefits of our System with the public in many different ways. You are reading a traditional form now, the printed newsletter. Our residents still love this quarterly publication and we get a lot of feedback from it. The website, Facebook, email, television and radio ads also help us get the message out.

In addition, our staffers are in the community each



A Syracuse University truck drops food scraps off at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site in Camillus, where it is mixed with yard waste and processed into nutrient-rich compost that is sold to residents for garden use. This closed-loop system is just one example of how OCRRA's programs, coupled with your participation, make our community a great place to live and work.

day presenting, consulting, and educating at events, businesses, and schools. We teach your children how to recycle and make good environmental choices. They in turn teach others.

As the environmental requirements of our world change, so does OCRRA. We are a sustainable, ever-changing system that effectively handles Onondaga County's disposal needs. We are a leader in our field

nationally.

Guess what? YOU are the reason why. You make choices that consistently result in a recycling rate of around 60%! More than half our waste isn't waste at all, it is reused, recycled, or recovered. You might say YOU manage our natural resources, and you do it well. Thank you.

Mark Donnelly can be reached at mddonnelly@ocrra.org

Destiny USA ~ continued from page 6

- 1) Food scrap recycling done by food vendors and entertainment venues (since 2012). More than 22 vendors participate and have delivered over 140 tons of food waste to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site for processing into nutrient-rich compost, which is put back into the community for garden and landscape use.
- 2) Recycling of batteries and fluorescent bulbs throughout the complex. Destiny USA contracts with Northeast Lamp Recycling, Inc. to manage these materials in an environmentally-friendly manner.
- 3) Prominent placement of recycling containers throughout the building. They are also wisely

placed directly next to trash cans.

This pairing increases recycling substantially as people do not have to "work" to find the right receptacle for recycling.

- 4) Using Green Seal Cleaning products and recycled content paper products throughout Destiny USA.

Destiny USA was honored as the 2012 *Recycler of the Year* on March 1. They received a plaque made of 100% post-consumer recycled glass and wood harvested from fallen pine trees in Colorado.

If your organization is doing a fantastic job recycling and reducing waste, apply to be a Blue Ribbon Recycler and you could be in the running for the

2013 *Recycler of the Year* award! OCRRA is waiving the \$25 application fee for all of 2013, so get your application in today. Visit **OCRRA.org** for details.

