



Rock Cut Road Site to Close for Construction Jan. 1

NYSDEC regulation changes necessitate site upgrades; customers directed to Ley Creek Site until further notice

Kristen Lawton, OCRRA, Public Information Officer

OCRRA's two transfer stations provide Onondaga County residents and businesses a place to bring their recycling; construction and demolition materials; and trash, including hard to dispose of items such as appliances, furniture, mattresses, scrap metal, microwaves, tires and more. OCRRA has been operating these transfer stations for nearly 30 years.

As in all industries, services evolve over time and operating regulations change. Recently, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued revised solid waste facility regulations, which govern sites such as OCRRA transfer stations.

OCRRA has filed a permit modification with the NYSDEC to improve the services we offer at the site and to comply with the recently revised state regulations. Pending approval of this permit modification, OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station will undergo a sweeping renovation.



Photo credit: iStock.com, 2018.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019 the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville will be closed for construction. Starting on Jan. 1 and until further notice, all customers are directed to use OCRRA's Ley Creek Transfer Station, (5158 Ley Creek Drive in Liverpool, just off the 7th North Street exit of Route 81). Pardon the inconvenience.

As a result, the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station will close for a makeover on January 1, 2019. While the upgrades are ongoing, all users – residential, small business and commercial – may bring their materials to OCRRA's Ley Creek Transfer Station. It is located at 5158 Ley Creek Drive in Liverpool, off the 7th North Street exit of Route 81 (exit 25), across from the Pilot Station.

The Ley Creek Transfer Station is open Monday-Friday from 6:30 am to 2:30

pm. To better accommodate residential users, starting January 1, Ley Creek will have special weekend hours: every Saturday of the month, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. (Until January 1, Ley Creek is only open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.) For a list of disposal fees, visit www.OCRRA.org/locations/drop-off-locations/ley-creek/

OCRRA appreciates our community's commitment to environmental protection and sound

waste disposal. OCRRA apologizes for any inconvenience these facility improvements will cause in the short-term; we anticipate the changes will bring significant improvement to customer experiences over the long-term. For project updates, please consider joining OCRRA's email list; simply enter your email address at the bottom of www.OCRRA.org to get the latest OCRRA news.

Kristen Lawton can be reached at klawton@ocrra.org.



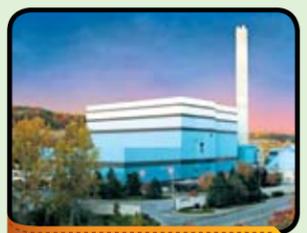
RECYCLE OLD CLOTHESPG 2

Clear out your closets for back to school and donate to local charities in need.



CANS FOR CANCER.....PG 2

Recycle your bottles and cans in pink bins at local events to help fight cancer.



WASTE-TO-ENERGY REPORT CARD ...PGS 4 & 5

Local facility that turns trash into electricity scores well on state and federal emissions tests.



PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAPS.....PG 8

Reduce your trash - find out what flexible plastics can be recycled at big box stores (and we don't mean just bags!)





OCRRA Blue Ribbon RECYCLER

Ann Gregory receives the Blue Ribbon Recycler Award on behalf of **Anchor QEA** from OCRRA's Dale Cocco. Anchor QEA's dedication to recycling permeates the business's culture with use of 100% recycled paper, reusable eating ware throughout, fluorescent bulb recycling, exclusive use of rechargeable batteries, and even hosting clothing drives for a local shelter, in addition to the collection of blue bin recyclable materials in all work spaces (they wisely pair trash and recycling containers with one another, which increases recycling participation).

Become a Blue Ribbon Recycler next quarter!
Apply at: www.tinyurl.com/BRrecycler

Clean Your Closet and Help the Planet

Theresa Evans, OCRRA, Recycling Specialist

Textiles, such as your clothing, footwear and household linens and blankets, have one of the lowest recycling rates of any reusable material. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, only about 15% of this material is currently donated or recycled, while 85% of it gets trashed. This equates to 10.5 million tons of material being trashed that could be recycled, every year! Fortunately, there is an easy remedy to this situation, attend OCRRA's Textile Recovery Event at Destiny USA.

On Saturday, October 20, from 8 a.m. – noon, bring your unwanted textiles to the Pink Parking Lot of Destiny USA in Syracuse, and leave them with us at no charge to you. These items will be accepted by both the Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army.

Textiles that cannot be resold in one of their retail stores will instead end up at private sector recyclers. They will recycle the fiber into new products, such as insulation or industrial wiping rags. The sale of the materials along each step in this process, helps generate revenue for the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army, which benefits those in need in our community.

