

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
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The Chair's Message



Corey Driscoll Dunham
OCRRRA Board Chair

Through every achievement, challenge and lesson I've faced as Chair of OCRRRA's Board of Directors, I'm reminded that leading with purpose will build meaningful progress. The work ahead is demanding as we address regulations, rising costs and a shared responsibility to manage waste more sustainably for future generations. While it is important to stay focused on unfinished goals, the progress made in 2025 is worth noting.

As communities across the country recognize growing concerns about fires caused by rechargeable batteries, OCRRRA is on the front lines of prevention and outreach efforts. Agency staff sought and secured a multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. In 2025, we began seeing this important work take shape, including a newly designed battery management section on the Agency's website, OCRRRA.org.

This new educational resource carefully guides users through the steps of determining what type of battery they have and how it can be managed properly. The site emphasizes the message that rechargeable batteries never belong in trash or recycling bins, where they can become damaged and spark a fire. With visual examples and step-by-step instructions, residents are shown how to either tape terminals or bag individual batteries that pose a fire risk. Finally, the website shares an extensive and growing network of OCRRRA battery collection locations spread out across Onondaga County.

Common household rechargeable batteries that are improperly managed can get damaged when garbage or recycling collection vehicles crush materials with a compactor. Lithium-ion batteries can set off a chain reaction of uncontrolled heating known as "thermal runaway" and these rechargeable batteries can even reignite after being extinguished.

Rechargeable batteries that were inappropriately left in curbside trash or recycling bins have already sparked fires at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, the Waste-to-Energy Facility, the plant where recyclables are sorted and inside a city of Syracuse recycling truck. Fortunately, cases of these fires in Onondaga County have been caught and addressed quickly in the past. It is imperative that we all take steps in the future to protect our waste management workers and the facilities we rely on every day.

The Chair's Message

OCRRA has also partnered with the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management to provide firefighters with tools to manage the damaged or defective batteries they encounter. In late 2025, OCRRA arranged the first training session for Onondaga County and city of Syracuse firefighters, administered by the Battery Network (formerly Call2Recycle). The Battery Network is a battery stewardship organization, approved by the New York State Rechargeable Battery Law. Trainees were shown how to safely pack damaged rechargeable batteries inside a kit with fire suppression material. Through the DOE grant, OCRRA will provide the first round of kits for distribution by emergency officials. We are grateful for their commitment to continue this important training in the future.

The Board's long-term goal is to expand OCRRA's ability to accept these batteries, and many other types of hard-to-manage materials, at a new solid waste management campus. After months of engineering, permitting and construction work, I am pleased to report that the former Ley Creek Transfer Station has been demolished. OCRRA invested nearly \$1 million to advance this major capital improvement project in 2025. Staying true to the Agency's mission to reduce waste, more than 410 tons of metal and 100,000 cubic feet of concrete were recycled as part of the work.



A trainer from The Battery Network pours fire suppressant into a kit, showing firefighters how to manage damaged batteries.

OCRRA's Board continues the difficult task of mapping out the future of the property, beginning with a new transfer station. We understand the patience this project has required of Onondaga County businesses and residents who must travel to Rock Cut Road Transfer Station until the new facility is completed. Our goal has been to design and build a resource that will serve our community's needs for generations to come, including a 40,000 square foot tipping floor that can manage up to 1,200 tons of waste, daily.

The Board continues exploring plans for land surrounding the new transfer station, including strategies to strengthen local waste reduction and recycling. In recent years, OCRRA supported the transition from blue bins to covered recycling carts that shield recyclables from rain and snow, protecting their value. Through these efforts and initiatives by local municipalities, usage of recycling carts rose from 28% of the County's population in 2022 to at least 60% in 2025.

www.OCRRA.org

The Chair's Message

OCRRA has seized the opportunity to educate residents during the transition. Between 2024-2025, recycling guides were delivered directly to the majority of Onondaga County households. OCRRA has supplied guides to municipalities that agree to attach them to new recycling carts or deliver them door-to-door. The town of Camillus includes OCRRA's recycling rules in their annual mailing, as well as informational packets for new residents. In Syracuse, Cicero, Dewitt, Salina and beyond, OCRRA's newsletter is shared at municipal offices and in Onondaga County libraries.

