

Spring 2014 Newsletter | Volume 22 | No. 1

*Register online for OCRRA's Earth Day Cleanup Happening April 11 & 12*

*Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist*

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4**

Ann Fordock can be reached at  
afordock@ocrra.org.

Take a look at the “Clean Up ‘Cuse” projects at [syracuse.ny.us/cleanupcuse.aspx](http://syracuse.ny.us/cleanupcuse.aspx) to see if there is one you would like to join!

## OCRRRA's household toxics drop-off now offered more days and extended hours

*Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist*

Household hazardous waste disposal recently became more convenient for Onondaga County residents. With a reservation, residents can now drop off

toxic household materials year-round, Monday-Friday, 6:30 am – 6:00 pm at Environmental Products and Services of Vermont, free of charge.

### Details:

- 1) Household hazardous waste (HHW) comes in many forms (automotive products, paint supplies, herbicides, pesticides, pool chemicals, mercury thermometers, etc.).

2) Throwing these HHW items down the drain or out in the backyard is not the way to go – this could harm children, pets, wildlife, and our precious groundwater supply.

3) While there is no charge to residents, OCRRA underwrites the cost of proper disposal thanks in part to revenue generated at our Drop-Off Sites; the sale of the

electricity generated from our trash at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville; and a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Visit **OCRA.org** for a list of acceptable items and to schedule your appointment today! HHW drop-off reservations can also be made over the phone at 453-2866.

Theresa Mandery can be reached at [tmandery@ocrra.org](mailto:tmandery@ocrra.org).



**COMPOST IN BAGS .....PG 3**  
Local retailers to carry  
OCRRA's Premium Com-  
post in bags this season.



**SITE REMODEL.....PG 4**  
**The Amboy Compost**  
**Site renovation makes it**  
**New York State's most**  
**cutting-edge food and**  
**yard waste facility.**



**BUSINESS AWARD... PG 6**  
**ACR Health receives**  
**prestigious business**  
**recycling award.**



**CORTLAND PROPOSAL...PG 7**  
Get the skinny on this environmentally-sound trash partnership as well as the future of OCRRA.



**TV RECYCLING ..... PG 7**  
Find out where you can  
recycle your old TV in  
Onondaga County.





# Onondaga County's 2013 Recycling Report Card

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist

Onondaga County residents, businesses, schools and municipal operations put forth a great recycling effort last year. In 2013, our community recycled 575,000 tons of material! By recycling that much and saving energy in the process, the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided as removing over 119,000 cars from the road.

Through the residential blue bin program alone, 38,400 tons of materials were recycled; that is over 406 pounds recycled per household. Community-wide, residents, businesses and schools, removed over 1 billion pounds of mandatory recyclables from the waste stream in 2013, including such items as corrugated cardboard, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, plastic bottles, metal cans, and glass jars.

These recycling achievements were made possible through community participation in OCRRA's recycling and special collection programs.

## 2013 Highlights:

- **Proper disposal of over 8,200 fluorescent light bulbs** through OCRRA's partnership with local Ace and True Value Hardware stores.
- **Shredding and recycling of 62.8 tons of residents' confidential papers** at two Shred-O-Rama Events, which occurred in May and September.
- **28,000 visits to OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites!** 16,000 cu. yds. of yard waste and 22,000 cu. yds. of wood waste were received for processing into compost and mulch. Community use of these products reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and protects our water supply.
- **1,800 tons of commercial food scraps were recycled into compost** at the Amboy Compost Site thanks to significant facility and operational upgrades.
- Launch of year-round **household hazardous waste drop-off program** that served over **1,000 residents.** This ensured that thousands of gallons of hazardous material were kept out of the trash and our environment. Register to make an appointment today by visiting **OCRRA.org**.
- **Recycling of over 190,500 pounds of batteries** through OCRRA's partnership with local Wegmans stores and Green Hills Market, as well as through a July curbside battery collection conducted in partnership with local haulers.
- Another successful Earth Day **Litter Cleanup: more than 5,500 volunteers collected over 99,000 pounds of litter!** To form a group and help out this year, register online at **OCRRA.org** or fill out the form on page 6.
- **Distribution of thousands of free recycling bins** to local businesses, schools and residents.
- **OCRRA brought home a few awards** for the community: Robert D. McAuliffe Community Ser-



