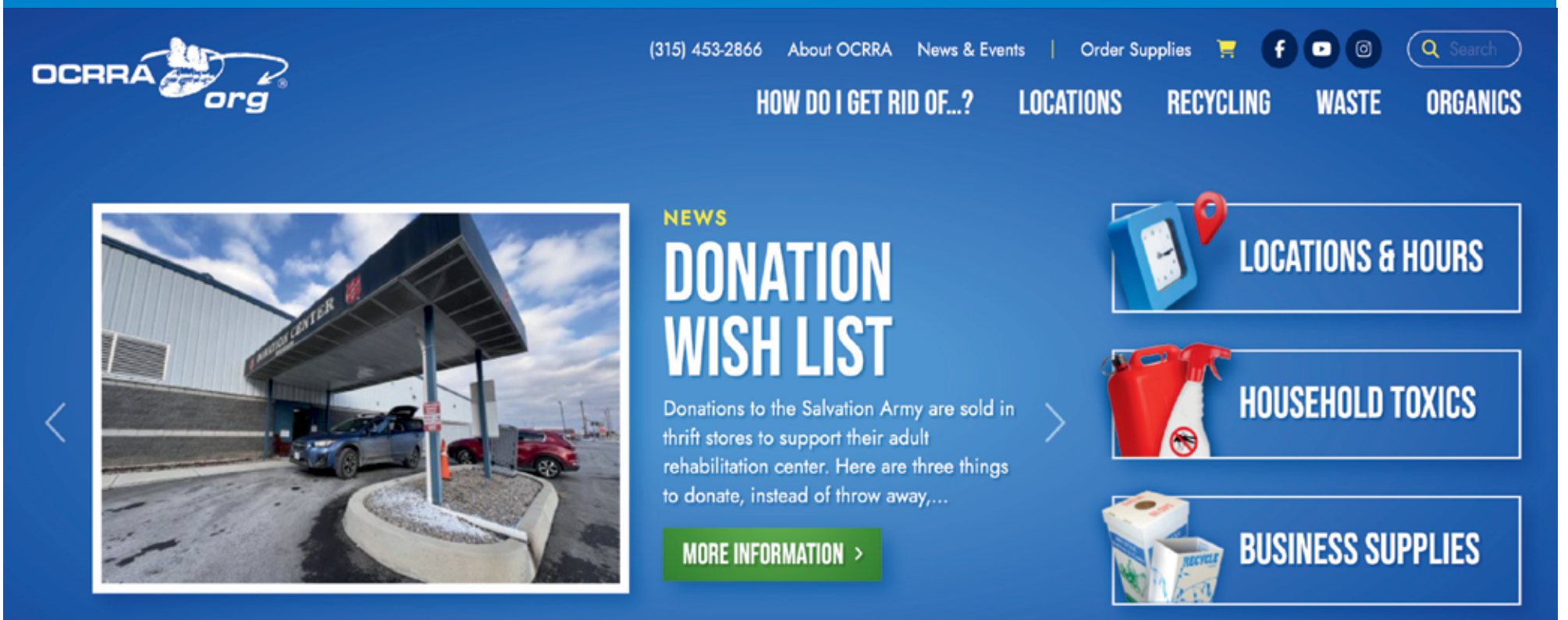


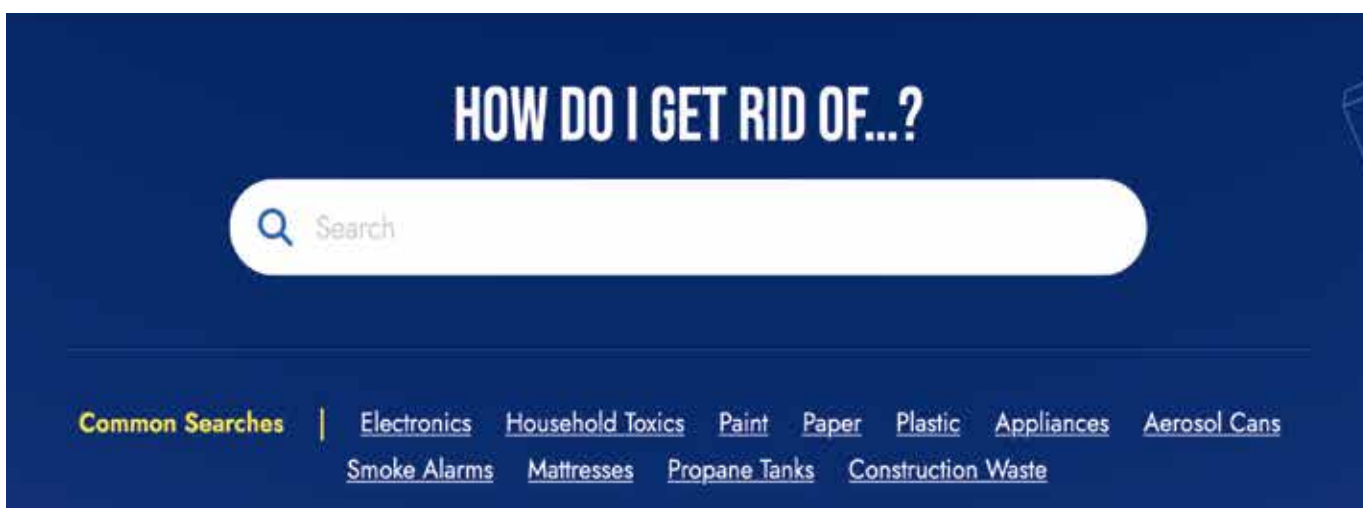


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EXPLORE OUR NEW WEBSITE



Quick links to news, locations, hours and drop-off appointments on the home page.



Search disposal guidance, with hints for common categories

How-to videos

Take a Tour on www.OCRRA.org

Print a recycling guide in English or Spanish



All-time Earth Day Cleanup Results Top 3 Million Pounds

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

This has been a milestone year for OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Cleanup. Our community has collected over 3 million pounds of litter and tires since 1994. This year, more than 4,000 people volunteered for the event, removing 157,635 pounds of litter from our parks, streets, and waterways.

With more than three decades of litter cleanup events behind us, we are looking at the history in data. The average group size is 21. We had more than 300 groups sign up this year, of all sizes. From solitary do-gooders to groups of 200 classmates and teach-

ers, the opportunity to serve the community is embraced by many.

The forecast in spring is always hard to predict, even more so as climate change disrupts weather patterns. The trend we see is that volunteers are willing to adapt. Our coldest Earth Day Litter Cleanup on record was in 2013, when temperatures dipped into the 30s. Despite the cold and rain, OCRRA received 99,050 pounds of litter.

Last year, a forecast in the 80s felt more like 90 degrees in the sun and volunteers forged ahead to collect 107,380 pounds. This year,