OCRRA's compost operations experienced significant growth in 2025, with over 60,000 cubic yards of incoming organic materials. The food scraps and yard waste delivered to our sites are used to create a nutrient-rich compost that enhances vegetable and flower gardens across our community. As the Agency processed more incoming material, we also saw a notable growth in sales of bagged OCRRA Premium Compost, available through dozens of local retailers. This prime example of economic circularity reflects both public interest in OCRRA's products and confidence in the quality.

Drawing from my experience as the OCRRA Board Chair over the past two years, I can look forward to 2026 with clear resolve. With an amazing network of supporters who share our goal to lead with purpose, we are making a difference. With the continued dedication of OCRRA's Board and staff, as well as Onondaga County residents, schools and businesses, we are making progress, together. Thank you for helping us save the world a little each day.

Corey Driscoll Dunham
OCRRA Board Chair



Construction crews completed demolition of Ley Creek Transfer Station in 2025, clearing the way for a new transfer station at the site. Metal and concrete were recovered during demolition for recycling.

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OCRRA Board of Directors

The OCRRA Board is governed by individuals who are appointed by elected municipal officials. This respected group of educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, government officials and business leaders advocate for the best environmental interests of their neighbors.



Corey Driscoll Dunham
Board and
Governance Chair



Doug Daley
Vice Board Chair,
Finance & Ley Creek Ad
Hoc Committees Chair



Michael Jennings
Treasurer



Joe Driscoll
Audit Committee Chair



Liz Hradil
Recycling and
Operations
Committee Chair



Dan Kranz



Vincent Mangan



Elizabeth Bough Martin



Blair Page
Administration
Committee Chair



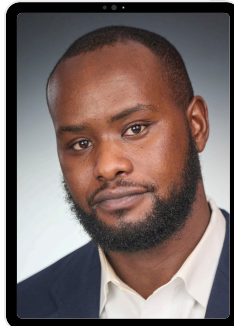
Greg Popp



Dan Quackenbush



Alexis Rodriguez



Bonnke Sekarore



Jennifer Wood

Recycling Programs

OCRRA is Leading the Way to Recycling Success Across Onondaga County

Onondaga County residents recycled 26,734 tons of curbside recyclables in 2025. Together, with businesses and schools, 413,397 tons of mandatory and voluntary materials were recycled with a 52% recycling rate. Our community's recycling effort conserves natural resources, reduces greenhouse gases and supports hundreds of jobs locally and beyond.

In 2025, OCRRA:

✓ Provided environmental services to Onondaga County residents, including the collection of:

- **Household Hazardous Waste** - Nearly 1,900 residents made appointments.
- **Household Batteries** - 1,120 pounds of rechargeable batteries, 46,403 pounds of alkaline batteries and 3,219 pounds of button/coin batteries were recycled.
- **Fluorescent Lamps** - More than 10,100 fluorescent bulbs were collected and recycled, keeping over 35,500 milligrams of mercury out of the waste stream.

✓ Hosted and attended community events:

- 88 residents of Onondaga County attended OCRRA and Reworld's **Mercury Collection Event** in September. 185 mercury thermometers and 44 mercury thermostats and 17.5 pounds of liquid mercury were collected, diverting 8,300 grams of mercury from the waste stream.
- 4,169 volunteers from 312 groups participated in OCRRA's annual **Earth Day Litter Cleanup** in April. More than 120,000 pounds of litter were collected across Onondaga County.
- OCRRA's outreach team engaged with more than 30 **classrooms, community organizations and tabling events**, educating more than 1,750 members of our community about the importance of recycling, reduction, and reuse.



www.OCRRA.org

Compost Operations

Composting Showcases Circular Economy Goals at OCRRA

OCRRA's compost operations experienced significant growth in 2025, with notable increases in both material processing and finished compost production. The organization continued to expand its capacity to divert organic materials from the waste stream while providing high-quality compost products to the community.

Material Intake and Processing

During 2025, OCRRA's compost facilities processed a combined total of 62,707 cubic yards of incoming organic material, including brush, leaves, and other yard waste collected at Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites. This represents a 16% increase in material received, compared to the previous year, reflecting continued participation from residents, municipalities and commercial partners in the region's organics diversion programs. The increase in incoming materials demonstrates both growing public engagement in composting programs and OCRRA's operational ability to manage higher volumes efficiently.



