



## Protect Your Identity and Shred Confidential Documents

*Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist*

In 2021, OCRRA is partnering with two local shredding companies to offer reduced-cost shredding services to households in Onondaga County. Unfortunately, OCRRA is unable to offer a confidential document shredding event this year due to challenges associated with securing necessary volunteers to run a safe, efficient event.

Confidata in Liverpool accepts ten medium bags or boxes and requires an appointment. Simple Shred (located in the Bodow Recycling building off Hiawatha Blvd. in Syracuse) accepts unlimited confidential documents and does not require an appointment. Bring the coupons below to the location of your choice and get a discount on shredding your confidential documents. Both companies accept materials for drop off and shred them in 24 hours or less. Additional fees apply if you would like your materials shredded in front of you.

Please bring only confidential documents to be shredded. To learn what is considered a confidential document, check out the list to the right.

*Maria Bianchetti can be reached at [mbianchetti@ocrra.org](mailto:mbianchetti@ocrra.org).*

### What is a Confidential Document?

Confidential documents contain account numbers.

**Confidential documents include:** medical documents, bank information, credit card statements, tax forms, other records containing account numbers.

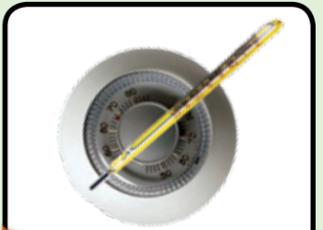
Items containing only your name and mailing address are NOT confidential.

**Non-confidential documents include:** phone books, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, receipts.



**TRANSFER STATIONS...PG 2**

Learn which site to drop off your trash, recycling and remodeling debris.



**MERCURY THERMS.....PG 2**

Bring your thermostats and thermometers to the Sat., 9/25 event.



**TV & E-WASTE .....PG 3**

Find out where you can recycle your old electronics.



**PLASTICS RECYCLING..PG 4**

Ignore the numbers, pay attention to the shape to recycle right.



**WASTE-TO-ENERGY.. PG 5**

Trash facility continues stellar operations per independent testing.



### Confidential Document Shredding Special

**25¢ per pound**

**Monday – Friday | 9 am to 2 pm**

- Materials will not be shredded instantly, but will be shredded in 24 hours or less following drop off.
- Call 1-800-62-SHRED for appointment.
- Limit 10 medium boxes or bags.
- No business docs. Onondaga County household materials only.
- Prohibited items: Cardboard, 3-ring binders, hanging file folders, plastic folder holder envelopes, large metal binder clips (staples, paper clips and rubber bands are okay).

4642 Crossroads Park Drive  
Liverpool

COUPON EXPIRES: DECEMBER 31, 2021



### Confidential Document Shredding Special

**25¢ per pound**

**Monday – Friday | 8 am to 4 pm**

- Materials will not be shredded instantly, but will be shredded in 24 hours or less following drop off.
- No appointment necessary.
- Unlimited drop off.
- No business docs. Onondaga County household materials only.
- Prohibited items: Cardboard, 3-ring binders, hanging file folders, plastic folder holder envelopes, large metal binder clips (staples, paper clips and rubber bands are okay).

1925 Park St. #2, Syracuse  
(Bodow Recycling Building)

COUPON EXPIRES: DECEMBER 31, 2021

# Know Before You Go: Which Transfer Station Can You Bring Trash To?

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

OCRRA's Ley Creek and Rock Cut Road Transfer Stations accept a wide variety of materials for recycling and disposal. Residents are to use the Ley Creek Transfer Station, while commercial entities must deliver materials to the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. Both locations accept cash or check only and require trucks and trailers to be tarped to avoid additional fees due to NYSDOT regulations. Hours and locations can be found below.

## LEY CREEK Residential Drop Off Only

Ley Creek accepts trash, construction and demolition debris, and recyclables **from residents**. No materials generated or transported by a business are accepted.

- Recycling including newspapers, magazines, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans are charged \$2 per visit, regardless of amount.
- Bagged trash can be disposed of for \$3 per bag (trash bag stickers can be purchased in advance online or on-site at drop off). No entrance fee applies.

Residents delivering trash or construction debris in bulk pay an entrance fee for disposal based on vehicle size:

- \$15 per car or minivan
- \$30 for pickup trucks, SUVs, vans, and single axle trailers.\*

The following materials have an additional service fee:

- Appliances with refrigerants (CFCs): \$15 each
- Mattresses: \$15 each
- Microwaves: \$5 each
- Passenger tires up to 20" in diameter: \$7 each (Rims must be removed; no tires over 20", no off-road or tractor tires. Limit 10 tires.)

