



Winter 2015 Newsletter | Volume 24 | No. 4



**FOOD SCRAPS ..... PG 2**

Limited time, free residential drop-off program unveiled.



**PLASTIC BAGS ..... PG 4**

Keep them out of the blue bin, but learn where to recycle them year-round.



**RECYCLING CHAMPION: ARCADIS ..... PG 5**

Learn how you can get your workplace recycling like a champ.



**BATHROOM RECYCLING ..... PG 7**

Get the skinny on all the bathroom items that can go in your blue bin.



**TEXTILES ..... PG 8**

Recycling clothing and unwanted textiles can be done year-round at many locations.

## Get Ideas for Spring Projects at the Home and Garden Show: March 17-20

*Residents can get a free blue bin and compost sample at the OCRRA booth*

*Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager*

While it may seem like winter just arrived, pretty soon we will all be thinking about springtime! This means gardening and cleaning up all those things we neglected since last fall...

For some help with that, visit OCRRA at the Home and Garden Show (brought to you by the Home Builders and Remodelers of Central New York). Join us March 17-20 at the NYS Fairgrounds to learn more about OCRRA's community programs and scope out home-related items that are available from more than 400 vendors.

Our booth (#2377 in the Center of Progress Building) will highlight OCRRA's state-of-the-art composting process which generates high-quality compost and mulch. These products are Pride of New York certified, so you know you are buying a locally made agricultural product for your garden or landscaping needs. You can get a sample of our U.S. Composting Council certified compost or buy it by the 40 lb. bag right at the show! (\$5 per bag or \$20 for five bags; cash or checks only).

The OCRRA booth will also offer information on our community's award-winning recycling program, our year-round household hazardous waste drop-off program



Greg Gelewski, OCRRA recycling operations manager, gives out free blue bins to Onondaga County residents Diane Thompson and Ken Goebel at the 2015 Home and Garden Show at the NYS Fairgrounds. Stop by the 2016 show March 17-20 to get a free compost sample, a new blue bin and tons of useful recycling and composting information. OCRRA will be in the Center of Progress Building, Booth #2377.

and other waste reduction tips. OCRRA will be giving out free blue bins to residents that show proof of county residence and selling backyard compost bins for \$49 each. (Only cash or checks made out to "Plastic Solutions" will be accepted for the compost bins.)

The Home and Garden Show is a chance to talk to industry professionals about home improvement projects. It is your one-stop shop for help, repairs, remodels, designs, landscape maintenance, building a home and even recycling! Learn more here: [www.hbrcnyc.com/homegarden](http://www.hbrcnyc.com/homegarden).

Interested in being an exhibitor at the Home and Garden Show? Limited booth space is still avail-

able. Call 315-463-6261 for details.

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



### SHOW HOURS:

Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.





# Limited Time: FREE Food Scrap Drop-Off Announced

*Now through March 2016, residents are invited to compost food scraps at multiple locations*

*Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer*

Residents who currently hold a Food Scrap Compost Pass as well as any resident interested in trying out food scrap composting are invited to take advantage of OCRRA's household food scrap drop-off program – for free (no pass needed) – through March 31, 2016.

This limited time FREE Food Scrap Drop-Off gives residents a chance to test it out and see how easy it is to reduce waste by composting food scraps!

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/FoodScraps2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/FoodScraps2016) to learn what items are accepted as food scraps at all locations.

OCRRA's Compost Sites began winter hours of operation on December 1. As a result, the Jamesville Compost Site is closed to all residential customers until April 1. The Amboy Compost Site remains open Monday - Friday.

To accommodate resident food scrap drop-off needs, OCRRA is now providing Food Scrap Drop-Off at our Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site YEAR-ROUND - in the rear of the building!

This additional service is for residential food scraps only; no brush, yard waste or commercial food scraps can or will be accepted at the Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site.

Commercial entities such as restaurants and other large-scale food scrap generators should contact their hauler about food scrap delivery to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site.

