



Winter 2012 Newsletter | Volume 20 | No. 4

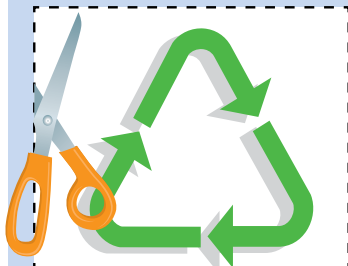


destiny usa

FOOD SCRAPS..... PG 2
Destiny USA vendors
recycle food waste.



BLUE BINS PG 4
Will they disappear in
the near future?



**RECYCLING
CHEAT SHEETPG 5**
Post for quick reference.



WATER.....PG 6
Local Waste-to-Energy
Facility recycles metal
AND water.



FACEBOOKPG 7
Question of the Quarter.
(Holiday themed)

An Earth-Friendly Holiday Reference Guide

What can you reuse, recycle or trash at the holidays?

Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist

Being environmentally friendly during the holidays can be a challenge for even the most ardent conservationists. First and foremost there is the obvious hustle and bustle of the season, and secondly, there are out of town guests who often need a primer on what is and what is not recyclable. (Not to mention, they may also need some encouragement to reuse before recycling or trashing.)

Let your guests know that Onondaga County recycles more than the average community (60% of our waste stream) and you need their help to keep the numbers up.

You help reduce waste when you reuse or recycle, so set the stage for proper disposal when it comes time to unwrap gifts. Have a trash bag, a blue bin and a bag for reusable items handy when the wrapping paper comes off. This will ensure sorting is easy and second nature to you and your friends and family.

If you have questions about what can and cannot be recycled in Onondaga County, visit **OCRRA.org** and check out the "How do I get rid of..." search function at the top of the page.

Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@OCRRA.org



Briyana and Kurstina VanHelsdingen, of Marietta, show how easy it is to sort holiday items for recycling and disposal. Their blue bin includes cardboard, gift boxes, gift bags, non-metallic wrapping paper, catalogs, cards, and envelopes. Note: If you can't reuse them, be sure to place your tissue paper, ribbons, bows, and Styrofoam in the trash. Visit **OCRRA.org** for details.

REUSE these items:

- Gift bags.
- Ribbons and bows.
- Wrapping paper.

RECYCLE these items (if you can't reuse them):

- Greeting cards and envelopes (nothing **metallic** or **foil-lined**).
- Gift boxes.
- Gift bags (glossy ones are fine, just no **metallic/foil** bags).
- Cardboard boxes.
- Catalogs and magazines.
- Clean aluminum foil and disposable aluminum baking trays.
- Wrapping paper (except tissue paper and any **metallic/foil** wrapping papers; they go in the trash).
- Christmas trees (see page 8 for details).

TRASH these items

(if you can't reuse them):

- Metallic or foil containing: wrapping paper, greeting cards, gift bags, and envelopes.
- Ribbons and bows.
- Tissue paper (see page 7 for details).
- Styrofoam*.

* Styrofoam is tricky because in general it is trash, but there are some instances where it can be reused.

Call your local UPS Store or contact United Radio in East Syracuse (446-8700) to see if they can reuse your **packing peanuts**.

Egg cartons, coolers and other types of Styrofoam are trash, so please don't bring them to the above mentioned locations.

Destined to Recycle Food Waste

Destiny USA joins other forward thinking commercial entities reducing waste through food scrap recycling

Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager

When you go to the mall do you think about food waste? No, not likely, but the folks at Destiny USA do. Through a coordinated effort with their 22+ food vendors, OCRRA and their Hauler (Waste Management), Destiny USA is collecting and composting food trimmings and other unwanted foods. Over the past four months they diverted more than 129,000 lbs. of food waste from the trash.

According to a Waste Quantification and Characterization study that OCRRA conducted in 2005, more than 14% of our County's trash is food waste. Much of that waste can be diverted from the waste stream and "recycled" via composting.

The food waste diversion process happens behind the scenes where coffee grounds from Starbucks, dough and pretzels from Auntie Anne's, food scraps from Koto's Japanese restaurant and other dining establishments come

together. Designated "food waste" containers are located throughout kitchens and common waste areas; on a regular basis they are emptied into sealed, 64-gallon bins supplied by Waste Management.