Residents do not pay the vehicle entrance fee if just dropping off bagged trash using stickers or if only delivering recyclables.

Other materials accepted from residents at **no charge** at Ley Creek include:

- Household batteries (no lead acid or ion batteries)
- Fluorescent lightbulbs
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats

*\* Oversized or overloaded vehicles may be assessed an additional charge.*

## ROCK CUT ROAD Commercial Drop Off Only

Businesses, including contractors, roofers, and clean-out companies disposing of trash or construction and demolition debris (C&D) must go to Rock Cut Road. Those with cardboard or other recyclables must make arrangements with their hauler to deliver these items to a local recycling facility. Rock Cut Road does not accept any commercial recyclables.

Wood and other C&D material must be 4 feet in length or less. More information about fees and acceptable materials is available at: [www.tinyurl.com/RCRinformation](http://www.tinyurl.com/RCRinformation)

## Transfer Station Hours

### Ley Creek Transfer Station

*Residents Only. No Commercial Customers.*

5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool  
(Off 7<sup>th</sup> North St. exit off Route 81)

OPEN: Thu. & Fri., 6:30 am – 1:30 pm;

Sat., 8:00 am – 11:30 am.

CLOSED: Mon. – Wed. and Sun.

### Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

*Businesses Only. No Residential Customers.*

5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville

OPEN: Hand-unloading: Mon. – Fri., 6:30 am – 1:30 pm;

Self-dumping vehicles: Mon. – Fri., 6:30 am – 2:30 pm.

CLOSED: Sat. and Sun.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- Neither Transfer Station accepts televisions, computers, large propane tanks, or hazardous waste. For information about where to take these items visit: [www.tinyurl.com/HowToGetRidOfIt](http://www.tinyurl.com/HowToGetRidOfIt)

Lisa Piering can be reached at [lpiering@ocrra.org](mailto:lpiering@ocrra.org).

## Save the Date: Sat., 9/25 Mercury Collection Event

Mercury, if not properly managed, can harm humans and the environment. OCRRA and Covanta are hosting a mercury thermometer and thermostat takeback event on Saturday, September 25, from 8 am until 11 am at Miller Environmental Group (532 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13204 – near the 690 West on ramp off Hiawatha Blvd.).

Covanta, which operates the local Waste-to-Energy

Facility, is donating a \$10 gift card from Lowe's to every resident who brings in a mercury thermometer or thermostat. (One gift card per resident drop-off, regardless of the number of mercury items turned in.)

If a thermometer is dropped off, Covanta will provide a mercury-free, digital thermometer replacement. This free event is for household items from Onondaga County only. Residents should com-

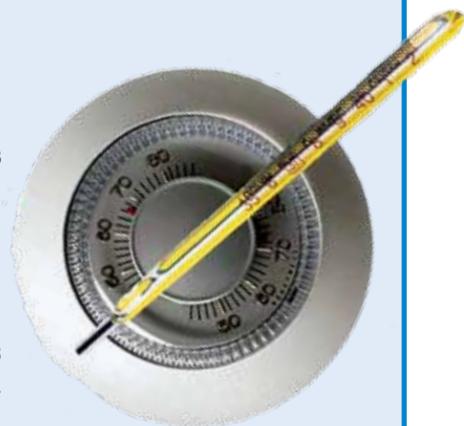
plete a drop-off form before arriving and place it on their vehicle's dash to expedite their visit on the day of the event. The form may be found at [www.tinyurl.com/Mercury2021](http://www.tinyurl.com/Mercury2021) or on page 4.

How can you tell if your thermometer or thermostat contains mercury? Mercury **thermometers** have SILVER, METALLIC GREY or BLACK filling in their bulbs. Any other color filling indicates it is a non-mercury thermometer and it should

be thrown in the trash.

Mercury **thermostats** have dials or levers that you need to manually adjust. If you take their faceplate off and see one or more glass vials containing a silver substance, you have a mercury thermostat.

Unable to make the drop-off event? Bring mercury thermostats and thermometers to OCRRA's Ley Creek Transfer Station, year-round and get a \$5



Lowe's gift card (and mercury-free thermometer, if applicable) in the mail. Ley Creek is open Thursday and Friday, 6:30 am to 1:30 pm and Saturdays, 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

**FACT:** All open truck or trailer loads delivered to our transfer stations must be tarped to avoid litter and NYSDEC fines.