OCRRA helps our community reduce waste and recycle through special programs and continuous public education. Removing mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs from the waste stream is important. OCRRA partners with local Ace and True Value Hardware stores and hosts a year-round household hazardous waste drop-off at Environmental Products and Services of Vermont to help residents safely recycle these items at no charge. Visit **OCRRA.org** for details.

vice Award from ARC of Onondaga and a national Call2Recycle Leader in Sustainability Award.

2013 was quite an impressive year; but instead of taking a rest, OCRRA is committed to making 2014 even better. Keep watch for the OCRRA newsletter and OCRRA emails throughout the year for event announcements, program updates and new and exciting recycling infor-

mation. Better yet, "like" us on Facebook to get recycling information even faster.

Thanks for another great year! The recycling accomplishments of 2013 would not have been possible without the dedication of the people that live and work in Onondaga County.

Theresa Mandery can be reached at [tmandery@ocrra.org](mailto:tmandery@ocrra.org).

## Proposed Paint Recovery Legislation in the Works

*Brush up on bills that would establish statewide paint recovery program*

Marjorie Torelli, Administrator, New York Product Stewardship Council

Left-over paint is a problem. Purchasing only what you need, so you have less leftover, is great, but what do you do if you still have unused paint? OCRRA has a program to get rid of your oil-based paints (see article on page 1), but passage of NY Senate bill S4690, and NY Assembly bill A6930 would help OCRRA reduce costs and direct resources toward other important green efforts. So what is this legislation all about?

The bills would establish a paint stewardship program – managed by paint manufacturers – for handling excess, unused or unwanted oil-based AND latex paints.

The bills, which are the

same in both houses of the legislature, establish convenient paint drop-off sites throughout the state. The program is to be managed by a non-profit stewardship organization that must report to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In other states that already operate paint stewardship programs, residents can drop off paint at hardware stores, at municipal sites or at scheduled collections. Local municipalities or agencies such as OCRRA that collect paint in these states do not have to pay to manage the unwanted paint. Program costs are covered by a modest upfront charge when the paint is

purchased, about \$0.75 per gallon.

This legislation would help OCRRA from a financial perspective as the recently expanded Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off program, which accepts oil-based paints, has a hefty price tag. While residents can drop their materials off at no charge, OCRRA pays about \$50 per resident for proper management of those materials. Paint is one of the most frequently dropped off materials. These bills would help OCRRA's bottom line and allow OCRRA to direct resources to other important green efforts.

According to the Product Stewardship Institute

and the New York Product Stewardship Council, New York State municipalities could save \$25 million on the collection and management of approximately 3.1 million gallons of paint each year. For more facts about this product stewardship initiative, check out [tinyurl.com/NYSPSCpaint](http://tinyurl.com/NYSPSCpaint) online.

The Paint Stewardship bills are supported by the American Coatings Association (ACA), which is the national trade association for the paint industry. The ACA has established a non-profit stewardship organization, PaintCare that currently manages paint recovery programs on behalf of manufacturers in states

with paint stewardship laws, including California, Connecticut and Oregon. PaintCare (online at [www.PaintCare.org](http://www.PaintCare.org)) is launching programs in Rhode Island, Minnesota, Vermont and Maine. Let's get New York added to this list!

To read the New York State legislation go to [assembly.state.ny.us/leg/](http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/) and search for A06930 and S04690. Visit [assembly.state.ny.us/](http://assembly.state.ny.us/) and [www.ny-senate.gov/](http://www.ny-senate.gov/) to find your assembly member's and senator's information. Contact them today to share your thoughts on these bills.

Marjorie Torelli can be reached at [marjorie.torelli@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.torelli@gmail.com).