“Whether we sell, give away or they go to salvage, the textile donations are life changing for someone in need in this community. Donations and store revenues account for almost 60% of the Rescue Mission's operating budget,” said Jeannine Goodrich of the Rescue Mission. “To put it simply, each item equals meals, services and overnight stays to those we serve. Every \$2.42 spent in

one of our Thrifty Shopper stores provides one meal to someone in need in our community, and we are serving up to 700 total meals daily.”

Recycling textiles is a no-brainer; you can help the environment and people in need, all in one fell swoop.

You can start donating your unwanted textiles at the event in October, but please know you can donate year-round at area Rescue Missions, Salvation Army's and at churches throughout the county.

Acceptable items include clothing, shoes, linens, towels, stuffed animals, backpacks, curtains, etc. **Do not worry if the materials are not “wearable,” or if they are torn, are missing buttons or have broken zippers. They just need to be clean and dry.** If you cannot make it to Destiny USA



Photo credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2015.

Everyone can make a difference by donating unwanted clothes, shoes and other household textiles, even items that no one else can wear or use; they simply need to be washed and dry. When you donate textiles, you are supporting local jobs, increasing recycling and helping local charities assist those in need in our community. Attend OCRRA's Textile Drop Off Event on Saturday, October 20 at Destiny's Pink Parking Lot from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

on October 20, or if you do not want to wait until that date, find a convenient year-round drop-off location near you, by visiting: www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles.

Everyone can make a difference by donating unwanted clothing, shoes and other household tex-

tiles, even items that no one else can wear or use. When you donate and recycle textiles, you are supporting local jobs, increasing recycling and helping local charities assist those in need in our community.

Theresa Evans can be reached at tevans@ocrra.org.

Cans for Cancer – Changing our Community Through Recycling

Matthew Capogreco, Upstate Cancer Center, Program and Events Coordinator

Laurence “The Can Man” Segal works full time, yet takes home no pay. He has dedicated his life to raising money for cancer research and patient programs one can at a time, single handedly raising over \$100,000 for cancer. This amazing accomplishment has caught the attention of many supporters resulting in the creation of Cans for Cancer. His passion and drive to change the way our community thinks about the power of recycling and cancer funding stems from a very personal place.

Fifteen years ago, Laurence decided he wanted to make a difference in the fight against cancer after seeing his friend Rod Roddy (from the Price is Right) lose his battle. Laurence was Rod's caretaker and friend through a horrible battle with colon cancer. Even closer to home, he saw

the toll breast cancer took on his grandmother, aunts and cousins and decided enough was enough.

Laurence started Bottles for a Cure, hitting the places where people decided the cans and bottles had no value – the trash. He partnered with Bottles End at 101 Montrose Avenue. They set up accounts for the public to donate to and even gave him \$.06 per can.

The Carol M. Baldwin Fund, American Cancer Society Real Men Wear Pink, and various Upstate programs received donations from his work. He wanted to be sure his money was local and used directly for those he saw and talked to every day; 100% of proceeds support cancer research and patient programs in CNY. After his personal contribution, it was time the community started to help Laurence get to the next level.

In 2017, Laurence Segal's Cans for Cancer had its first event at Destiny USA, collecting over 140,000 cans and raising \$10,000. Since then the NYS Fair, St. Joseph's Lakeview Amphitheater, Creative Concerts, and many local events have signed on to donate their cans to the cause. Slowly the program is changing the way people view the power their returnables have. Laurence is at the forefront of a cultural revolution that benefits our community by raising awareness, improving our environment by reducing trash and helping cancer patients by converting what many discard into dollars. Everyone wins when they are supporting this program.

We need your help though. When you see the pink bins out, please put in your empty bottles and cans and PLEASE



Photo credit: Upstate Cancer Center, Syracuse, 2018.

When you are at events or concerts in the area and see pink bins, recycle your bottles and cans there to help fight cancer AND help the environment. You can also start your own collection at home/work and bring your redeemables to any bottle and can retrieval center in Onondaga County to contribute to Cans for Cancer.

don't crush the cans/bottles/rip off labels. You can start your own collection at home or work and bring them to any bottle and can retrieval center in Onondaga County. Or, you can volunteer at any Cans for Cancer concert, event or at the NYS Fair.

For more information contact Matthew Capogreco

at (315) 464-3605 or capogrem@upstate.edu. To sign up to be a volunteer, visit <http://bit.ly/CansforCancerFair>. Thank you to everyone who does their part already and to all of you that will join us in this important fight!

Matthew Capogreco can be reached at (315) 464-3605 or capogrem@upstate.edu.

What Are Textiles?

Textiles are old clothing, linens, towels, curtains, bags, shoes, stuffed animals, etc. Donate them year-round to charitable organizations, even if they are stained, ripped or otherwise unwearable. They must be washed and dry. Even if they can't be worn, they can be recycled into new products like wiping rags and insulation. Visit www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles for a list of donation locations.

