

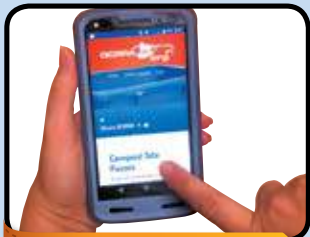


Fall 2016 Newsletter | Volume 25 | No. 3



**HOUSEHOLD TOXICS .....PG 2**

Schedule an appointment to properly dispose of the nasties hanging around your house.



**OCRRA.ORG REDESIGN .....PG 2**

New website is easier to navigate on a mobile device and desktop.



**WASTE-TO-ENERGY REPORT CARD .....PG 4**

Our local power plant scores well on annual emissions and ash tests.



**SHRED-O-RAMA ....PG 7**

Residents are invited to shred (and recycle) their confidential documents on Sept. 24.



**BUSINESS POLL.....PG 7**

Local recycling standouts give their advice on improving workplace recycling.

## Love Your Plants ... Feed Your Soil with OCRRA Compost

*Now is the time to add OCRRA compost to your garden for fall planting*

Did you know that your soil is about 95% rock - in the form of sand, silt and clay? That is why smart gardeners know the secret to healthy plants is adding OCRRA compost to their garden. Here is what local gardeners are saying about OCRRA's USCC-certified compost:

"My garden is loving the OCRRA compost. Veggie garden is doing awesome thanks to the compost and it makes the garden look nice also."

– JoEllen S., East Syracuse.

"I added this great stuff to my gardens this spring, and these are my best gardens in years! Thanks!"

– Marcia W., Fairmount.

"Black Gold! I have been averaging 6 yards of OCRRA compost annually for four years. It is amazing soil treatment and suppresses weeds wonderfully. I plant scattered seeds directly in a thick layer of compost and have very few weeds to contend with. I side dressed my tomato and eggplants last week and expect them to demonstrate dramatic affect."

– Larry E., Baldwinsville.



OCRRA offers two types of compost.

**1/4" fine screened, compost can be purchased:**

- 1) **By the bag** at over 30 local retailers (see list below),
- 2) **By the cubic yard** at the Amboy Compost Site (\$25 / cubic yard; we'll load it for you at no additional charge, year round).

**1/2" screened, certified compost can be purchased:**

- 1) **By the yard** at the Amboy Compost Site, year-round, and at the Jamesville Compost Site, until November 30. (\$20 / cubic yard; we'll load it for you at no additional charge),
- 2) **With a season pass** at our Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites (you can hand load up to 3 cubic yards of it for \$35, or have us load your vehicle with 3 cubic yards for \$50).

## Buy OCRRA's Bagged Compost at the Following Local Retailers\*:

- Ace Village Hardware: Baldwinsville, Fayetteville, Weedsport
- Green Acres Garden Center, Liverpool
- Aspinall's Tree Nursery & Landscaping, Chittenango
- Green Hills Farms, Syracuse
- Ballantyne Gardens, Liverpool
- Greenscapes, Jamesville
- Buyea's True Value, Cazenovia
- Lan's Flower Farm, Clay
- B'ville Supply, Baldwinsville
- Lee's Feed Store, Syracuse
- Carol Watson Greenhouse, Lafayette
- Maldonado Gardens, Elbridge
- CountryMax Stores: Cicero, Dewitt, Cortland, Norwich, Seneca Falls
- Manlius True Value Hardware, Manlius
- Deaton's Agway, Pulaski
- Neil Casey's Farm Market, Tully
- EverGreen Landscaping & Garden Center, Syracuse
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses, Fulton
- Skaneateles Town Square Ace Hardware, Skaneateles
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus, Phoenix
- Valley View Gardens, Cortland
- Vollmer Farms & Farm Market, East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms, Rome
- Watson Farms, Lafayette
- Westvale Gardens, Syracuse
- Zerrillo Gardens, East Syracuse



\*Each retailer sets their own price. Call ahead for details.

# The 411 on Household Toxic Wastes

*Where and how to properly dispose of these items at no charge to you*

*Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist, OCRRA*

National estimates indicate all homes have between three and eight gallons of hazardous material lurking in their midst.

Improper handling of household hazardous wastes, including automotive products, cleaning supplies, oil-based paints, fluorescent bulbs, garden supplies and pesticides\* can contaminate groundwater and air. In turn, this can harm wildlife, pets and humans.

You should not dispose of your household toxics down the drain, on the ground, down a storm drain or in your garbage can. Lucky for you, managing these items safely is easy with a little help from OCRRA.

OCRRA offers Onondaga County residents free year-round disposal for toxic household items.

Chances are, you have a bunch of hazardous products hiding out in your home. There is that oven cleaner under the kitchen sink, leftover bottle of paint thinner in the basement, and wasp spray out in the garage. Scour your basement, garage, kitchen and bathroom for

any old, unusable or unnecessary products. You may be surprised at how many hidden “toxic gems” you find...

Now that you have an idea of what qualifies as household hazardous waste, how do you get rid of it properly? Schedule an appointment using OCRRA’s online form at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org)! It only takes a few minutes to complete the form; you simply have to list the type and

in advance to allow for appointment processing, which includes OCRRA staff reviewing your drop-off list and notifying you if any items are not accepted or are considered non-hazardous (potentially saving you a trip in!)

