



Winter 2017 Newsletter | Volume 26 | No. 4



HOLIDAY RECYCLING.....PG 2

Get the 411 on what goes in the bin and make sure your guests are in the know too.



BUSINESS RECYCLING.....PG 2

Find out how easy it is to get your workplace recycling with intensity.



PLASTIC BAGS.....PG 3

Rhoda talks trash and recycling about the ubiquitous plastic bag.



COMPOST SITE CHANGESPG 4

2018 brings new hours and a new Compost Site Pass System.



BLUE RIBBON RECYCLER.....PG 8

SRC shows the business community how to reduce waste and recycle.

Are you a Small-Time Drug Dealer and Don't Know it?

Purge your medicine cabinet to prevent kids from gaining access to gateway drugs

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 91 Americans die every day from opioid overdose. In 2016, Onondaga County had the highest rate of opioid overdose deaths among Central New York counties.

It is a small step from prescription opioid misuse to deadly heroin use; properly disposing of medication, instead of letting it languish in your medicine cabinet helps prevent children from engaging in future drug abuse. There are several ways to dispose of unused medication in Onondaga County.

1) **Take advantage of the Sharps, Needles and Drug Disposal Program (SNADD).** This is a year-round program brought to the community by the Onondaga County Executive's Office, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, the Onondaga County Health Department, the

Onondaga County Drug Taskforce, OCRRA, Covanta, Upstate New York Poison Center, REACH CNY, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, local law enforcement and colleges in Onondaga County. It offers residents a way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications safely and free of charge at 12 locations in Onondaga County. Visit www.tinyurl.com/MedDropOff for a list of locations.

2) **Disguise medicine in something gross** to reduce the risk of ingestion (e.g., coffee grounds, rotten food scraps or kitty litter) and place it in the trash.

In both instances, the medications are brought to the local Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, operated by Covanta, and destroyed through a combustion process.

This facility processes our community's garbage



The transition from prescription opioid misuse to opioid overdose can be quick. Properly disposing of medication, instead of letting it languish in your medicine cabinet helps prevent children from engaging in future drug use. Drop unused medications off at 12 locations in Onondaga County or disguise them with coffee grounds and dispose of them in your trash. In both instances the medication will be destroyed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville.

and produces enough electricity to power 15% or 30,000 homes in Onondaga County.

Since the inception of the SNADD program in 2015, more than 4,080 pounds of medication have been taken out of circulation.

Medication should never be thrown down the drain nor flushed down the toilet as wastewater treatment facilities are not capable of processing them; and ultimately they end up in our water supply.

A U.S. Geological Survey found that 80 percent of rivers tested in the U.S. contained trace levels of pharmaceuticals, which harm wildlife and potentially humans.

Unused medication must be destroyed to help protect our environment and our children.

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

Want to Know How to Get Rid of Something?

Consult OCRRA's online directory for assistance

All households have items to get rid of, the question is, how do you get rid of them? Whether you are on a mobile device or a computer, you can access hundreds of tips on how to manage various items in OCRRA's searchable database. This handy tool helps clarify blue bin rules

and offers information on items that can be recycled outside of the blue bin or items that must be thrown out. From aerosol cans to washing machines, this database provides tons of useful information.

Visit OCRRA.org and look for the search magnifying glass at the top

of your mobile screen, or enter your search item in the "What are you looking for / How do I get rid of..." box at the center of your screen on a desktop. If you cannot find what you are looking for, ask us on our Facebook page or give us a ring at (315) 453-2866.



How to Handle Holiday Waste and Recycling with Ease this Season

Dale Cocca, Recycling Specialist

The holidays are upon us, along with all the joy (and stress) that they bring. It is easy to make exceptions to our otherwise great recycling habits when our routines get shaken up, so here is a helpful guide to keeping the trash can light this holiday season.