Each week Waste Management collects over 8,000 lbs. of food waste from Destiny USA and transports it to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Facility. There it is mixed with leaves, grass and other yard waste.

OCRRA Recycling Specialist Dave Nettle says, "We mix one part food waste with three parts yard waste and arrange it in 80 foot long piles over a simple pipe and blower system. This allows us to pump oxygen into the piles, which decreases the amount of time it takes for the wastes to break down and become compost."

At the end of the process, the food waste is transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is used to enrich lawns and gardens.

OCRRA's Food Waste Compost is highly sought after by residents and businesses alike. It has been used across the State on high-profile projects like the West Point Parade Fields and the Jacob Javits Center in NYC, as well as on the green roofs of The Oncenter/War Memorial.

Destiny USA's management team and food establishments have truly embraced this program and have set a goal to compost over 500 tons of food waste in 2013.

Destiny USA joins a list of proactive commercial entities in Onondaga County that are recycling more than just their papers and containers, including:

- Byrne Dairy
- Community General Hospital
- Le Moyne College
- Marcellus School District
- Onondaga Community College
- Paul deLima
- Ramada Inn
- St. Camillus



Koto Japanese Steakhouse employee Tan Xiang empties shrimp shells into a food scrap collection bin. Koto is one of many eateries at Destiny USA that saves their food waste and sends it to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site to be turned into nutrient-rich compost. Destiny diverts more than 32,000 pounds of food waste each month from the trash!

- SUNY Upstate Medical Center
- Syracuse Banana
- Syracuse University
- The Oncenter
- University Sheraton

Are you a business that generates a large volume of food waste? Wondering how you can do your

part to reduce waste and improve your bottom line too? Contact OCRRA at 453-2866 today and get the inside scoop!

Greg Gelewski can be reached at ggelewski@OCRRA.org

**Save the world
a little each day.**

Small Actions Bring Big Results

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

In 2012, OCRRA embarked on a new public education campaign that highlights the full system of services we offer. Unlike past campaigns, which focused only on recycling, this one touts recycling, composting, and the waste-to-energy process, which highlights the full value of OCRRA's environmental services.

One of the basic services OCRRA provides is education. Through our staff visits, community presentations, information tables, mailings, advertisements, newsletters, monthly email communications, Facebook posts and information dense website, we aim to raise awareness.

Being aware of recycling, composting, and how to prevent toxic items from entering the trash helps our citizens protect our environment and makes Onondaga County a healthier place to live.

This is important work and OCRRA thanks you for taking such an active role in the process.

The small actions you take each day really add up. It may not seem like a very important act to recycle your cardboard, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, or newspapers (yes, even this one), but when everyone in the County does it, on a daily basis, the totals are incredibly staggering.

Did you know Onondaga County recycles 60% of the waste we generate? We hit this amazing mark all because individuals, like you, take small actions on a repeated basis. It all adds up.

When we recycle we minimize the need to mine natural resources because products can be made of recycled material, instead of virgin materials. We do not need to strip the Earth of finite resources to make new products. Today's newspapers become tomorrow's paper towels, minimizing the need for pulp-ing trees to make paper. Today's plastic bottles become tomorrow's carpet or fleece jacket, minimizing



the need for foreign oil to make these products. Today's recycling is tomorrow's resource.

Learn more about what can be recycled in Onondaga County as well as the many green programs OCRRA provides:

- Sign up for our email blasts,
- Like us on Facebook,
- Visit our recently redesigned website and

search our extensive "How do I get rid of..." database.

All of these things can be done from our homepage at **OCRRA.org**.

Thanks again for your willingness to hear our message and act in the best interest of our community, our children, our resources, and our world. In short, thanks for "saving the world a little each day."

More Than Toxics Were Dropped Off at OCRRA's Final Household Hazardous Waste Event of 2012

Residents' generosity warms the hearts (and toes) of local school children

John Roach, Recycling Aid

During the month of October, OCRRA asked residents to open their closets, wallets, and hearts by donating new or gently used winter clothing to the Syracuse City School District.