After your information is reviewed, you will receive an email confirmation with directions to the drop-off location and a form you must

Environmental Products and Services of Vermont (EPSVT), a company that specializes in proper disposal of hazardous materials. EPSVT will unload your vehicle and get you on your way in short order.

While there is no fee to you as the resident, OCRRA underwrites the costs associated with this environmental program with grant assistance from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The fees associated with this service are based on the volume, weight, and types of materials brought in; on average, each vehicle drop-off costs OCRRA about \$50 to ensure that your materials are safely managed.

Please note, there is a limit on how much material you can bring in, there is a maximum of 20 gallons of liquids and 30 pounds of solids.

So what are you waiting for? Search your home for toxics, estimate how many



Common household products including weed and insect killer, oil-based paint supplies and auto products can be dangerous. Properly dispose of unwanted toxics through OCRRA’s year-round Household Hazardous Waste Program. It runs Monday–Friday, 6:30 am–6:00 pm, by appointment only. There is no cost to Onondaga County residents for this service, it is underwritten by OCRRA and the NYSDEC.

solids and liquids you have on hand, and beeline it to [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) to make your appointment today!

\*Visit [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxic](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxic) for a more extensive list of household hazardous waste items.

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

**Save the world a little each day.**

## FACTOID:

Only oil-based paints are hazardous. As a result, OCRRA does not collect water-based or latex paints because with a little special preparation, you can properly dispose of these paints with your regular trash. Just dry latex paint out with kitty litter or paint hardening crystals. Once it is dry, take the lid and the paint can and throw them separately into your trash.

## BONUS:

When your trash makes its way to the Waste-to-Energy Facility, where it is converted into electricity, huge magnets will extract the metal cans and they will be recycled!

estimated quantity of materials you are bringing to the drop-off point.

You can select the time and date that you want to come (Monday–Friday between 6:30 am and 6:00 pm). Appointments must be scheduled at least 5 days

print and bring with you on the day of your appointment. If you do not have internet access, please contact OCRRA by calling 453-2866 to schedule a drop-off.

Please note that the drop-off location is not an OCRRA site; it is Envi-

# OCRRA Website Gets Mobile-Friendly Makeover

*Redesigned OCRRA.org makes mobile and tablet visits easier with scalability and improved navigation*

*Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer, OCRRA*



OCRRA recently unveiled a mobile-friendly website that makes finding information even easier whether you are using a desktop, tablet or cell phone. Visit [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) to check it out today!

This summer OCRRA revealed a completely redesigned website that boasts the advantage of being responsive (or mobile friendly). This means that whatever size screen you are viewing it on - whether a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone - the site design will scale to your device, reducing the need to scroll or zoom in on parts of the site to navigate. In addition, the pages you most visited on our old website have become quicker and easier to find through a restructuring of the sitemap.

For example, OCRRA’s

searchable “How do I dispose of...” database is now front and center, easily accessed at the top of each page. So, when you are wondering how to get rid of electronics, old appliances or a number of other items, just hop on the site and type in what you are curious about and you’ll be directed to details.

The need for this website revamp was essential as mobile use is increasing across the globe and our little corner of the world is no exception. 68% of visitors to [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) were viewing our site on a mobile device and over 85% of

people doing so were leaving shortly after accessing just one page. In contrast, only 30% of desktop users were leaving after viewing one page. This, in addition to the fact that mobile users were spending far less time on the site when they stayed, pointed to the fact that mobile users were probably frustrated and / or not finding the information they were seeking. And, well, that was unacceptable! Enter the site redesign...

Months of work went into researching the best way to restructure the site navigation and paring down content, so it worked seamless-

ly in a mobile environment, as well as on a desktop.

Many thanks to the hard-working team at Pinckney Hugo Group who did the heavy lifting on the site structure, programming, design and content placement. This critical (and massive) undertaking resulted in a fine looking site that will better serve all [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) visitors.

But, don’t just take our word for it. Please visit the new site and let us know what you like (or don’t like). Your feedback is very important to us! Feel free to email comments to Kristen at [klawton@ocrra.org](mailto:klawton@ocrra.org).

**FACT:** Have pool chemicals? Make an appointment at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) to drop it off with our Household Hazardous Waste Program.



## The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger  
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY - ESF

With Labor Day upon us, the first falling leaves of autumn are only a few weeks away. And less than a month from now we can all look forward to the annual six week leafblower serenade stirring up a blizzard of leaves that will pile up along the curbs in neighborhoods throughout the county and beyond.

To all of this, I say STOP – especially if you or your neighbors have a garden!

As I've previously encouraged in this column, the best way to deal with autumn leaves is to mow them right into your lawn where they'll return organic matter and nutrients to the soil as they gradually decompose.

However, vegetable gardens can also be a great place for autumn leaves where, by using "sheet" composting you can gradually turn even the heaviest, stickiest clay soil into highly productive garden soil.

The process is simple. Instead of raking or (shudder) blowing the leaves from your trees to the curb, change directions and get them into your garden!

Once in the garden, you can run over them a couple of times with your mower to shred them into smaller pieces, but it's not necessary.

Next, sprinkle three pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer (or even lawn fertilizer – without weedkillers

**Pull a sheet of leaves over your vegetable garden this fall**



If you prefer to rake or blow your leaves into piles, as opposed to mulch them with your mower, consider placing them on top of your garden, with some fertilizer, to give your garden an edge this coming spring!