Reduce by re-using

Disposable eating and drinking wares are convenient for an influx of guests, but they are also wasteful by definition. These may save on dishwashing, but do not overlook the extra trash bagging and trips to the garage. Using disposable because you do not have enough dishes for all your company? Consider a trip to a thrift store. There are often whole matching dining sets for close to what you would pay for disposables. If you are not ready for that, you can at least save on cups by setting out a marker so guests can label their drinks...

Location

Pair your trash cans with recycling cans; if it is not convenient, recycling will not happen. Maybe every-

one in your house knows that bottles go in the recycling bin in the garage, but your guests do not. Tell your guests how and where to recycle, verbally or with signs.

Communication

Make sure recycling cans are visible and easily identifiable. Label them. Pictures are often better than words. If you are not feeling artistic and you have kids around, suggest an arts and crafts project. They can make signs for the recycling cans with illustrations of common recyclables used by guests, like bottles and cans.

Keep on giving

“Out with the old” does not have to mean “out to the curb.” Most things that are upgraded can be reused by someone else; this is especially true for textiles. Consider a post-holiday clothing swap among friends and family, and/or donating to your preferred charity. Visit www.tinyurl.com/cny-textiles for a list of donation spots. For other items you have replaced, consider posting on craigslist.org or donating.



When it comes time to open presents this holiday, make sure your guests know what is recyclable and where to put recyclables to ensure your blue bin is well used this season. For details on what is recyclable in Onondaga County, visit OCRRA.org.

Blue Bin Items:

- Catalogs,
- Non-metallic wrapping paper,
- Paper gift bags (reusing them is also a option),
- Greeting cards and envelopes (non-metallic/non-foil items only),
- Wrapping paper tubes,
- Clean, single-use aluminum bakeware (or save them for a second use),
- Aluminum foil (clean).

Non-Blue Bin Items:

- Strings of lights – Lowe’s and Home Depot typically take these back.
- Plastic or metallic / foiled gift bags – Reuse these, donate or throw out if beyond reuse.
- Bubble wrap and Styrofoam packing peanuts – UPS Stores will accept these or save them for future shipping needs.

- Bows and ribbons – Reuse or throw out if beyond reuse.

Visit OCRRA.org for more answers about proper disposal.

OCRRA wishes you a healthy, happy holiday season and a very sustainable new year.

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

Save the world a little each day.

Easy Ways to Help Your Workplace Recycle More

Want to know why Onondaga County has one of the best recycling rates in the state? It is because our residents and businesses care about the environment and know how to maximize their recycling efforts.

Help your workplace improve – or start – a recycling program. It is as easy as visiting www.tinyurl.com/RecyclingSupplies and ordering free supplies to improve recycling awareness. OCRRA offers decals, posters and recycling

containers to help make recycling a visible priority at your work.

In addition, OCRRA has trained recycling specialists on staff to help you set up or augment your workplace recycling program. They can talk with you and even visit to review your workspace and give you suggestions to help you recycle the most you can. Call (315) 453-2866 or email us at info@OCRRA.org for assistance today!



Photo credit: Kristen Lawton, Syracuse, 2015.



Winter 2017

Volume 26 • No. 4

This quarterly publication is brought to you by

OCRRA

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North Syracuse, NY
13212-4312

KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

Printed on Recycled Paper

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.



The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY - ESF

Despite the weather conditions outside your window as you read this, it won't be long before seed catalogs start arriving in mailboxes across upstate New York and beyond – which means spring really is just around the corner!

To get a jump on the 2018 growing season, in the fall I had several students here at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry start a study on the influence of different potting soils on the germination and growth to transplant stage of eleven different herbs and vegetables. The sub-

jects were: arugula, spinach, watermelon, onion, carrot, kale, rosemary, lemon balm, radish, Brussels sprouts and winter squash.

The potting soils used by the students were bagged sandbox sand, two sphagnum moss-based professional potting soils (Sungro Redi-Earth and Sungro Metro-Mix 510, both commonly used by commercial vegetable transplant growers), a milled pine bark-based commercial potting soil (Sungro PX2), and OCRRA Compost that had been sifted through ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth.