# How to Recycle TVs and Other Electronics in Onondaga County

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

OCRRA cannot accept electronics at any of our locations, nor do we host collection events. However, NYS law requires manufacturers to take-back unwanted electronics from households, schools and small businesses year-round.

**Electronics covered under the law include: TVs, computers, monitors and “other” electronics,** such

as printers, scanners, fax machines, keyboards, mice, tablets, DVRs, VCRs, DVD players, cable or satellite receivers, video game consoles, portable digital music players, digital converter boxes, small scale servers, and computer peripherals including cables, cords or wiring permanently affixed to such a product.

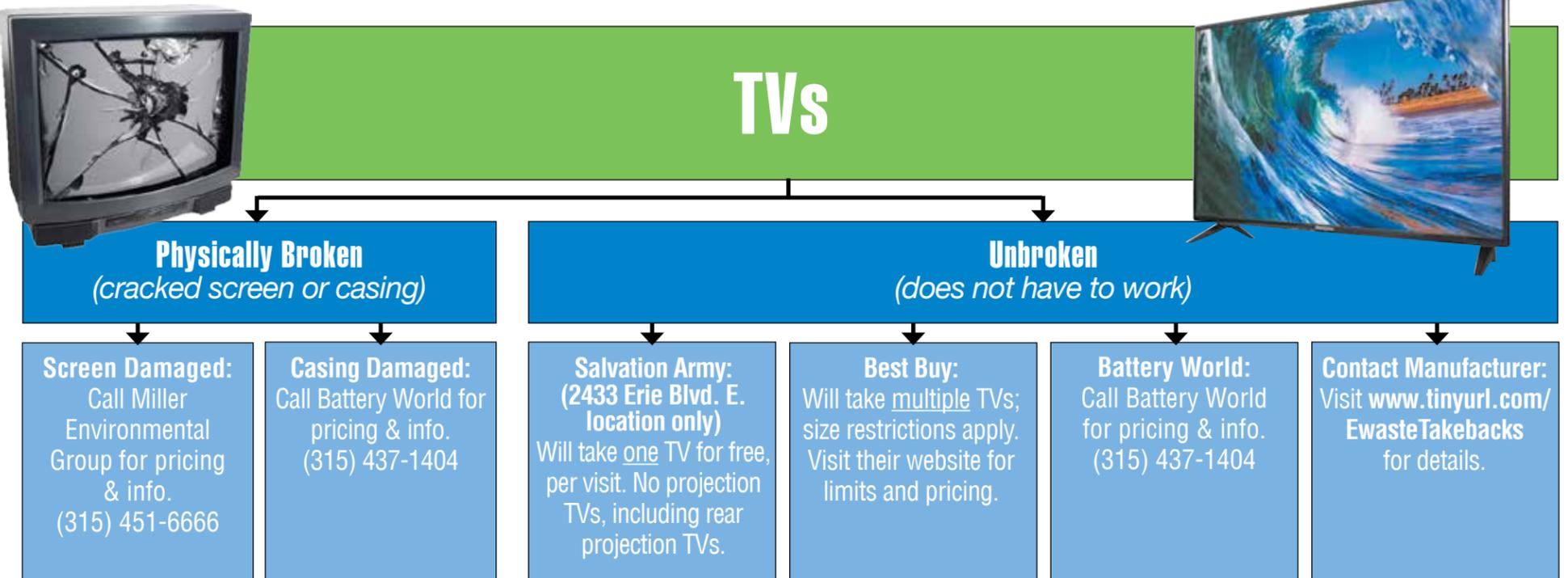
Use the chart below to find the best

recycling option. Some options are no cost, others have a fee. Call prior to drop off for details. Alternatively, check this list for manufacturer take back programs: [www.tinyurl.com/EwasteTakebacks](http://www.tinyurl.com/EwasteTakebacks)

Wherever you dispose of an old computer or mobile device, it is a good idea to protect your personal information so it does not fall into

someone else's hands. “Wipe” your device or destroy your hard drive before recycling your old electronics.

To stay up-to-date on electronics recycling, sign up for OCRRA's email list. Join at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) in the green “Join our Mailing List” section at the bottom of the page.