– at half that rate) over the leaves, and turn them under with a garden fork, spade or rototiller. Finally apply an inch of water with a sprinkler if it doesn't rain within a few days.

By next spring, most of

the leaves will have decomposed, but those that remain may still clump together. Not to worry, there's no need to create a perfect, smooth-raked soil. Just plant right into the lumpy soil/leaf mixture – vege-

tables really don't care! As the summer progresses, the remaining leaves will decompose and your garden will then be ready for a new crop of leaves next fall.

Terry Ettinger can be reached at [tlettinger@esf.edu](mailto:tlettinger@esf.edu).



Dear Rhoda,

Last week I tried to throw out some old compact fluorescent light bulbs, but my nosy neighbor intervened. She informed me that those "twirly" bulbs contain mercury. She said that it's dangerous to stick those in my trash. But, if they can't go in the trash, how the heck am I supposed to get rid of them?

In the dark in DeWitt

Dear In the Dark,

Thank goodness for nosy neighbors! Said no one ever. Except today, says Rhoda, because this time your neighbor's pestering is paying off – fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, and mer-

cury is harmful to our bodies and our environment; it's a real bummer. So, while I applaud your conservation efforts in selecting an energy-efficient light bulb, I remind you not to forget about helping the planet when it comes time for their disposal. Speaking of which, properly disposing of these items is as easy as flipping a (light) switch!

Over 15 hardware stores in Onondaga County will take back your household fluorescent bulbs (so, bulbs you used in your home, NOT bulbs from your workplace\*), and through a partnership with OCRRA, they will have them sent

out for mercury reclamation. That's a fancy way of sayin' they make sure that the bulbs don't get broken, and then a certified company safely extracts the mercury, guaranteeing that it won't be able to get into our water, or harm our wildlife, pets and human health. Bonus – this take back program is underwritten by OCRRA, so you don't have to spend a dime! Pretty sweet deal, right?

These hardware stores take U-shaped, circular and 4-foot tube bulbs in addition to those spiral-shaped compact fluorescents you mentioned. To find a store near you, check out [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs)

or call OCRRA at 453-2866. And, for the love of Pete, NEVER put these bulbs in your blue bin.

**Never.**

**Never ever.**

**For real.**

When fluorescent bulbs end up in the blue bin (or trash), they will break, and then that troublesome mercury is released, which endangers you, your hauler and the environment. So don't do it. Got it?

Don't find yourself at the hardware store often? Have other toxic household nasties you want to get out of your house, too? Then sign up for OCRRA's no

charge Hazardous Household Waste Program where you can drop off fluorescent bulbs, as well as other household toxics that require proper management. This drop off program runs by appointment only, year-round Monday – Friday. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics) for details and to make an appointment.

I expect that now, you have seen the light, no?

*Recycling Rhoda*

\*Businesses looking to get rid of fluorescent bulbs can learn more here: [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs).

## Recycling Rhoda

Fluorescent Bulbs

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

# Converting Trash into Electricity: OCRRA and Covanta Partner to Safely Turn Trash into Enough Electricity to Power 30,000 Households

2016 stack and ash test results continue to highlight the Facility's stellar operational efficiencies

Amy Miller, Agency Engineer, OCRRA

While you read this article, the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility is busy turning our County's non-recyclable trash into electricity – enough to power about 30,000 homes. Air pollution control equipment and continuous monitoring systems are in place to make sure it is done safely. Read on to discover what testing is done at the WTE Facility and learn what this year's WTE report card says.