Buy OCRRA Compost By the Bag

These fine retailers set their own pricepoint for OCRRA's high quality, 1/4" US Composting Council certified material. Call for details.



North Area

- B'ville Supply – Baldwinsville
- Ballantyne Gardens – Liverpool
- CountryMax – Lysander
- CountryMax – Cicero
- Deaton's Agway – Pulaski
- Green Acres Lawn & Garden Center – Liverpool
- Lan's Flower Farm – Clay
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses Fulton
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus – Phoenix
- Village Ace Hardware Baldwinsville
- Green Hills Farms – Nedrow
- Lee's Feed Store – Syracuse
- Neil Casey's Farm Market – Tully
- Valley View Gardens – Cortland
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center – LaFayette

East Area

- Aspinall's – Chittenango
- CountryMax – DeWitt
- EverGreen Landscaping and Garden Center – Syracuse
- Green Scapes – Jamesville
- Manlius True Value Hardware Manlius
- Spruce Ridge Landscaping & Garden Center – Cazenovia
- Syracuse Cooperative Market Syracuse

South Area

- Carol Watson's Greenhouse LaFayette
- CountryMax – Cortland
- CountryMax – Norwich

- Village Ace Hardware – Fayetteville
- Vollmer Farms – East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms – Rome

West Area

- Maldonado Gardens – Elbridge
- Oliver's Produce – Marcellus
- Silver Spring Farm Market Onondaga Hill
- Sollecito Landscaping Nursery Syracuse
- Town Square Ace Hardware Skaneateles
- Westvale Gardens – Syracuse



Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

Fluorescent Bulbs

Dear Rhoda,

I have several burnt out compact fluorescent light bulbs, you know the ones that resemble a soft ice cream cone? I read they contain mercury and shouldn't go in the trash. I want to dispose of these correctly, so I was wondering what should I do with these bulbs?

- Seeking Enlightenment in Salina

Dear Seeking,

You read right! These bulbs, (compact fluorescent lamps or CFLs for short) shouldn't go in the trash – and they should DEFINITELY stay out of the blue bin. They contain mercury, which is a neurotoxin that can seriously harm humans and wildlife. BTW, the environment called and said thanks for caring!

The mercury in these bulbs is in vapor form, which is embedded in the powder coating on the inside of the bulb. It is dangerous when it gets out, which – you guessed it, smarty-pants – happens when they break, even if they don't work anymore.

To properly dispose of CFLs means a **tiny** bit of running around for you, but suck it up buttercup, we're talking about the environment and human health here, so it's worth it. You can always skip leg day at the gym if you need to take it easy, babycakes. Besides, it is simple and convenient to properly manage your old fluorescent bulbs – the CFL type and others.

OCRRA partners with

most Ace and True Value Hardware stores in Onondaga County to offer a FREE drop off program, so you don't have to spend any of your hard-earned money taking proper care of these bad-boys (but just so you know, there is a cost, which OCRRA bears to encourage folks to do the right thing with their bulbs). Oh, and through this program you can drop off not only CFLs but U-shaped, circular and 4-foot tube bulbs.

Now, let's get down to business. Plug this link www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs into your computer browser to find a list of the Ace and True Value stores, including a few independents, which will collect them and send

them to be managed in a safe way. You can also find the location closest to you by calling OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

And there's one more thing, pumpkin pie: this free program is for Onondaga County households only - NO business materials are accepted.*

Get it?
Got it?
Good.

Recycling Rhoda

*Businesses looking to get rid of fluorescent bulbs can learn more at: www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs

Toxics



Properly dispose of household hazardous waste like pesticides, oil-based paints, automotive products and more through OCRRA's free, year-round program (Monday – Friday; 6:30 am – 6:00 pm). Make an appointment at OCRRA.org.



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OCRRA

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Public Information Officer
and Editor

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OCRRA's waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Safely Converting Our Community's Trash into Enough Electricity to Power 32,000 Households (approximately 15% of Onondaga County)

Stack and Ash Testing Results for 2018

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 32,000 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?