OCRRA was a collection point for child-sized boots, coats, hats, scarves, and mittens that were destined to benefit the children of LeMoyne Elementary School. Items were accepted at the October 6 Household Hazardous Waste Event and throughout the month of October at all OCRRA locations.

Over 1,000 residents attended the Household Hazardous Waste Event. In addition to their toxic items, including pesticides, drain cleaner, weed killer, mercury thermometers, oil-based paints, and other difficult to dispose of items, residents turned up with lots of winter clothes.

Throughout the rest of October, residents deposited their donations at OCRRA's Main Office; the Ley Creek and Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Sites; and the Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites. Customers and employees alike brought in donations by the bagful. By the end of the drive, 225 pieces of clothing were amassed.

OCRRA extends gratitude to all of the Onondaga County residents who participated in the collection. The children of LeMoyne Elementary School are grateful for your gifts.

If you want to receive information on OCRRA's 2013 Household Hazardous Waste program, be sure to sign up for OCRRA's email list at **OCRRA.org**.

John Roach can be reached at jroach@OCRRA.org



Photo by Chad Royal, student, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central.

OCRRA's staff and community winter clothing drive yielded great results. Two hundred twenty-five items (coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots) were donated to students at LeMoyne Elementary School in Syracuse.

Back Row: OCRRA Recycling Aid, John Roach; LeMoyne Elementary School Administrative Intern Vice Principal, Cheryl McDonald; student, Floyd Hall; Principal, Laura Vieira-Suarez; OCRRA Executive Director, Mark Donnelly. Front Row: Students Joseph Abt, Marley Munroe, and Antonio Mignacca.



Recycling Rhoda

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

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

I want to be a good recycler, but what am I supposed to do with my plastic bottle caps? First they tell me I can throw them in the trash, now I'm hearing I can recycle them in my blue bin. Which one is it?!? Also, metal bottle caps, where the heck do I put those?

*Curiously yours,
Boggled in Bayberry*

Dear Boggled,

You know that saying, "can't teach an old dog new tricks"? Are you telling me

you're an old dog? I hope not. Times change and so do the recycling rules. Yes, for some time OCRRA instructed residents to recycle their bottles and trash the caps. However, industry standards have changed and material recycling facilities – the private companies that sort your recyclables – are now able to handle **plastic bottle caps** in their operations.

But stop right there! Before you go running off to fill your blue bin with loose bottle caps, listen up. You

need to **take the caps off, crush your bottles or jugs, and then replace the caps**. Why on earth do you have to do that, you ask? Loose caps end up as trash, even if you put them in your trusty blue bin. BUT, if you make sure they stay on the bottle, you ensure they don't fall through the cracks, so to speak. The bottle and caps are handled together, as one item, and they both get recycled. Everybody wins.

Why bother with this preparation? The caps are now recyclable! Why would

you trash something that can be recycled? Take a few extra seconds to crush the bottle, come on, it's fun and you can get some aggression out at the same time!

So, from now on when you finish that bottle of water or soda, crush it (do it with some gusto), put the cap back on, and set it in your blue bin.

Bottle caps that are metal, those guys are a different story. Let's say you have a beer bottle or twist off wine bottle top...everything in moderation right?

Those bottle caps go in your trash – **not** your blue bin. When they make their way to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility they are collected by an industrial magnet and recycled. So, even though they are not going into your blue bin they are still getting recycled.

Well, I do believe that I have answered your questions, no thanks necessary.

*Recycling
Rhoda*

Recycle your mercury thermometers and thermostats at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site!



Visit OCRRA.org for details.

Are Changes Coming for the Ever-Present Blue Bin?

Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction



Many haulers collect trash and recyclables in "split body" trucks. All recyclables, including papers and plastic bottles, go into one section, and trash goes into a separate section, on the same vehicle.

The split-compartment vehicle pictured here is a "side loader." A similar type of split body truck can be loaded from the back of the vehicle.