**Q: What is the purpose of annual air emissions "stack" testing?**

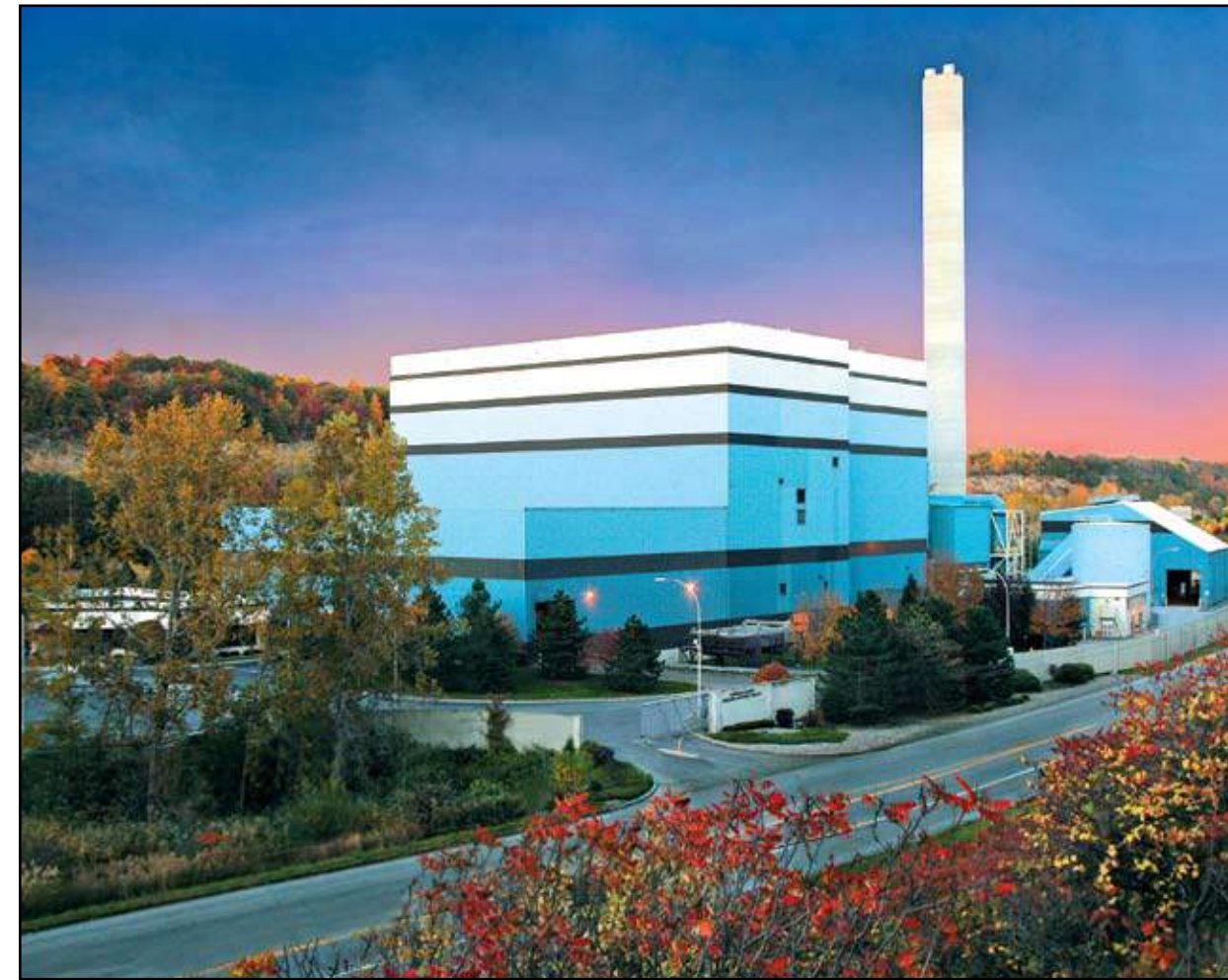
**A:** Stack testing is an important tool that measures the amount of regulated pollutants being emitted from a facility. Stack testing consists of a series of tests where a probe is inserted into the stack to collect a sample of the gases released, over a defined amount of time. Sampling and laboratory analysis must be conducted in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) protocols. **NYSDEC oversees, and is generally onsite during stack testing at the WTE Facility.**

**Q: How do the 2016 stack test results look?**

**A:** The results from the 2016 stack testing indicate that the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the following graph, many of the tested constituents were considerably below the permit limit.

**Q: Does the Facility conduct any other air emissions testing besides the annual stack testing?**

**A:** Yes. The Facility has a continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) that measures combustion efficiency, air pol-



Onondaga County trash is sent to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility where it is burned at 2,000°F and converted into electricity (enough to power 15% of the homes in Onondaga County).

lution equipment performance and stack emissions. The CEMS monitors carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx) as well as opacity and combustion temperatures.

**Q: What is the purpose of the semi-annual ash testing and how do the current test results look?**

**A:** A representative sample of combined bottom and fly ash residue is collected according to NYSDEC protocols. This sample is then analyzed by an independent laboratory for leachable metals, according to EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Proce-

dures (TCLP). TCLP analysis simulates landfill conditions (the final disposal site for the ash) and determines whether the ash residue exhibits hazardous characteristics. **Over the life of the Facility (including the most recent 2016 results), TCLP analysis has always indicated that the ash residue is non-hazardous.**