Donato Mercuri can be reached at dmercuri@ocrra.org

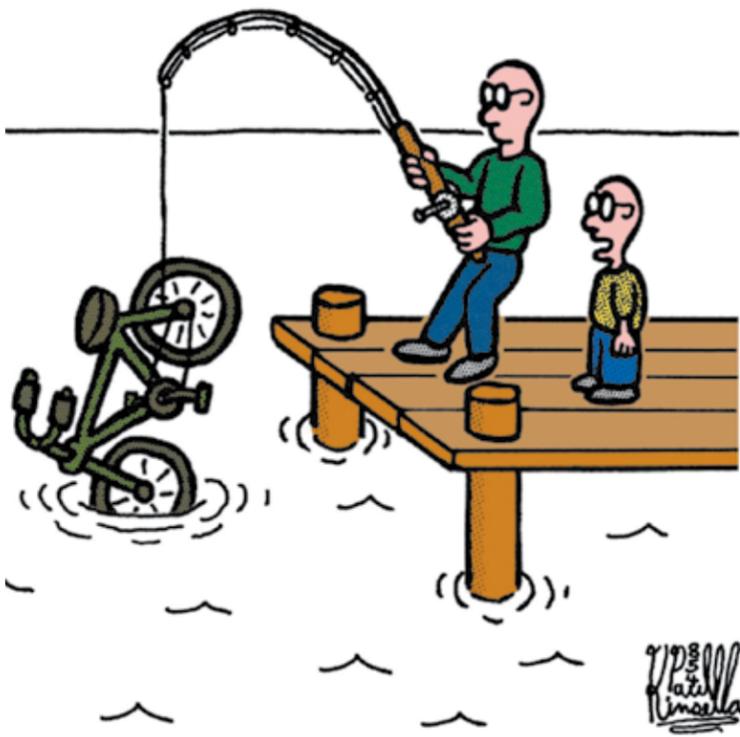
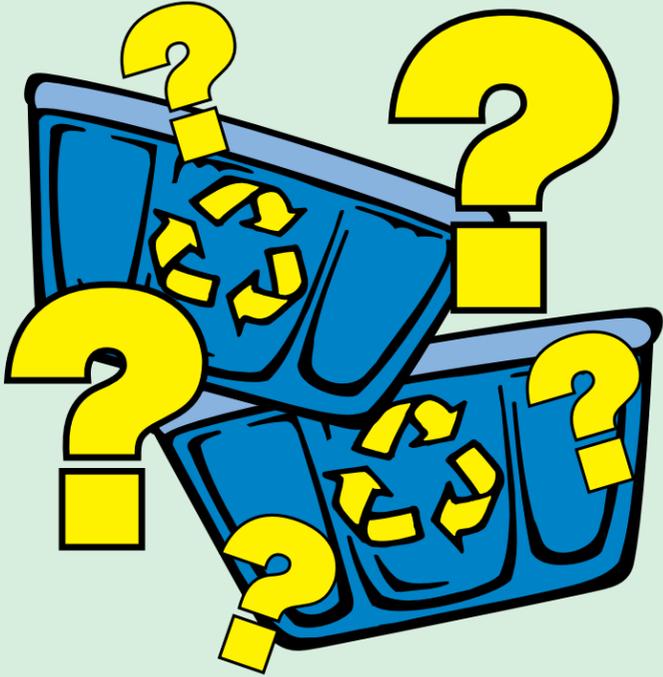


Searching our disposal database is a snap!

1 Blue Bin or 2?

Did you know recycling in Onondaga County is now **single stream**? This means you don't HAVE to separate your papers and magazines from your bottles, cans, and other containers, anymore (but you can, if you want).

Learn more at tinyurl.com/singlestream2013



"Wow... What did you use for bait?"

Facebook Question of the Quarter...



Sara Anderson of Cicero asked a question that all those with home shredders will find useful.

Thanks to another Facebook fan, Alicia Sierrawolfe, for providing a great answer to Sara's question before OCRRA could even opine!

We love it when our fans use Facebook as a way to interact and share information!

Sara knows that putting loose shredded paper in the blue bin is a no-no (because it can easily become litter); she also knows that shredded paper should go in a paper bag that is stapled shut, before it goes in the blue bin. But, Sarah's home shredder has been working overtime, so she has a LOT of shredded paper...

Where do I get paper bags that would hold three clear garbage bags worth of shredded paper?

Lawn and leaf bags can hold quite a bit of shredded paper, and they are readily available at local hardware stores.

'Like' OCRRA on Facebook to get answers to all your recycling and disposal questions.

Kicked Outta the Blue Bin: Plastic Bags

Ann Fordock

Did you know that plastic bags DO NOT belong in your blue bin? None at all! Your recyclables should be loose and not bagged.

Placing plastic bags in the blue bin hurts recycling. **It causes equipment malfunctions, which slow down the recycling process, and it contaminates all the good recyclables.**

Plastic bags are accepted for recycling at all grocery stores and most retail stores in Onondaga County; take your clean bags back to any of those convenient locations.

Do the environment a favor and re-use plastic bags at home or recycle them at your favorite retail outlet.

Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@OCRRA.org



Mark Your Calendar

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COMPOST SITES OPEN

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Get site info or buy a pass online at www.OCRRA.org

EARTH DAY LITTER CLEANUP

APRIL 12 & 13

Register your group by April 5
Visit www.OCRRA.org

SHRED-O-RAMA

MAY 18

NBT Bank Stadium
(formerly Alliance Bank Stadium)
8 am to Noon
(Enter from Grant Blvd)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

YEAR-ROUND BY APPT.
Environmental Products & Services
Register at OCRRA.org