As you can see in the

Is OCRRA Compost a Good Medium to Grow Vegetable Transplants?

picture accompanying this article, the commercial sphagnum moss-based potting soils appear to result in the most uniform, vigorous seedlings about ten days after sowing. This is not totally unexpected as the commercial mixes have been tested over many years to ensure that they're capable of supporting good seedling growth.

However, the story is not yet complete. Will seedlings in the other media, including OCRRA Compost, make up lost ground and produce acceptable transplants six to eight weeks after seeds are sown? We'll repeat this simple study a couple of times to make sure we haven't introduced any unintended variability.

I'll also have students



Photo Credit: Terry Ettinger, Syracuse, 2017.

SUNY ESF students grew seedlings in various mediums, including OCRRA Compost, this past fall. Pictured here is phase one of an experiment looking to find the best growing medium for 11 different vegetables and herbs. Check back next spring for the final results!

mix different ratios of compost with the other media to see if the combinations result in more vigorous transplants than the various media alone.

So, keep an eye out for the spring 2018 newsletter

(remember, spring really is right around the corner), where I'll share additional results of our students' hard work!

Terry Ettinger can be reached at tlettinger@esf.edu.



Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

The Ins and Outs of Plastic Bags

Dear Rhoda,

I've heard terrible things about plastic bags ending up in the ocean and killing sea turtles. I've also seen that some towns have banned plastic bags altogether. I like using bags, so what's a girl supposed to do?

Bag Lady in Brewerton

Dear Bag Lady,

Darlin' – yes, it's true – WAY too many bags become litter and make their insidious way into streams, lakes and oceans.

Once there, marine life either mistake them for food or become entangled in them and die. Plastics that are consumed make their way into your fish fry

and can impact your health. Do your part to combat this atrocity and cut down on or give up plastic bag use entirely. Pack your trusty reusable bag when you visit the market instead!

Cloth bags that you can scrub-a-dub-dub in the washer are an ideal choice (so you don't harbor any pesky food bacteria that can infiltrate your home). Leave 'em by the door or toss em' in the car so that you'll always remember them.

Some cities are banning bags and other cities have found that charging for bags drastically reduces the amount being consumed, and subsequently become

ing trash or worse yet, litter. Aldi is a good example of the latter. I'll tell ya, I'm far more likely to remember my reusable bag at Aldi than any other store, because they charge for each and every single-use bag they give out. Maybe this says something about me...

Remember – plastic bags **never, ever** go into the recycling bin; they can't be recycled through the blue bin system; not to mention, there's a pretty decent chance they will blow out and become litter.

If you must, you can carry your recyclables in a plastic bag to your bin, but empty them into the bin

loose, then, throw out the bag (because it's probably dirty and can't be recycled as a result).

Take all your CLEAN plastic bags back to any grocery or big box retail outlet that you frequent. They collect them for recycling; ultimately, they are turned into plastic lumber that can be made into decks, fences, park benches and even playground equipment.

If you'd like to help reduce litter that is traveling into waterways, might I suggest, Block Litter?

The Block Litter program aims to educate residents about the importance of small, repeat litter clean-ups. Litter is unsightly, but

it also is connected to our water system. When it rains, litter on the street is washed down storm drains and into our local waterways. Betcha didn't know that, huh?

Ninety-eight percent of trash that makes its way to local waterways is street-borne litter. You can do your part by signing up at www.blocklitter.com. This is a great way for you to educate your neighbors about litter and influence them with your own actions.

Oh, you'll get some awesome stickers and you could win some cool prizes too. Check it out...

Rhoda

Changes Coming to OCRRA Compost Site Operations

Pass system changes and site hour simplifications for 2018

OCRRA works to offer Onondaga County residents the best services in the most efficient and economic manner. The OCRRA team continually evaluates our programs to see if improvements can be made to better serve the community and to ensure program longevity.