**Q: Who can I contact for more information?**

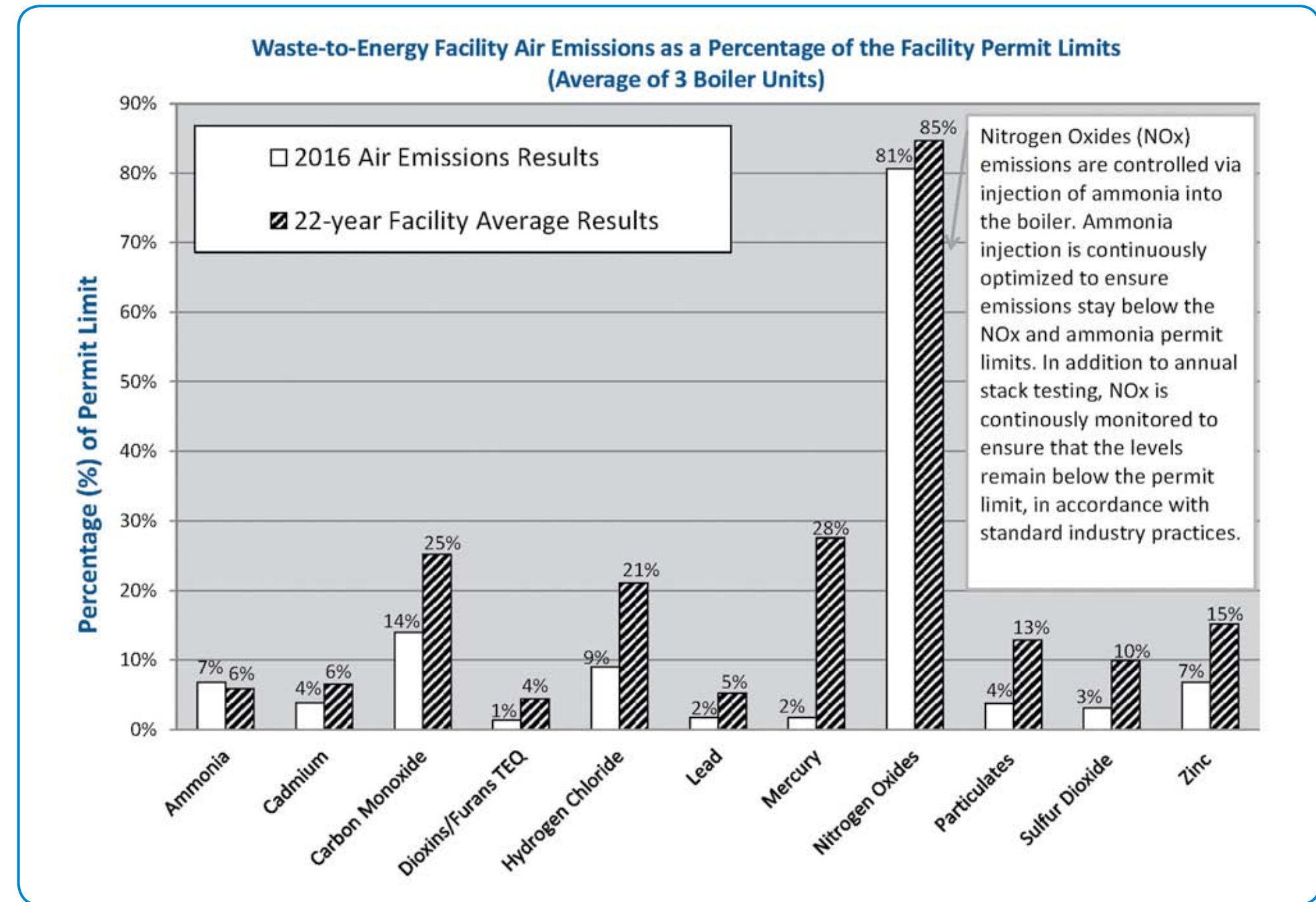
**A:** For more detailed information on the test results please contact OCRRA's Agency Engineer, Amy Miller, at 315.295.0743 or amiller@ocrra.org.

Amy Miller can be reached at amiller@ocrra.org.

2016 ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS			
Semi-Annual Test Results - April 2016			
Constituent	Test Result	Permit Limit	Pass or Fail
Cadmium	0.05 mg/L	1 mg/L	Pass
Lead	0.25 mg/L	5 mg/L	Pass

**CONCLUSION**

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



Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions are controlled via injection of ammonia into the boiler. Ammonia injection is continuously optimized to ensure emissions stay below the NOx and ammonia permit limits. In addition to annual stack testing, NOx is continuously monitored to ensure that the levels remain below the permit limit, in accordance with standard industry practices.

2016 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

TESTED ANNUALLY	Constituent	Average Measured Emissions <sup>1</sup>			Permit Limit <sup>2</sup>	Pass/Fail? <sup>3</sup>	3-Boiler Average <sup>3</sup>	% permit limit <sup>4</sup>	
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3					
FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	5.2E-04	5.2E-04	3.8E-04	3.5E-02	P	4.7E-04	1.3%	
	Cadmium (lb/hr)	8.1E-05	8.3E-05	5.5E-05	1.9E-03	P	7.3E-05	3.8%	
	Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.21E+00	7.16E-01	1.44E+00	8.04E+00	P	1.12E+00	14.0%	
	Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	8.0E-01	6.1E-01	1.4E+00	3.0E+01	P	9.5E-01	3.2%	
	Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	2.3E+00	1.7E+00	2.1E+00	2.5E+01	P	2.0E+00	8.1%	
	Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	5.49E-01	4.14E-01	4.58E-01	5.24E+00	P	4.74E-01	9.0%	
	Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.7	99.7	99.6	>=95	P	99.7	-	
	Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	4.70E-03	4.23E-03	3.75E-03	4.00E-01	P	4.23E-03	1.1%	
	Lead (lb/hr)	7.33E-04	6.77E-04	5.44E-04	3.81E-02	P	6.51E-04	1.7%	
	Mercury (lb/hr)	< 7E-05	< 7E-05	< 7E-05	4E-03	P	7E-05	1.7%	
	Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	4.6E+01	5.02E+01	4.4E+01	5.8E+01	P	4.7E+01	80.6%	
	Particulates (gr/dscf @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	5.0E-04	4.8E-04	1.6E-04	1.0E-02	P	3.8E-04	3.8%	
	PM <sub>10</sub> (gr/dscf @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	5.4E-04	6.3E-04	7.0E-04	1.0E-02	P	6.2E-04	6.2%	
	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/hr)	1.85E-01	2.13E-01	2.25E-01	3.16E+00	P	2.08E-01	6.6%	
	Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	3.81E-01	9.58E-01	1.57E-01	1.62E+01	P	4.99E-01	3.1%	
	STATE	Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )	3.6E+00	1.4E+00	4.4E+00	5.0E+01	P	3.1E+00	6.2%
		Ammonia (lb/hr)	3.90E-01	1.60E-01	4.46E-01	4.88E+00	P	3.32E-01	6.8%
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )		1E-02	6E-03	2E-02	4E-01	P	1E-02	2.9%	
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)		1.53E-09	9.25E-10	2.68E-09	1.29E-07	P	1.71E-09	1.3%	
Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )		< 4.6E-01	< 4.4E-01	< 4.8E-01	2.8E+01	P	4.6E-01	1.6%	
Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)		> 99.0	> 99.0	> 98.8	>=85	P	98.9	-	
PAH (µg/dscm @ 7% O <sub>2</sub> )		< 1.2E-01	< 1.1E-01	< 1.4E-01	1.0E+00	P	1.2E-01	12.2%	
Zinc (lb/hr)	4.18E-03	3.67E-03	5.36E-03	6.45E-02	P	4.40E-03	6.8%		