*Kristen Lawton can be reached at [klawton@ocrra.org](mailto:klawton@ocrra.org).*

## Food Scrap Drop-Off Locations and Hours:

### AMBOY COMPOST SITE

6296 Airport Rd., Camillus  
December 1 to March 31:  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-4:00 pm

### ROCK CUT ROAD DROP-OFF SITE\*

5808 Rock Cut Rd., Jamesville  
Year-round: Tuesday-Saturday  
7:00 am-2:30 pm

*\*Food scrap drop-off only.  
No yard waste or brush is accepted.*

### JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE

4370 Rt. 91, Jamesville  
December 1-March 31:  
Closed for Winter



Photo by Kristen Lawton, OCRRA

OCRRA Food Scrap Compost Pass holder Federica Manetti (right) and her daughter Natalia Manetti-Lax (left) drop off\* food scraps at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. OCRRA is inviting residents to try out the food scrap composting program (at the Amboy Compost Site or Rock Cut Road Transfer Station) for free, from now until March 31, 2016. No pass purchase needed, just bring your household food scraps by and we'll compost them for you! Learn more below.

*\*Food scraps can be dropped off loose or in certified compostable plastic bags. Regular plastic bags and non-compostable products are not allowed at any OCRRA location.*

## To Bag or Not to Bag

*Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager*

Residents looking to drop-off food scraps at OCRRA locations can bring their food scraps in loose (dump them straight from your container into our Toter) or in compostable bags.

Many people who do food scrap composting like to have a "kitchen caddy" which is typically a 2-3 gallon container they use to collect their food scraps in their kitchen. They often empty these into a larger container, kept outside their kitchen, say a 5-gallon bucket with a tight-fitting lid that will prevent spills during transport to OCRRA drop-off locations.

Kitchen caddies can be any type of small container that fits easily in your kitchen (2-3 gallon containers are ideal). Old coffee cans and large glass jars make great reusable caddies. If you are looking to

Kitchen caddies, like the ones shown here, can be used to collect residential food scraps. Aggregating scraps in a larger 5-gallon bucket with a secure lid, prior to bringing to one of OCRRA's Food Scrap Drop-Off locations is recommended. Food scraps can be dropped off loose or in certified compostable plastic bags. Regular plastic bags and non-compostable products are not allowed.

purchase a caddy, online is a good option.

If you want to line your caddy with a bag, it must be a compostable bag. **Compostable bags are different from regular plastic bags** and should have the BPI/USCC Compostable logo on them. **Regular plastic bags are not accepted at OCRRA food scrap drop-off locations.**

Locally, there are two entities that routinely carry compostable bags: Syra-

cuse Real Food Co-op (618 Kensington Road, Syracuse, NY 13210) and Green Planet Grocery (3514 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13219). You can also check with your local Wegmans, Target or Walmart. If you are looking for an online option, Glad sells Odor Shield Compostable Bags through various sites. Kitchen caddies are available from Glad as well.

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



## You Heard It Here First:

Residents looking to use the OCRRA Compost Sites during the 2016-2017 season will have multiple options for how they purchase compost passes next season! Wondering what that means? Join our email list to be the first to hear how it will work when passes become available in March 2016!

**Visit [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org) to sign up today.**



**Winter 2015 • Volume 24 • No. 4**

**This quarterly publication is  
brought to you by**

**OCRRA**

**100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, NY  
13212-4312**

**KRISTEN LAWTON  
Public Information Officer**

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

*OCRRA's waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.*





# The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger  
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY -ESF

## Growing Houseplants in Food Waste Compost

In last winter’s newsletter, I explained how we are now growing most of our 2,000 plant collection in our SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry teaching greenhouses in a mix of OCRRA food waste compost, wood chips (chunks) and perlite.

To give you a general sense of how plants are responding, the picture on the top right shows me with a couple of our banana trees; it was taken last fall. The one below was taken just a few months ago.

The additional shoots are pretty conclusive evidence of the benefits of food waste compost as a potting soil, right?

In addition to the OCRRA compost use, there are several reasons for the extraordinary growth

of our banana plants over the past year.

First, much of the growth can be attributed to the very large containers into which these plants were transplanted.

Also, besides the slow-release fertilizer we added to the original potting soil mix, we fertilized these plants almost every time we watered them for much of the past year.