**Not all locations accept all e-waste listed above. Confirm what is acceptable online or by calling the locations below, as guidelines and / or pricing may have changed since this was printed.**

	Battery World	Best Buy	Bruin Recycling	Salvation Army	Staples
	5820 East Molloy Rd. Syracuse (315) 437-1404	3401 Erie Blvd. East, DeWitt (315) 449-1784	1001 Vine St. Liverpool (315) 410-0050	2433 Erie Blvd. East, Syracuse (315) 445-0520	3736 Milton Ave. Camillus (315) 488-4071  3 Chevy Dr. E. Syracuse (315) 463-8040  4118 State Rte. 31 Liverpool (315) 715-0112
<b>Monitors (Flat Screen)</b>	<b>Yes</b> Call for pricing. Appointment required.	<b>Yes</b> Visit their website for fees. Limit 2 per household, per day.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge. (No TVs).	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge. (No TVs).
<b>Monitors (CRT - Old style)</b>	<b>Yes</b> Call for pricing. Appointment required.	<b>Yes</b> Visit their website for fees. Limit 2 per household, per day.	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge. (No TVs).
<b>Keyboards &amp; Mice</b>	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Appointment required.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.
<b>Cords</b>	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Appointment required.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.	<b>Yes</b> No Charge.
<b>Other E-Waste</b>	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Call to confirm acceptable items.	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Visit their website for acceptable items.	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Visit their website for acceptable items.	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b> No charge. Visit their website for acceptable items.

**FACT:** Electronic waste, including TVs, is not accepted at OCRRA. OCRRA.org shares the info above if you need it in the future.

# Do NOT Bag Your Recyclables



Art Credit: Pinckney Hugo Group, Syracuse, 2019.

Recyclables should go in your blue bin **LOOSE**. **Recyclables in a plastic bag end up as trash.** The recycling sorting facility is a mechanical process. Humans cannot hand open bags to free the recyclables.

Each year 2 million pounds of recyclables are thrown away because they are enclosed in bags.

Feel free to put recycling in a bag to transport it to your bin, but please empty the items into your bin (and dispose of your bag) before leaving your bin at the curb. Otherwise, your recycling efforts are completely in vain.



## Pay Attention to the **SHAPE** NOT the **NUMBERS**



Plastics recycling can be confusing. Here are some quick tips to make it as simple as possible.

If a plastic item fits the SHAPE description below, it can go in the recycling bin. If it does not, it should go in the trash — unless it is a clean, dry plastic bag. (These items can be recycled at large grocery, pharmacy and retail stores.)

- **BOTTLE\*** – something that has a smaller opening than base (has threads at the neck for a screw on cap), this includes shampoo bottles, body wash bottles, dish soap bottles, ice tea bottles, etc.;
- **JUG\*** – something with a handle, like a milk jug or laundry detergent jug;
- **JAR\*** – similar to the bottle description: i.e., peanut butter jar, pickle jar, mayo jar, etc;

- **STACKABLE DAIRY TUB** – any tub that previously contained a **DAIRY** or dairy substitute like butter, yogurt, Cool Whip, sour cream, cream cheese, etc. It must be able to nest inside itself though. If it cannot be stacked inside itself, it is not recyclable. Lids are **NOT** recyclable.

If you have to ask too many questions when deciding if something goes in the bin vs. not, it should go in the trash to avoid contaminating the other recyclables.

When in doubt, if you cannot check it out on our website, on Facebook, or by calling OCRRA at (315) 453-2866, throw it out. Avoid wish-cycling.



*\* PLASTIC caps on bottles, jugs or jars can be recycled, but only if you put the caps back on. If they go in the bin loose they end up as trash.*

*METAL caps go in the trash. They will be recovered at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and recycled. Each year 10,000+ tons of metal are recycled this way!*

# Mercury Therm Drop-Off Event Form

(See page 2 for event details)

**Complete this form in advance.**

**Place it on your vehicle's dashboard on the day of the event (9/25).**

Name:

Street:

Town:  Zip Code:

Phone:

Email\*:

*\*By providing your email address you are confirming that you want to be on OCRRA's email list (which keeps you up-to-date on OCRRA's services and upcoming events). You may unsubscribe at any time.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of THERMOMETERS Dropped Off:

Number of THERMOSTATS Dropped Off:



**FACT:** Ignore numbers on plastics. Pay attention to shape. Only bottles, jugs, jars & stackable dairy tubs go in the blue bin.