Last year OCRRA piloted year-round hours for pass holders at the Jamesville Compost Site, however the economics of this effort have not been supported by the demand for the service. As a result, the Jamesville Compost Site will not remain open for residen-

schedule for 2018: Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The **Amboy Compost Site** will retain its year-round hours. Winter hours continue to be Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. and Spring-Fall hours are Monday through Saturday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

To simplify how residents get their compost and mulch, the 2018 Compost Site Pass system is also changing.

Currently, there are three different pass options at varying price points from \$20 to \$50; new in 2018 there will be one \$25 pass

...new in 2018 there will be one \$25 pass that offers unlimited food and yard waste drop-off AND provides two bags of premium compost to pass holders.

tial use through the winter. It is closed for the season as of December 1, 2017. It will open briefly for the Christmas Tree Drop Off Program, Tuesday, January 2 – Friday, January 12, 2018 (excluding weekends). See article below for details.

The **Jamesville Compost Site** will open for the 2018 season on April 5 and operate on a three-day a week

that offers unlimited food and yard waste drop-off AND provides two bags of premium compost to pass holders.

If more compost or mulch is desired, it may be purchased by the yard at newly reduced prices (see details at right). If you have a truck or trailer, OCRRA will load your vehicle for you.

If site visitors want less



Photo credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2017.

To keep the OCRRA compost program viable, the Jamesville Compost Site will open for the 2018 season on April 5 and serve residents on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Amboy Compost Site will continue to be open year-round, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. The 2018 Compost Site Pass system will also undergo a change.

than a yard, OCRRA is offering a trunk charge; \$5 per visit for mulch and \$10 per visit for compost, self-loaded.

Premium compost may also be purchased by the 1 cu. ft. bag at either site or at more than 30 locations; visit www.tinyurl.com/BuyCompostBags for details.

No pass is needed to take advantage of these purchasing options.

OCRRA thanks our Compost Site users for their patience and patronage as these changes are implemented. If questions arise, please contact us at (315)453-2866.

Reduced Compost and Mulch Fees

No site pass needed to take advantage of any of these options:

By the Yard (OCRRA loads your truck or trailer):

General Compost, 1/2" Screened
\$15 / cu. yd. (was \$20)

Premium Compost, 1/4" Screened
\$20 / cu. yd. (was \$25)

Double Ground Wood Mulch
\$12.50 / cu. yd. (was \$15)

By the Trunk Full (you load your trunk):

General Compost, 1/2" Screened
\$10 per visit

Double Ground Wood Mulch
\$5 per visit

By the Bag:

Premium Compost, 1/4" Screened
\$5 / 1 cu. ft. bag

Ways to Recycle Live Christmas Trees

Starting Friday, January 2 through Friday, January 12, 2018, residents may drop off their live Christmas trees at either the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site for free. Both sites are open for tree drop off, Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Tip: Your tree must be free of ornaments, garland, tinsel, lights, bows, cords, wires and tree stands.

Removing these items from your tree, if you recycle it with OCRRA or your municipality, is very important. Ultimately, these trees are ground into mulch or

compost that residents use in their gardens and landscapes in the spring. Plastic, metal and glass items contaminate the end products, so be sure to remove them.

No wreaths or garland will be accepted at OCRRA Compost Sites, nor curbside by municipalities, as they

contain wire. Bag these items up and throw them out with your household trash. The same goes for artificial trees that need disposal. They are not accepted at OCRRA Compost Sites, nor curbside; bag them up and place them in your trash.

Some municipalities offer curbside collection of retired Christmas trees – the live kind, not the artificial ones; if your community does not, OCRRA has you covered.



Christmas Tree Drop Off Details

Friday, January 2 – Friday, January 12, 2018
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm (no weekends)

Amboy Compost Site
6296 Airport Road,
Camillus, NY 13209

Jamesville Compost Site
4370 Route 91,
Jamesville, NY 13078

OCRRA Wins Top Environmental Award in North America

2017 SWANA Gold Excellence Award bestowed upon OCRRA for Compost Program

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) recently awarded OCRRA the SWANA Gold Excellence Award in the composting category. The award was presented at SWANA's annual conference, WASTECON®, in September in Baltimore, Maryland.

