



Register for OCRRA's Earth Day Cleanup

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

For several winters *hygge*, a Danish term for coziness and wellbeing, was trending. Now that spring is here it's time to roll up our sleeves and start the *dugnaad*! This Norwegian word explains the idea of people coming together to do voluntary work that benefits the community. This is the perfect segue into OCRRA's annual Earth Day Litter Cleanup.

Come join thousands of our neighbors this spring to clean up litter and help beautify our community during OCRRA's 2022 Earth Day Litter Cleanup happening Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23.

Gather interested volunteers, pick a group name, and select a public space to beautify, then register a cleanup crew at **OCRRA.org**—or send in the form below. Instructions are mailed out that explain how to prepare for the cleanup and what to do with the collected litter, so it is counted in the annual tally.

Community cleanups not only beautify and improve community safety, but they are also a great chance to bond and build a shared sense of investment among neighbors.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2021.

Team Slabbers from StorySlab show off the trash they cleaned up from the Creek Walk in Syracuse between West Fayette and Walton Streets during the 2021 Earth Day Cleanup.

Register for the 2022 OCRRA Earth Day Litter Cleanup today! The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2022.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@ocrra.org.



BICYCLE RECOVERY... PG 2

OCRRA is working with CNY Family Bike to help those in need.



HOUSEHOLD TOXICS... PG 2

What household toxics are accepted at OCRRA's drop-off program?



GLASS RECYCLING... PG 4

Learn how to recycle glass bottles so they get turned into new glass bottles!



CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS... PG 5

Money saving coupons to have your confidential documents destroyed anytime!



SPRINGTIME IS COMPOST TIME... PG 6

Get OCRRA's award-winning compost for your spring garden or landscape project!



Litter Cleanup Registration Form

Name of Group: _____

Number of Volunteers: _____

Name of Contact Person (one name only): _____

Address of Contact (where information/stickers are to be sent):

Street: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone #: (W) _____ **(H)** _____

Email: _____

Day(s) Your Group Will Be Cleaning:

Friday, April 22 Saturday, April 23 Both

You will receive two trash bag stickers per worker. Please indicate if you will need more.

Number of ADDITIONAL Stickers

Remember, NO chemical waste, paint cans, furniture, appliances, yard waste or gas tanks are acceptable. OCRRA encourages groups to recycle any bottles and cans they find.

Municipality (city/town/village) where you are cleaning. This info is used to provide instructions on litter drop off.

What area are you cleaning? (You may choose any public space in the county. Be as specific as possible to avoid cleanup overlap. Include cross streets.)



Cleanup supplies are your group's responsibility. OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through your municipality. **Any questions, please call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.**

REGISTER ONLINE AT
OCRRA.ORG
OR RETURN REGISTRATION
VIA FAX (315) 453-2872
OR MAIL TO: OCRRA
100 ELWOOD DAVIS ROAD
NORTH SYRACUSE, NY 13212

Recovering Bicycles to Help Those in Need

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

One kid's trash is another kid's freedom, to modify an old saying. We at OCRRA often see things pass through our system that could be reused. While we have a strict policy against trash picking, one exception is a program recently started by OCRRA Rock Cut Road operations crew leader, Randy Jones, who recovers perfectly good or repairable bikes from the waste stream. The recovered bikes are donated to CNY Family Bike, a charity run by Jan Maloff. He and his team clean up and repair the bikes, then donate them to local children and adults.

CNY Family Bike fills a need for those who cannot afford new bicycles but want to experience the freedom and health benefits of bike ownership. The program started when Maloff bought bikes from thrift shops and garage sales to giveaway, one weekend at a time. Now, his charity gives out thousands of bikes each year with approximately 75 percent going

to children. Maloof points out that for families who can't afford things like a night at the movies, it is important to have ways to recreate as a unit.

Jones recovers around 20 bikes each month, and even more in the summer. He says he saw a need and approached then Transfer Station Director Kevin Spillane about reclaiming the bikes. "It's something we should be doing, giving back to the community," Jones says. He looks for bikes that are mostly in working order. Even if the bike "might need to be tweaked a little bit" it can still be put to reuse.