And, of course, growing them in a greenhouse where conditions are pretty much ideal year-round certainly helps, too!

The good news is that along with the bananas, the majority of our plants have grown well over the past year in our OCRRA compost mix. In fact, I now feel pretty comfortable recommending that you give it a try, too – following these recommendations:

- Do not grow your houseplants in straight food waste compost. Rather, it should be mixed with perlite (available at many local garden centers) at a ratio of one part compost to one part perlite.
- Grow your houseplants in clay pots and do not let water sit in the saucer beneath the pots. Because water evaporates from the surface of clay pots, it will be more difficult to over water your plants.
- During the winter months, water your plants just enough to keep the soil just slightly moist and keep them in a room where temperatures drop to around 55°F.
- Finally, because the compost will gradually decompose, it will be a good idea to transplant into fresh compost-based potting soil every other year.



Here I am inspecting the leaves of our blood banana in November 2014, two months after transplanting into a pot filled with an OCRRA compost-based potting soil.



In this picture I am checking the foliage of the same plant, one year later. The plant is about the same height, but has several additional shoots. Also, note how much the Cavendish banana, to the left of the blood banana, has grown over the same period of time! It was also transplanted into OCRRA compost-based potting soil.

By following these steps, you should be able to successfully grow many of your houseplants in locally produced food waste com-

post and help “close the loop” while you are at it!  
Terry Ettinger can be reached at [tlettinger@esf.edu](mailto:tlettinger@esf.edu).



## Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

## Bottle Caps

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

I want to recycle every item possible, but what am I supposed to do with my **plastic bottle caps**? First they tell me I should 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?

Bottled up in Brewerton

Dear Bottled,

It’s true, for some time OCRRA instructed residents to recycle their bottles and then trash the caps. However, industry stan-

dards have changed and material recycling facilities – the private companies that sort your recyclables – are now able to handle plastic bottle caps in their operations. Woo-hoo!!

But, stop right there! Before you go running off to fill your blue bin with loose bottle caps, listen up: you need to **make sure that the plastic bottle caps are attached to the bottles!** 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, because they “fall through the cracks” at the recycling facility. BUT, if you ensure they stay on the bottle, the bottle and the cap are handled together, as one unit, and then they both get recycled.

As technology improves and recycling standards change, it is important to keep thinking critically about our waste items and to keep asking these questions –because things change! For example, the last time bottle caps came up, I advised

readers to remove the caps, crush the bottles, and then put the caps back on the bottles to recycle them. But now, **no bottle crushing is necessary!** So, save yourself some time and energy, and simply put the bottle cap back on when you finish your milk or ketchup and then set the whole thing in your blue bin. It’s kinda like taking candy from a baby. Super easy.

Bottle caps that are METAL, however, those guys are a different story. Let’s say you have a beer

bottle or twist off wine bottle top. Those metal bottle caps go in your trash – not in 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, my friend, that’s the 411 on bottle caps, for today. Keep those questions comin’!

Recycling Rhoda



# Local Schools Reduce Waste with Food Scrap Recovery

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist

Students in both the Fayetteville-Manlius and Westhill School Districts have started turning trash into treasure by separating out their leftover cafeteria food scraps and recovering them for composting at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site.

This past fall, all of the elementary and middle school students in the F-M school district, as well as those at Walberta Park Elementary in the Westhill District, began composting their lunch scraps, and enjoying a large-scale reduction in overall trash as a result.

For example, at Wellwood Middle School in Fayetteville, the introduction of food scrap separation for composting reduced the cafeteria garbage from 12 full trash bags per

day to 8 partially-full trash bags per day. **That is a 34% reduction of cafeteria trash every day!**

Additionally, each school is now able to make good, productive use of the materials that were previously discarded. All food scraps that are collected from these schools are brought to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site in Camillus, where they are turned into nutrient-rich compost that is used to grow healthy plants in our community.

Waste reduction is not the only advantage of implementing a compost program in school, there are educational benefits as well. "Hands-on programs like these are what truly engage students," says Brenda Mickolichik of Waste Management, "keeping them actively involved in school."

