



For Immediate Release:

Mercury & Vape Device Collection Event Coming Up Saturday, September 14, 2024

SYRACUSE, N.Y. [September 6, 2024] — Onondaga County residents have one more week to register for a FREE opportunity to drop off mercury thermometers or thermostats and vape devices for proper disposal at a collection event hosted by OCRRA and Reworld (formerly Covanta), the operator of our Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville.

Vape Devices

New this year, OCRRA is accepting up to 10 vape devices from a limited number of registrants, as part of a pilot program to learn more about a growing vape market, various devices being sold and disposal options. A survey during registration gives OCRRA valuable information as we explore future programs. Vape devices with rechargeable batteries can cause fires, especially when damaged. Hazardous liquid nicotine is also easily absorbed by the skin. Safely disposing of vape devices protects workers and equipment.

Mercury Thermostats & Thermometers

Mercury can be harmful to humans and wildlife when handled improperly. Keeping mercury thermometers and thermostats out of the trash benefits the environment and our community. Reworld will supply one \$10 Lowe's gift card to registrants who drop off one or more mercury thermometers or thermostats on September 14. One free digital thermometer will be given to registrants who bring one or more mercury thermometers.

The Mercury and Vape Collection Event for Onondaga County residents is coming up on **Saturday, September 14 from 8-11 a.m.** at Miller Environmental Group, Inc., (532 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse). Visitors can stay in their vehicles. No materials from businesses are accepted. **Registration is required.** Visit www.OCRRA.org/events for details.

How do you know if an item contains mercury?

- Watch/share an explanation with examples: https://youtu.be/CFLG2M_fCU8
- Mercury **thermometers** have tubes with silver, metallic grey or black filling. Any other color indicates the thermometer is not eligible for this event since it doesn't contain mercury and can be thrown in the trash.
- Mercury **thermostats** have levers or dials that you move to change the temperature. If you remove the faceplate and see a glass capsule with a silver substance, it contains mercury. Do not remove or break the capsule. If your thermostat is digital / programmable, it is not eligible for drop-off and can go in the trash.

Bringing these items to the upcoming collection event is a great way for Onondaga County residents to help OCRRA and Reworld save the world a little each day.

Note for digital and broadcast outlets: B-roll with a soundbite at the :50 mark with OCRRA Assistant Engineer Jack Connery is available via WeTransfer request to tpalmer@ocrra.org or via direct YouTube download: https://youtu.be/0N_01ZBHVeE

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About OCRRA

OCRRA is a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. Services include recycling education, a Household Hazardous Waste Program, the Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites, and waste management at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. Learn more at www.OCRRA.org,

About Reworld™

Reworld™, formerly known as Covanta, is a leader in sustainable waste solutions and is dedicated to transforming waste into valuable resources through innovative technologies. With a comprehensive portfolio of solutions designed to address the most complex challenges of waste management, Reworld™ is committed to achieving carbon-negative outcomes and supporting partners on their sustainability journey.