In addition to their primary program, CNY Family Bike also supplies bicycles to social workers, school counselors, and law enforcement, who can replace stolen bikes with donated ones. Often, social workers deliver the bikes to new Americans, who can use them for transportation to new jobs. Maloff says, "We want police officers to get to know



OCRRA Executive Director Kevin Spillane (left), OCRRA Rock Cut Road Operations Crew Leader Randy Jones (center), and CNY Family Bike founder Jan Maloff (right) show off one of the many bicycles OCRRA recovered for donating to the charity this past fall. CNY Family Bike refurbishes the donated bikes and gives them away to local children and adults.

kids, and kids and families to get to know police officers."

You can help! Donate your old bikes directly to Jan Maloff's program! Not only will the bike be put to great use, but you will be helping to reduce waste in Onondaga County. CNY Family Bike prefers bikes in good condition, but will

also fix up bikes that are rusted, bent, or missing parts. Even if you think your bike is too beat up, they may be able to use it for parts to fix up another donated bike! Donate by calling (315) 530-7751, especially between May and December.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@ocrra.org.

Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2021.

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
- Body Filler
- Brake fluid
- Diesel fuel
- Engine degreaser (cans can be returned; don't pour off at home)
- 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
- Stains or finishes
- Paint thinner
- Spray Paint
- Turpentine
- Brush cleaner
- Paint stripper
- Wood preservatives



Household Items:

- Adhesives
- Epoxy
- Fluorescent bulbs*
- Driveway sealer
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Lube grease
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats*
- Mothballs
- Nail polish remover
- Petroleum products
- Pool chemicals



*These items are acceptable if brought in with other materials. They may also be managed outside this program. Visit OCRRRA.org for more information.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Latex paint
- Empty paint cans or cans of dried-up paint
- Asbestos of any type, including loose asbestos, pipes, pipe wrapping, shingles, tiles
- Auto batteries
- Batteries
- Controlled substances
- Electronic waste
- Empty aerosol cans that previously contained hazardous or non-hazardous materials
- Medical, pathological or etiological waste
- Explosives
- Fire extinguishers
- Motor oil
- Pharmaceuticals
- Propane tanks of any size (including small camping tanks)
- 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, including 55-gallon drums

Visit OCRRRA.org and search our "How do I get rid of..." database to learn how to properly manage unacceptable items.

FACT: Take used motor oil to your local automotive service station, auto parts store and some home improvement stores.

Clean Out Your Garage and Dispose of Household Toxics Through OCRRA

Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist

As residents spring clean or prepare to move they often come across old cleaning products, painting supplies and car chemicals. While these items should not go in the trash, residents may be unsure of what to do with them. Most of these types of items are eligible for OCRRA's Household Toxics drop off program.

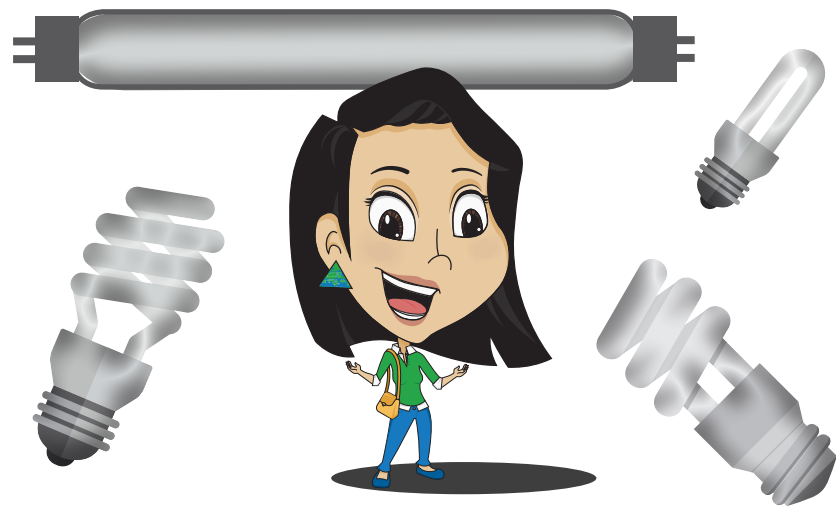
From oil-based paints and pesticides to gasoline and pool chemicals, there are many household items that should not go in the trash or down the drain. See page 2 to learn what is acceptable and not acceptable in the program. This drop-off program is free to Onondaga County residents (excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles). Appointments are required and business materials are not accepted.

