

March 22, 2021

Board Chair John Copanas

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2020

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

Chairperson,

I am pleased to report that the Agency was both diligent and successful in carrying out our Mission in 2020. 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 2020 results with you.

2020 Program Highlights:

- **RECYCLING:** In 2020, we recycled more than 420,000 tons of material, for a 53% recycling rate, resulting in waste disposal costs savings of more than \$40 million! This environmental effort prevented the generation of over one million metric tons of carbon dioxide.
- **COMPOSTING:** OCRRA's pioneering food scrap composting program processed over 6.5 million pounds of food scraps from commercial and institutional generators. Despite pandemic closures that impacted food waste generators, more than 5,000 yards of compost that was produced in 2020 continued to be used to restore the habitat along the shoreline of Onondaga Lake.
- **ENERGY RECOVERY:** In 2020, the Facility processed 356,722 tons of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste (enough to overfill the Syracuse Carrier Dome) and, in doing so, generated 255,961 megawatt hours of electricity. This was enough to power roughly 30,000 homes (about 18% of Onondaga County households) and the Facility itself. 12,853 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metal were also recovered for recycling and approximately 256,840 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. In 2020, combined, OCRRA sent 78,919 tons of ash to High Acres Landfill (Fairport, NY); Seneca Meadows Landfill (Waterloo, NY) and Madison County Landfill (Canastota, NY).
- **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** In 2020, OCRRA educated residents on recycling, composting and disposal through public relations, advertising and digital outreach (including an interactive website that was visited 232,800+ times; a social media presence with more than 10,590 followers; an email list with more than 11,500 subscribers; and a printed newsletter that reached 75,000 residents each quarter, as well as numerous brochures including updated recycling rules which can be found at: 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) contains several years' worth of useful reports including our Annual Reports, Recycling Reports, Compost Site USCC STA Test Results, WTE (waste-to-energy) 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 2020; 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