



RECYCLING 101



PAPER

PLASTIC

METAL

GLASS



CURBSIDE RECYCLING



- Boxes (empty/flatten)
- Newspaper & magazines
- Mail & office papers
- Paper bags (empty/flatten)



- Ignore numbers; recycle by shape
- Bottles, jugs, jars & stackable dairy tubs only



- Food & drink cans
- Aluminum pans, bowls & foil (clean & wad up)



- Food containers
- Beverage bottles (any color)



TRASH



- Fridge & freezer boxes
- Takeout boxes
- Egg cartons (any kind)
- Plates & cups



- Hoses, string lights & cords
- Takeout boxes, clamshells, bowls, cups & utensils
- Orange prescription vials



- Small appliances
- Empty paint cans
- Mixed metal/cardboard canisters



- Drink glasses/mugs
- Ovenware
- Window glass
- Mirrors

NEVER BAG RECYCLABLES

PLACE RECYCLING LOOSE IN YOUR BIN

DON'T BAG RECYCLING IN PAPER OR PLASTIC BAGS



DROP OFF TO RECYCLE

These items do not belong in your recycling bin



HOUSEHOLD TOXICS
OCRRA.org/toxic



ELECTRONIC WASTE
OCRRA.org/electronics



BATTERIES
OCRRA.org/battery

OCRRA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

OCRRA recycling specialist Lisa Piering helps Yona Williams and Tamice Gates sort donations to their Costume Closet at White Branch Library in Syracuse.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

OCRRA's Tammy Palmer answers recycling questions from Mark Folsom, chairman of the annual Sportsmen's Days event at Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

A family visits OCRRA's booth for tips during WEP FEST, celebrating the Onondaga Co. Department of Water Environment Protection's 100th year of public service.



Photo Credit: Rotary Club of Eastwood.

During a presentation to the Rotary Club of Eastwood, OCRRA Public Information Officer Tammy Palmer shows the club's president, Esther Zorn, some recycling rules.

Green Up Onondaga County

For a better, greener tomorrow...

PLANT A TREE!

Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

Bare-Root Stock

Featuring Non-Invasive & Native Species

Taking Orders Through March 5, 2025

- ✓ Fruit Trees
- ✓ Conifers
- ✓ Deciduous Trees
- ✓ Conservation Pacs
- ✓ Bluebird & Bat Houses
- ✓ OCRRA's Premium Compost (40 Lb. Bags)



Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Call 315-457-0325 for an order form or visit www.ocswcd.org

FACT: Email lpiering@OCRRA.org to request a school and apartment visit for help establishing recycling best practices.

Don't Miss Out on 2025 Green School Grants

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Until the ghosts of A Christmas Carol visit someone who can revamp school funding, districts make tough decisions about their budgets. Waste management is hard to prioritize when textbooks and art supplies are already hard to come by.

That is why OCRRA wants to give schools plenty of time to take advantage of NYSAR3's "Green School Grant Program". The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling offers this grant every year, with applications typically accepted in February and/or March.

Their application states: "Multiple projects will be awarded for a maximum of \$1,000 per award. The goal of this grant program is to provide funds to develop new programs or support existing programs related to the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle), composting and outreach."

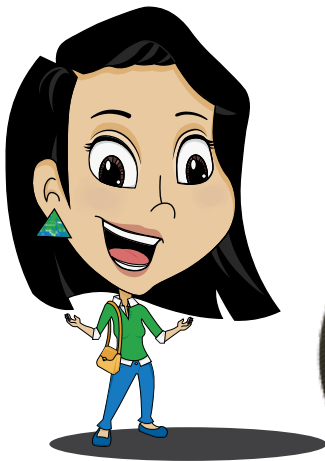
Schools have been awarded grants in the past for purchasing recycling containers, starting composting programs and upgrading drinking fountains to bottle refill stations. Innovative ideas are encouraged.

Eligible applicants are public or private,

K-12 schools in New York State with ideas designed to increase awareness or minimize waste. Awardees agree to share program information and data with NYSAR3.

The application is found at www.tinyurl.com/SchoolGrants2025 and consists of a straightforward form. Remember to answer all questions directly and consider all parts of your program's potential budget when applying.