# Improve Plantings with OCRRA's Premium Compost – Now Available in Bags!

Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager

Love using OCRRA's locally produced compost, but wish you could pick it up pre-bagged? You are in luck! New in 2014, OCRRA is selling bags of our premium compost at select retailers, garden centers, landscape suppliers, and nurseries this spring.

Ask for it by name and know you are getting premium organic material that earned the United States Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance. (*OCRRA is one of only a handful of compost producers in New York State with this distinction*).

OCRRA Compost is created at our recently enhanced Amboy Compost Site from local yard waste and food scraps. OCRRA takes food scraps from schools, restaurants, hotels and other large commercial generators and mixes them with yard waste using state-

of-the-art technology. The decomposition process is closely monitored and generates enough heat to make a virtually weed, seed and plant-borne pathogen free product!

Each year our community trashes over 60 million pounds of food scraps. By purchasing OCRRA Compost you can close the loop and help our local environment by supporting food scrap recycling.

OCRRA's bagged compost is a premium ¼" screened product that is ideal for topdressing lawns, using as a potting soil mix, and is a perfect soil amendment for vegetable and flower gardens.

Grow beautiful, healthy plants using OCRRA Compost.

The following retailers will be stocking OCRRA's Premium Compost in the coming months:

**Aspinall's Tree Nursery and Landscaping**  
8797 E. Genesee Turnpike  
Chittenango, NY 13037  
(315) 687-5282

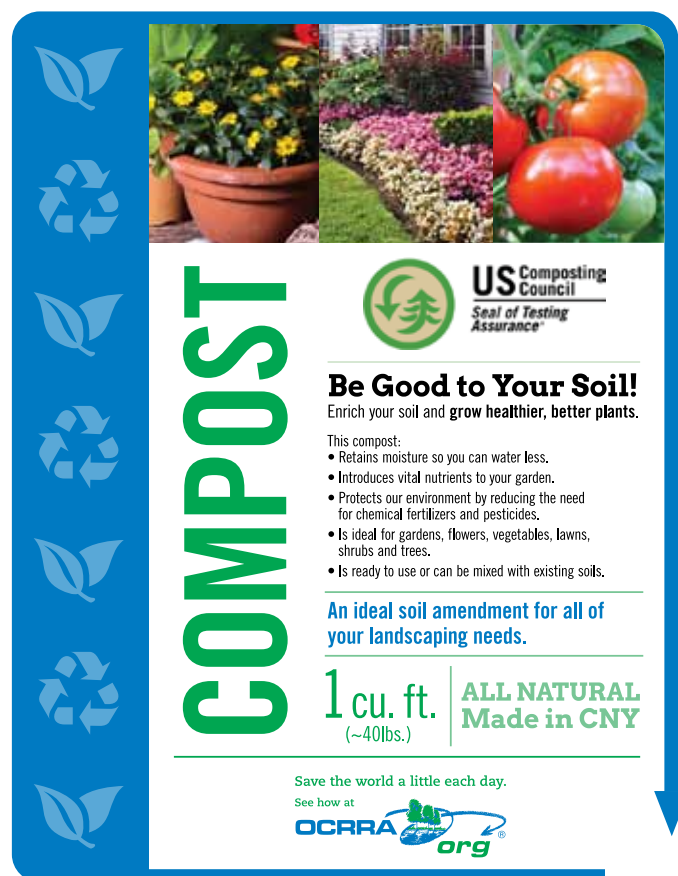
**Gravina Gardens & Ace Hardware**  
4850 Buckley Road  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
(315) 457-8585

**Green Scapes Inc.**  
6976 E. Seneca Turnpike  
Jamesville, NY 13078  
(315) 469-0007

**Manlius True Value Hardware**  
8225 Cazenovia Road  
Manlius, NY 13104  
(315) 682-6531

**The Evergreen Mart**  
6278 Thompson Road  
Syracuse, NY 13206  
(315) 463-0233

**Westvale Gardens**  
2400 W. Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13219  
(315) 468-5898



**COMPOST**

**US Composting Council**  
Seal of Testing Assurance

**Be Good to Your Soil!**  
Enrich your soil and grow healthier, better plants.

This compost:

- Retains moisture so you can water less.
- Introduces vital nutrients to your garden.
- Protects our environment by reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Is ideal for gardens, flowers, vegetables, lawns, shrubs and trees.
- Is ready to use or can be mixed with existing soils.