with windows of dry hours surrounded by rain, the tally reached an impressive 157,635 pounds of litter. In the past three decades, we have only topped that weight once, in 2011.

The number of volunteers is not nearly as high as we saw in the early days of the event. But, registrations have rebounded since a drop during the pandemic. The data shares an important message: Onondaga County is full of the kind of people who will rally to do what is needed in our community, rain or shine.

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



OCRRA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

OCRRA Director of Engineering Cristina Albuño chats about recycling with Gail Behm from Camillus, during the Home and Garden Show at the NYS Fairgrounds Expo Center.



Photo Credit: FOCUS Greater Syracuse, 2024.

Classmates in the Citizens Academy listen as OCRRA Public Information Officer Tammy Palmer explains why recyclables should never be placed in paper or plastic bags.



Recycling Rhoda

Aerosol Cans

Dear Rhoda,

My kids can barely sit still, so I resort to spray-on sunscreen as they run feral during summer break. As a result, we have a LOT of aerosol cans. What do I do with them?

— Spraying in Spafford

Dear Spraying,

Getting a layer of sunscreen on children is a win, however you do it! When it comes to aerosol spray cans, ask yourself: what was in there and is it empty?

NON-TOXIC CONTENTS

If the can had a non-toxic substance inside, like sunblock or cooking spray, it can only go in the recycling bin if it is EMPTY. Otherwise, put it in the trash. Cans that are still pressurized may burst in a garbage compactor, creating a risk of fire or injuries for workers who collect and sort recyclables.