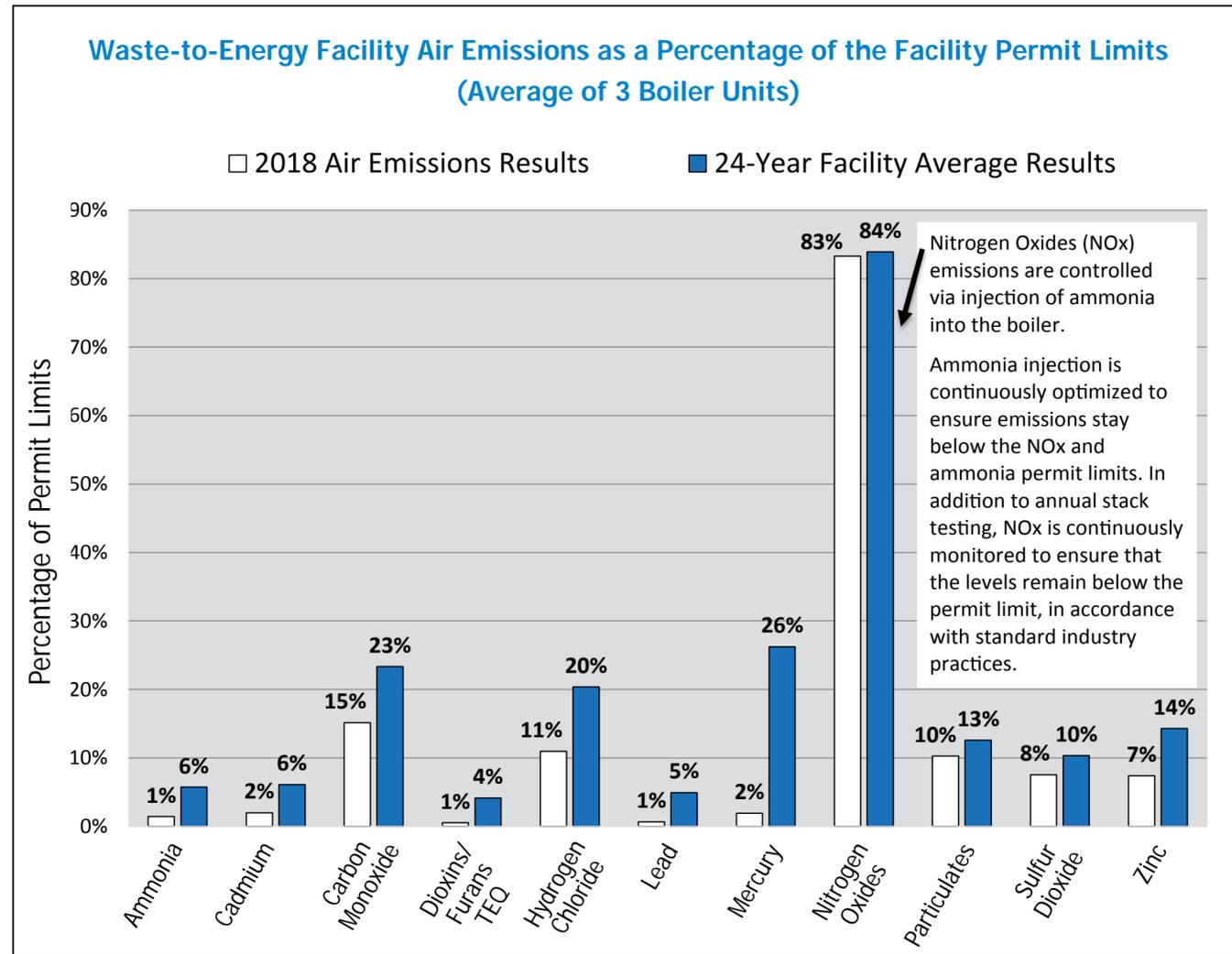
A: Stack testing is an important tool that measures the amount of regulated pollutants being emitted from a facility. Stack testing consists of a series of events, in which a probe is inserted into the stack to collect a representative sample of the gases released, over a specific amount of time. Sampling and laboratory analysis is 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 2018 stack test results look?

A: The results from the 2018 stack testing indicate that the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the graph below, many of the tested constituents were considerably below the permit limit.



Onondaga County trash is sent to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility where it is burned at 2000°F and converted into electricity (enough to power 15% of homes in our County), all while staying well-below NYSDEC permit limits.