An ideal soil amendment for all of your landscaping needs.

**1 cu. ft.**  
(~40lbs.)

**ALL NATURAL**  
**Made in CNY**

Save the world a little each day.  
See how at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org)

This Spring, local retailers begin selling OCRRA's Premium Compost – in bags! Get US Composting Council Certified compost made of local food and yard wastes, conveniently packaged in 1 cubic foot bags. Your plants will thank you.

Other retailers are coming on board soon, so check **OCRRA.org** for a current list of places where you can get this great compost. If you cannot find it at your favorite garden center, ask

them to support a locally-generated product by carrying OCRRA's bagged compost!

Greg Gelewski can be reached at [ggelewski@ocrra.org](mailto:ggelewski@ocrra.org).



## Recycling Rhoda

*Talks Trash – and Recycling!*

## Battery Collection

Dear Rhoda,

Our household of 12 kids is swarming with numerous electronic toys and devices, most of which use batteries. Once the batteries are dead or can no longer be recharged I collect them in a large coffee can in my garage. I have heard they should not go in the trash. I'd like to know the right way to get rid of these things, but it had better be easy because I don't have time for complicated.

Cheaper by the Dozen in Clay

Dear Cheaper,

Well, with 12 kids it sounds like you probably need a day at the spa to recharge **YOUR** batteries.

However, Rhoda does not give out door prizes. But, boy, do I ever have a convenient solution for you!

OCRRA has battery collection bins at all Onondaga County Wegmans stores, Green Hills Market and OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site. These fancy little bins have special slots for various types of household batteries: alkaline batteries (those single use AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt type), button batteries (those coin-shaped batteries found in hearing aids and watches), and rechargeable batteries (those

commonly used in cordless phones, laptops, and power tools. However, some rechargeables look remarkably similar to alkalines, so get out your glasses and read their labels carefully).

Rechargeable batteries can also go to about a million other locations. Okay, I jest, but it doesn't get much easier to recycle rechargeable batteries. Check out Call2Recycle's website to find locations in your area that accept rechargeables for recycling **call2recycle.org/locator/**). For the record, you can spit and probably hit a place near you

that recycles rechargeable batteries; they are a dime a dozen.

Now, because battery chemistries can't be transported all jumbled up together, there are some simple rules about how you drop your batteries off, both to OCRRA's collection bins and to the Call2Recycle locations. Alkaline and lithium batteries may be placed in the bins loose (you can bag the alkalines if you want, but you don't need to use those special yellow battery bags OCRRA gives out. In fact they prefer you don't. That wastes their re-

sources and all. You can use any bag or you can empty your bag into the bin and reuse the bag). Each rechargeable battery must be bagged individually. Bags are supplied at each collection bin. Easy as pie, right?

Visit **tinyurl.com/OCRRAbatteries** to see a video about what rechargeable batteries are recycled into or for details on how to tell different battery types apart.

Recycling  
Rhoda



# Modernized Amboy Compost Site is Pinnacle of Food Recycling Operations in NY State

State-of-the art food and yard waste composting is now a reality at the Amboy Compost Site in Camillus. In November 2013, a 6-month construction period culminated in the development of the largest, NYS DEC permitted food and yard scrap composting facility in New York State. That's right; in our own backyard is the state's most cutting-edge compost operation!

OCRRA has always had highly-respected compost operations, however, this remodel brought things to a new level at Amboy. The site is designed to process over 9,000 tons of local institutional and commercial food scraps a year.

The list of companies sending their food scraps to the Amboy Site for recycling into nutrient-rich compost is long. Byrne Dairy, DestinyUSA, LeMoyne College, Marcellus School District, OnCenter, Onondaga Community College, Pastabilities, Paul De Lima Coffee, Ramada Inn, St. Camillus Senior Living Center, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse Banana, Syracuse University, University Sheraton and Wegmans are some of the early adopters.