# Waste-to-Energy Facility Passes Annual Tests with Flying Colors

All results from the Waste-to-Energy air emissions (stack testing) and ash testing are in compliance with regulatory requirements. Questions about the results can be directed to Cristina Albuio PE, Agency Engineer at [calbuio@ocra.org](mailto:calbuio@ocra.org) or (315) 295-0743.

## ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS

### Semi-Annual Test Results - April 2021

Constituent	Test Result (mg/L)	Permit Limit (mg/L)	Pass or Fail
Chromium	None Detected	5	Pass
Arsenic	None Detected	5	Pass
Selenium	None Detected	1	Pass
Silver	None Detected	5	Pass
Cadmium	0.058	1	Pass
Barium	0.965	100	Pass
Lead	0.088	5	Pass
Mercury	None Detected	0.2	Pass

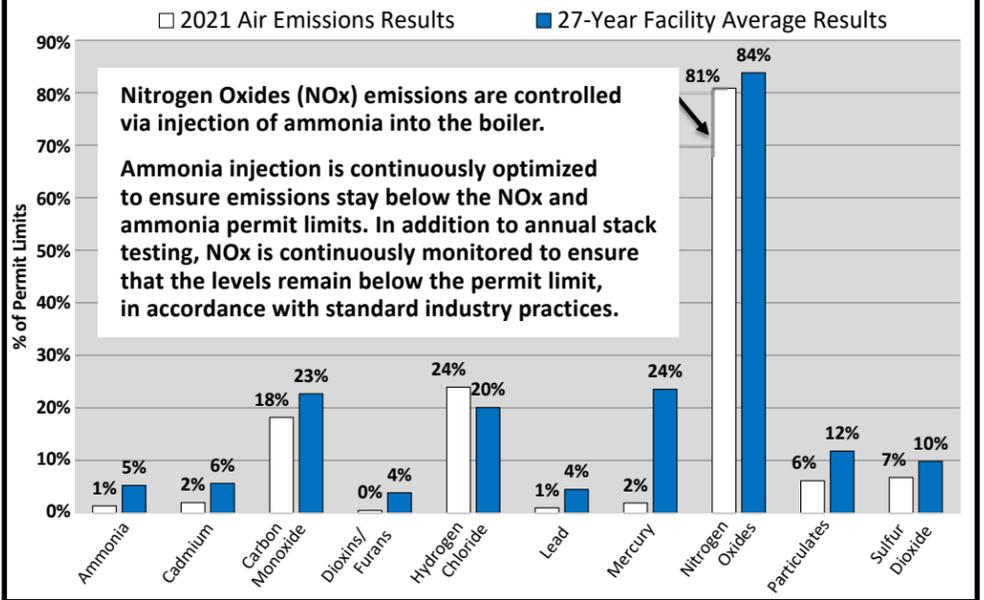
### Semi-Annual Test Results - October 2020

Constituent	Test Result (mg/L)	Permit Limit (mg/L)	Pass or Fail
Chromium	None Detected	5	Pass
Arsenic	None Detected	5	Pass
Selenium	0.059	1	Pass
Silver	None Detected	5	Pass
Cadmium	None Detected	1	Pass
Barium	0.875	100	Pass
Lead	0.21	5	Pass
Mercury	None Detected	0.2	Pass