TOXIC CONTENTS

You have a new set of rules if the can had flammable or toxic contents, including air sanitizers, insecticides or spray paint. EMPTY cans that once held toxins can go in the trash, where the metal can be recovered at the Waste-to-Energy Facility for recycling.

If you've got aerosol cans of toxins that are not empty, check with friends or neighbors who may be able to use what is left. Otherwise, make an appointment with our household toxics drop-off program! OCRRA and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation cover the cost for Onondaga County residents. We pay a flat fee per appointment, so check the list of acceptable items at www.OCRRA.org/toxics and gather all of the items you have for one trip. That helps us keep the program free to you!

Signed,

Recycling Rhoda

FACT: Clean and wad up aluminum foil, pans and plates before they are put in the recycling bin to help the sorting facility.

Zonta Club Aims For 1,000 Pounds of Film Plastics

Tammy Palmer, OCRRA Public Information Officer

What does half a ton of grocery bags and other film plastics look like? Members of the Zonta Club of Syracuse hope to find out. Over the next year, they will gather, weigh, document and drop off as many film plastics as possible at collection points for recycling.

The group joined the NexTrex Recycling Challenge, held by Trex Co., which turns film plastics into boards for composite decking and outdoor furniture. Community groups that collect 1,000 pounds of film plastics within one year may qualify for a free bench made from recycled materials.



Created with a mission to advocate for girls and women, Zonta's local club includes educators, attorneys and a former member of OCRRA's Board of Directors, Dr. Eileen Gilligan. She organized the collection effort to help keep recyclable film plastics out of Onondaga County's waste stream, which has limited capacity.

Empty and dry plastic mailers, bread bags, bubble wrap and newspaper sleeves are among the many items that can be recycled, but DO NOT belong in curbside recycling bins. They get too dirty on the trip from your curb to a garbage truck and a sorting facility. Plus, film plastics contaminate paper bales and wrap around the spinning machine parts used to sort curbside recyclables, forcing workers to shut down and clear equipment.

The solution? New York State requires large supermarkets and big box stores to accept stretchy film plastics for recycling. Collection bins are set up for residents to conveniently drop off materials anytime. Review the list of acceptable items on page 5. Crinkly plastics such as bags for salad mix, frozen food, pet food, and soil or mulch are not accepted and belong in the trash.

Zonta Club of Syracuse members have carefully studied the list of items Trex Co. will accept. Visit www.tinyurl.com/NexTrexChallenge to learn more about the company's recycling challenge for community groups. If Gilligan and friends reach their goal, a free bench would be a bonus. Reducing waste and keeping their community clean is the real prize.

Tammy Palmer can be reached at tpalmer@ocrra.org.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

Eileen Gilligan weighs bags of film plastics collected by the Zonta Club of Syracuse. Every pound is documented for the NexTrex Recycling Challenge.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

A Wegmans employee helps Zonta Club Member Eileen Gilligan take film plastics to a storage area, where the material will be sent to Trex Co. for recycling.



GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH OCRRA!

Watch the journey of film plastics! Follow along as members of Zonta Club of Syracuse collect and weigh material before dropping off several bags at Wegmans in Dewitt. Then, see how Trex Co. recycles film plastics to create deck boards and patio furniture. Visit www.YouTube.com/OCRRA to browse our videos section. Click the playlists tab for three videos about film plastics.

OCRRA 2023 Recycling Highlights

- **492,800+** tons of material recycled by OCRRA locations and Onondaga County businesses.
- **6,036** pounds of rechargeable batteries and 71 tons of alkaline batteries recycled.
- **11,045+** fluorescent bulbs collected, keeping 38,706+ milligrams of mercury out of the environment.
- **470,000** mgs of mercury diverted from waste stream through OCRRA's Mercury Collection event.
- **1,510** appointments made to properly dispose of household hazardous waste.
- **50+** school and community groups/events visited for recycling, reuse and reduction education.

FACT: Needles don't belong in recycling bins, where they are a safety hazard. Visit OCRRA.org/sharps for guidance.