OCRRA partners with Miller Environmental Group, a permitted facility, to properly manage household toxics. OCRRA pays Miller 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 for disposal to maximize your appointment.

Appointments may be made online at 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 and must be made 24 hours in advance. After scheduling an appointment, OCRRA sends a confirmation email with instructions on how to package and transport items to Miller Environmental Group, located off Hiawatha Blvd. in Syracuse. Thank you for safely and properly disposing of your household toxics with OCRRA.

Maria Bianchetti can be reached at mbianchetti@ocrra.org.



Recycling Rhoda

Flourescent Light Bulbs

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

I have several twirly light bulbs that don't work anymore. You know the ones that resemble a soft ice cream cone? I read they contain mercury and shouldn't go in the trash. What should I do with these bulbs?

— *Enlighten Me in Elbridge*

My Dearest Enlighten Me,

You are correct! These light bulbs, known as compact fluorescent lamps (or CFLs for short) should never go in the trash or recycling bin. Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, which can harm humans and the environment.

Like people, fluorescent bulbs come in many shapes and sizes. You can light up your home with those small "twirly" CFLs, 2-foot, 4-foot, 8-foot, U-shaped, or circular bulbs.

There are many locations in our community where you can safely dispose of used fluorescent bulbs for FREE. (That's right, you can take care of your household fluorescents for free!) Participating Home Depot and Lowe's stores accept the "twirly" CFLs. OCRRA's Ley Creek Trans-

fer Station accepts household CFLs, 2-foot, 4-foot, 8-foot, U-shaped, and circular bulbs. Several local hardware stores accept CFLs, 2-foot, 4-foot, U-shaped, and circular bulbs for recycling (see list at right). OCRRA covers the cost of processing and shipping the bulbs to a facility where the mercury is safely removed and the glass and aluminum is recycled.

If you have any LED or incandescent light bulbs, those should go in your curbside trash when you are done using them. If you have other items from your household that contain hazardous material, like oil-based paints or driveway sealer, you can make an appointment for OCRRA's free Household Toxics drop off program and bring your fluorescent bulbs with you. See the article above for details.

Remember, these programs are for households only. Businesses looking to get rid of fluorescent bulbs should visit [OCRRA.org](https://www.ocrra.org) or call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

Let there be light,

Recycling Rhoda

PARTNERING HARDWARE STORES

These stores accept compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), 2-foot and 4-foot fluorescent tubes, circular, and U-shaped fluorescent bulbs from households. They do not accept 8-foot tubes; household 8-foot tubes can be taken to OCRRA's Ley Creek Transfer Station in Liverpool.

- Bob's True Value, 4805 South Salina St., Syracuse
- Calley's Hardware, 15 North St., Marcellus
- City Hardware, 214 South Geddes St., Syracuse
- Manlius True Value, 8225 Cazenovia Rd., Manlius
- Nightingale True Value, 4068 South Ave., Marcellus
- Nightingale True Value, 6 Elm St., Tully
- Suburban ACE Hardware, 7990 Oswego Rd., Liverpool
- Tully Building Supply, 24 Onondaga St., Tully
- Valu Home Center, 123 Teall Ave., Syracuse
- Valu Home Center, Airport Plaza, 3803 Brewerton Rd., Syracuse
- Valu Home Center, Western Lights Shopping Center, 4671 Onondaga Blvd., Syracuse
- Village ACE Hardware, 204 S. Manlius St., Fayetteville
- Village ACE Hardware, 43 E. Genesee St., Baldwinsville
- Wrightway Hardware, 9236 Oswego Rd., Baldwinsville

Kicking Glass Recycling Up a Notch

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Did you know, glass that goes in your recycle bin does not get turned into new bottles? It breaks and gets mixed with bits of metal, paper and plastic making it difficult and expensive to recycle. The broken glass also contaminates other recyclables. Because manufacturers in NYS do not want this type of glass, it is instead reused in landfills to make roads and cover waste. But, you can ensure your old glass beverage bottles get turned into new bottles over and over again...