Compost Production

In 2025, OCRRA produced 43,844 cubic yards of finished compost, representing a 51.2% increase, compared to 2024. This substantial growth highlights improvements in processing efficiency, equipment improvements and overall operational throughput at both compost sites.

Compost Operations

In addition to yard waste materials, OCRRA's compost program accepted 17.9 million pounds of food scraps in 2025, representing a significant increase. This highlights the continued expansion of the region's food scrap diversion efforts and the increasing participation of residents, institutions and commercial generators in organics recycling programs. The increase in incoming materials across both yard waste and food scraps further demonstrates a combination of public interest in composting and operational efficiency.

Compost Distribution and Sales

Demand for OCRRA compost products remained strong throughout the year. Distribution included both retail bag sales and bulk purchases:

- ✓ **Bagged Compost Sales:** Over 13,000 bags sold, representing a 33% increase compared to 2025.
- ✓ **Bulk Compost Sales:** 21,095 cubic yards sold to residents, landscapers, and commercial customers
- ✓ **Compost Donations:** 131 cubic yards donated to community projects and local initiatives



The increase in both bagged and bulk compost sales reflects growing recognition of compost as a valuable soil amendment and demonstrates continued support from the community for locally produced sustainable products.

Operational Impact

The 2025 operational results reflect OCRRA's continued commitment to waste diversion, environmental stewardship and community service. By increasing both intake capacity and finished compost production, OCRRA successfully converted thousands of cubic yards of organic materials into beneficial products that support soil health and local landscaping needs. Continued growth in both incoming material volumes and compost demand indicates strong momentum for OCRRA's composting program heading into future years.

Transfer Operations

A New Approach Helps OCRRA Meet Growth in Transfer Operation Traffic

In 2025, Rock Cut Road Transfer Station continued to serve residential and commercial customers across Onondaga County, while Ley Creek Transfer Station remained closed during demolition, permitting and design work for a modernized facility.

Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

110,812 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) were received at the site in 2025, with an average of over 400 tons daily.

The total volume of waste received at the transfer station increased by 12.5% from the previous year. Much of the increase can be attributed to higher rates of C&D.



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Transfer Operations

Maintenance and Upgrades

Multiple improvements have been implemented regarding day-to-day operations at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station to benefit of the public, staff and the agency overall. In 2025, those improvements include the following:

- A three-lane traffic system was introduced to better direct vehicles to the appropriate areas of the facility and to minimize customer wait times.
- All vehicles were required to get weighed at the scale to standardized the process.
- An additional MEO II position was filled to provide services on the tipping floor and operate a small excavator. The primary responsibility of this role is to pick material designated for recycling or alternate disposal. In 2025, two operators were actively picking piles across all nine doors, significantly improving material recovery while maintaining acceptable wait times.



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Transfer Operations

Maintenance and Upgrades

- A new excavator was purchased, which is more capable and efficient in managing material.
- Rock Cut Road Transfer Station had a 12% increase in inbound traffic and tonnage but was able to maintain acceptable wait times due to improved facility management. For the majority of 2025, tipping floor buildings were not permitted to overflow.
- Designated areas were established for sorted and recovered materials. While some form of material separation may have existed previously, the organization and layout of the site in 2025 represented a substantial improvement, aligned with operational needs.
- Compared to 2024, Operational enhancements at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in 2025 led to the recovery of:

- ✓ 11.5% more tires
- ✓ 21% more electronics
- ✓ 14% more metal



Waste-to-Energy

Integrity, Transparency and Environmental Stewardship Provide a Strong Foundation for Municipal Solid Waste Management

The Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility, located off Route I-481 in Jamesville, is a foundational component of OCRRA's environmentally sound and innovative resource recovery system. This WTE Facility utilizes a mass-burn combustion system to safely and efficiently generate steam, and ultimately electricity, from the non-recyclable waste generated by our community. Without this Facility, garbage would be hauled many miles to out-of-county landfills. Instead, we have responsible local management of the community's non-recyclable waste.