2018 Annual Stack Test Results

	Constituent	Average Measured Emissions ¹			Permit Limit ²	Pass/Fail?	3-Boiler Average	% Permit	
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3					
TESTED ANNUALLY	FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 2.31E-04	2.09E-04	2.98E-04	3.50E-02	P	2.46E-04	0.70%
		Cadmium (lb/hr)	< 3.40E-05	3.22E-05	4.67E-05	1.90E-03	P	3.76E-05	1.98%
		Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.07E+00	1.30E+00	1.28E+00	8.04E+00	P	1.22E+00	15.13%
		Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	3.09E-01	4.44E-01	5.87E-01	3.00E+01	P	4.47E-01	1.49%
		Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	2.50E+00	2.36E+00	2.53E+00	2.50E+01	P	2.46E+00	9.85%
		Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	5.71E-01	5.53E-01	5.97E-01	5.24E+00	P	5.74E-01	10.95%
		Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.70	99.60	99.60	>= 95.00	P	99.63	--
		Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	1.71E-03	1.37E-03	1.82E-03	4.00E-01	P	1.63E-03	0.41%
		Lead (lb/hr)	2.54E-04	2.11E-04	2.86E-04	3.81E-02	P	2.50E-04	0.66%
	STATE	Mercury (lb/hr)	< 6.12E-05	< 1.10E-04	< 5.76E-05	4.00E-03	P	7.63E-05	1.91%
		Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	4.52E+01	4.62E+01	5.35E+01	5.80E+01	P	4.83E+01	83.28%
		Particulate (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	9.76E-04	9.17E-04	1.19E-03	1.00E-02	P	1.03E-03	10.28%
		PM ₁₀ (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	3.70E-04	2.64E-04	1.08E-03	1.00E-02	P	5.71E-04	5.71%
		PM ₁₀ Filterable (lb/hr)	1.25E-01	8.99E-02	3.73E-01	3.16E+00	P	1.96E-01	6.20%
		Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	3.48E-01	2.90E+00	4.09E-01	1.62E+01	P	1.22E+00	7.52%
		Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	< 5.53E-01	7.60E-01	5.99E-01	5.00E+01	P	6.37E-01	1.27%
		Ammonia (lb/hr)	< 5.92E-02	8.11E-02	6.61E-02	4.88E+00	P	6.95E-02	1.42%
		Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	3.67E-03	3.22E-03	6.62E-03	4.00E-01	P	4.50E-03	1.13%
TESTED EVERY 5 YEARS	FEDERAL	Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	5.51E-10	4.92E-10	1.03E-09	1.29E-07	P	6.91E-10	0.54%
		Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 4.13E-01	< 7.14E-01	< 3.68E-01	2.80E+01	P	4.98E-01	1.78%
		Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	> 99.10	> 97.10	> 99.50	>= 85.00	P	9.86E+01	--
	STATE	PAH (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 1.31E-01	< 1.32E-01	< 8.35E-03	1.00E+00	P	9.05E-02	9.05%
		Zinc (lb/hr)	4.44E-03	4.13E-03	5.69E-03	6.45E-02	P	4.75E-03	7.37%
		Arsenic (lb/hr)	< 1.91E-05	< 1.94E-05	< 1.93E-05	7.80E-04	P	1.93E-05	2.47%
		Beryllium (lb/hr)	< 4.77E-06	< 4.85E-06	< 4.80E-06	1.15E-04	P	4.81E-06	41.80%
		Hydrogen Fluoride (lb/hr)	< 2.02E-02	< 2.52E-02	< 2.40E-02	1.65E-01	P	2.31E-02	14.02%
		VOCs - Total Hydrocarbons (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	0.49	1.13	0.86	3.00E+01	P	8.26E-01	2.75%
TESTED EVERY 5 YEARS	FEDERAL	VOCs - Total Hydrocarbons (lb/hr)	4.83E-02	1.13E-01	9.37E-02	2.76E+00	P	8.50E-02	3.08%
		Chromium (lb/hr)	1.76E-04	2.22E-04	2.34E-04	1.93E-03	P	2.11E-04	10.92%
		Copper (lb/hr)	1.93E-04	1.62E-04	2.55E-04	4.00E-03	P	2.03E-04	5.08%
	STATE	Formaldehyde (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 11.30	< 11.50	< 11.30	5.00E+01	P	1.14E+01	22.73%
		Hexavalent Chromium - Cr ⁶⁺ (lb/hr)	1.76E-04	2.10E-04	1.57E-04	3.00E-04	P	1.81E-04	60.33%
		Manganese (lb/hr)	3.92E-04	3.68E-04	6.53E-04	2.30E-03	P	4.71E-04	20.48%
		Nickel (lb/hr)	2.27E-04	2.49E-04	4.81E-04	4.00E-03	P	3.19E-04	7.98%
		PAHs (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 1.31E-01	< 1.32E-01	< 8.35E-03	1.00E+00	P	9.05E-02	9.05%
		PCBs (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 2.85E-03	< 5.71E-03	< 7.57E-03	5.30E-02	P	5.38E-03	10.14%
		Vanadium (lb/hr)	< 1.91E-05	< 1.94E-05	< 1.92E-05	6.00E-04	P	1.92E-05	3.21%
		Zinc (lb/hr)	4.44E-03	4.13E-03	5.69E-03	6.45E-02	P	4.75E-03	7.37%

NOTES:

- ¹ Based on 3 test runs; used for compliance with permit limit.
- ² NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028
- ³ 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% O₂ = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen
- ng = nanograms
- µg = micrograms
- mg = milligrams

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 pollution 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: Who can I contact for more information?

A: For more detailed information on the test results please contact OCRRA's Public Information Officer, Kristen Lawton, at (315) 295-0733 or klawton@ocrra.org.