It is easy to empty the contents on each side of the vehicle at different locations. Trash is delivered to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility on Rock Cut Road. The recyclable materials in the other side are delivered to a "single stream" recycling facility, where they are sorted, baled, and sold to mills and manufacturers.



Our community's curbside blue bin recycling program has seen many changes since it began over 20 years ago. The most obvious adjustments are the new items that have been added to the blue bin, most recently softcover books and #5 plastic tubs, such as yogurt cups and margarine containers.

Working together, **each year, Onondaga County recycles about 80 million pounds of blue bin material**; that saves our community roughly \$3 million in avoided waste disposal fees each year.

Recent changes in recycling collection practice have caught the attention of many residents. They see their hauler combining recyclable containers, such as plastic bottles, glass jars, and metal cans, with paper materials, including cardboard, newspapers, magazines, and junk mail.

This comes 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. Now, all of these recyclable items can be mixed together on the collection truck! It's all because of a new type of recycling called "single stream" recycling. **Note: trash should continue to be separated from recyclables, as trash cannot be separated from recyclables at the sorting facility.**

What is Single Stream Recycling?

Single stream – or mixed recycling – is a type of recycling system that uses conveyor belts, magnets, and light sensors, as well as human labor, to sort different types of materials at the recycling facility. The end result of this process is separate bales of newspaper, cardboard, plastic materials, and metal cans, each weighing hundreds of pounds. These facilities sort recyclables only; trash is not accepted. Online, you can see a video that briefly demonstrates the process: tinyurl.com/recyclesinglestream.

Types of Hauler 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 with one side for trash, and one side for recyclable materials. From a collection standpoint, this is more efficient than using separate collection vehicles for trash and recyclables, and it reduces greenhouse gasses.

As a result, residents may see their trash and recycling going into the same area in the vehicle and think their carefully sorted recyclables are being trashed! Not so. **Trash and recyclables are directed to separate compartments on the truck.**

So, if the recyclables are all mixed together on the collection vehicle, 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.

In our community, haulers deliver the separated trash to the Waste-to-Energy Facility where the trash is combusted under controlled conditions to heat water and create steam. The steam turns turbines that generate enough electricity to power over 30,000 homes in our community. This process

also reduces the need to import foreign oil.

If you still suspect your recyclables are being mixed with trash when picked up, let OCRRA know. OCRRA Enforcement Officers investigate these types of observations and ensure that local waste haulers comply with our community's recycling laws.

Switching to 95-Gallon Wheeled Toters?

One local hauler is now providing their residential customers with a 95-gallon wheeled "toter" for re-

cycling. Special hydraulic-powered lifting equipment is used to empty the recyclables into the truck. A separate toter is used for trash. Does this mean the end of the blue bin in our community? That is not likely, at least not for some time to come, mostly due to cost; the large toters are about ten times more expensive than the blue bins.

Whether using the familiar blue bin, or a large wheeled toter, it remains important to include the correct recyclables, and to keep the trash separated from the recyclable items.

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

Andrew Radin can be reached at aradin@OCRRA.org



OCRRA Saves with Electrical Upgrades at Drop-Off Sites

Joe Fontanella, Director of Transfer Operations

OCRRA's electricity use and bills will soon be trimmed thanks to National Grid's Small Business Program. As part of this program, SmartWatt Energy, the Program Contractor, conducted energy audits at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road and Ley Creek Drop-Off Sites. The audits revealed several energy saving measures including indoor and outdoor lighting upgrades and occupancy sensors. Recommendations, estimated cost savings, financing alternatives, and cost sharing opportunities were presented to OCRRA in the final report. Given the environmental benefits and projected cost savings, OCRRA jumped on the opportunity to imple-

ment the energy efficiency upgrades. Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site upgrades have already been completed. The **savings in the first two months alone account for nearly 15% of the total project costs!** The upgrades consisted of installation of more energy efficient light fixtures and bulbs, as well as occupancy sensors in office and common areas. Occupancy sensors automatically turn off the lights when a room is not occupied and turn them on when someone enters. These measures have reduced electrical demand by roughly 7,000 KWh per month. Work at the Ley Creek Drop-Off Site will take place in early December

and OCRRA expects to see similar reductions in electric usage. In addition to interior upgrades similar to those at the Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site, all outdoor security lighting fixtures will be replaced. The current 400-watt metal halide bulbs will be replaced with 90-watt light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Aside from using far less energy, LEDs are brighter and have a considerably longer life span. Thereby they also reduce OCRRA's maintenance costs and provide better lighting to ensure the safety of our customers and employees on dark winter mornings. Based on initial estimates, OCRRA will recoup its investment in these en-