OCRRA is currently processing over 50,000 pounds of food scraps weekly, all of which are turned into high-quality compost that is sold back to the community for use in gardens, landscapes and other green projects, including exten-

sive Save the Rain green roof and wetland projects at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

OCRRA's high-quality compost is US Composting Council tested, which means it is consistent from batch-to-batch, rigorously tested by independent state-certified laboratories and meets all NYS DEC and US EPA criteria.

OCRRA's process is closely monitored and heats up to temperatures that make our compost virtually weed, seed and plant-borne pathogen free. It is ideal for gardens, flowers, vegetables, lawns, shrubs and trees as it:

- Adds nutrients to soil,
- Helps soil retain water so less watering is needed,
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Not only does the newly renovated Amboy Compost Site keep food scraps out of the trash, it turns them into a product that helps improve plant growth and protect our water quality.

Residents can acquire this "black gold" by purchasing a \$15 Compost Site Pass, buying it in bulk at either the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site or – new in 2014 – by visiting a participating retailer in Onondaga County (check out page 3 for a list of stores that will carry OCRRA's Premium Bagged Compost this season).



### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

**Soft Waste:**  
Garden wastes, weeds, grass, leaves, plants, straw and hay.

**Wood Waste:**  
Brush, hedge trimmings, pinecones, pine needles, sticks, tree limbs, tree trunks and vines.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS:

Concrete, asphalt, rocks, glass, garbage, C&D lumber, metal, plastic (including bags), rubber, stumps, over-sized tree trunks (greater than 24" diameter and/or 12' long)



Food scraps from local restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, schools and other large generators are brought to the recently upgraded Amboy Compost Site where OCRRA blends them with yard waste in a 3:1 ratio.



OCRRA's high-quality compost can be purchased at the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site as well as at participating retailers. See page 3 or you can always visit [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) for the most current list of retailers that carry OCRRA's Premium Bagged Compost.



This food and yard waste mixture is precisely arranged in aerated bays that are carefully monitored to maintain high temperatures, in excess of 131 degrees F (which is required to reduce pathogens and produces a virtually weed- and seed-free compost).



OCRRA produces two different compost products. Both are finely screened (1/2" and 3/4") using a trommel screen as seen at left. All OCRRA compost is tested through the US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance Program, which means it is evaluated by independent labs and meets all NYS DEC and US EPA criteria. It also means you are guaranteed consistent compost from batch-to-batch.

## OCRRA's Compost Site Locations

### Amboy Site:

6296 Airport Road,  
Camillus, NY 13209

### Jamesville Site:

4370 Route 91,  
Jamesville, NY 13078

## Compost Site Hours

Monday through Saturday:

9 am - 4 pm

**SUNDAY: CLOSED**

— SEASON DURATION —

Tuesday, April 1 thru Friday, November 29

## Compost Fees

### RESIDENT Loaded Material:

A \$15 Compost Site Pass allows:

- ✓ Drop off unlimited amounts of brush/yard waste.
- ✓ Hand load up to 6 cu. yds. of compost or mulch.

*All material taken in volumes larger than 6 cu. yds. will be loaded by OCRRA and charged according to the fees below.*

### OCRRA Loaded Material:

- ✓ Compost and mulch are sold in bulk at the prices listed in the chart below.

*(\$15 site pass fee not required.)*

### ALL PRICES ARE PER CUBIC YARD

	AVAILABLE AT BOTH LOCATIONS		Available at JAMESVILLE Only	Available at AMBOY Only
	Double Ground Mulch	1/2" Screened Compost	Triple Ground Mulch	1/4" Screened Compost
Less than 100 yds.	\$12.50	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$25
More than 100 yds.	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20
More than 500 yds.	\$8	\$11	\$11	\$15