The F-M and Westhill School Districts join the company of other community leaders such as the Marcellus and Jordan-Elbridge School Districts, Syracuse University, Wegmans, Pastabilities Restaurant and Crouse Hospital, among others.

Together, these institutions contribute to the processing of over 50,000 pounds of food scraps a week at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site, which will ultimately generate 30,000 cubic yards of high-quality compost each year! If you are interested in getting your school involved in this innovative program, contact Theresa Mandery to learn how it works, take advantage of training and get free educational supplies. Check out this short video to learn



Photo by Theresa Mandery, OCRRA

Students at Fayetteville Elementary School sort their cafeteria lunch scraps, recyclables and trash into separate containers. This effort has reduced the school's trash by 34% each day! The food scraps are brought to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site where they are turned into nutrient-rich compost that helps grow healthy plants. Step up to the plate and join the many schools, universities and businesses in Onondaga County that are turning their trash into treasure. Contact OCRRA at 453-2866 to learn more today.

more about the benefits of food scrap composting and the process OCRRA uses to turn waste into wonder-ful: [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAfoodscraps](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAfoodscraps). Theresa Mandery can be reached at [tmandery@ocrra.org](mailto:tmandery@ocrra.org).

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE...

**CONQUERED BY:**



Photo by Ann Fordock, OCRRA

### James Johnson of Baldwinsville

Johnson is OCRRA's Winter Household Hazardous Waste appointment raffle winner. Johnson won a basketful of green cleaning products. Get rid of your household toxics safely at OCRRA's year-round drop-off; make an appointment at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) and be entered for a chance to win too!

## Forbidden from the Bin: Plastic Bags

Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist

Plastic bags and plastic film/wrap of any kind should not go in your blue bin. Also, do not place your recyclables in a plastic bag and drop the entire thing in your blue bin either. **All your recyclables should be dumped loose into the blue bin.** It does not matter if your recyclables go into a curbside blue bin or a recycling container at an apartment or business. Recyclables should always be loose.

So, now that you are not going to put any plastic bags in the recycling bin, what are you going to do with them?

1. You can **use them as trash bags** at home or to pick up doggie-do. This will even save you a few bucks...
2. Have too many to reuse? **Recycle them at a big box store!** Most large stores that give them out are required by law to collect them for recycling. They send them to be turned into new products. Collection bins are usually right where you walk in.



An even more proactive step is to **eliminate them.** Bring reusable bags with you when you go shopping and skip the plastic altogether!

Spread the word that plastic bags should never go in the recycling bin and tell everyone you know how easy it is to take them back to the store for recycling or to bring reusables instead.

Ann Fordock can be reached at [afordock@ocrra.org](mailto:afordock@ocrra.org).





## Arcadis Syracuse Office: Achieves OCRRA Blue Ribbon Recycler

*Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist*

Congratulations goes out to Arcadis, an East Syracuse design and consulting firm that recently became the latest Onondaga County business to receive OCRRA's Blue Ribbon business recycling certification.

Daniel Zuck, Associate Project Manager/Project Geologist was instrumental in leading the charge and getting their team of 320 workers on board and making sure that all the Blue Ribbon Recycler criteria were met.

The first step to becoming a Blue Ribbon Recycler is to schedule an in-house recycling review. In Arcadis' case this involved a walk-through of their two-building complex and verification that the required Blue Ribbon recycling and waste reduction criteria were in practice.

Blue Ribbon Recycler criteria includes implementation of standard recycling practices (blue bin recycling of paper and cardboard, which businesses are required to do by law in Onondaga County) as well as non-standard initiatives.

The Arcadis office:

- is committed to using copy paper with recycled content,
- has a fluorescent bulb recycling program,
- eliminated bottled water in the office and supplied each employee with reusable plastic drink tumblers,
- composts coffee grounds; over 1,500 pounds have been kept out of the trash in the last year. Employees are encouraged to take the compost material home and use it to amend soil in their own gardens.
- participates in a national recycling program (Terracycle) by collecting used pens, markers and even cigarette butt discards (OCRRA does not endorse or promote smoking) for recycling.