Drop Off For Recycling

Soft and Stretchy



Empty and Dry



Cut Out Labels



Grocery Bags



Produce Bags



Newspaper Sleeves



Case Wrap



Sandwich Bags



Bread Bags



Toilet Paper Wrap



Air Pillows



Mailers



Bubble Wrap

Trash

Crinkly or Dirty



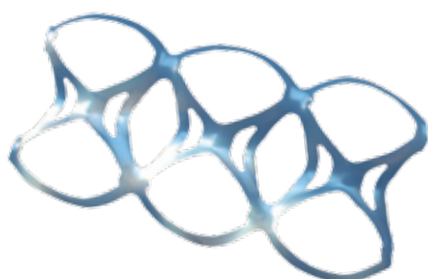
Pet Food Bags



**Bags of:
Chips
Salad Mix
Soil/Mulch**



Frozen Food Bags



Six Pack Rings



Candy Wrappers

New Management for Transfer and Compost Operations

OCRRA is thrilled to welcome a new dynamic duo to our team. Daniel Haas and Andy Semabia will be overseeing operations of OCRRA’s Compost Sites and Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. They joined the agency in February and hit the ground running.

Haas, the new Director of Transfer Operations, brings over 20 years of management experience to his role at OCRRA. He has worked in logistics and operations for small and large companies. A graduate of SUNY Potsdam, Haas earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

Andy Semabia, the new Assistant Director of Transfer Operations, has over 15 years of management experience. His work across a range of industries includes logistics, planning, operations and personnel management. A graduate of Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Semabia settled down in Central New York with his wife and two children.



Andy Semabia



Daniel Haas

Covanta Is Now ReWorld

Cristina Albuio, PE, Agency Engineer

OCRRA recycles, reduces and reuses the community’s solid waste through a process called waste-to-energy, or WTE. In Onondaga County, trash is turned into enough electricity to power roughly 30,000 homes. For nearly 30 years, the WTE Facility on Rock Cut Road in Jamesville has been operated by a company known as Covanta. You may start hearing a new name soon. Covanta has officially rebranded as ReWorld. OCRRA doesn’t anticipate any changes to the way solid waste is managed at the WTE Facility in Onondaga County. However, the public will begin to see new signs and read the new name in this newsletter during the transition.



2023 Energy Recovery Highlights

- **360,833** tons of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste (enough to overfill Syracuse University’s JMA Wireless Dome) were processed at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility in Jamesville.
- **256,513** megawatt hours of electricity produced by processing trash, enough to power roughly 30,000 homes.
- **260,000** tons, approximately, of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions avoided by processing non-recyclable waste at the WTE Facility.
- **13,412** tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metal recovered for recycling, from trash delivered by haulers.

2023 Composting Highlights

- **Over 7 million** pounds of food scraps were processed into compost at OCRRA facilities.
- **38,000+** cubic yards of trees, limbs, grass, leaves and other yard waste were accepted at the Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites and turned into compost and mulch for our community.
- **18,100+** cubic yards of compost were produced by OCRRA.





From the Executive Director's Desk...

On The Precipice of a Transformation

A growing community with limited capacity for trash

Kevin Spillane, OCRRA Executive Director

It was moving to see the President of the United States visit Upstate New York in April, bringing with him the exciting winds of change blowing through our community as it is transformed by Micron's future development and the ongoing I-81 project.

I came to Syracuse in the mid-1980s while attending graduate school at Syracuse University. I worked part time for the Syracuse Housing Authority and then for the new Mayor, Tom Young. There was an era of change then too. Transformative projects were slated for the area not so affectionally called "Oil City," with the eventual construction of Carousel Mall and new housing in challenged neighborhoods. We were convinced the efforts, with heavy government support, would build a robust economic engine for everyone. What I learned back then is still true. Major projects will struggle to reach their full potential without the proper foundation.

Infrastructure, the foundation of our community, won't get the same attention as an announcement about new jobs, but it is equally important for a successful project. You will hear a lot about water and the water lines needed to feed Micron's new facilities. You'll hear about wastewater and sewer facilities needed to treat the salt cake and brine their plants will generate. You will hear a lot about traffic changes as the I-81 viaduct is torn down and Micron grows from inception to reality.