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Based on three test runs; used for compliance with permit limit.
- <sup>2</sup> NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028
- <sup>3</sup> Average provided for informational purposes only; not used for compliance.
- <sup>4</sup> Based on 3-Boiler Average; informational only; not used for compliance.

UNITS:

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

# Extra Credit – Go Green When Going Back to School

Theresa Evans, Recycling Specialist, OCRRA

It is the time of year when kids are preparing to return to school. With this autumnal rite of passage comes a myriad of back-to-school specials and decisions, all in anticipation of a fun new year of learning. During this preparation and excitement, how does one combine school's three R's, that's reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, with the planet's three R's of reduce, reuse, and recycle? Here are five methods to make going back to school a little greener, whether you are a teacher, parent or student:

**1) School Supplies: "Up-cycle" last years'.** Many of last year's classroom supplies will still work in the new school year. Consider tearing out unused paper from previous half-finished notebooks and inserting the sheets into a binder to create a new notebook. Additionally, well-made backpacks can last for several years, if last year's has a hole, patch it up with fun fabric scraps. If you do need to buy

some new supplies, purchase greener items like refillable mechanical pencils and paper made with recycled content.

**2) School Lunch: Compost.** Did you know that four school districts in Onondaga County are already composting their leftover cafeteria food scraps? In doing so, these schools are enjoying a large reduction in cafeteria trash and are teaching students how to save the environment each day. Urge your school district to follow in the lead of Marcellus, Jordan-Elbridge, Fayetteville-Manlius, and Westhill, and start putting that leftover food waste to good use as high quality compost instead of trash. Contact OCRRA to learn more about how to reduce your school's waste.

**3) Curriculum: Web-Based Environmental Education.** Encourage your teacher to join other teachers who help their students have fun



Teachers, parents and students can all make the school year an environmental success by employing one or all of these great "green" tips. How many can you work into the school year?

while learning to protect the environment. They can visit **OCRRA.org** to access NYS curriculum-aligned content in interactive online videos, games and classroom activities that teach students about topics such as recycling, waste reduction, composting and waste-to-energy. Each topic includes vocabulary words with full definitions and pre- and post-testing questions. Check out a video or game today!

**4) New Wardrobe: Recycle Textiles.** Shop in vintage or thrift stores to extend the life of clothing, or even arrange a clothing swap with friends or relatives. When getting rid of clothes that no longer fit, donate them at any of the drop-off locations listed at [www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles](http://www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles). If these items can't be reused locally, they can be recycled into industrial cloths or insulation!

**5) Transportation: Carpool.** Use school or public buses when at all possible to reduce emissions. If you must drive, arrange a carpool. Getting bikes (and helmets) for the family is also an efficient and environmentally friendly way to go – and fun and healthy too!

Theresa Evans can be reached at [tevens@ocrra.org](mailto:tevens@ocrra.org).



## Textiles: Recycle Them, but NOT in the Blue Bin

Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction, OCRRA

When your clothing, footwear, household textiles (think linens and blankets) and accessories such as shoes and hats are out of style or are worn out, please donate them. Do not worry if the materials are not "wearable," are torn, are missing buttons or have broken zippers. They just need to be clean and dry. It is really that easy. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit: [www.tinyurl.com/donate-textiles](http://www.tinyurl.com/donate-textiles)

Local charities like the Salvation Army, Rescue Mission and Goodwill accept and sell donated cloth-

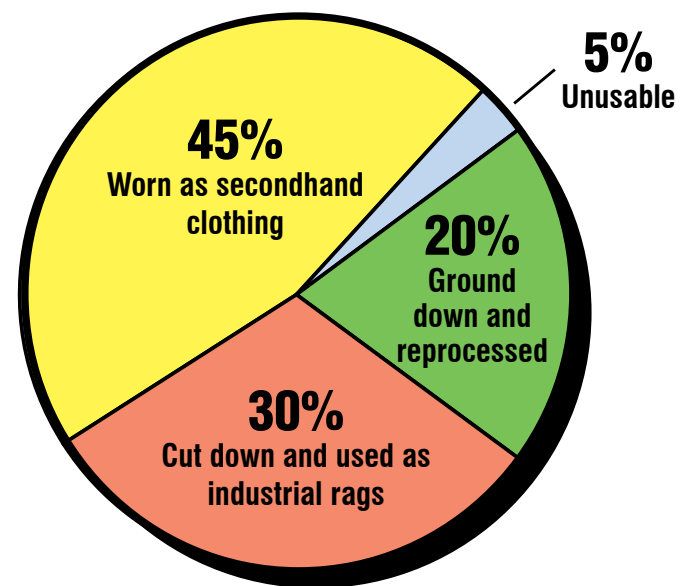
ing to help fund their services and achieve their charitable missions. Approximately 2 out of every 10 lbs. of donated clothing are sold in charitable shops. The charities sell the remaining 8 lbs. (80%) to private sector recyclers, which also helps fund the charities' human service missions in our community. Those private sector recyclers sell the salvaged items to export markets or to American companies that recycle the fiber into new products, including insulation and industrial wiping rags.