Q: What is the purpose of the semi-annual ash testing and how do the 2018 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 Procedure (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 2018 results), TCLP analysis has always indicated that the ash residue is non-hazardous.

2018 ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS			
Semi-Annual Test Results - April 2018			
Constituent	Test Result (mg/L)	Permit Limit (mg/L)	Pass or Fail
Cadmium	0.05	1	Pass
Lead	0.47	5	Pass
CONCLUSION			
Ash residue does NOT exhibit a hazardous characteristic. As such, it should continue to be managed as a non-hazardous solid waste.			

The Last Straw in School Cafeteria Recycling: Food Scraps

Theresa Evans, OCRRA, Recycling Specialist

Eliminating plastic straws is super trendy right now, and the benefits of doing so are outstanding for our planet's marine life and overall waste reduction goals. To reap such large rewards for relatively minimal effort is unusual and worth exploring. Getting rid of straws at home is one thing, but is it actually possible to remove them in a large-scale sense, such as in a school cafeteria? The answer is yes. Just ask the Jordan-Elbridge High School.

"We got rid of straws in the high school, and switched over to compostable straws in the middle and elementary schools," said Vinny Smith, Director of Facilities, JECSD.

In the Jordan-Elbridge High School alone, there are roughly 420 students eating lunch every day. If half of those students used a straw at lunch, that equates to a total of over 39,000 straws used during the 183 days that the students are in school. Saving 39,000+ straws from entering the waste stream is a huge accomplishment, not only to the benefit of the environment, but to the school's food services budget as well.

Straws are just one of many items that schools could remove from their

trash. While still contemplating the cafeteria, why not also consider composting uneaten food scraps? Cafeteria composting reduces school waste, increases recycling and reinforces an important environmental lesson for students each day.

How it works:

Districts such as Jordan-Elbridge, (or Fayetteville-Manlius, LaFayette, Westhill, West Genesee and Holy Family School) make a proactive commitment to composting and arrange for pickup of food waste with their trash hauler. Next, OCRRA trains staff and students; teachers begin classroom compost education and collection bins are put in place in the cafeteria, with OCRRA's guidance. Finally, all students, whether they bring or buy lunch, separate their food scraps by scraping leftovers into labeled / color-coded bins in their cafeteria.

All food waste is then brought to OCRRA's award-winning Amboy Compost Facility in Camillus, where it is mixed with yard waste and turned into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used to grow healthy plants throughout our community.

There are many advan-

tages to cafeteria composting such as daily, hands-on environmental education to students, potential cost savings for the school district (food scraps are accepted at OCRRA's Facility at less than \$0.02 per pound: that is less than half the cost of normal trash disposal), and most significantly, waste reduction.

For example, at Enders Road Elementary School in Manlius, cafeteria trash went from ten bags of trash to a mere two bags per day. That's an 80% reduction in total trash!

The Jordan-Elbridge School District enjoyed a similar result transitioning from cafeteria trash needing to be picked up twice a week, to only once every three weeks. Those reduced trash pickups saved the Jordan-Elbridge School District \$2,000 in the first year of their compost program.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, more food reaches landfills and waste-to-energy facilities than any other material in the trash. Thanks to the leadership of the Onondaga County school districts mentioned above, as well as participating institutions such as Wegmans, SUNY-Upstate, Syracuse University, Pastabilities restaurant and many others, OCRRA's Amboy



Photo credit: Theresa Evans, OCRRA, Jordan, 2014.

Students at Elbridge Elementary sort their food scraps from their trash, which significantly reduces the amount of trash they generate. This waste reduction effort saved the district \$2,000 in the first year of their compost program. Contact OCRRA to learn how you can get your school composting and reducing waste!

Compost Facility processes more than 50,000 pounds of food scraps every week, which ultimately generates 30,000 cubic yards of high-quality compost each year!

Want to learn more about food scrap composting at lunchtime? Will your

school be the next to reduce their waste by composting? To get started contact OCRRA's Theresa Evans at (315) 453-2866, ext. 210 or tevans@ocrra.org.

Theresa Evans can be reached at tevans@ocrra.org.

Residential Mulch & Compost Haulers

The businesses listed here may be contacted to haul materials from OCRRA Compost Sites.

OCRRA is neither recommending nor endorsing any of the service providers here.

*Heavier products may have lower maximum volumes for a single trip.