Last spring, OCRRA launched a pilot program to improve glass recycling in Onondaga County. The program is voluntary. Residents have the option to bring their glass, non-deposit beverage bottles to nine local redemption centers for recycling into new glass bottles. See the participating redemption centers below.

Glass in the trash

In some communities glass thrown in the trash goes into a landfill. Here in Onondaga County, our trash goes to the Waste-to-Energy Facility. The glass cannot be recycled through the Waste-to-Energy Facility, but it will become part of the facility's ash residue and beneficially reused as daily operating cover at a landfill. It can be put to much better use by recycling it, which is why we recycle glass in Onondaga County.

Glass in the curbside recycling

Glass in curbside recycling bins goes to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Liverpool



where recyclables are sorted, baled, and sent to be made into new products. Glass breaks in transit and gets very dirty as it mixes with other recyclables. Tiny shards of glass get into the papers and devalues the paper recycling stream.

Broken glass collected at the MRF is used at neighboring landfills as "alternative daily cover" and in road base construction. Cover traps odors and prevents trash from blowing off a landfill. Using the glass means landfills do not have to dig up and truck in topsoil to use, but it is still not the best way we can use glass.

Glass at redemption centers

When glass bottles—both deposit and non-deposit—go to a redemption center they are separated by color and kept clean, then sold to manufacturers and turned into new glass. Glass is infinitely recyclable, so the more glass bottles that

get dropped off at participating redemption centers, the more recycling is taking place. Because glass is made from sand, recycling it helps slow the degradation of lake and river shores.

Whether glass gets recycled through this new program or the recycling bin, it is being reused in a much better way than if it is thrown in the trash. Participating in this program shows our legislators that our community is serious about giving glass its highest end-use, which supports the need to update New York State's Bottle Bill. Revising the Bottle Bill to include these glass beverage containers, which make up about 50% of all the glass in curbside recycling, could incentivize the diversion of roughly five million pounds of glass from the waste stream each year. So set aside glass wine, spirit and other non-alcoholic beverage bottles and make a difference, and a statement today!

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@ocrra.org.

Rules

- 1 Glass beverage containers only (e.g., wine, spirits, and non-alcoholic drinks).
- 2 No food jars (they should continue to go in the recycle bin).
- 3 No broken glass.
- 4 Separate deposit containers, such as soda bottles, from non-deposit containers.
- 5 Remove corks and caps.

Participating Redemption Centers

Not all redemption centers in Onondaga County are taking part at this time. Only the locations listed here are accepting non-deposit glass beverage bottles. Residents may continue to put wine, liquor and non-deposit glass beverage bottles in their recycle bin if returning them is a hardship; this program is voluntary, not required.

Cicero Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	6195 Route 31	Cicero	(315) 698-7358
FM Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	202 West Seneca Street	Manlius	(315) 682-4830
T & T Redemption II	2542 Otisco Valley Road	Marietta	(315) 263-3822
Here's Your Nickle Back Bottle & Can Return	2204 Brewerton Road	Mattydale	(315) 455-1667
Minoa Can & Bottle Return	330 Costello Parkway	Minoa	(315) 877-8619
Teall Ave. Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	1833 Teall Avenue	Syracuse	(315) 432-0970
Thompson Road Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	6222 Thompson Road	Syracuse	(315) 437-1481
Central City Bottle Redemption	224 Chapel Drive	Syracuse	(315) 488-6521
Papa Cans & Bottle Return	2359 Milton Avenue	Syracuse	(315) 478-1009



FACT: Blue bin glass can't be turned into new bottles, but deposit bottles can! Let's add a 5-cent deposit to wine & spirit glass.