OCRRA shares quarterly tips with educators to promote the 3 Rs in schools. Send lpiering@ocrra.org a request to join our email list.



Recycling Rhoda

Bicycles

Dear Rhoda,

I have a bicycle that needs repairs and is too small for my growing son. How do I get rid of a broken bike?

— Cyclist in Cicero

Dear Cyclist,

Hit the brakes! Even if it needs repairs, you can keep your son's unwanted bicycle out of the waste stream by donating it to the Central New York Family Bicycle Giveaway in Syracuse. Tens of thousands of bicycles have been given new homes since organizer Jan Maloff and a team of volunteers began repairing bikes to give away decades ago.

Volunteers of any skill range are needed to get them fixed up in time for the big annual holiday giveaway right before Christmas. Call 315-530-7751 if you're interested in helping.

Bike donations are generally accepted through mid-December. As details are finalized, visit www.cnyfamilybike.org to check for updates on the giveaway or donation options.

For anyone trying to get rid of an unwanted bike that doesn't need repairs, it is even easier to donate. Thrift stores, including those managed by the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army, accept working bicycles in good condition. Check the policies of secondhand stores near you, before dropping off donations. The thrift stores I reached out to don't accept bikes with a lot of rust. One small thrift store only accepts small bikes due to a lack of room. It is always a good idea to call ahead.

The Buy Nothing Project offers a platform for people to give away items they don't want. There are no strings attached for the recipient. Everything is free. Bikes in great condition may also be bought or sold at stores like Play It

Again Sports on Erie Boulevard East in Syracuse or Facebook Marketplace, if you don't want to wait for a summer garage sale. Check with local bike shops for repair seminars. The alternatives to throwing them away are endless!

If a donation is not possible for any reason and a special pickup cannot be arranged with your hauler, bicycles can be dropped off for a fee at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville. Visit www.OCRRA.org/locations for the location, residential hours and fees.

Cyclist in Cicero, it has never been easier to get rid of an unwanted bike AND brighten up a child's holiday. Choosing to reuse by buying or donating secondhand bikes reduces waste, saves our community money and saves our planet's natural resources.

Signed,

Recycling Rhoda



When we talk about saving the world a little each day, that includes the holidays! Read on to learn how you can do your part by incorporating the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – into your seasonal celebrations.

REDUCE

Sometimes the best gifts (for loved ones and the planet) don't come in a box. To reduce waste this holiday season, consider gifting experiences, like concert tickets or dance lessons.

If you're hosting a big feast, plan ahead by checking what you already have before you buy more at the grocery store. Similarly, consider switching to reusable plates, cups and utensils at your holiday parties instead of using disposable ones.



REDUCE

Ribbons, bows, tissue paper and gift bags don't have an expiration date – save them to reuse in the future!

You can also help cut back on waste by asking holiday party guests to bring their own reusable containers for leftovers instead of sending them home with disposable ones.



RECYCLE

It's the most wonderful time of the year... and also the most recyclable! As you celebrate the holidays remember that wrapping paper and cards go in the recycling bin UNLESS they have glitter, foil, or metallic decorations (those go in the trash). You should also keep trash and recycling receptacles nearby when opening presents so you can separate trash and recyclables right away.

Remember, recyclables should NEVER go in plastic or paper bags. Keep everything loose in the recycling bin.



RECYCLING TIP:

Your recyclables should NEVER be bagged. Instead, place items in the recycling bin loose - and recycle clean plastic bags at local retailers.



FACT: Reuse/trash high-gloss gift bags with plastic or fabric handles. Recycle plain paper gift bags without glitter or foil.

How Do I Get Rid of a Real Christmas Tree?

The Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites will look more festive in early January as residents drop off Christmas trees after the holidays. OCRRA grinds the trees into mulch that can be purchased for gardens and landscaping in the spring.

If your municipality does not offer pickup service (call your highway department to check) or you simply need an alternative, OCRRA will accept real Christmas trees from January 6-17, Monday through Friday only (no weekends), 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. No compost site pass is needed. Real Christmas tree drop-offs are free to Onondaga County residents. Only bare trees are accepted. Trees with decorations, including tinsel, plastic, metal and glass ornaments will be turned away. All decorations must be removed prior to arrival.