**Removal of compost and mulch is dependent upon material availability.**



# 2014 Earth Day

## Litter Cleanup Registration Form

**celebrate earthday**  
april 11 & 12, 2014



**Registration Deadline April 4**

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 11    ☐ Saturday, April 12    ☐ 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 OCRRA.org**  
**OR RETURN REGISTRATION VIA FAX (453-2872)**  
**OR MAIL TO: OCRRA**  
**100 Elwood Davis Road**  
**North Syracuse, NY 13212**

# Household Hazardous Waste...

## CONQUERED BY:



**Robert Hopper of Brewerton**

Hopper is OCRRA's Spring Household Hazardous Waste appointment raffle winner. Robert won a basket full of green cleaning products. Get rid of your household toxics, safely, at OCRRA's year-round drop-off; make an appointment at **OCRRA.org** and be entered for a chance to win too!

# ACR Health Honored as 2013 Recycler of the Year

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist

How is an organization selected to be OCRRA's Recycler of the Year? First, the business must meet and achieve specific criteria set forth by OCRRA's Blue Ribbon Recycler Program (BRR) to receive certification. Then, at the end of the year, each certified BRR is scored and compared to other contenders. The company that has the most comprehensive recycling and waste reduction program, which excels above others and shows a strong commitment to protecting our environment, is crowned the Recycler of the Year.

In early March, OCRRA awarded ACR Health (formerly Aids Community Resources) the OCRRA Recycler of the Year distinction. The recipient received a plaque made of 100% post-consumer recycled glass and wood harvested from fallen pine trees in Colorado.

Below are **highlights of ACR Health's amazing green program**, neatly outlined so you can replicate them at your workplace and apply to be a 2014 BRR!

- Established a "Green Team" that brainstorms

- new ideas and helps employees follow established recycling and waste reduction guidelines.
- Purchases paper office products with recycled content and uses certified green cleaning products. *There are no additional costs to this effort, in fact on certain items savings are realized.*
- Eliminated the purchase of Styrofoam products.
- Installed a water cooler to discourage staff from purchasing bottled water.
- Participates in TerraCycle's recycling program: Collects more than 14 categories of products, containers and packaging for recycling (from juice pouches to used toothbrushes). The majority of these items are not included in OCRRA's blue bin recycling program. As a bonus, ACR benefits from a small financial re-

- imbursement for this effort. *Since starting the program in 2012, they have removed over 26,000 items from the waste stream!*
- Sends weekly email communications to staff to keep green practices fresh in their minds.

For other ideas on how to improve workplace recycling and waste reduction practices visit **OCRRA.org**.

Is your organization doing a fantastic job recycling and reducing waste? OCRRA encourages you to apply for Blue Ribbon Recycler status and get your workplace in the running for the 2014 Recycler of the Year award! The \$25 application fee has been waived for 2014, so visit **OCRRA.org** for details today.

Dave Nettle can be reached at [dnette@ocrra.org](mailto:dnette@ocrra.org).



A hearty congratulations goes out to the 2013 Recycler of the Year, ACR Health. Executive Director, Michael Crinnin (far left) and staff members Lisa Mulcahey, Ekrem Berbatovci and Jacki Coe receive their Blue Ribbon Recycler certificate from OCRRA Recycling Specialist Dave Nettle (middle).





*From the Executive Director's desk...*

## The Real Deal: Solutions Through Partnerships

*OCRRA operations, future challenges and the light at the end of the tunnel*

Mark Donnelly, Executive Director

For more than 20 years, OCRRA has successfully managed and adapted its trash and recycling programs to the changing needs of our community. The OCRRA system is made possible through a network of contracts with various entities, both public and private.

As residents, you are doing a terrific job at curbside recycling, but do you know about all our green programs? We provide your blue bins and extensive education on what should go in them. OCRRA also has collection programs for mercury containing items (fluorescent bulbs, thermometers and thermostats), household hazardous waste, batteries, commercial food waste and more. We teach your children to recycle and protect the environment through education and innovation. We have won national awards for recycling, composting, excellence in waste-to-energy facility operations, waste reduction and too many others to list. OCRRA provides these

services for free. Really?