OCRRA's compost program is recognized for:

- engaging 7,000 school students each day in separating their food scraps for composting at the Amboy Compost Facility,
- composting 15,000 tons of food scraps and making 30,000 cubic yards of certified compost since 2013,
- helping 450,000 Onondaga County residents achieve a nearly 60% recycling rate,
- having the largest municipally managed food scrap recovery program in New York State, and
- being one of a handful

of municipal operations in NY producing compost certified by the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program.

Using compost has many environmental benefits; smart gardeners understand how vital it is to achieving beautiful landscapes. Compost maximizes nutrients in the soil so plants thrive; retains moisture so plants do not need as much water; suppresses the spread of plant disease so gardens stay healthy; and reduces the need for chemicals and pesticides, which keeps pollutants out of our precious water supply.

SWANA's Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management.

Programs also must demonstrate that they are fis-

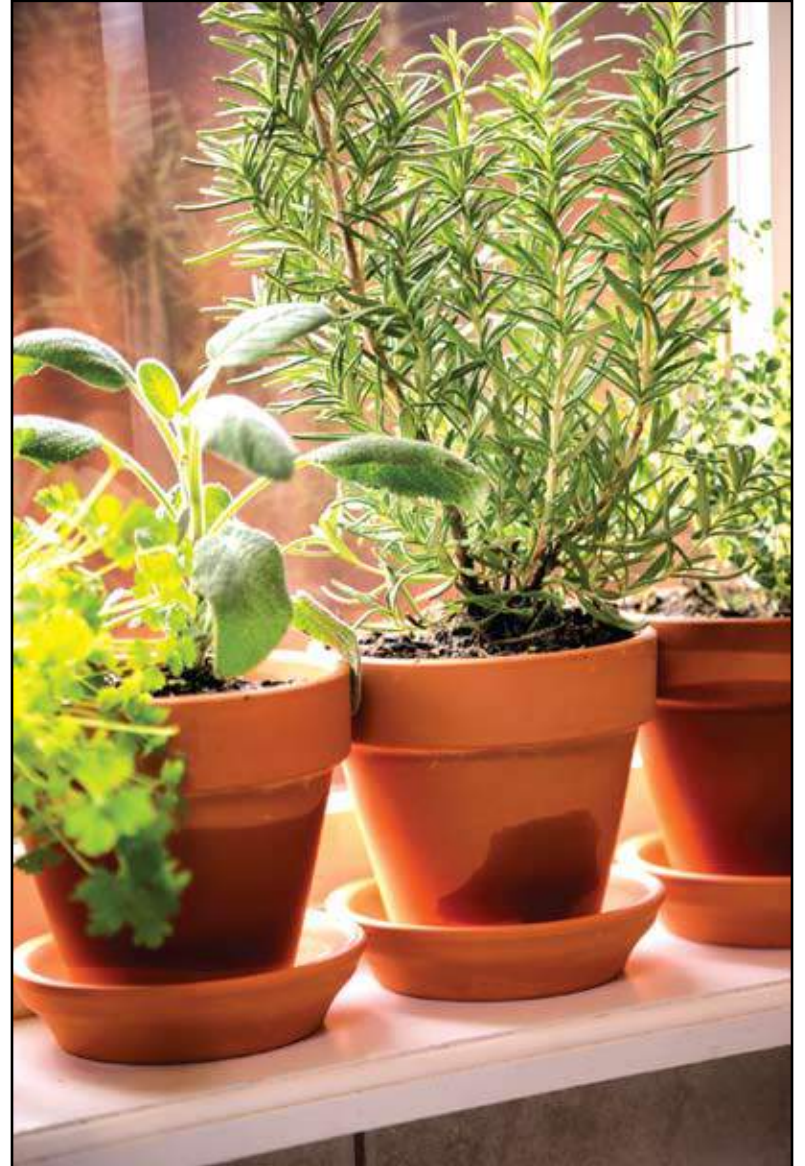
cally and environmentally responsible through their compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