How to Get Rid of Confidential Documents

Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist

Residents who have confidential documents to shred can take advantage of the coupons below. Although OCRRA is not hosting a shredding event in 2022, two local shredding companies have stepped up to offer households in Onondaga County reduced-cost shredding services (50% off the regular price).

Simple Shred, located in the Bodow Recycling building off Hiawatha Blvd. in Syracuse, accepts unlimited confidential documents and does not require an appointment. They are open year-round Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; items will not be shredded immediately but will be destroyed in 24 hours or less following drop off.

Confidata, located on Crossroads Park Drive in Liverpool, will accept up to five

banker boxes of confidential documents on the first Saturday of the month, from April to October from 9:00 am to noon. Items will be shredded the Saturday of drop off, or may be shredded within 24 to 48 hours after depending on circumstances (weather conditions, labor or unforeseen mechanical issues).

Bring the coupons below to the location of your choice and get a discount when dropping off your confidential documents for shredding. 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 below.

Maria Bianchetti can be reached at mbianchetti@ocrra.org.



Confidential Document Shredding Special

25¢ per pound

Year-round, Monday – Friday
8 am to 4 pm

Items will not be shredded instantly, but will be destroyed 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, 2022



Confidential Document Shredding Special

25¢ per pound

April - October, 1st Saturday of month
9 am to 12 pm

Items will be shredded on the Saturday of drop off or within 24 to 48 hours.

- Limit: 5 banker boxes.
- 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:

OCTOBER 1, 2022

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.



Curbside Recycling



Cardboard, pizza, pasta, cereal boxes, etc. Flatten.



Papers, mail, envelopes



Newspapers, magazines, catalogs



Plastic bottles and jugs. Empty and replace caps.



Plastic dairy tubs. Empty and rinse.



Cans and jars. Empty and rinse. Labels are ok.

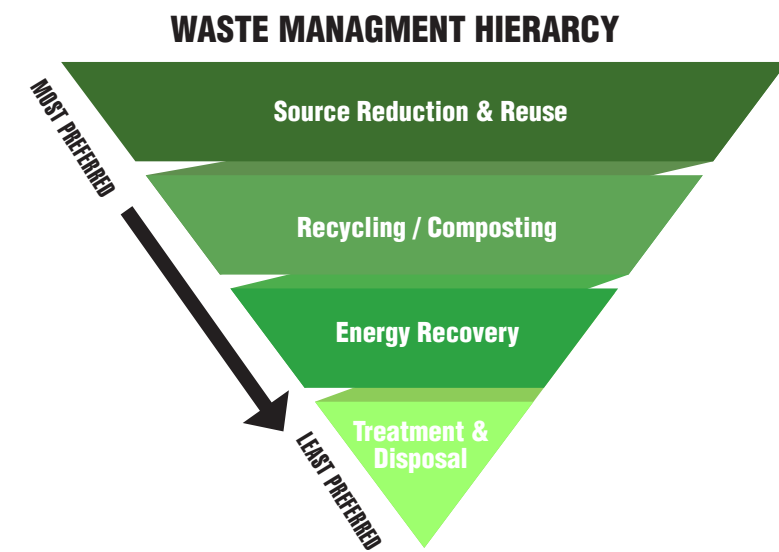
FACT: Plastic bags can't go in the blue bin. Recycle clean and dry bags and other film plastics at big box stores.

Waste-to-Energy: Transforming Trash

Cristina Alburnio, PE; Agency Engineer

The best way to reduce the footprint our trash leaves behind is to reduce what we create and reuse things before throwing them away. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's waste management hierarchy lists these two methods as the most environmentally preferred strategies for sustainability (reduction/reuse; recycle/compost). The third method, prior to disposal, is energy recovery. In Onondaga County, OCRRA relies on the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility or Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility to recover the energy in our waste prior to disposal.