OCRRA's core values of integrity, honesty, and transparency, environmental stewardship and safety, fiscal responsibility and excellence-in-services provide the basis for operation of the WTE Facility. Each year, OCRRA posts annual air and ash testing results on www.OCRRA.org. The WTE Facility's state-of-the-art Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) results can be viewed at reworldwaste.com/where-we-are/facilities/onondaga for more information. OCRRA and the operator of the Facility, Reworld, take great pride in a strong track record of operational and environmental excellence. In 2025, the WTE Facility remained a reliable and essential part of local infrastructure.



Waste-to-Energy

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Ensuring the Facility's emissions protect human health and the environment is paramount to operations. A robust air pollution control system is integrated into the Facility so it may comply with a strict air permit. This system consists of ammonia injection in the boiler, activated carbon and lime injection in the scrubber and particulate filtering in the bag house. Emissions from the Facility are carefully monitored through CEMS and annual stack testing. In 2025, air testing results were excellent, with many of the parameters well below the permit limits.



In addition to reducing the volume of material that must be hauled to out-of-county landfills by 90%, the Onondaga County WTE Facility generates enough electricity to power roughly 30,000 homes (about 16% of Onondaga County households) and the Facility itself. Using trash as a fuel source to generate electricity reduces dependence on fossil fuels and increases energy independence.

WTE is also a technology that reduces greenhouse gases. Although the combustion process generates carbon dioxide emissions, there are avoided greenhouse gas emissions due to the prevention of landfill methane emissions, the displacement of electricity that would otherwise have been generated using fossil fuels and the recovery of metals for recycling. There is an overall reduction in greenhouse gases; generally 0.72 tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided per ton of trash processed. In 2025, approximately 229,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions were avoided by processing non-recyclable waste at the WTE Facility.

Waste-to-Energy

Operational Excellence

The Waste-to-Energy Facility is now beyond its 30th year of safe, reliable and efficient operations. In 2025, the Facility processed 318,660 tons of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste (enough to overfill Syracuse University's JMA Wireless Dome). In doing so, the WTE generated 213,016 megawatt hours of electricity.



The Facility's metal recovery systems recovered approximately 9,805 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metal for recycling, which would have otherwise ended up in a landfill.

Lastly, about 68,600 tons (22% of the original trash weight) of non-hazardous ash residue were sent to a landfill for use as alternative daily cover. The beneficial reuse of the ash residue means that other materials, such as clean soil, do not need to be used for landfill daily cover.

Coupling environmental and operational excellence at the Onondaga County WTE Facility with one of the highest nationwide overall community recycling rates, OCRRA certainly succeeds in achieving its mission of serving the local community with a world-class resource recovery system. The results from the 2025 stack testing indicate the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the graph on the next page, many of the tested parameters were considerably below the permit limit.

2025 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

TESTED ANNUALLY	CONSTITUENT	Average Measured Emissions ¹			Permit	Pass/Fail	3-Boiler	% Permit		
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Limit ²	P/F	Average	Limit ³		
FEDERAL	Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.000725	0.000262	0.000913	0.035	P	0.000633	2%		
	Cadmium (lb/hr)	0.0001240	0.0000438	0.0001340	0.0019	P	0.0001006	5%		
	Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	2.45	2.41	1.82	8.04	P	2.23	28%		
	Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	2.54	2.72	2.43	30	P	2.56	9%		
	Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	12.50	7.95	13.6	25	P	11.35	45%		
	Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	3.11	2.00	3.07	5.24	P	2.727	52%		
	Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	98.3	98.5	98.1	95	P	98.3	--		
	Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.00732	0.00240	0.00918	0.400	P	0.006300	2%		
	Lead (lb/hr)	0.00125	0.000401	0.00135	0.0381	P	0.0010003	3%		
	Mercury (lb/hr)	0.000150	0.000084	0.000149	0.004	P	0.0001275	3%		
	Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	38.9	34.9	43.2	58	P	39.0	67%		
	Particulate (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.00159	0.000996	0.00170	0.010	P	0.001429	14%		
	PM ₁₀ (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.000332	0.00240	0.000588	0.010	P	0.001107	11%		
	PM ₁₀ Filterable (lb/hr)	0.135	0.906	0.196	3.16	P	0.412	13%		
	Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	1.08	1.01	3.87	16.2	P	1.99	12%		
	STATE	Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	<	0.541	2.03	0.786	50	P	1.119	2%
Ammonia (lb/hr)		<	0.0630	0.239	0.0827	4.88	P	0.1282	3%	
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)			0.0394	0.0424	0.0394	0.4	P	0.040400	10%	
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)			0.000000074	0.000000068	0.0000000594	0.000000129	P	0.0000000669	5%	
Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)			0.885	<	0.500	1.01	28	P	0.798	3%
Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)			95.9	>	98.8	95.0	85	P	96.6	--