The winning entry can be viewed here: swana.org/Awards/Excellence.aspx

"Through education and engaging businesses and residents in our community, we are able to reduce the amount of waste produced in Onondaga County," said Greg Gelewski, OCRRA operations manager. "In addition, our community's efforts are reaching farther than our borders as OCRRA's composting program is being used as a model in other New York communities and beyond."

You can buy OCRRA's locally made compost by the bag at more than 30 retailers in Central New York. Visit www.tinyurl.com/BuyCompostBags for a list of locations.

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



OCRRA's compost program, which produces U.S. Composting Council certified compost, was honored by the Solid Waste Association of North America for excellence in compost operations this fall. To get a bag of compost next season, visit one of the 30+ locations in CNY that carry it: www.tinyurl.com/BuyCompostBags.

Shred-o-Rama was Great Success in New Location

Spring 2018 event will again take place at NYS Fairground's Brown Parking Lot

Theresa Evans, Recycling Specialist

In October, over 1,500 residents attended Shred-o-Rama in its new home, the Brown Parking Lot at the Great New York State Fairgrounds.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Confidata; ProShred; Shred Solvers and Simple Shred, 58,280 pounds of confidential papers were shredded for recycling; this is the equivalent amount of paper harvested from 300 trees.

Additionally, the event raised \$2,300 and 550 pounds of food donations for Feed Our Vets, an organization that provides nutritious meals to hungry veterans and their families

in our community.

If you missed the shredding event, there will be another Shred-o-Rama next spring. To be the first to know the date, subscribe to OCRRA's email list at OCRRA.org or follow us on Facebook.

Interested in reducing the amount of confidential documents you amass in the first place? Save some trees and reduce clutter by signing up for e-statements with your bank, doctor, utilities, etc.

Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-o-Rama in 2004, more than 1.2 million pounds of confidential documents have been shredded

and recycled. The shredded paper that is cultivated at these events is recycled into consumer products including facial tissue and toilet paper.

The success of Shred-o-Rama is a team effort. Many thanks go to the mobile shredding companies, the New York State Fair Facilities Team and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, for managing traffic and logistics, which helped residents shred and recycle their documents safely and quickly.

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



Dave Simone of ProShred unloads a resident vehicle at OCRRA's October 2017 paper shredding event at the Brown Parking Lot of the NYS Fairgrounds. Be the first to find out when the next Shred-o-Rama will take place; sign up for OCRRA's email notifications at OCRRA.org or follow us on Facebook.

Year-Round Mercury Thermometer and Thermostat Drop Off Program

Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist

As thermostats get turned ever higher and cold and flu season wraps us in its arms, remember that mercury thermostats and thermometers pose a threat to human health. When exposed to air, mercury escapes into the environment and opens humans up to nervous system damage. As such, they should never be thrown in the trash where they will be broken.

OCRRA and Covanta offer a year-round program to help residents properly dispose of mercury thermostats and thermometers.

How do you tell if you have a mercury containing item? **Thermostats** with

mercury have levers or dials that must be physically moved to change the temperature setting. They also have glass tubes filled with a silver substance behind the faceplate.

Newer programmable thermostats do not contain mercury and are not eligible for drop off; they should go in the trash.

Mercury containing **thermometers** have silver, grey or black filling in their tubes.

Thermometers with any other color filling do not contain mercury and should be thrown out.

Mercury thermostats and thermometers may be

dropped off at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop Off Site, year-round Tuesday-Saturday from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm. The Rock Cut Road Drop Off Site is the brown building located at 5808 Rock Cut Road in Jamesville.