**Your textiles, however, NEVER belong in**

**your blue bin** or recycling container.

Some forward-thinking clothing and footwear retailers and brands are advocating donation and / or recycling options to consumers. An increasing number are making donation / recycling of the apparel and footwear they sell an important piece of their green initiatives. Some green brands are providing sewn-in labels with reuse and recycling instructions and in-store receptacles to recycle used clothing and footwear. Familiar names such as H&M, Patagonia, North

### What happens to clothing once it's recycled?



Textiles can be recycled; **NOT** in your blue bin, but through donation to a local charity! According to the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association, 45% of donated textiles are worn as secondhand clothing, 30% are used as industrial rags, 20% are reprocessed into new materials and 5% are unusable.

# Shred Your Confidential Docs with OCRRA in 2016

*Saturday, September 24 event at NBT Bank Stadium is free to residents (no business items accepted)*

*Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist, OCRRA*

Destroying confidential documents that contain account numbers, social security numbers and the like is an essential step to preventing identity theft. OCRRA, Confidata / SMR Fibre and Shred Solvers are here to help you shred and recycle your confidential documents. Just stop by the second (and last) Shred-O-Rama of 2016 happening on Saturday, September 24, from 8 am to noon at NBT Bank Stadium. No reservations are required and the event is free to households in Onondaga County.

The Food Bank of Central New York, whose vision is to wipe out hunger in our community, will have representatives on hand collecting voluntary cash and nonperishable food donations to benefit their organization.

Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-O-Rama in 2004, more than 530 tons of

personal papers have been safely shredded and recycled, which has saved over 9,000 trees from being harvested.

Confidential documents are anything that contains personal information such as your social security number or bank account information. Shredding paper records such as medical documents, bank information, tax documents and other items containing personal account numbers helps combat identity theft.

OCRRA asks residents to bring **no more than five banker size boxes per vehicle** and:

- Bring confidential items only, no phone books or magazines; no trash or hazardous waste.
- Remove binders or other non-paper contaminants (plastic bags, binders, folders; spiral notebooks; laminated items; electron-

ic media including computer disks, CDs, etc.). Staples and tape are fine.

- Pack confidential documents, loosely, in boxes, containers or paper bags.
- No items in plastic bags because they slow down the shredding process.
- Enter the event from the Grant Boulevard / Hiawatha Boulevard intersection.
- Be safe, follow directions from officers and employees directing traffic.

Please note the event is **FREE** and open to **household residents** in Onondaga County only. Business materials will not be accepted. If your workplace needs shredding services, visit **OCRRA.org** for details or contact a shredding service.

Onondaga County Parks and the Syracuse Chief's



Event staffers unload resident vehicles at the May 2016 Shred-o-Rama. Bring your confidential documents to the September 24 Shred-o-Rama where they will be shredded and ultimately recycled into new paper products. The event runs 8 am – 12 pm at NBT Bank Stadium and is free to households in Onondaga County. Enter from Grant Blvd.

Management help make these events convenient by allowing OCRRA the use of the stadium's spacious parking lot. Many thanks go out to Confidata / SMR Fibre and Shred Solvers who provide the paper shred-

ding services. Without their generous support and donation of their time and trucks these shredding extravaganzas would not be possible.

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

## Business Recycling POLL:

**What is the one piece of advice you would give to a business like yours that wants to improve their workplace recycling?**



**Dan Zuck, Arcadis**  
Associate Project Manager

**A:** Provide locations to recycle. One thing we have realized is people will recycle if you make it convenient to do so. If you are a company willing to put sustainability as a priority, then it would be good to invest in recycling bins in every office, breakroom and meeting area. If given the opportunity, in general, staff will recycle, if there is the option to do so.



**Lisa Mulcahey, ACR Health,**  
Executive Administrative Assistant

**A:** Having a point person "cheerleading" to get people excited about recycling is really a key element to improving recycling in a work place. Not just having posters and receptacles visible, but having weekly emails about recycling and having it be a talking point during monthly staff meetings really helped. Also, creating incentives or "contests" for people to recycle / awarding prizes for the one who recycles the most in a week keeps recycling in the minds of staff members. All in all, the best way to keep recycling a lifestyle in the workplace is to make it daily dialogue.



**Nicole Demperio,**  
Suburban Propane,  
Contact Center Coordinator

**A:** Utilize the tools and supplies that OCRRA has in place to help businesses, such as the Blue Ribbon Recycler Program. It also helps to have a well-defined Recycling and Waste Reduction Program available to all employees and a team (Green Team) who can help ensure the success of the program.