The WTE Facility uses waste-to-energy technology through a robustly engineered system to combust and recover resources from our trash. This process changes the way waste looks before it is disposed of at a landfill. What looks like trash going into the OCRRF looks like soil coming out. This material is commonly called ash, although it is very dense and heavy like soil. After combustion, the leftover residue from processing our trash is treated with carbon, lime,



The US EPA's waste management hierarchy highlights the most preferred to least preferred approaches to solid waste generation and management. OCRRA's Waste-to-Energy Facility turns trash into electricity, thus preserving valuable and limited landfill space.

ammonia, and water. The end product, the ash, is very different than trash. The ash is approximately 80% lighter than trash and is about 10% of its original volume.

The volume and weight reduction of our trash as it passes through the WTE Facility is very significant. While it is a great benefit to harvest enough electricity to power more than 30,000 homes and recycle more than 10 tons of metal from our trash each year, the WTE minimizes the footprint our trash leaves before it is transported to and disposed of at a landfill. The transportation and disposal impacts of our trash are reduced when weight

and volume are reduced. The weight and the number of trucks bringing waste to landfills is minimized. The space consumed in a landfill is lower because the WTE Facility reduces the volume of our trash.

For example, ten truckloads of trash going into the WTE Facility only produces one truckload of ash that must be driven to a landfill. This volume reduction of our waste helps keep trucks off the road and conserves landfill space. The footprint of our trash is minimized when we work together to reduce, reuse and recover energy from waste.

Cristina Alburnio can be reached at calburnio@ocrra.org.

How to Buy Compost and Mulch

1) Fill Your Trunk

If you are looking for less than a cubic yard of mulch or compost and have a car, mini-van or SUV, you may self-load with the trunkload option. **No site pass is needed.**

- ½" General Compost: **\$10 / trunkload.**
- Double Ground Wood Mulch: **\$5 / trunkload.**



2) Buy it by the Yard

Mulch and compost can be purchased in bulk; OCRRA will load your truck or trailer for you. There is no self-loading and no site pass is needed.

A pass is only needed if you are looking to drop off material. Don't have a truck or trailer? Check out a list of local haulers that will deliver mulch and compost to you by the yard, see list below, right.

- ½" General Compost: **\$16 / cubic yard.**
- ¼" inch Premium Compost: **\$20 / cubic yard.**
- Double Ground Wood Mulch: **\$13 / cubic yard.**



3) Buy Compost in Bags

OCRRA compost is available at more than 30 retail locations (¼" Premium Compost only). Each store sets its own price point. Check page 7 for a list of retailers, which can also be found at OCRRA.org.



Visit OCRRA's award-winning Compost Sites and help "Save the World a Little Each Day," while also creating beautiful landscapes and gardens at home.

Get a 2022 Compost Site Drop Off Pass

If you are only looking to drop off material at either the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site you will need a 2022 Compost Site Pass. This \$25 residential pass allows unlimited, year-round drop-off of yard waste and food scraps at both Compost Sites. It also comes with two free bags of ¼" premium compost.

The drop off pass is for residential use only, and is not available to commercial customers. To purchase a 2022 Compost Site Pass, visit OCRRA.org or stop by one of the Compost Sites when they are open.



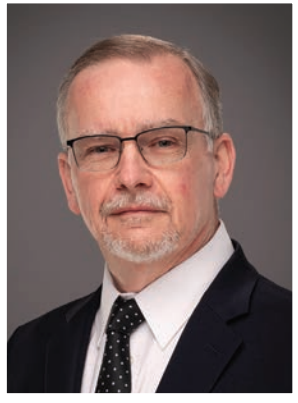
Compost Site Hours

Amboy Compost Site
6296 Airport Road
Camillus

Open to residents
Through March 31
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 3:30 pm
April 1 to November 19
Monday – Saturday
7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Jamesville Compost Site
4370 Route 91
Jamesville

Seasonally open to residents
April 1 to November 19
Thursday – Saturday
7:30 am – 3:30 pm



