

March 7, 2019

Mr. John Copanas

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2018

*Mission: To sustain a world-class waste management system that benefits our community and environment*

Sir:

I am pleased to report that the Agency was both diligent and successful in carrying out our Mission in 2018. In achieving this goal the Agency acted in accordance with our core values of:

- Integrity & Honesty
- Safety
- Environmental Stewardship
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Public Engagement
- Excellence in Customer Service

Guided by the Agency's vision, OCRRA uses effective and fiscally-sound strategies, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, disposal and public education, to ensure the safe and reliable disposal of waste while making our community a more sustainable and healthy place to live. I would like to take this opportunity to share the 2018 results with you.

**2018 Program Highlights:**

- **RECYCLING:** In total, the community recycled nearly 500,000 tons of material, for a 56% recycling rate, resulting in waste disposal costs savings of more than \$42 million! This environmental effort prevented the generation of more than one million metric tons of carbon dioxide.
- **COMPOSTING:** OCRRA's pioneering food scrap composting program processed over 11 million pounds of food scraps from commercial and institutional generators. This included thousands of pounds of cafeteria food scraps separated daily by more than 7,000 school children. This was processed into thousands of yards of compost that helped restore the habitat on the western shoreline of Onondaga Lake.
- **ENERGY RECOVERY:** In 2018, the Facility processed 364,865 tons of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste (enough to overfill the Syracuse Carrier Dome) and, in doing so, generated 245,628 megawatt hours of electricity. This was enough to power roughly 30,000 homes (about 18% of Onondaga County households) and the Facility itself. 12,540 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metal were also recovered for recycling and approximately 273,600 tons of carbon dioxide emissions were avoided by processing trash at the WTE Facility.

- **DISPOSAL:** The by-product of the energy recovery process is a non-hazardous ash that, per the NYS DEC has a beneficial use as landfill cover. OCRRA has disposal contracts with several area landfills and in 2018 sent, 40,000 tons of ash to High Acres Landfill (Fairport, NY); 23,000 tons to Seneca Meadows Landfill (Waterloo, NY) and 14,000 tons of ash to Madison County Landfill (Canastota, NY).
- **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** In 2018, OCRRA educated residents on recycling, composting and disposal through public events (Earth Day Cleanup that engaged more than 7,300 volunteers and collected over 100,000 pounds of litter; Household Hazardous Waste Drop Offs that served more than 1,790 residents; tabling at events and presentations at hundreds of businesses and schools) and outreach (interactive website visited 193,400 times; social media presence with more than 10,500 followers; printed newsletter that reached 85,000 residents each quarter and numerous brochures including updated recycling rules which can be found at [www.ocrra.org/services/recycle/](http://www.ocrra.org/services/recycle/)).

## REPORTING

The Agency supports transparency in all its operations, meetings and financial reporting. The Agency's comprehensive website ([www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org)) contains several years' worth of useful reports including our Annual Reports, Recycling Reports, Compost Site USCC STA Test Results, WTE (waste-to-energy) Reports, WTE Air Emissions and Ash Testing Data, and Annual Budgets.

Agency Meetings <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/meetings/>

Annual Reports <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

Open Procurements <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/procurements/>

Agency Policies <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

For additional information we have a very convenient portal for submitting FOIL requests (<http://ocrra.org/contact-us/foil-requests/>).

The Agency received an unqualified, clean opinion from our external auditors for 2018; that is included in our Annual Report on the website. In addition, all New York State and Authority Budget Office reporting requirements and deadlines have been met and documents for these related requirements are available on our website at <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/#abo>

In conclusion, the Board of Directors, employees and the community can be proud that OCRRA has once again met its Mission in a manner that affirms what good government is all about.

Very truly yours,



Michael A. Mokrzycki

Business Officer