HAULER	PHONE	BASED IN	SINGLE TRIP MAX VOLUME*
Alan Seabrook	(315) 481-9677	Syracuse: Serving Onondaga County	7 cu. yds.
Bill Guptill	(315) 345-5451	Nedrow	6 cu. yds.
Jeff's Cutting Edge Landscaping And Lawncare	(315) 488-2924	Van Buren-Serving West & Northwest Sides of Syracuse	10 cu. yds.
J.M. Landscape & Plowing	(315) 430-5549	Baldwinsville	4 cu. yds.
John Majowsky	(315) 247-8111	Onondaga County	8 cu. yds.
Landscapes Etc. LLC	(315) 447-5844	Cazenovia: Serving Manlius, Fayetteville, Chittenango	10 cu. yds.
Larry Belge: Commercial Lawn & Landscape	(315) 699-4912	Liverpool, Clay, Cicero, North Syracuse	5 cu. yds.
Northern Firewood	(315) 668-9663	West Monroe	15 cu. yds.
The Outside Guys	(315) 863-9114	Camillus	2 cu. yds.



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Riding the Recycling Rollercoaster in Onondaga County

DERETH GLANCE, Executive Director, OCRRA

I love rollercoasters. The anticipation of being pulled up, up and up into the sky – and the sheer exhilaration of the freefall with hands in the air until the bottom of your stomach makes itself quite present in your body. The momentum glides you forward toward the next rise and fall, jerky corner and upside down twist. These rides have always given me a huge rush.

Of course, life often presents us with other types of steep ups and downs that are less thrilling, but the lows, bends and highs provide important perspective to understand where the ride will be heading next. At the moment, the recycling industry is on one of these roller coaster rides and I want to share what that means for the 180,000 tons of recyclable materials generated by our community's residents, businesses and schools each year.

Onondaga County boasts one of the lowest recycling contamination rates anywhere thanks to the diligence of our residents who are very familiar with recycling rules. Plastic bottles, metal cans, cardboard and paper are commodities traded on the global market. Their value, like any commodity, fluctuates regularly.

For many years, China was the largest market for the world's recyclables, processing at least half of all recycling exports – 7.3 million tons of paper, metal and plastic in 2016, according to industry data.

The Chinese government's National Sword policy is now in place, which essentially bars many recyclable commodities from entering the coun-

try, including mixed paper (think newspapers, magazines and junk mail). It was a tremendous blow to the recycling industry and was caused, in part, by the quality of non-recyclable material that countries, including the U.S., sent in recycling shipments to China. Over 20% of loads were typically non-recyclable trash (referred to as "contaminants" or "residue"). With the National Sword policy, China said to the world: "NO MORE!"

The recycling rollercoaster revved up in response. In April 2017, the market value of newspaper was \$85 per ton. One year later, in April 2018, the market value of newspaper, due to China's National Sword policy plummeted to \$35 per ton. Today, it is in a free fall, and we are all holding on tight.

As prices for recyclable materials significantly drop, the local cost to find markets for sorted recyclables soars, particularly for mixed paper. Our plastic bottles and dairy tubs are processed in the U.S., and our cardboard recovery supports our local economy and local jobs as thousands of tons of corrugated cardboard are made into new paper at WestRock in Solway, NY.

Experts expect recycling to get more expensive, especially as it is becoming a part of a larger battle over global trade. Some say a change is long overdue, but regardless, the price of this bill, which will mostly be borne by local communities, presents quite a sticker shock.

Locally, OCRRA insulated the community from



Photo credit: iStock.com, 2018.

Recycling markets fluctuate constantly, but the current dip in pricing is part of a free fall. Experts say recycling could get more expensive. The most important thing you can do is to be the best recycler you can. Only recycle the materials that are accepted in Onondaga County and look to recycle textiles and plastic wraps / bags at local donation centers and big box stores, respectively. This will keep the recycling stream pure, increase the value of our community's recyclables and reduce waste.

these market fluctuations by absorbing costs during weak recycling markets and sharing in the bounty when the commodities enjoyed stronger pricing. For example, last year OCRRA received over \$125,000 from recycling revenues; the roller coaster was headed up!

In 2018, the roller coaster is plummeting as OCRRA will spend over \$400,000 to sort and market residential recyclables, as well as confront the cancellation and renegotiation of its contract with our local private sector material sorting facility.

This is a different type of dip in recycling markets. It is not the worst and it certainly doesn't signal the end of recycling. Our bottles, cans, containers, cardboard and paper continue to have value; but

the faltering paper market requires substantial investment to increase domestic outlets and to produce higher quality paper bales for reprocessing.

What we do know is that the costs of recycling will be high for the foreseeable future, but this ride also affords us the perspective and insight on where investment in domestic recycling infrastructure is sorely needed.

To help, please be the best recycler you can be. Recycle Right – only put the correct materials into your curbside recycling bin. Plastic bottles, jugs and dairy tubs; cans; cereal and pasta boxes; and cardboard are all good.