Joe Broome, OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Plant Supervisor, contrasts old vs. new energy efficient light bulbs. The new T-8 bulbs were recently installed throughout the Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site as part of the National Grid Small Business Program. The upgrades have reduced electrical demand by roughly 7,000 KWh per month; OCRRA expects to recoup its investment in 11 months at the Rock Cut Road Site.

ergy efficiency upgrades in 11 months at the Rock Cut Road Site and 14 months at the Ley Creek Site. Interested in assessing your company's energy use? Check out National Grid's Small Business Program and visit tinyurl.com/NationalGridProgram to find out more. Joe Fontanella can be reached at jfontanella@ocrra.org.

Recycling Reference Guide

Recycle in your blue bin



Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs and Softcover Books
Keep loose, don't tie.



Cardboard, pizza, pasta and cereal boxes
Flatten.



Papers, Mail, Envelopes



#1 and #2 Plastic BOTTLES*
Empty and rinse.



Cans and Jars
Empty and rinse out food residue, labels are okay.



#5 Plastic Tubs
Empty and rinse, no lids.

* While there are #1 and #2 food containers, ONLY #1 and #2 BOTTLES are recyclable. Bottles have necks and smaller tops than bottoms. Can't read the numbers on the bottom? Most bottles are #1 or #2—so if it is a plastic BOTTLE, recycle it!

Recycle, but not in your blue bin



Electronics (computers, TVs, etc.)
Visit OCRRA.org for more information.



Fluorescent bulbs (household only)
Recycle at Home Depot, Lowe's, or local ACE and True Value Hardware stores. Visit OCRRA.org for a list of stores.



Plastic bags
Return clean bags to your local grocery or retail store for recycling.

- Household batteries (no auto batteries)
Drop off at any Onondaga County Wegmans or Green Hills Market.
- Hardcover books
Contact your local library, Salvation Army or Rescue Mission.
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
Bring to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station.
- Old clothes, shoes and textiles
Drop off at Salvation Army or Rescue Mission.
- Propane tanks (20 lb. grilling size only)
Return to the place of purchase.
- Scrap metal
Bring to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station or to any metal recovery facility.
- Yard waste
Bring to one of OCRRA's compost sites.

Want to know about an item not listed? Access our searchable database at OCRRA.org

Recycling Water at the Waste-to-Energy Facility

Amy Miller, Agency Engineer

OCRRA's recycling programs do not stop at the doorstep of the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy Facility. In addition to the metal recycling program that removes about 9,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the ash residue destined for the landfill, the Facility recently implemented a wastewater recycling program.

With approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), wastewater from several local companies is recycled in the processes at the Facility. This opportunity reduces the amount of fresh water used at the Facility, eliminates the need for companies to haul their wastewater long distances for disposal, saves money for the wastewater generators, and provides a new source of revenue to OCRRA. This joint effort by local companies, Covanta Energy (the operator of the Facility), OCRRA, and NYSDEC

benefits the local economy and the environment.

Currently two companies participate in the program. One is a local printing company that uses soy-based inks for its food-grade package printing process, and the other, Marietta Corporation, is a hotel amenity manufacturer.

Marietta Corporation manufactures and bottles shampoo, conditioner, soaps, and lotions for the hotel industry. Their wastewater is generated during the secondary rinse of their processing equipment between batches.

Combined, these two companies offset about four million gallons of fresh water annually through their deliveries to the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Both companies were pleased to find a local Facility that could recycle their wastewater.

Before concluding, it is important to mention some of the Waste-to-Energy Facility's other water re-

duction and recycling systems. **The Facility is a zero discharge facility**, which means all water used during the waste-to-energy process is recycled back into the systems at the Facility, rather than requiring off-site treatment.