Residents will receive a \$5 Lowe's gift card in the mail, courtesy of Covanta for participating. One gift card per resident drop-off, regardless of the number of mercury items turned in to OCRRA.

If a thermometer is dropped off, residents will also receive a mercury-free replacement thermometer in the mail from Covanta.



Photo credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2017.

Mercury thermostats like those pictured here and mercury-containing thermometers (those with silver, gray or black filling) can be properly disposed of year-round at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop Off Site. Covanta provides residents a \$5 Lowe's gift card and a mercury-free replacement thermometer for participation.

Since this year-round program began in 2003, the mercury that has been collected is equivalent to the amount of mercury found in 1.4 million compact fluorescent light bulbs. *Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@ocrra.org.*



Litter Cleanup Registration Form

Registration Deadline April 13

Name of Group: _____

Number of Workers: _____

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 20 Saturday, April 21 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).

Cleanup supplies are your group's responsibility.

OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through the 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



From the Executive Director's Desk...

New Gifts and the Growing Need for Extended Producer Responsibility

DERETH GLANCE, Executive Director, OCRRA

In the movie Toy Story, Woody the toy cowboy was threatened when his owner, Andy, received a shiny, new space ranger – Buzz Light-year of Star Command. Though it took some effort on Woody's part, Buzz did not replace him; in the end, both toys held equal esteem in Andy's eyes. But, when new holiday gifts arrive, many old items are replaced. From the batteries that make our new toys tick, to the latest smartphones and computers, holiday gift giving results in making a lot of "trash."

Who is responsible for proper disposal of unwanted items? The simple answer is that it is the consumer, but the manufacturer has a critical role in the responsible management of the product they create and turn a profit on. Some items, such as rechargeable batteries, are covered under policies of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR requires manufacturers to be responsible for the end-of-life management of their products. Moving this responsibility to manufac-

turers benefits consumers in a variety of ways. Most importantly, EPR creates an incentive for manufacturers to design products so that all of the components are recyclable and live a useful life in other products, as opposed to being thrown away. Also, EPR shifts the cost-burden of managing these materials away from tax payers, trash system rate payers and local solid waste agencies like OCRRA, to product consumers and the manufacturer that made a profit on them.

How do manufacturers become responsible for their items? It must be mandated to ensure an even playing field for the manufacturers. Voluntary programs are nice, but don't necessarily get the job done. A voluntary EPR program for alkaline batteries was piloted recently. Onondaga County collected the most batteries of all program participants; but success resulted in the industry disbanding this voluntary effort after five years, due to cost constraints.



Holiday gifts often replace old items, but who is responsible for disposing of the old items? Extended Producer Responsibility legislation requires manufacturers to be responsible for the end-of-life management of their products. Let your legislators know you support this effort by contacting them today, the environment will thank you. Visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials for contact details.

State and federal lawmakers are the ones that can require manufacturers to adopt EPR policies for key products, like batteries, carpet, electronics, paint, pharmaceuticals and other items we discard on a regular basis.

OCRRA's Board of Directors has adopted resolutions in support of this sound public policy for almost a decade. What can you do to support EPR? Learn all about EPR at

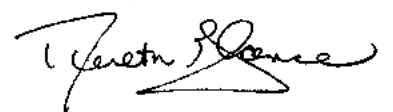
www.productstewardship.us.

Speak up loudly and often. Take a minute to contact the Governor, your New York and U.S. Senator, your New York Assembly Member and your U.S. Representative to share your support for EPR. To find out who your representatives are, visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials.

After that, contact the manufacturers directly to express your support through a phone call, web-

site comment or tweet. The squeaky wheel gets the grease and you can help build the chorus for smart solid waste management, which conserves our precious resources for our kids and their kids.

You've got a friend in OCRRA,



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

Electronics Recycling

Need to get rid of an old TV or other electronic device? **The Salvation Army on Erie Boulevard in Syracuse** will accept working and non-working TVs and monitors of any size. **One TV accepted per household.** TVs and monitors cannot be physically broken.