Artificial trees do not belong at OCRRA Compost Sites. Some thrift stores will take them as donations, under certain conditions. Call ahead and check the store's policy before making a delivery. If your hauler doesn't accept artificial trees as trash, they may be dropped off at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station for a fee. The site is open to residents Monday through Friday, 3:30 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Visit www.OCRRA.org/locations for more details.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

How Do I Prepare Cardboard Boxes for Curbside Recycling?

Tammy Palmer, OCRRA Public Information Officer

Whether you shop local to reduce shipping waste or order gifts online, there's a good chance some of your holiday purchases were packaged in corrugated cardboard boxes. While many types of cardboard are easily recycled, they may end up in the trash or stuck at the curb if a few important steps are not followed.


First, haulers struggle to pick up and empty recycling bins that are packed too tightly with large boxes. That may force them to leave the recyclables in your overstuffed bin behind. Cardboard that does make it to the facility where recyclables are sorted goes through a series of conveyor belts. At the end of the line, piles of cardboard are baled to sell to recyclers. Pieces that are smaller than 3-by-3 feet will make it through that process.

Before you put cardboard boxes in a curbside bin, make sure they are empty. Any other packaging material should be removed and managed separately. Flatten boxes into sections no bigger than 3-by-3 feet. Do not tie cardboard together; it should be loose when placed in your recycling container. The same rules apply for cardboard dropped off at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station.

Visit www.ocrra.org/how-do-i-get-rid-of/paper to review recycling rules for food boxes and other paper products. Following these steps reduces waste and ensures some highly recyclable materials won't take a more expensive journey to the trash heap.

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





Ready to test your knowledge with our holiday quiz?

Visit www.OCRRA.org/quiz to find out if you understand the rules for separating trash and recycling in Onondaga County.

WTE Facility Performs Well on Annual Tests

Cristina Albuio, Director of Engineering

When you put regular household trash out to the curb in Onondaga County, it doesn't go to a landfill. Instead, OCRRA has a partnership with Reworld (formerly Covanta) to operate a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility on Rock Cut Road. Inside the WTE Facility, metal is recovered for recycling. Trash is converted into enough electricity to power roughly 30,000 households. The entire process is carefully monitored to ensure safe and efficient operations. The latest test results show us that Onondaga County's WTE Facility continues to operate well within state-permitted limits.

Q: What is the purpose of annual air emissions "stack" testing?

A: Stack testing is an important tool that measures the amount of regulated pollutants being emitted from a facility. Stack testing consists of a series of sampling events, in which a probe is inserted into the stack to collect a representative sample of the gases released, over a defined amount of time. Sampling and laboratory analysis must be conducted in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) protocols. NYSDEC oversees and is generally onsite during stack testing at Onondaga County's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility.

Q: How do the 2024 stack test results look?

A: The results from the 2024 stack testing indicate that the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the chart on this page, many of the tested constituents were considerably below the permit limit.

Q: Does the Facility conduct any other air emissions testing besides the annual stack testing?

A: Yes. The Facility has a continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) that measures combustion efficiency, air pollution equipment performance and stack emissions. The CEMS monitors carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides (NOx) as well as opacity and combustion temperatures. The CEMS was recently expanded to also monitor hydrogen chloride.

Q: What is the status of the WTE Facility's Air (Title V) Permit?

A: The WTE Facility's Air Permit was most recently issued on January 25, 2021 and expires January 24, 2026. The permit can be accessed on NYSDEC's website at www.tinyurl.com/DECPermit.

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: For more detailed information on the test results, visit www.tinyurl.com/WTEtests. You may also contact OCRRA's Director of Engineering, Cristina Albuio, at 315.295.0743 or calbuio@ocrra.org.