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

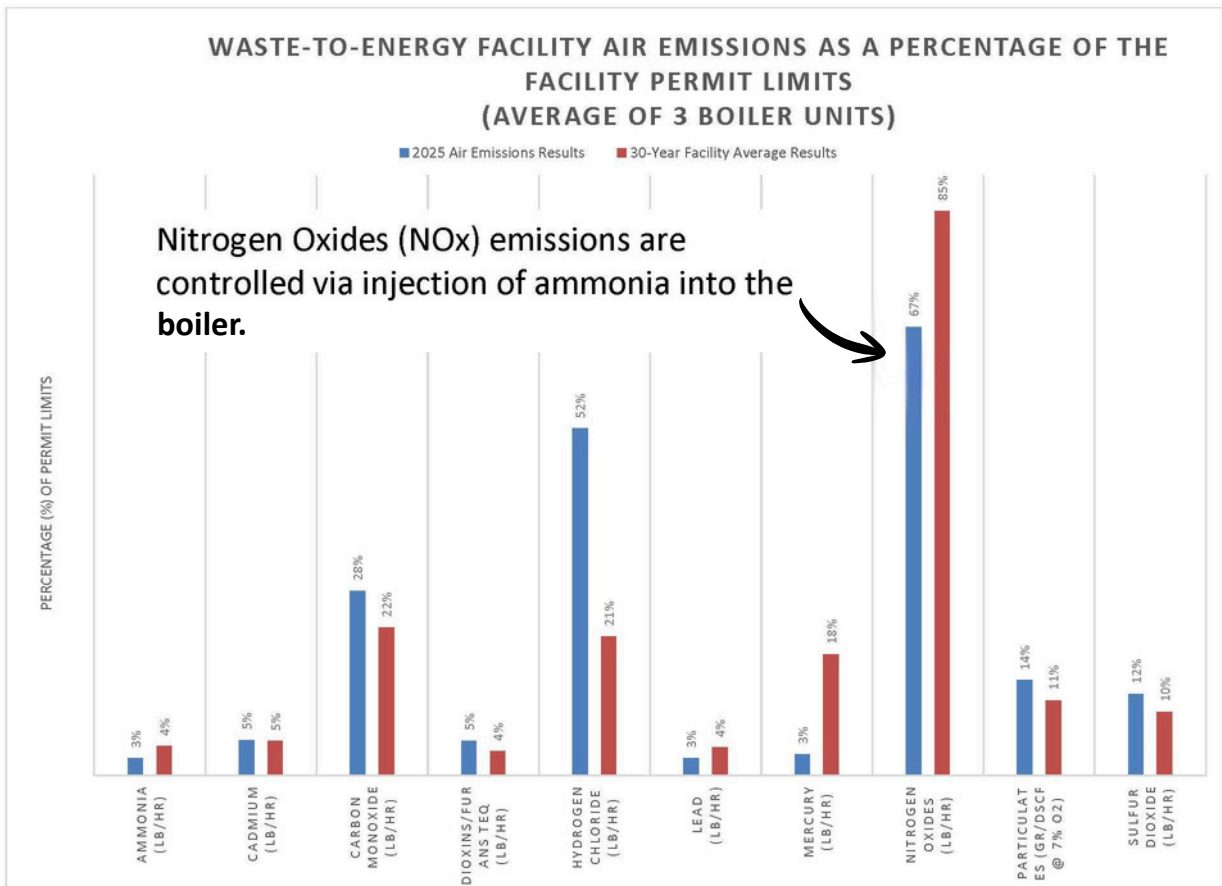
dscm = dry standard cubic meter

@ 7% O₂ = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen

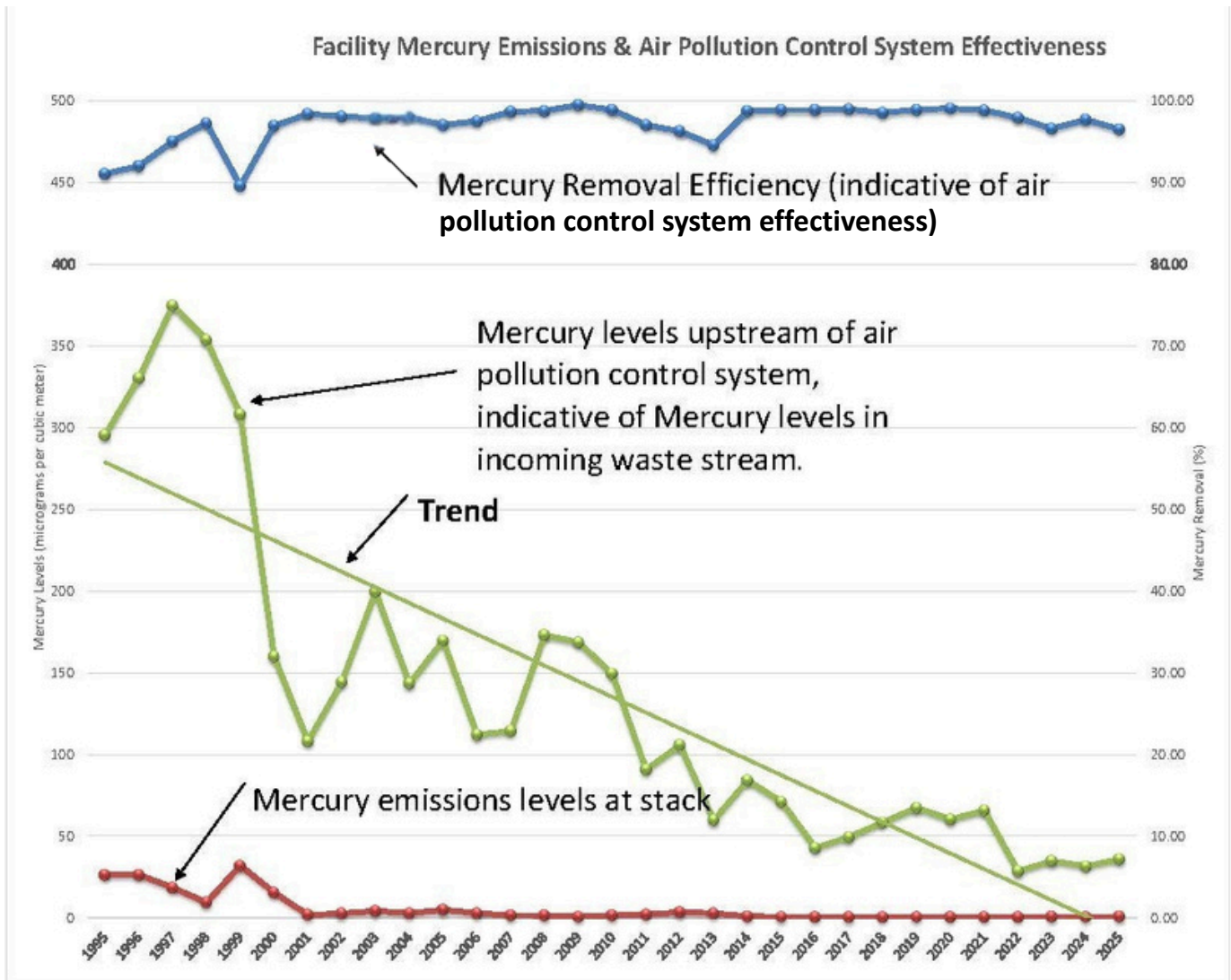
ng = nanograms

µg = micrograms

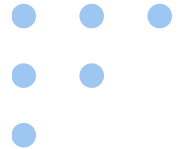
mg = milligrams



Waste-to-Energy



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**ONONDAGA COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
as of December 31, 2025 and 2024
Together with Independent
Auditor's Report**

www.OCRRA.org





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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS PLLC

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
North Syracuse, New York

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise OCRRA's basic financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the respective changes in its financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of OCRRA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

OCRRA's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about OCRRA's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement issuance date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.



Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of OCRRA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about OCRRA's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, other postemployment benefits plan – schedule of funding progress, schedule of proportionate share of net pension liability (asset), and schedule of contributions – pension plans be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 11, 2026, on our consideration of OCRRA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering OCRRA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Grossman St Amour CPAs

Syracuse, New York

March 11, 2026

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

One of the most important questions asked about OCRRA's finances is "*Is OCRRA, as a whole, better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?*" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position report information about OCRRA's activities in a way that will help answer this question. These two statements report the net position of OCRRA and changes in them. You can think of OCRRA's net position - the difference between assets and liabilities - as one way to measure financial health or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in OCRRA's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. Additionally, OCRRA places an emphasis on strategically building and using cash reserves to provide price stability for its member municipalities. You will need to also consider other non-financial factors such as changes in economic conditions, population growth, consumer behavior and new or changed legislation or regulation.

Another important question is "*What direction did OCRRA, as a whole, trend in 2025?*" OCRRA's total net position decreased by \$1,013,848, operating revenues increased from the previous year by about 7.4% while operating expenses increased about 13%. OCRRA's total net position was \$36,934,738 and \$37,948,586 on December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

Table 1

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current assets	\$ 32,680,590	\$ 36,204,972	\$ 35,854,185
Assets limited as to use – long term	256,085	257,000	250,574
Property, plant and equipment - net	23,886,295	21,823,526	20,655,523
Net Pension Asset	-	-	-
Facility lease - net of current portion	<u>31,189,308</u>	<u>34,197,574</u>	<u>37,080,839</u>
Total assets	88,012,278	92,483,072	93,841,121
Deferred outflows of resources	1,438,770	1,707,490	1,846,118
Current liabilities	8,990,894	8,362,843	8,140,460
Long-term liabilities	<u>42,838,783</u>	<u>46,305,597</u>	<u>50,750,272</u>
Total liabilities	51,829,677	54,668,440	58,890,732
Deferred inflows of resources	686,633	1,573,536	954,940
Net position - Net investment in			
Capital assets	14,673,135	11,495,583	10,181,248
Restricted	5,435,290	5,745,067	6,107,499
Unrestricted	<u>16,826,313</u>	<u>20,707,936</u>	<u>19,552,820</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 36,934,738</u>	<u>\$ 37,948,586</u>	<u>\$ 35,841,567</u>

Changes in OCRRA's net position can be determined by reviewing the following condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the years 2025, 2024 and 2023.

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Continued)

Table 2

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating revenues	\$ 46,833,478	\$ 43,590,100	\$ 40,844,640
Other revenues	<u>2,310,692</u>	<u>3,016,967</u>	<u>2,617,288</u>
Total revenues	49,144,170	46,607,067	43,461,928
Operating expenses	48,315,096	42,748,380	40,943,594
Other expenses	<u>1,842,922</u>	<u>1,751,668</u>	<u>1,909,907</u>
Total expenses	50,158,018	44,500,048	42,853,501
Change in net position	(1,013,848)	2,107,019	608,427
Net position - beginning of year	<u>37,948,586</u>	<u>35,841,567</u>	<u>35,233,140</u>
Net position end of year	<u>\$ 36,934,738</u>	<u>\$ 37,948,586</u>	<u>\$ 35,841,567</u>

The decrease in OCRRA's net position in 2025 was primarily due to decreased processing at the waste-to-energy plant. This decreased processing led to significant and unexpected costs for third-party contracted hauling, as well as increased landfill disposal fees. The Agency does not expect this disparity in waste received versus the plant's ability to process to continue beyond 2025.

OCRRA'S FUNDS

OCRRA does not utilize Funds or Fund Accounting. OCRRA maintains funds on deposit with a Trustee as required by contractual obligations entered into as part of OCRRA's 2015 debt restructuring as detailed in the financial statements. As of December 31, 2025, OCRRA funds held by the trustee of \$5,435,290 are recorded as Restricted under the OCRRA's Net Position. These restricted assets are due to the Indenture of Trust agreement between OCRRA and U.S. Bank National Association (the Trustee) that requires OCRRA operating revenues to be maintained on deposit with the Trustee until any necessary payments are made on the 2015 and 2019 Bonds and to the operator of the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Budgetary Highlights