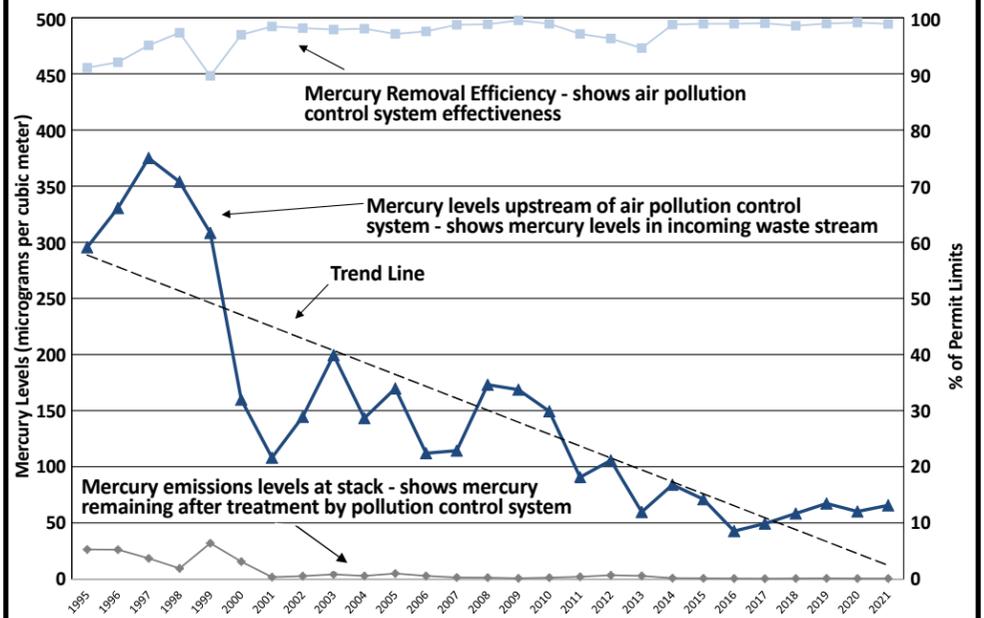
### CONCLUSION

Ash residue does NOT exhibit a hazardous characteristic. As such, it should continue to be managed as a non-hazardous solid waste.

## Waste-to-Energy Facility Air Emissions as a Percentage of the Facility Permit Limits



## Facility Mercury Emissions & Air Pollution Control System Effectiveness



## 2021 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

	Constituent	Average Measured Emissions <sup>1</sup>			Permit Limit <sup>2</sup>	Pass/Fail P/F	3-Boiler Average	% Permit Limit <sup>3</sup>	
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3					
TESTED ANNUALLY	FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.000203	0.000251	0.000281	0.035	P	0.000245	1%
		Cadmium (lb/hr)	0.0000286	0.0000362	0.0000469	0.0019	P	0.0000372	2%
		Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.32	1.22	1.85	8.04	P	1.46	18%
		Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.347	0.262	0.524	30	P	0.38	1%
		Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	13.70	2.42	1.85	25	P	5.99	24%
		Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	2.780	0.514	0.471	5.24	P	1.255	24%
		Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	97.9	99.6	99.7	≥ 95	P	99.1	--
		Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.00209	0.00230	0.00293	0.400	P	0.002440	1%
		Lead (lb/hr)	0.000291	0.000334	0.000486	0.0381	P	0.0003703	1%
		Mercury (lb/hr)	0.0000767	< 0.0000691	< 0.0000830	0.004	P	0.0000763	2%
		Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	44.5	46.8	49.4	58	P	46.9	81%
		Particulate (gr/dscf @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.001150	0.000290	0.000401	0.010	P	0.000614	6%
		PM <sub>10</sub> (gr/dscf @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.000245	0.0000	0.000398	0.010	P	0.000214	2%
		PM <sub>10</sub> , Filterable (lb/hr)	0.0866	0.000	0.140	3.16	P	0.076	2%
		Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	3.23	0.0487	0.00244	16.2	P	1.0937	7%
TESTED ANNUALLY	STATE	Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	< 0.625	< 0.633	< 0.597	50	P	0.618	1%
		Ammonia (lb/hr)	< 0.0591	< 0.0621	< 0.0711	4.88	P	0.0641	1%
		Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.00332	0.00169	0.00612	0.4	P	0.003710	1%
		Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	0.00000000534	0.00000000249	0.00000000987	0.000000129	P	0.0000000059	0%
		Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	0.541	< 0.485	< 0.503	28	P	0.510	2%
		Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	99.2	> 98.9	> 98.6	≥ 85	P	98.9	--

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Based on 3 test runs for each unit; used for compliance with permit limit.

<sup>2</sup> NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028

<sup>3</sup> Based on 3-Boiler Average; informational only; not used for compliance.

### UNITS:

gr/dscf = grains per dry standard cubic foot  
 ppmdv = parts per million dry volume  
 lb/hr = pounds per hour  
 dscm = dry standard cubic meter  
 @ 7% O<sub>2</sub> = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen

ng = nanograms  
 µg = micrograms  
 mg = milligrams

**FACT:** The WTE Facility generates enough electricity to power 30,000+ homes and recycles 10,000+ tons of metal each year.

# Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste with Ease Through OCRRA

*Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist*

After spring and summer cleaning do you have a bin of painting and garden supplies that you aren't sure how to get rid of? Some of those items may be eligible to be disposed of through OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste program. From oil-based paints and pesticides, to gasoline and pool chemicals, there are many household items that should not go in the trash or down the drain. See the chart below to learn what is acceptable and not acceptable in our program.

