

MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release



Onondaga County Residents Invited to Bring Old Mercury Thermometers and Thermostats to August 13 Collection Event
Covanta, OCRRA and Thermostat Recycling Corporation host free event to protect the environment; Covanta offers \$10 Lowe's gift card incentive



Dispose of mercury thermometers and thermostats on Monday, August 13 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville. Check out these videos for details: <https://tinyurl.com/ThermVids>

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Jul. 31, 2018 –Keep harmful mercury out of the environment and bring your old mercury thermostats and thermometers to an event happening on Monday, August 13 from 7:30 am until 10:30 am at the [Rock Cut Road Transfer Station](#) (5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville, NY 13078).

This free event is and open to residents of Onondaga County. Check out these three short videos for details on what is acceptable and how to prepare for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/ThermVids>

“Safely get rid of old mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats at this drop-off event,” said Dereth Glance, OCRRA executive director. “Mercury harms people and wildlife and needs to be properly disposed. Do your part for the environment and human health by removing toxic mercury from your home.”

Mercury is commonly found in old thermometers and thermostats. When exposed to air mercury escapes into the environment exposing humans to potential nervous system damage. Mercury is a heavy metal that bio-accumulates up the food chain impacting wildlife as well as humans.

Mercury containing thermometers have silver, grey or black filling in their tubes. Thermometers with any other color filling do not contain mercury and should be thrown out. Mercury containing thermostats have levers or dials that must be physically moved to change temperature, as well as glass tubes filled with a silver substance behind the faceplate. Newer programmable thermostats do not contain mercury and should be thrown out.

Covanta is sponsoring replacement digital thermometers for each mercury thermometer brought in, as well as \$10 gift cards for each resident that brings mercury thermostats or thermometers to the event. A gift card is not issued for non-mercury containing items.*

“Covanta is excited to offer gift cards at this event which reward the outstanding efforts of Onondaga County residents who turn in mercury containing devices on August 13,” said Kathleen Carroll, Covanta Onondaga client-waste solutions manager. “Removing mercury from the environment protects our children and wildlife; we are happy to be a part of this effort.”

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation will buy 500 lbs. of carbon off-sets for every mercury thermostat returned. This will not only cover the environmental costs of driving a car to the event, but will also cover above and beyond to make sure the event recovers more carbon than it uses.

“We continue to see great value in partnering with Covanta and OCRRA on events like this,” said Ryan Kiscaden, TRC’s executive director. “It serves a springboard to communicate the ease of using our mercury thermostat recycling program, and the importance of participating in it.”

To help attendees move quickly through the event, those dropping off mercury thermometers or thermostats must complete a short form beforehand and place it on their dash the day of the event. The form can be downloaded at www.OCRRA.org (<https://tinyurl.com/Therms2018>).

No trash or recyclables will be accepted at the Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site, which is closed for normal business on August 13, 2018.

Year-Round Disposal Options:

Residents unable to attend the event have year-round disposal options for mercury thermometers and thermostats. They may be dropped off at **OCRRA’s Ley Creek Transfer Station**, year-round Monday-Friday from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm and the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Residents will receive a \$5 Lowe’s gift card in the mail, courtesy of Covanta.

Broken or leaking thermometers and thermostats will not be accepted at the event. To make a no-cost household toxics disposal appointment to get rid of those items safely, visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics for details.

* One gift card per resident drop-off, regardless of the number of mercury items turned in at the event.

About OCRRA: *OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature in 1990 to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. OCRRA's system includes: a strong recycling and composting program, a foundation for local waste disposal at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, two convenient trash and recycling drop off sites, a robust education component and programs for hard to manage materials, such as household hazardous waste, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. OCRRA's award-winning programs are funded by trash drop-off fees and the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, NY. Learn more and get involved at www.OCRRA.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#).*

About Covanta Onondaga: *Covanta Onondaga operates the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility, which serves Onondaga County and the greater Syracuse region with sustainable waste disposal, processing approximately 990 tons of municipal solid waste per day into more than 39 megawatts of clean, renewable electricity. The facility also recycles approximately 12,000 tons of metal annually – enough to build 10,000 automobiles. For more information, visit covanta.com.*

About Thermostat Recycling Corporation: *Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) was founded in 1998 as an industry-funded nonprofit. Membership consists of 31 manufacturers who either branded and sold mercury thermostats in the U.S. prior to their discontinuation in 2007, or produced devices that may replace mercury-containing thermostats.*

With a network of more than 3,000 collection sites nationwide, TRC has recovered over 2.1 million thermostats, or 10 tons of mercury, to date. All costs to transport and properly dispose of recovered thermostats are assumed by TRC. Visit thermostat-recycle.org to learn more and find a recycling location near you.

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