The Facility also has an air-cooled condenser as opposed to an evaporative cooling tower, which drastically reduces the quantities of water required by the Facility.

Facilities with cooling towers use about five times more water than facilities with air-cooled condensers. At the WTE Facility that is the difference between using roughly 500 gallons of water per ton of waste processed vs. 100 gallons of water per ton.

All of these programs make a big difference when it comes to water conservation and they are just another way OCRRA saves the world a little each day.

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



Here's how the program works:

- 1.** Covanta, OCRRA, and NYSDEC review the wastewater characteristics to ensure it can be safely used in place of fresh water at the local Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville.
- 2.** Once approved by all parties, wastewater is delivered to the Waste-to-Energy Facility and stored for same-day use in the Facility's processes.
- 3.** Wastewater is pumped into the ash conditioning and air pollution control systems replacing fresh water that would have been purchased from the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA).

Water is a precious resource. OCRRA and Covanta Energy (the company that runs the local Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville) are conserving water by recycling wastewater from local companies and using it in place of fresh water in the Facility's operations.

Earth Day: Let's All Pick up the Planet!



"The Good Ole Boys Bass Club" who picked up along Oak Orchard Road in Clay was one of hundreds of groups that turned out for the Earth Day Litter Cleanup in 2012. Register your group at OCRRA.org today and be part of the 2013 cleanup!



Friday, April 12 & Saturday, April 13

Registration Deadline – March 29

Learn more and register online at www.OCRRA.org



From the desk of Mark Donnelly - Executive Director

OCRRA Green Programs: Diverting useful material from the waste stream

As the Executive Director of OCRRA, I spend a lot of time thinking about sustainability. A book I read recently, **Raising the Bar: Integrity and Passion in Life and Business: The Story of Clif Bar Inc.,** really brought things into focus for me. Author Gary Erickson, owner of Clif Bar Inc., illustrated that sustaining your employees, your community, and the environment is good business.

One of the ways that Erickson highlighted his companies assets, both tangible and intangible, was through the creative use of the common nutrition panel. That's right, the kind found on a box of cereal (which is recyclable, of course).

Taking a page from Erickson's softcover book (also recyclable), I adapted his idea to highlight the benefits of OCRRA's green programs

(illustration at right). While the majority of OCRRA's funds, ironically, are generated by the amount of trash our community creates, we have an environmental obligation to sustain our community. That means, even though recycling programs cost us money, we still invest in them so Onondaga County can continue to be a great place to live and work.

OCRRA's blue bin program, our outreach to the business and residential community, our public education campaign, our compost operations, and our many special programs and events – household hazardous waste drop-off days, Shred-O-Rama events, battery and fluorescent light bulb collection programs, mercury thermometer collections, – and even our metal reclamation programs at the Drop-Off Sites and the Waste-to-Energy Facility all help divert useful materials from the waste stream.

Combined, these green efforts culminate in a 60% recycling rate. This means Onondaga County recycles 60% of the waste it generates. Amazing! Thanks for your contributions to OCRRA's green programs. Without your participation, the NYSDEC wouldn't have ranked Onondaga County as one of the top recycling communities in New York State.

OCRRA is a steward of the environment and we embrace that challenge every day. Green programs are good for our community, as well as our children's children. We owe it to future generations to be responsible with the waste we generate today. I like to think of

OCRRA's green programs as "nutrition" for our County and for the world.

Together we can save the world a little each day.
Mark Donnelly can be reached at mdonnelly@OCRRA.org

OCRRA's 2011 Recycling "Nutrition" Facts

Serving Size: 1.17 tons / person (per year)	
Servings Per Container (Amount of Recycling Processed): 547,922 tons	
Recycled Materials	% Annual Value*
Paper (164,471 tons)	30%
Metals (158,318 tons)	29%
Plastics (8,511 tons)	2%
Organics (132,712 tons)	24%
Sludge (60,957 tons)	11%
Other (22,954 tons)	4%
Total Recycling (547,922 tons)	100%

INGREDIENTS:

Passionate OCRRA employees and board members; environmentally responsible waste generators / recyclers; municipalities, haulers, and material recovery facilities that are invested in the OCRRA system; experienced Covanta Energy staff; innovative programs and policies; transparency; extensive public education; an expansive website (www.ocrra.org); positive community relations; and progressive special events designed to serve the community's ever-evolving needs (added to preserve freshness).