Putting things in the recycle bin that you wish were recyclable (but are not) only grinds the recycling coaster to a halt. Never put plas-

tic bags, chains or hoses in the bin – they bring recycling to a full stop at the sorting facility. To check your knowledge of local recycling rules, please visit: www.OCRRA.org.

Every crisis also provides opportunity and Onondaga County recycling can remain strong and get better amidst market turmoil. We can hold our hands up on the roller coaster as the steep decent falls lower than we thought and prepare to refurbish the tracks to build a more resilient ride for the future. Stay engaged with OCRRA.org to keep saving the world a little each day.

Dereth Glance can be reached at dglance@ocrra.org.



That's a Wrap: Where to Recycle Plastic Bags and Plastic Wraps

Dale Cocca, OCRRA, Recycling Specialist

Products wear a lot of barely-there attire these days. In an increasingly disposable economy, our short lived goods are being protected by the lowest cost protective wear possible, and it often takes the form of thin flexible plastics. We're talking shrink wrap found on cases of water, over wrap encasing paper towels, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, air pouches and so on. While none of these flimsy yet functional plastics are acceptable in the blue bin, there are convenient ways to recycle most of them as long as they are clean and dry.

Retailers that accept plastic retail bags for recycling, including grocery stores, big box stores and chain drug stores, can accept other plastic wraps, too, but not all types. So which ones can you add to your bag recycling?

A general rule of thumb is that plastics that stretch when pulled apart, instead of doing almost nothing or tearing in a clean line can be included when returning

plastic bags to retail locations and grocery stores.

Plastics that stretch under stress generally are recyclable. A good test is to make a short, clean cut with scissors and then try tearing it. If it easily separates on a crisp line, it's trash. Some examples of thin plastics that tear and are trash would be chip bags, candy wrappers, bags for prewashed salad mixes and Cellophane wrap like what fresh flowers are wrapped in. These loud "crinkly" plastics should be trashed.

To become a top-performing recycler fill your reusable grocery bag with your clean and dry:

- plastic bags,
- bread bags,
- produce bags,
- zip-top bags,
- newspaper sleeves,
- dry cleaning bags,
- over wraps / shrink wraps, such as for water bottle cases and paper towels, and
- shipping pillows

You can then drop them off for recycling at your nearest big box store that

gives out plastic bags (and is required by law to collect them for recycling). Please remember that these materials should never go in your curbside recycling container; they wind around equipment at the recycling facility and increase maintenance costs.

By dropping off these materials at grocery stores and retail locations, you're supporting a strong North American market for clean, uncontaminated plastic bags and over wrap. These items are remanufactured into high quality products, including new plastic bags, plastic benches and playground equipment, composite plastic decking, and plastic crates and pallets. So, once you institute this recurring practice (and encourage your friends and family to do the same) you will be supporting American jobs and be well on your way to saving the world a little each day!

Dale Cocca can be reached at dcocca@ocrra.org.

ACCEPTABLE (#2 and #4)

- Bread bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bath tissue wrap
- Shipping pillows
- Produce bags
- Food storage bags
- Plastic outer wraps
- Cereal box liners
- Newspaper bags
- Grocery bags

Art credit: Wegmans, Rochester, 2018.

Plastic wraps and bags make up a large portion of our trash (5%) and often become litter that pollutes our waterways. Do your part and recycle clean and dry plastic wraps and bags at local big box stores that give out plastic bags (grocery stores, pharmacy chains, etc.).



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

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

Q: I didn't realize that I wasn't supposed to put recyclables in a plastic bag and then put them in my recycling bin. What is it acceptable to use? If I put the items in the bin loose they will end up all over the neighborhood.

A: You are right, plastic bags do not belong in the blue bin, either loose or containing recyclables. They stop the recycling process at the sorting facility and end up as trash (if you put your recyclables IN them, the recyclables also end up as trash, thereby defying your efforts).

OCRRA recommends putting recyclables loose into your bin and making sure to put your heavy recyclables on top, to prevent them from becoming litter. Alternatively, you can use multiple bins. Put your papers in one and stack a second bin filled with heavier containers on top of the paper bin. You could also put items in a paper bag, but loose is preferred if, you can weight them down.

If it is a windy day that might increase the likelihood of your recycling becoming litter, another option is to hold your recycling until the next week.

Mark Your Calendar

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED
MONDAY 9/3
THURSDAY 11/22
Happy Holidays!

MAIN OFFICE AND ROCK CUT ROAD CLOSED
MONDAY 11/12
Thank You Veterans!

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF
Year-Round by Appointment
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
M – F, 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
Register at OCRRA.org.

ROCK CUT ROAD DROP-OFF SITE CLOSING FOR CONSTRUCTION
TUESDAY 1/1/2019

FACT: Search OCRRA.org to find a list of locations that recycle old electronics including televisions.