Wondering how you can get your business recognized for their recycling achievements like Arcadis? Join a growing number of businesses protecting the environment and enhancing the quality of life in Onondaga County and apply to



OCRRA Recycling Specialist Dave Nettle presents Dan Zuck of Arcadis with their 2016 Blue Ribbon recycling certificate. Zuck is flanked by many Arcadis employees that embrace efforts to recycle and reduce waste in their office. Find out how your workplace can become a Blue Ribbon Recycler by visiting [www.tinyurl.com/BlueRibbon2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/BlueRibbon2016).

become a Blue Ribbon Recycler at [www.tinyurl.com/BlueRibbon2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/BlueRibbon2016)

Each business that obtains Blue Ribbon Recycler Certification receives:

- A **certificate and decal** to display in a public area.
- A **recycling certification letter** that highlights the organization's specific recycling and waste reduction practices. The letter can be posted on your website or used when pursuing potential clients and customers.

- Recognition on OCRRA's Blue Ribbon Recycler website and / or in the OCRRA Newsletter (distributed quarterly to more than 100,000 local recipients).
- An **electronic Blue Ribbon Recycler seal** for use on your company letterhead, website and e-mail signatures.
- An opportunity to schedule a **promotional event** at your workplace to recognize your recycling efforts and boost morale.

Blue Ribbon or not, please use OCRRA as a resource! Recycling Specialists are available to help you start or improve a recycling and waste reduction program at your business.

Visit [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) to learn more, or, better yet, contact us at 453-2866 or [info@OCRRA.org](mailto:info@OCRRA.org) to get started today!

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



## OCRRA Recycling Director Given Lifetime Achievement Award

*Terry Laibach, NYSAR<sup>3</sup> Recycling Leadership Award Committee Chair*

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>), the professional recyclers' association for New York State, recognizes a few outstanding achievers each year for their dedication, innovation and passion for recycling.

In 2015, Andrew Radin, OCRRA's Director of Recy-

cling and Waste Reduction was recognized by his peers at the NYSAR<sup>3</sup>'s statewide conference in Cooperstown.

Radin was presented with NYSAR<sup>3</sup>'s Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding advocacy of recycling, serving in his role with OCRRA (for almost 25 years), where he has guided a steady waste

diversion rate of 60% despite economic and packaging shifts.

As Chair of the New York Product Stewardship Council, Radin has played a key role in advancing state legislation requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for certain products at the end of their useful life, including electronics,

mercury thermostats and rechargeable batteries.

Described as a consensus builder and consummate team player, Andrew publicly thanked the OCRRA team and the community for making recycling such a successful endeavor in Onondaga County.

Terry Laibach can be reached at [terry.laibach@dec.ny.gov](mailto:terry.laibach@dec.ny.gov).



Andrew Radin, OCRRA Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction recently received the 2015 NYSAR<sup>3</sup> Lifetime Achievement Award.

**FACT:** Plastic bags do NOT go in the blue bin. Return clean bags to the grocery store for recycling.



# Ink and Toner Cartridge Recycling Options

*Residents and businesses can reduce waste through mail-back or exchange programs*

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist

Did you know that ink and toner cartridges found in laser printers, photocopiers and fax machines can be refilled, refurbished and resold? That's right, they can be reused and recycled which saves natural resources.

According to AGreener Refill.com, each year in North America, more than 40,000 tons of plastic and metal are removed from the waste stream as a result of cartridge recycling. Up to 97 percent of the materials that make up a printer cartridge can be recycled or reused. It is estimated that only 30 percent of all ink car-

tridges and 50 percent of all toner cartridges are actually repurposed.

Annually, over 375 million empty cartridges are thrown away. This is equivalent to throwing out 1,000,000 cartridges per day or 11 cartridges per second.

375 million cartridges put end-to-end would circle the earth more than three times!

Depending on the type of cartridge (inkjet vs. laser), between three ounces and three quarts of oil are required to produce a new cartridge. When reusing a cartridge, oil consumption is reduced to zero.

On average, a printer cartridge can be refilled 5-7 times.