This drop off program is free to residents of Onondaga County (excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles), but requires you make an appointment in advance.

OCRRA partners with Miller Environmental Group, a permitted facility that can handle household toxics. OCRRA pays a flat fee for each appointment, regardless of the number of items brought in, so please

have at least a full box of toxics ready for drop off before making an appointment. Consider asking friends or neighbors if they have acceptable items they are looking to dispose of to maximize your appointment. Appointments can be made online at [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics) or by calling OCRRA at (315) 453-2866. Appointments are available Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM; they must be made 24 hours in advance.

After scheduling an appointment, OCRRA sends a confirmation email that advises how to package and transport items and where to bring them (Miller Environmental Group—off Hiawatha Boulevard in Syracuse). Thank you for safely and properly disposing of your household hazardous waste with OCRRA

*Maria Bianchetti can be reached at [mbianchetti@ocrra.org](mailto:mbianchetti@ocrra.org).*



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2021.

Fall is a great time to gather your household toxics for safe disposal. Make a no cost appointment between 8 am - 3 pm year-round on Monday, Thursday or Friday. Visit [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org) to sign up today.

## What Household Toxics are Accepted at OCRRA's Drop Off Program?

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

#### General Items:

- Toxic products
- Flammable products
- Poisonous products
- Corrosive products



#### Auto products:

- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Diesel fuel
- Engine degreaser
- Gasoline
- Transmission fluid



#### Cleaning Supplies:

- Oven cleaner
- Drain cleaner
- Lye
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Floor and furniture polish



#### Gardening supplies:

- Herbicides
- Pesticides



#### Painting Supplies:

- Oil-based paints
- Spray paint
- Stains or finishes
- Paint thinner
- Turpentine
- Brush cleaner
- Paint stripper
- Wood preservatives



#### Household Items:

- Driveway sealer
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Mothballs
- Nail polish remover
- Petroleum products
- Pool Chemicals



### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Latex paint
- Empty paint cans or cans of dried-up paint
- Asbestos of any type
- Auto batteries
- Batteries
- Controlled substances
- Electronic waste
- Empty aerosol cans, regardless of whether contents were hazardous or not
- Etiological, pathological or medical waste
- Explosives
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Motor oil
- Pharmaceuticals
- Propane tanks of any size
- Radioactive materials
- Smoke detectors
- Wallpaper paste or drywall sizing
- More than 30 pounds of solid material
- More than 20 gallons of liquid material
- Any container larger than 5 gallons
- Any 55-gallon drums

For disposal details for these items, visit [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org).



## From the Executive Director's Desk...

# Be Like the Hummingbird

Dereth Glance, Executive Director, OCRRA



In 1912, a New Zealand newspaper predicted that emissions from burning fossil fuels would have a considerable impact in the future. In 2005, I marched on Washington urging Congress to take action on the Climate Crisis. To say the least, the rate of progress on reducing emissions is far less than what was hoped for 16 years ago. “I told you so” doesn’t solve the problems of today. Sustaining a movement calling for change is full of setbacks and it requires regular injections of inspiration.

I have long been inspired by Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai’s work. She often shared the tale of the hummingbird, which begins with a terrible fire engulfing a forest. Frightened animals flee the forest and watch, feeling powerless as the fire destroys their homes. No one thinks there is anything they can do, except one little hummingbird, who collects water and flies back to douse the fire. The other

animals watch in disbelief at such a small creature spending her energy to contribute so little to such a huge problem. The animals discourage the hummingbird. One animal mockingly demands “What do you think you are doing?” The hummingbird, without missing a beat, responds “I am doing what I can.” The hummingbird’s commitment to remain focused on fighting the fire eventually inspired the other animals to do what they could to douse the fire and protect their homes.

OCRRA knows that sustainable waste management, reduction and recycling cannot solve the climate crisis alone, but each of us can do something to help save the world a little each day.

OCRRA’s system avoids over 1.5 million greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e) annually through curbside recycling; commercial recycling; food scrap and yard waste composting; and sending household trash to

the Waste-to-Energy Facility which recovers 10,000+ tons of metal annually, and generates electricity to power 30,000 homes. We know there is so much more to do.

While a huge problem can call into question the usefulness of our actions, we know despair and panic aren’t solutions and typically just make a problem worse. Finding constructive actions and making more sustainable choices has a cumulative impact. OCRRA’s slogan, “Save the World a Little Each Day” reminds us that every little bit matters.