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Going Foam Free

Implications of New York State's Ban on Expanded Polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam)

Kevin Spillane, Executive Director, OCRRA

As we begin the new year with a number of changes to leadership among both the staff and Board of Directors at OCRRA, we also welcome a sweeping new ban in New York State on foamed polystyrene products, or what many of us call Styrofoam. This new law bans the sale and distribution of single-use foam food and beverage containers, and polystyrene loose fill packaging materials, commonly known as packing peanuts. This includes takeout containers, coffee cups, lids, trays, etc. However, the ban does not pertain to foamed polystyrene that's used for packaging raw meat or fish like you might find at the supermarket. It also doesn't apply to regular polystyrene which is commonly used to make CD and DVD cases.

So, what does this mean for you? That is the question we often ask when these kinds of changes are made. The biggest change will come to your takeout coffee cups and clamshell food containers. At places where we dined out and "squeaked" all the way home with our foam containers, we will now be given hard plastic or paper-based ones instead. Foamed polystyrene products are a plastic, but they break down so slowly that they can't be considered biodegradable. Estimates for how long it takes for polystyrene to break down vary widely—from 500 to 1 million

years—even across studies considering similar conditions like in open water or landfills. While Onondaga County trash goes to the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility and not a landfill, it has been estimated that foamed polystyrene products take up about one third of all landfill space, which is dwindling in New York and making it challenging to find places to properly dispose of the portion of our waste stream that isn't able to be processed at the WTE Facility (e.g., oversized material, construction and demolition materials, etc.).

Plastic takeout containers that are replacing the foam ones are not included in our recycling program either. That is why OCRRA and other organizations are working to advance Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation that will put to the onus on manufacturers to manage their packaging at the end of life, which typically results in the use of more recyclable materials. According to a recent wbfo.org story (tinyurl.com/wbfo-foam), Melissa Fleischut, president and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association, says, "Adopting more sustainable practices is necessary in the face of the climate crisis." She also says many restaurants have already adapted and are using biodegradable takeout containers. But she warns that cur-



Photo Credit: iStock.com

rent supply chain challenges might make alternative containers more expensive and harder to obtain.

The other impact that the ban will have on your everyday life comes in the form of packing materials. Those polystyrene packing peanuts, and molded foam protectors found inside boxed TVs and other electronics, are also banned in New York under this new law. Perhaps the pandemic drove us to go crazy with Amazon orders, but how many of us will miss having to chase all those peanuts around or cleaning up those little pieces of Styrofoam that flew everywhere when we were trying to unpack something and broke one of those foam protectors?

As with all changes, there are

waivers available for small and non-profit enterprises that might have trouble complying with the law. Those eligible include community meal programs, food pantries, and religious organizations that bring in \$500,000 or less for their ventures.

To learn more about the law, visit: tinyurl.com/foamban.

OCRRA looks forward to the environmental benefits and the changes that this law will bring. One thing that won't change in 2022? OCRRA's commitment to the environment and making sure that our children's future is as bright as the world we were given, even if it's not as squeaky.

Kevin Spillane can be reached at kspillane@ocrra.org.

Get OCRRA Compost by the Bag!

East Area

- Aspinall's – Chittenango
- CountryMax – DeWitt
- Green Scapes – Jamesville
- Manlius True Value Hardware – Manlius
- Spruce Ridge Landscaping & Garden Center – Cazenovia
- Syracuse Cooperative Market – Syracuse
- Village Ace Hardware – Fayetteville
- Vollmer Farms – East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms – Rome

North Area

- B'ville Supply – Baldwinsville
- Ballantyne Gardens – Liverpool
- CountryMax – Baldwinsville
- CountryMax – Cicero
- CountryMax – Oswego
- Deaton's Agway – Pulaski
- Green Acres Lawn & Garden Center – Liverpool
- Pond & Rock Shop – North Syracuse
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus – Phoenix
- Village Ace Hardware – Baldwinsville

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

South Area

- Bob's True Value – Syracuse
- Carol Watson's Greenhouse – LaFayette
- CountryMax – Cortland
- CountryMax – Norwich
- Green Hills Farms – Nedrow
- Neil Casey's Farm Market – Tully
- Valley View Gardens – Cortland
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center – LaFayette

West Area

- Maldonado Gardens – Elbridge
- Oliver's Produce – Marcellus
- Sollecito Landscaping Nursery – Syracuse
- Town Square Ace Hardware – Skaneateles



OCRRA Team Changes

In recent months there have been a series of staff changes at OCRRA, including several hires and promotions—there is even an opening!