So, if you have printer cartridges at your home or place of work, make sure they are being recycled. Most manufacturers and office supply stores (Office Max, Staples, etc.) have mail-back programs or check out Ink and Toner Express in Syracuse (952-5633; [www.thinkinkcny.com](http://www.thinkinkcny.com)).

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

Save the world a little each day.

See how at



Photo by Andrew Radin, OCRRA

OCRRA's Cheri Zajac shows off a Toshiba toner cartridge recycling box that she will use to send spent printer cartridges back to Toshiba for reuse. Whether you are a business or a resident with empty cartridges, remember recycling them is far better than throwing them away.

## 2016 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 22    ☐ Saturday, April 23    ☐ 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) where you are cleaning. This info is used to provide instructions on litter drop off.

**What area are you cleaning?** (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**



A word from the Executive Director on a sensitive subject...

What Happens in the Bathroom

Mark Donnelly, Executive Director, OCRRA

Where do we recycle the most throughout the day? For my family, it is the kitchen. As consumers, we buy many food products that require packaging. I would bet your family is the same.

What would you guess is the room in your home that is largely ignored when it comes to recycling? If you said, “bathroom” then you are right. Think about the plastic shampoo, body wash, lotion, toilet bowl cleaner and other plastic bottles that you find in the bathroom. These are likely made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE), which is a valuable plastic derived from oil that is 100% recyclable in the blue bin.

Think of it this way: **If it is a plastic bottle, it is recy-**

**clable.** (As an aside, empty aerosol cans, tissue boxes, magazines and toilet paper tubes are also recyclable).

The aforementioned plastic items can be turned into sturdier products like plastic lumber, patio furniture, roadside curbs, benches, truck cargo liners and flower pots. They can also be used to make recycling bins – talk about full circle!

According to a 2014 Cone Communications “Recycling in the Home” survey (in partnership with Johnson & Johnson), “nearly ¾ of Americans say they consistently recycle, but only about half recycle outside the kitchen. Why? Well, the #1 roadblock to recycling throughout the house is a lack of recycling bins. Only 22% of Americans have a bin in their laundry room – and a paltry 14% have one in their bathrooms. In fact, 40% of those surveyed say they don’t recycle bathroom items at all.”

So, carpe diem! Recycle your bathroom items; carry them to your recycling bin elsewhere in your home or, even better, put a dedicated recycling bin in your bathroom(s). Any container will do and you can even label it with the handy cut out found below.

The bathroom is the only private sanctuary in the house, so use it as you wish, but be a good recycler while you are in there. *And, for my daughter, please turn the light off when you leave.*

That brings me to another



Recycling your bathroom items like shampoo and mouthwash bottles as well as toilet paper tubes and magazines can really add up. Maximize your recycling quotient by placing a small recycling container in your bathroom(s). Use the handy cut out below to label the container, which could simply be a cardboard box or small garbage can.

point about recycling. How do recycled plastic bottles save energy? Plastic bottles are made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource. Recycling one ton of plastic bottles saves 3.8 barrels of oil.

Learn more fun facts about recycling and how to recycle successfully in your bathroom here: [www.tinyurl.com/BathroomRecycling](http://www.tinyurl.com/BathroomRecycling)

Mark Donnelly can be reached at [mdonnelly@ocrra.org](mailto:mdonnelly@ocrra.org).