Be like the hummingbird and do what you can to help save the world a little each day. Remember your reusable bags, water bottle, and coffee mug. Politely decline unnecessary plastic ware in your take-out orders. Break down your boxes and ensure your cardboard is recycled. Avoid putting non-recyclable items in the blue bin—even if you wish they could be recycled.

Consult [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) often and keep reading our newsletter for more hints, tips, and advice to recycle better—in and out of the bin.

Dereth Glance can be reached at [dglance@ocrra.org](mailto:dglance@ocrra.org).



OCRRA’s Executive Director, Dereth Glance (second from right), marching on Washington with friends in 2005, urging Congress to take action on the Climate Crisis. The little things we do each day, cumulatively, can have a positive impact on the environment.

## How to Make the Best Use of OCRRA’s Compost and Mulch this Fall

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Fall is coming, and while some are thinking about those “long winter naps,” fall is the perfect time to start tucking in the garden with a cozy layer of mulch or compost.

Certain plants, such as mums, are more likely to survive winter when mounded up with mulch before the freeze, and many



bulbs appreciate the extra insulation too. One exception: never mound mulch against the base of a tree; root flares should always be visible to avoid tree-killing girdling roots.

A thick layer of mulch also allows fall rains to soak into the soil, which prevents standing water. When rain is plentiful, mulch creates a barrier between the mud and mosquitoes and boots. It also suppresses weeds, saving time for things that are more fun than weeding.

Fall is the best time to add compost to your garden. For harvested beds of veggies or spent annuals, fork compost into the soil and let it sit over the winter, this improves soil structure and makes spring planting that much easier.

Compost not only provides slow-release nutrition in ideal proportions for most plants, but it also acts like a sponge and soaks up water so that plants can drink consistently.

Adding compost in the fall, by top-dressing perennials or by forking into seasonal

beds, allows the soil ecosystem time to integrate the new material before the next growing season.

OCRRA compost is available in bags at many local retailers. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/BuyCompostBags](http://www.tinyurl.com/BuyCompostBags)

OCRRA mulch and compost may also be purchased in bulk at OCRRA’s Jamesville or Amboy Compost Site. OCRRA offers a flat rate to fill buckets or a tarp-lined trunk with our ½” General Compost, as well as a cubic yard rate for larger orders of our ½” or ¼” Premium Compost and our Double and Triple Ground Mulch.

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/haul4u](http://www.tinyurl.com/haul4u) for a list of haulers who will deliver it in bulk if you do not have a vehicle large enough to transport what you need.

For more information about site hours and fees, visit: [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org)

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## QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

**Q: I just got back from a camping trip and my small 1-pound propane cylinder for my stove is empty. How can I get rid of it?**



**A:** One-pound propane tanks are commonly used in camping stoves and other portable items like heaters and lanterns. Once your one-pound propane tank is empty, it can be put in your curbside trash.

Trash in Onondaga County is taken to the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, where metal items like your small propane tank are pulled out and separated from the other waste and recycled. More than 10,000 tons of metal is recycled from the Waste-to-Energy Facility each year.

If you need to purchase more propane for your next camping season, consider investing in a propane tank that is refillable. This will reduce the amount of waste created during your camping trips!

**Follow OCRRA on Facebook and ask us all your recycling and disposal questions!**

## PLASTICS VIDEO

Get details on what should and should NOT go in your blue bin:

[www.tinyurl.com/PlasticRecycling101](http://www.tinyurl.com/PlasticRecycling101)



Video Credit: Matthew Johnson, Syracuse, 2021.

# BLUE BIN OR NOT?

## Film Plastics



**Recycle\* at big box retailers and chain pharmacy drop boxes**

See video to learn what qualifies as a film plastic at [www.tinyurl.com/filmplastics101](http://www.tinyurl.com/filmplastics101)

*\* Must be clean, dry and have labels removed*

# Mark Your Calendar

### ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED

**THURS., NOV. 25  
SAT., DEC. 25  
SAT., JAN. 1**

**Happy Holidays!**

### MAIN OFFICE & JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE CLOSED

**FRI., DEC. 24  
FRI., DEC. 31**

### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Recycle TVs, computers, printers and more.

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

### HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF

**MON., THURS., FRI.  
BY APPOINTMENT**

Miller Environmental Group  
8:00 am–3:00 pm  
Register at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org).