After five years as OCRRA’s executive director, in December 2021, Dereth Glance accepted the position of deputy commissioner for materials management and environmental remediation with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The OCRRA board of directors conducted an internal search to fill her position and selected Kevin Spillane, former director of transfer operations.

Spillane ran OCRRA’s transfer operations for more than five years. Previously, he was the director of business operations for Seneca-Cayuga ARC, project planner with Stearns and Wheeler, and director of solid waste with Ontario County. Michael Mokrzycki, former OCRRA business officer, was promoted to deputy director.

In October 2021, Kristen Lawton, OCRRA’s long-time public information officer was promoted to director of recycling and reduction, following the retirement of Andrew Radin. Will Wallak, most recently with the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse, was hired to fill the public information officer position in January.

Earlier in 2021, OCRRA added two new talented recycling specialists to the team: Lisa Piering and Maria Bianchetti. Both are major contributors to this newsletter and offer recycling assistance to businesses and residents in Onondaga County.

Currently, OCRRA is seeking an engineer-in-training to support operations. The engineer-in-training must have a minimum of two years professional work experience. Visit tinyurl.com/OCRRAjobs for details.

OCRRA looks forward to an amazing 2022 with new and existing team members working together to help save the world a little each day!



Kevin Spillane
Executive Director



Michael Mokrzycki
Deputy Director



Kristen Lawton
Director of Recycling



Maria Bianchetti
Recycling Specialist



Lisa Piering
Recycling Specialist



Will Wallak
Public Information Officer



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

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

Q: Since the pandemic started I've been doing a lot more online shopping. Many items have arrived in plastic shipping bags and padded plastic bags. I've saved them all as I sometimes use them to mail things out. But now I've got too many and need to clear out the clutter. Can these plastic bags be recycled?

A: Great job reusing those mailing bags! Extending their useful life is a great way to keep them out of the waste stream. Plus, you save money when you reuse because you're not purchasing new items.

Yes, plastic shipping bags—both plain and padded—that are “stretchy” (they don’t tear when pulled apart) are a type of film plastic and can be recycled but NOT in your blue bin. Never put film plastics or plastic bags, either loose or containing recyclables, in your blue bin.



Recycle your stretchy plastic shipping bags, shopping bags and other film plastics at most supermarkets, big-box stores and chain pharmacies. Look for the clearly labeled receptacle or ask an employee at the location upon entry. Before dropping them off, make sure the bags are clean, dry and have had all labels removed. More information on what film plastics are acceptable for recycling as well as drop-off locations can be found on our website here www.tinyurl.com/filmplastics.

Should your plastic shipping bags be dirty, wet or contain too many labels that cannot be removed, they must go in the trash. This way they will still be doing some good as they're converted to electricity at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

And, for all of your other packages that were not shipped in plastic bags, thank you for recycling all of those cardboard boxes, too. Just make sure that the film plastic shipping pouches are not stuck inside them when you do!

Mark Your Calendar

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE
OPENS FOR SEASON
April 1, 2022
(3 Days/Week)

EARTH DAY LITTER CLEANUP
APRIL 22 & 23
Register at OCRRA.org
by April 15
See front page for details.

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED
MONDAY
MAY 30, 2022
Memorial Day

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS
DROP-OFF
MON., THURS., FRI.
By Appointment
Miller Environmental Group
8:00 am–3:00 pm
Register at OCRRA.org.

FACT: Plastic bags can't go in the blue bin. Recycle clean and dry bags and other film plastics at big box stores.