2024 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

	Constituent	Average Measured Emissions ¹			Permit Limit ²	Pass/Fail P/F	3-Boiler Average	% Permit Limit ³	
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3					
TESTED ANNUALLY	FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.000556	0.000274 <	0.000198	0.035	P	0.000343	1%
		Cadmium (lb/hr)	0.0000888	0.0000441 <	0.0000330	0.0019	P	0.0000553	3%
		Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	2.95	1.72	2.65	8.04	P	2.44	30%
		Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.022	0.009	0.005	30	P	0.01	0%
		Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	3.76	2.73	3.01	25	P	3.17	13%
		Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	0.89	0.666	0.764	5.24	P	0.772	15%
		Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.4	99.6	99.5 ≥	95	P	99.5	--
		Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.01990	0.00628	0.00356	0.400	P	0.009913	2%
		Lead (lb/hr)	0.003170	0.001010	0.000595	0.0381	P	0.0015917	4%
		Mercury (lb/hr)	0.000081 <	0.000078	0.000124	0.004	P	0.0000944	2%
		Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	49.3	53.5	56.5	58	P	53.1	92%
		Particulate (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.000614	0.000416	0.000458	0.010	P	0.000496	5%
		PM ₁₀ (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.001580	0.003960	0.002000	0.010	P	0.002513	25%
		PM ₁₀ , Filterable (lb/hr)	0.140	0.144	0.176	3.16	P	0.153	5%
Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	0.0000	3.1400	0.0912	16.2	P	1.0771	7%		
STATE	Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	2.900 <	0.549	0.845	50	P	1.431	3%	
	Ammonia (lb/hr)	0.3190 <	0.0625	0.0999	4.88	P	0.1605	3%	
	Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.0220	0.0085	0.00487	0.4	P	0.011793	3%	
	Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	0.0000000035	0.0000000014	0.0000000082	0.000000129	P	0.0000000189	1%	
	Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	< 0.505 <	0.486	0.741	28	P	0.577	2%	
	Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	97.7	97.2	98.3 ≥	85	P	97.7	--	

NOTES:

- ¹ Based on 3 test runs for each unit; used for compliance with permit limit.
- ² NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028/00009
- ³ Based on 3-Boiler Average; informational only; not used for compliance.

UNITS:

- gr/dscf = grains per dry standard cubic foot
- ppmdv = parts per million dry volume
- lb/hr = pounds per hour
- dscm = dry standard cubic meter
- @ 7% O₂ = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen
- ng = nanograms
- µg = micrograms
- mg = milligrams



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Thirty Years of Turning Waste Into Energy

Onondaga County continues to benefit from a long-term WTE investment

Kevin Spillane, OCRRA Executive Director

OCRRA built a reputation for developing and managing effective environmental programs, such as our award-winning recycling program or the equally recognized organics composting program. What often gets overlooked is the integral role of the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility in managing our community's waste. This winter, the WTE Facility celebrates 30 years of operation in Onondaga County, through our partnership with Reworld (formerly Covanta). We look forward to continued investments in the facility to ensure Onondaga County has this asset for years to come.

One of the many advantages of having a Waste-to-Energy Facility in Onondaga County is that trash collected in our neighborhoods or dropped off at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station is converted into enough power for roughly 30,000 homes. Instead of sitting in a landfill, the bulk of our municipal solid waste (MSW) becomes electricity. Throughout the state, at least 15% of all MSW is managed through combustion, according

to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

As New York discovered through its Climate Action Council Scoping Panel, while implementing the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), WTE facilities only account for about 7% of the waste sector's overall statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The overwhelming majority of GHG emissions from the waste sector come from landfills, at an astounding 78%. While the State must implement policies that reduce waste generation and recycle more, the evidence directly tells us that WTE solutions reduce overall GHG emissions today and long-term, for the waste left after we maximize diversion.

The Climate Scoping Panel envisions a decreased waste stream combined with a reduction in landfilling to support at least an 80% reduction in GHG emissions from the waste sector. This is exactly the approach Europe has taken in the past 25 years, working to drive down GHG emissions by



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

A Reworld employee uses a control panel to remotely lift trash dropped off by haulers in Onondaga County. The load of waste will be converted into energy through a tightly monitored combustion system.

disincentivizing landfilling, pushing for waste stream diversions to recycling and composting, and sending materials that cannot be recovered to WTE facilities.