What you won't hear too much about, unless you chat with me or a member of OCRRA's Board, is the importance of solid waste management and the limited space we have for trash. As these projects take off and our population grows, generating more trash, a strong foundation is vital. The future of the Ley Creek Transfer Station in the town of Salina should be viewed as a critical piece of that foundation.

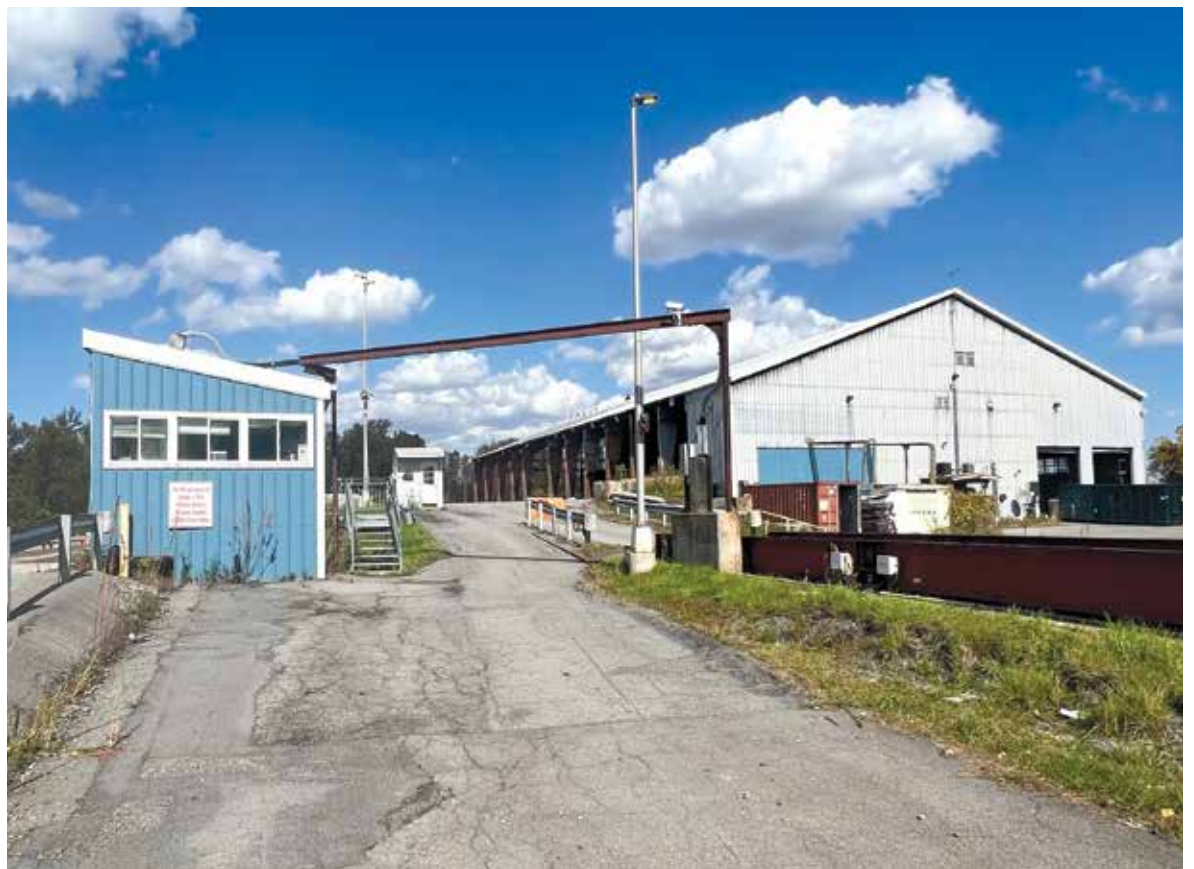
Waste disposal in our community begins with our Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE), which is currently running at the maximum capacity set by a NYSDEC permit. As new businesses and families move to our region for these transformative projects, current circumstances would force us to haul some of our waste to other communities. OCRRA has two transfer stations serving all of Onondaga County. One, the decades-old Ley Creek site in Salina, is closed and must be rebuilt to meet modern codes.