No, there are no free rides. These award-winning programs are funded by:

- the fees haulers and residents pay when they drop their trash off to us,
- the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility,
- the sale of metal collected at the WTE Facility.

That's it. **OCRRA receives no direct tax support. Our trash operations fund our green programs.**

That's why negotiations with Covanta Energy (the contracted operator of the WTE Facility) and a prospective regional trash partnership with Cortland County are absolutely critical. **OCRRA needs to ensure a revenue stream that can support the many green programs our community enjoys – and expects.**

WTE is here for the long haul. Excuse my pun, but it is true. Contracts in place today dictate that even if OCRRA were not involved with the WTE Facility, it would still be operational for the next 20 years – and



possibly beyond. What's more, without OCRRA's involvement, it is possible that the trash could come from anywhere, not just our backyard, depending on how contracts work out.

When talking about contracts, it is important to note that Covanta Energy is an excellent operational partner. They are environmentally conscious and highly professional in managing the WTE Facility. Our local facility is one of their flagship operations, based on consistently meeting all environmental permit requirements, as well as its compatibility with a robust recycling program. (Covanta operates more than 40 facilities around the world).

The WTE Facility has had a stellar operating and environmental compliance

history since it went on line in 1994. Independent lab tests have always confirmed that the ash generated at the WTE Facility is non-hazardous. Additional testing is performed by the Onondaga County Health Department, which for the life of the Facility has indicated there are no significant environmental impacts directly related to the WTE Facility's operations. (Visit [www.ongov.net/health/publications.html](http://www.ongov.net/health/publications.html) for more details.)

Thanks to a state-of-the-art emissions control system, **facility air emissions, which are tested annually by a third party, have always been well-below health risk assessment levels. Also, they have been consistently below the strict air emissions limits set forth by the DEC.**

For a look at current and historical ash and air emissions reports, visit **OCRRA.org**.

Currently, Onondaga County generates about 315,000 tons of trash per year. This amount of trash would fill the Carrier Dome, but it is down from historic levels. **Due to the decline in the economy, stellar recycling efforts, and manufacturer reductions in packaging, our community is throwing out less trash.**

The WTE Facility (or power plant) runs inefficiently when operating too far below its permitted capacity of 361,350 tons of trash per year. While less trash is a good thing, it also means funding for our green programs is reduced and we are not producing

Continued on page 8

## Where can you recycle your old televisions?

- F-M Returnables, 202 West Seneca Street, Manlius (call first: 682-4830)
- Best Buy - Destiny USA
- Best Buy - Liverpool, 3967 Route 31, Liverpool
- Best Buy - Dewitt, 3401 Erie Boulevard East, Dewitt

Best Buy locations accept TVs that are 32 inches or less.

### **Best Buy DOES NOT accept:**

- ✓ Console TVs of any size, or tube TVs larger than 32"\*
- ✓ Front Projection (Big Screen)\*
- ✓ Rear Projection (DLP)\*
- ✓ Exposed Cathode Ray Tubes

\*Contact Best Buy for haul-away or pickup programs for these items.



This list is current as of March 2014. OCRRA expects that additional drop off locations for TVs will be available in the near future. To receive an updated listing, join OCRRA's email list at **OCRRA.org** or follow us on Facebook.

For a list of locations that accept other electronic waste, visit:

**[tinyurl.com/OCRRAelectronics](http://tinyurl.com/OCRRAelectronics)**



*The Real Deal* \_\_\_\_\_ *Continued from page 7*

as much electricity as we could be producing.

So how can OCRRA deal with this reduction in trash and continue to fund its green programs?

Partnering with Cortland County in a forward-thinking agreement is a natural solution to reducing costs for both counties, bolstering OCRRA's green programs and improving environmental compliance with NYS DEC and US EPA recommendations.\*

**Cortland-Onondaga Regional Trash Partnership:**

The Cortland proposal would entail OCRRA sending 90,000 tons of ash from the WTE Facility to a newly constructed, state-of-the-art ash landfill in Cortland County (cutting the current ash transport distance in half). OCRRA would then return to the WTE Facility with an es-

timated 25,000 tons of Cortland County trash per year (currently our trucks come back empty from a private landfill in Monroe County).