* Percent of total waste reduction achieved annually by recycling these materials.

OCRRA's green programs are "nutrition" for our County's sustainability. This nutrition panel highlights OCRRA's 2011 recycling efforts. Thank you to all the Onondaga County residents that participate in our blue bin recycling and special event programs – all of your efforts add up to a 60% recycling rate – one of the best in the state!

Facebook Question of the Quarter...



Would it be environmentally better to burn it in the fireplace when we have a fire, or just trash it?

Place it in your trash as opposed to the fireplace. When it goes in your trash it is sent to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility, where it is burned and turned into electricity. (The Facility employs state-of-the-art pollution control technologies that keep our air safe and allow OCRRA to comply with one of the strictest air permits in the nation.)

The electricity generated at the Facility is sold to National Grid and the revenue goes toward funding OCRRA's green programs (think blue bins, education, recycling supplies for businesses, Household Hazardous Waste Days, Shred-O-Rama events, etc.)

Also, the processing of Onondaga County's trash at the Waste-to-Energy Facility generates enough electricity to power 15% of our County's homes, and the Facility itself. We think that's pretty cool!

You can learn more here: ocrra.org/about-ocrra/services/energy-from-trash

Kate Foster of Manlius asked a few timely questions, as we gear up for the holidays...

Is tissue paper recyclable?

Tissue paper, the kind that comes in gift boxes (as well as the kind you blow your nose on) should go in the trash. Even if they are clean, the paper fibers in tissue paper are at an end-of-life stage. They have been recycled so many times that they are too short to be recycled into a new paper product.

Christmas Tree Recycling



Don't know what to do with your Christmas tree after the holidays? Turn them into mulch! Okay, YOU don't have to do it yourself, others can help.

Most communities, including the City of Syracuse, provide a curb-side pick up for trees. Just put your tree – no plastic bags, lights, tinsel, stands, or ornaments – at your curb during the scheduled pick-up time. Contact your town or village for more info.

Onondaga County residents can also bring their Christmas trees (and leaves and brush) to either of the OCRRA compost sites

between January 2 and January 12, 2013.

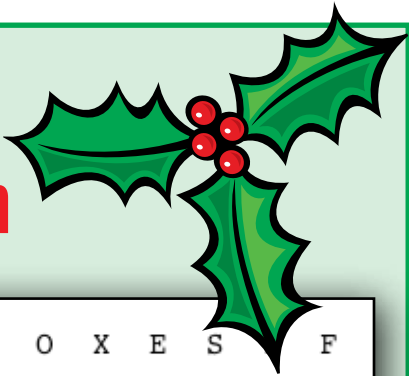
Both sites are open Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm and Saturday 9 am - noon. They are closed on Sundays.

Amboy Compost Site
6296 Airport Road
Camillus, NY 13209

Jamesville Compost Site
4370 Route 91
Jamesville, NY 13078

There is no charge to deliver trees to either site. In the spring, the trees are ground into mulch that in turn can be used in gardens and landscaping.

Find the Holiday Items That Go in Your Blue Bin



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

SEARCH LIST

- Aluminum foil
- Cardboard
- Catalogs
- Disposable pie plates
- Envelopes
- Gift bags
- Gift boxes
- Greeting cards
- Wrapping paper

Word Search Answer Key

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



"I'M ALL FOR RECYCLING, FRANK...BUT LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE?!"

Mark Your Calendar

**CHRISTMAS TREE
DROP-OFF**
JANUARY 2-12

Amboy and Jamesville
Compost Sites – FREE
See article above for details.

**COMPOST SITES
OPEN FOR SEASON**
MONDAY, APRIL 1

Get site info and usage
details at OCRRA.org.

**EARTH DAY LITTER
CLEANUP**
APRIL 12 & 13

Register your group by
March 29 at OCRRA.org.