In 2019, OCRRA invested over \$12 million into the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. The goal was to consolidate services and efficiently move waste across the road to the WTE Facility, so we could avoid hauling it to faraway landfills. Now, with Micron on our doorstep, it is imperative that we address our community's burgeoning waste capacity issue. OCRRA is aiming to start with renovations of the Ley Creek Transfer Station.

Backed by a strategic plan, OCRRA's Board of Directors envisions the creation of a community asset. The first challenge is to replace the old Ley Creek Transfer Station with a facility large enough to handle a growing population, while recognizing the I-81 project's impact and the need for a disposal facility on the north side of our community. OCRRA's Board approved the purchase of additional property at



Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville is located near the Waste-to-Energy Facility for efficient waste disposal. The WTE is operating at its permitted capacity, though the population is expected to grow soon.



The Ley Creek Transfer will be replaced with a facility that meets modern codes. OCRRA is aiming to build a comprehensive solid waste campus at the site, if the project gains support.

the site, with the hope of creating a comprehensive solid waste campus. Possibilities include a convenient option for residents to drop off hard-to-manage items, such as electronics (including TVs), household hazardous waste, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and more.

A comprehensive solid waste campus will incur costs similar to infrastructure projects for water lines and sewer facilities. Now is the time to be bold! Taking responsible steps to build a strong foundation for future generations should include waste management solutions, beginning at Ley Creek.

Pick Up OCRRA's Compost and Mulch to Give Your Gardens a Boost

Using OCRRA's compost and mulch will make your next home landscaping or garden project flourish! Compost and Mulch products are available at our Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites. Volumes may fluctuate throughout the season. Please visit OCRRA.org to check the status of supplies.

Compost:

Benefits of Using Compost:

- **Less Watering Needed:** Compost helps retain moisture, which reduces the need to water, and protects plants against drought.
- **Helps Plants Use Nutrients:** Adding compost helps plants get the nutrients they crave, making them healthier.
- **Improves Soil Structure:** Compost balances soil density, allowing plants to develop healthier roots into the soil, contributing to healthier growth.

Buy OCRRA Compost by the:

- **Trunk Load** (Car, van, and SUV owners hand load their trunk): \$10
- **Cubic Yard** (OCRRA loads your truck or trailer):
 - 1/2" Screened – \$16 / cu. yd. **only at Jamesville Compost Site.**
 - 1/4" Premium – \$20 / cu. yd. **only at Amboy Compost Site.**
- **Bag** (1 cu. ft.):
 - 1/4" Premium - \$5 each or 5 bags for \$20 at both Compost Sites.
 - * Also sold at local garden centers (prices vary). Find locations at www.OCRRA.org/CompostRetailers.*



Mulch:

Benefits of Using Mulch:

- Suppresses weeds.
- Retains moisture.
- Gives your garden or landscape a finished look.

Buy OCRRA's Mulch by the:

- **Trunk Load** (Car, van, and SUV owners hand load their trunk): \$5
- **Cubic Yard** (OCRRA loads your truck or trailer):
 - Double Ground Mulch – \$14 / cu. yd. **only at Jamesville Compost Site.**
 - Triple Ground Mulch – \$16 / cu. yd. (check availability at www.OCRRA.org/mulch)

SITE HOURS	
Amboy Compost Site	Jamesville Compost Site
6296 Airport Road Camillus, NY 13209	4370 Route 91 Jamesville, NY 13078
Hours: April 1 - November 23 MON. - SAT. 7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Hours: April 4 - November 23 THURS. - SAT. 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Mark Your Calendar

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF

MON., THURS., & FRI.
First Saturday of each month
Appointment required at www.OCRRA.org/hhw

DROP OFF ELECTRONICS

SATURDAY, JULY 27
8:30 a.m. to noon
registration required
www.OCRRA.org/events

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED

THURSDAY, JULY 4
MONDAY, SEPT. 2
Happy Holidays

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE OPEN

THURSDAY - SATURDAY
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Residential Service until November 23