### ADVICE FROM OCRRA:

An effective recycling program in the workplace is something that can easily be achieved by employees with the right tools and mindsets. As noted by the business professionals here, utilizing free recycling supplies and guidance from OCRRA is a sure way to get your business on the path to less waste and more recycling. To order free supplies, including recycling bins, posters and decals, for your business or to schedule a free consultation with an OCRRA recycling specialist, visit [www.tinyurl.com/OCRRA-biz-recycling](http://www.tinyurl.com/OCRRA-biz-recycling).

# OCRRA Recieves Two Environmental Awards

Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction, OCRRA

OCRRA was recently recognized with two prestigious environmental excellence awards.

The Agency's web-based, school recycling education program has received a **Gold Environmental Excellence Award from The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)**. SWANA is one of the country's leading professional solid waste management organizations, with over 8,500 members.

The program is a series for elementary students addressing not only recycling, but waste and litter reduction, composting, landfilling and waste-to-energy technology.

OCRRA teamed up with Pinckney Hugo Group, a Syracuse advertising agency and teachers from a number

of local school districts to develop the innovative program. Teachers from Syracuse, Marcellus, Liverpool, and Fayetteville Manlius School Districts all helped make this award-winning program possible.

The interactive program has been downloaded by all local school districts, and by teachers as far away as Legos, Nigeria.

The program received special notice by judges for the way it aligns with required Federal and NYS curriculum standards for English, Math and Science, and for using professionally-produced online videos, interactive digital games, and teacher-developed classroom activities (including vocabulary lists with full definitions and pre- and post-evaluation tests).

Teachers state that this approach makes it easy for them to integrate this creative and engaging format into classroom lessons. The educational program is available at: [www.ocrra.org/services/education-program/](http://www.ocrra.org/services/education-program/)

In addition, OCRRA's rechargeable battery collection program has received a 2015 **Sustainability Leadership Award from Call2Recycle**, North America's premier battery stewardship and recovery organization.

Each year, residents throughout our county recycle over 15,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries at numerous convenient drop-off locations, including the entryways of all local Wegmans. The result of this community-wide team



effort: Onondaga County residents recycle more rechargeable batteries per capita than any other large community in New York State, including New York City; over 100,000 pounds recycled since 2010!

According to OCRRA Recycling Specialist Ann Fordock, "batteries can contain corrosive materials and

heavy metals that can contaminate the environment."

To learn more about OCRRA's battery collection program, and to see how rechargeable batteries are recycled, please visit: [www.ocrra.org/resources/household-batteries/](http://www.ocrra.org/resources/household-batteries/)

Andrew Radin can be reached at [aradin@ocrra.org](mailto:aradin@ocrra.org).

## Many Thanks

The OCRRA board of directors and staff extend a sincere thank you to Don Lawless for his service as acting executive director of the Agency in 2016.

In the late 80's, Lawless was part of a team of Onondaga County employees that worked to develop a comprehensive solid waste management program which significantly expanded recycling efforts for our county.

In 1990, he helped establish the award-winning

agency that became known as OCRRA, by acting as its interim executive director. Lawless continued his dedication to solid waste management over the years by serving on the OCRRA board of directors, beginning in 2009.

These experiences uniquely qualified him to guide the Agency as the acting director in 2016 while the OCRRA board of directors conducted a search for a new executive



Don Lawless, OCRRA, Acting Executive Director

director. (Stay tuned for details!)

Thank you for all your hard work and guidance, Don.

## Textiles: Recycle them...

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Face, GAP and Levis are all great examples of brands leading the way.

Unfortunately, each year, residents across New York State dispose of over one billion pounds of potentially recoverable textiles, with a market value exceeding \$100 million!

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, textiles have one of the lowest recycling rates of any reusable material; only about 15% get donated / recycled; 85% of all textiles get trashed; about 10.5 million tons per year\*.

We can all make a difference by donating our un-

wanted clothes, shoes and other household textiles, even the items we think no one will wear or use. When you donate, you are supporting jobs, minimizing environmental impacts, reducing waste and helping local charities assist those in need in our community.

If you are curious about what happens to your clothing or footwear after it is donated, visit: [www.tinyurl.com/wear-donate-recycle](http://www.tinyurl.com/wear-donate-recycle)

*\*Data: The Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association. Percentages approximate.*

Andrew Radin can be reached at [aradin@ocrra.org](mailto:aradin@ocrra.org).

# Mark Your Calendar

<p>COMPOST SITES CLOSED <b>SEPTEMBER 3-5</b> Enjoy the holiday!</p>	<p>ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED <b>SEPTEMBER 5, NOVEMBER 24, DECEMBER 26, JANUARY 2</b></p>	<p>SHRED-O-RAMA <b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</b> NBT BANK STADIUM 8:00 am – 12:00 noon Enter from Grant Boulevard.</p>	<p>ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENTS <b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8</b> Contact Senator Valesky's office for details, 478-8745. <b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19</b> Contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's office for details, 428-9651.</p>	<p>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF <b>Year-Round by Appointment</b> ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS &amp; SERVICES 6:30 am – 6:00 pm Register at <a href="http://OCRRA.org">OCRRA.org</a>.</p>
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**FACT:** Visit [tinyurl.com/cny-textiles](http://tinyurl.com/cny-textiles) for a list of locations where you can donate old clothes, textiles & accessories.