As we celebrate 30 years of having an electricity generator fueled by our community's garbage, the waste-to-energy model has been an important part of the overall integrated waste management approach. Both the European Union and the United States

Environmental Protection Agency's waste management hierarchies recognize WTE as preferable to landfilling for the materials that remain after waste reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts have been exhausted. As we look at the impact that local population growth may have on our community, it is important that we maintain the vital benefits of our WTE Facility for waste disposal needs, now and going forward.

To that end, I have been working with like-minded communities throughout the state to promote waste-to-energy as a viable solution for our waste disposal needs through the formation of the New York State Waste-To-Energy Coalition. The organization highlights the unique needs and issues facing WTE facilities and stakeholders in New York State and serves as a valuable forum for collaboration among New York's WTE stakeholders.

I hope you will join us at OCRRA as we recognize the impact of 30 years of sustainable and environmentally responsible operations at our Waste-to-Energy Facility and the impact that smart, integrated and forward-thinking solid waste management will have in leading us to a brighter tomorrow.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2024.

Reworld (formerly Covanta), operator of the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility on Rock Cut Road in Jamesville, is celebrating 30 years of turning Onondaga County's trash into electricity.

How Do I Get Rid of Household Appliances?

Lisa Piering, OCRRA Recycling Specialist

Appliances big and small, sooner or later we need to get rid of them all. If fixable, repairing them is a great first option. If still in working order, selling or donating items would be preferred. These items should never go in the curbside recycling bin.

- For donation or disposal, appliances fall into three categories: large, small, and those containing refrigerant.
- Large appliances include washers, ovens, and microwaves.
- Small appliances include toasters, electric knives, and coffee makers.
- Refrigerators, air conditioners (AC), dehumidifiers and heat pumps are examples of items containing refrigerants.



If you upgraded from a working appliance, informal reuse and reselling networks such as Facebook Marketplace are a great option. Habitat for Humanity also accepts donations of large appliances that are less than 10 years old, clean and still working. The Salvation Army and Rescue Mission accept small appliances. Check with the organizations directly to confirm they currently accept the type of appliance you want to donate.

Bruin Recycling in Liverpool accepts many small appliances for recycling. Visit their website for a list of acceptable items: www.bruinrecycling.com/what-we-accept

Small appliances can also go in your curbside trash, but never the recycling bin.

Both large and small appliances can be taken to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station as trash during appropriate hours. Special disposal fees apply to certain items (e.g., \$5 fee for microwaves, \$15 fee for items with refrigerant). Visit OCRRA.org for hours and fee information.

You may be able to get large appliances hauled away by contacting a scrap metal service, but they do not accept items with refrigerant.

Items like ACs, freezers, or dehumidifiers work by using compressed gases to move heat from one place to another. In the case of an AC unit, heat moves from inside your room to outside your house. Newer appliances replaced the ozone eating gases of the past with potent greenhouse gases, so it is extremely important the gases remain contained.

Disposal of appliances with refrigerant must be handled by certified technicians who can safely collect gases inside. OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station accepts these appliances for a \$15 fee, to fund their proper management. Residents who either donate items in good condition for reuse or follow our disposal guidance are truly helping us save the world a little each day.



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



ROCK CUT ROAD TRANSFER STATION
5808 Rock Cut Road | Jamesville, NY 13078
Monday – Friday: Residents must unload their own material.
3:30 – 6 p.m.
Saturday: Visit www.OCRRA.org/locations
8 a.m. – noon for fee information.

Mark Your Calendar

<p>ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED</p> <p>THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>Happy Holidays</p>	<p>HOLIDAY TREE DROP-OFFS</p> <p>JAN. 6-17 Mon-Fri only OCRRA compost sites</p> <p>See Page 5 for Details</p>	<p>JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE</p> <p>CLOSED FOR SEASON (except during holiday tree drop-offs)</p> <p>Reopens in April</p>	<p>AMBOY COMPOST SITE</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI. 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sat. Hours Return in April</p>
--	--	--	--

FACT: The metal on small appliances that go in the trash can be recovered at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and recycled.