The Salvation Army will also accept other electronics*

Call (315) 445-0520 before dropping items off.

Best Buy locations and Battery World will accept TVs and monitors for a charge, pending size. They will accept other electronics for free.

Call ahead for details:

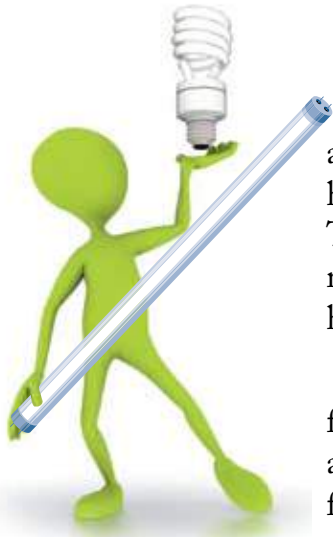
- Best Buy, Destiny USA, (315) 426-1588;
- Best Buy, DeWitt, (315) 449-1784;
- Best Buy, Liverpool, (315) 622-1395;
- Battery World, East Molloy Road, Syracuse, (315) 437-1404.

Staples locations will accept electronics, excluding TVs. **Call ahead for details:**

- Staples, Camillus, (315) 488-4071;
- Staples, Clay, (315) 715-0112;
- Staples, East Syracuse, (315) 463-8040.

**Electronics include computers, monitors, keyboards, mice or similar pointing devices, fax machines, scanners, printers, and small electronic equipment (tablets, VCRs, DVRs, portable digital music players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, video game consoles, etc.).*





Fluorescent Bulbs

If you have old fluorescent bulbs hanging around your house, you can bring them to local hardware stores that partner with OCRRA. The mercury inside will be reclaimed and recycled, instead of posing a potential harm to humans and wildlife if thrown out.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbulbs for a list of drop-off locations. All locations accept CFLs, 4-foot, U-shaped and circular fluorescent bulbs.



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

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

Q: Where do I get rid of brake fluid, power steering fluid, oil stabilizer and fuel treatment from my garage?

A: If your items are still usable, see if a neighbor, friend or family member could use them. If not, and providing these items were from your home, not a business, they are eligible for OCRRA's (no cost) household hazardous waste drop off program. You can make an appointment year-round, Monday – Friday, from 6:30 am – 6:00 pm. For program details or to make an appointment, visit: www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics or call (315) 453-2866.

Green Up Onondaga County

For a better, greener tomorrow...

PLANT A TREE!



Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

Bare-Root Stock -

Featuring Non-Invasive and Native Species

Taking Orders Through **March 23, 2018**

- ✓ Fruit Shrubs
- ✓ Conifers
- ✓ Deciduous Trees & Shrubs
- ✓ Conservation Pacs
- ✓ Bluebird & Bat Houses
- ✓ OCRRA's Premium Compost (1 cu. ft. bags)



Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Call 315-457-0325 for an order form or visit www.ocswcd.org



Shawn Emmons, Facilities and Environmental Safety and Health Manager at SRC Inc. accepts the Blue Ribbon Recycler Award on SRC Inc's behalf. Among SRC Inc's efforts that go above and beyond are: a dramatic reduction in paper consumption, reuse of packaging materials, installation of water bottle refill fountains, and café incentives for reusable drinkware. They also contract for electronics recycling; a service they extend to their employees for household items.

Go Green – Become Blue



Become a Blue Ribbon Recycler next quarter!

Apply for certification at:

www.tinyurl.com/BRrecycler

Mark Your Calendar

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
YEAR-ROUND
At various local businesses.
See Page 7 for details.

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

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED
DECEMBER 25
JANUARY 1
Enjoy the Holidays.

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE
Opens For The Season
APRIL 5, 2018

EARTH DAY 2018
APRIL 20 & 21
Register at OCRRA.org by **APRIL 13**
See Page 6.

FACT: Oil-based paint is accepted at OCRRA's year-round Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off. Latex paint is not.