**Environmental Benefits:**

The DEC and EPA prefer processing trash via WTE, as opposed to landfilling, because it produces fewer greenhouse gasses and turns trash into a useful commodity – electricity. Cortland County's trash is currently landfilled without methane gas capture. Here in Onondaga County our trash generates enough electricity to power 30,000 homes per year!

Incorporating Cortland County trash into the OCRRA system would bring trash up to historic norms and provide funds for green programs in our county. In addition, **the net greenhouse gas reduction**

**is equivalent to pulling 17,300 cars off the roads annually!**

In order for this regional partnership with Cortland to move forward, an environmental impact statement will be completed and reviewed by the NYS DEC. This process involves a public comment period where residents can voice their feelings on the proposal. Both the Onondaga and Cortland County Legislatures would also need to approve the deal. Visit **OCRRA.org** to get additional details on the proposed partnership.

**Covanta Negotiations:**

The Cortland partnership would help OCRRA solidify negotiations with Covanta, because it would improve operational efficiency by utilizing the WTE Facility's capacity, all while remaining within regulatory permit limits. OCRRA's goal is to ne-

gotiate a service agreement like we have today with Covanta. Both parties are working toward this desired relationship.

Settling on a service agreement would mean continued public/private ownership of the WTE Facility, which ensures our County Legislature has control over where trash comes from. This sort of agreement would prohibit uncontrolled importation of trash and other materials to the Facility.

OCRRA oversight of the Facility is important to all of us. You can be certain that OCRRA and Onondaga County will use all means necessary to retain this critical component. If a reasonable service agreement cannot be reached, eminent domain may be employed by our County.

Back in 1990, OCRRA was tasked by the State and County Legislatures

to handle our community's trash and recycling. Our board of directors and staff have been preparing and working tirelessly to address the challenges that lie ahead.


Rest assured, regardless of how negotiations pan out, Onondaga County residents will continue to have a trash and recycling management system in place. OCRRA looks forward to your support as we forge a sustainable future that benefits all of us.


Visit **tinyurl.com/OCRRAfaqs** to read more about these exciting partnerships and the future of OCRRA.

*\* Though all disposal options have environmental impacts, the US EPA and the NYS DEC both prefer disposal of trash through WTE over landfilling.*

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**Facebook Question of the Quarter**




**RECYCLING  PLASTICS**

**Barbara Ridley Pierson of Syracuse asks:**

**Q: Have I been misunderstanding all of these years (thinking they are) that the black containers that you cook Stouffers, Healthy Choice, etc. in are not recyclable? I always throw those containers along with the ones you receive salads in from Wendy's, Wegmans and other fast-food restaurants in the bin.**

**A:** Not so long ago (2010), OCRRA began accepting #5 plastics in the blue bin for recycling (typically #5s are stackable containers that often have dairy or fast food in them). While we can't tell you that ALL black plastic containers are recyclable, if they have a #5 on the bottom, those can go in your blue bin. Thanks for your curiosity!


**Follow OCRRA on Facebook and ask us all your recycling and disposal questions!**



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**"Whoa! This stream's got a litter problem, John. Check out all the shredded clothes floating downstream."**

# Mark Your Calendar

Search our disposal database 

**COMPOST SITES OPEN**  
**APRIL 1**  
Get site info or buy a pass at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org).

**EARTH DAY LITTER CLEANUP**  
**APRIL 11 & 12**  
Register your group by April 4 – visit [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) for details.

**SHRED-O-RAMA**  
**MAY 10**  
**NBT BANK STADIUM**  
8 am - Noon  
*Enter from Grant Blvd.*

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF**  
**Year-Round by Appointment**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES**  
6:30 am – 6:00 pm  
Register at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org).

**BATTERY RECYCLING YEAR-ROUND**  
OCRRA drop boxes are at all local **WEGMANS**.  
See article on page 3 for details.

OCRRA.ORG

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