RECYCLE

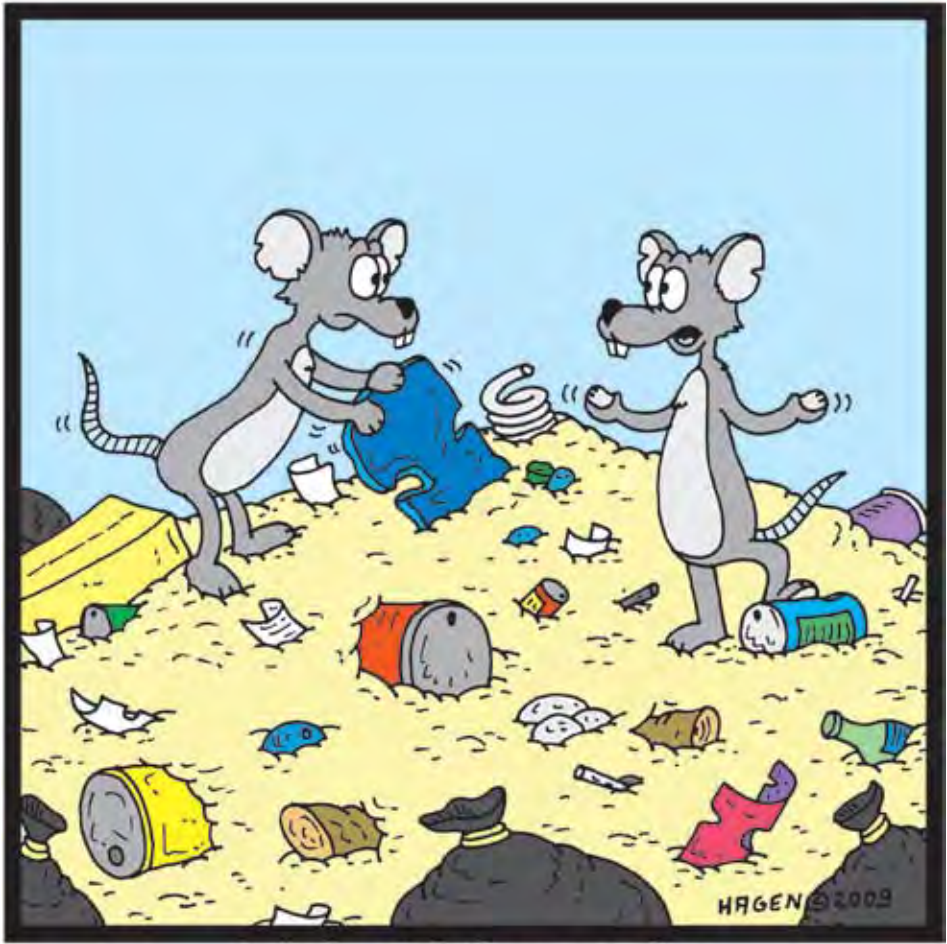


- ✓ Plastic Bottles
- ✓ Newspapers & Magazines
- ✓ Paperboard Boxes



[www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org)





Cartoon Stock

I don't mind them recycling,  
but the more they compost, the less food we get...

Facebook  
Question  
of the  
Quarter



**Q:** I missed your Textile Recycling Event last November, when will you have another one?

**A:** The great thing about recycling textiles (old clothing, even things that are ripped, stained, have broken zippers or are missing buttons; linens; curtains; shoes; accessories; stuffed animals, etc.) is that it can be done all year long! You don't need to wait for an event to recycle AND help the less fortunate.

Visit this link for a list of locations that accept textiles year-round in Onondaga County: [www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles](http://www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles)

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/AcceptableTextiles](http://www.tinyurl.com/AcceptableTextiles) for a list of commonly accepted items.

# Green Up Onondaga County

Taking Orders  
Through  
March 11

For a better, greener tomorrow...

## Plant a Tree!

### Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

Bare-Root Stock - *Featuring Non-Invasive and Native Species*

- \* Fruit Shrubs
- \* Conifers
- \* Deciduous Trees & Shrubs
- \* Conservation Pacs
- \* Bluebird & Bat Houses
- \* OCRRA's Premium Compost (40 lb. bags)



Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Call 315-457-0325 for an order form or visit [www.ocswcd.org](http://www.ocswcd.org)

# Mark Your Calendar

Search our  
disposal  
database



ELECTRONICS  
RECYCLING  
**Year-Round  
at Various Locations**  
Search  
[OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) for details

HOME AND GARDEN  
SHOW 2016  
**March 17-20**  
OCRRA is in the  
Center of Progress Building  
Booth #2377  
See Page 1 for details

EARTH DAY  
APRIL 22 & 23  
**Register at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org)  
by April 15**  
  
april 22 & 23, 2016

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)

**FACT:** #1 plastic clamshell containers are trash. Only #1 and #2 plastics that are BOTTLE or JUG shaped can go in the blue bin.