OCRRA's 2025 tipping revenues approximately 1% ahead of budgeted amounts. Compost revenues exceeded the budget by 37% as incoming material significantly increased due to less regional competition and continued increased food waste deliveries. The decreased tonnage processing at the waste-to-energy plant resulted in unexpected hauling costs of approximately \$2,000,000, and additional landfill disposal costs of \$1,970,000. OCRRA's 2025 adopted budget was expecting historical plant processing, and the unplanned costs to dispose of waste are significant. Looking forward, OCRRA's primary rates for solid waste and construction debris were increased modestly, keeping pace with market pressures and regional disposal costs.

Property, Plant and Equipment

At the end of 2025, OCRRA had approximately \$23.9 million in net book value related to capital assets. Capital Assets consists primarily of two transfer stations, a composting facility, and various pieces of operating equipment. During 2025 Property, Plant & Equipment, net increased by approximately \$2.1 million which reflects additions of approximately \$4.0 million, net disposals of approximately \$250,000 and depreciation of approximately \$1.7 million.

Bonds

During 2025, OCRRA reduced outstanding 2015 bonds by \$2,570,000, and its 2019 bonds by \$640,000. The 2015 and 2019 Bonds mature in 2035 and 2034, respectively.

OCRRA'S FUNDS (Continued)

Financed Purchases

As of December 31, 2025, OCRRA had approximately \$76,840 in financed purchases outstanding. OCRRA utilizes this program to strategically spread the cash impact of capital purchases over multiple years. In the current interest rate environment, it has been more cost effective for OCRRA to purchase replacement equipment from its cash reserves.

Facility Lease Agreement – through May 2035

On November 12, 2014, OCRRA reached an agreement (extension) with Covanta Onondaga, L.P., now known as Reworld, to continue the facility lease of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility for 20 years, commencing on May 8, 2015 and continuing until May 8, 2035, with a mutual option of an additional 5-year extension.

In 2015, OCRRA obtained extension financing for the refunding of the 2003 Series B bonds, and for the establishment of the Capital Refurbishment Fund. See Note 8 for additional information.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

The 2026 Budget develops the revenue and expense requirements to continue OCRRA's efforts to provide sound environmental solid waste disposal solutions to our community.

OCRRA operates in a highly complex contractual business setting with rigid regulatory oversight. Its waste disposal infrastructure was very expensive to site and construct, leading to high fixed costs of operation. Budgets are designed around historic waste levels, recent commodity prices, and population expectations. Revenue streams from commodity markets, specifically electricity, metal, fiber, and plastic have become highly variable over the last decade. To ensure consistent and secure waste disposal, OCRRA increased its primary tipping fees for 2026. From time to time, OCRRA will strategically build up or use reserves to maintain the high quality of its services while minimizing the impact of fee changes on the community. Should conditions improve, or get worse, OCRRA will consider case by case program reviews to provide high levels of environmental performance with watchful stewardship of public service fees and reserves.

During 2025, OCRRA utilized approximately \$3.7 million in cash reserves, primarily to fund capital asset investments. OCRRA's reserve balance of approximately \$18 million will be deployed when necessary to provide continued stability to the community's solid waste and recycling programs and invest in aging infrastructure when necessary. To that end, the Board has designated approximately \$5.5 million of its reserves for use on the redevelopment of the Ley Creek Campus, to take place over the next few years. OCRRA's 2026 Budget does not include the use of cash reserves to cover operating expenses. The 2026 Budget is fiscally conservative and reflects current market conditions. OCRRA's strict expenditure controls at a management and Board level are expected to continue to maintain and improve OCRRA's financial condition over time.

CONTACT REGARDING THE AGENCY'S FINANCES

This financial report is designed to provide County residents, customers and creditors with a general overview of OCRRA's finances. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact OCRRA's Public Information Officer at 100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212-4312.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,615,462	\$ 16,610,511
Cash and cash equivalents - board designated	5,469,676	5,228,847
Accounts receivable (net of an allowance for bad debts of \$50,000 in 2025 and \$151,732 in 2024)	3,668,411	3,287,287
Electric revenue receivable	1,062,961	1,041,355
Metal revenue receivables	41,288	27,176
Prepaid expenses	1,692,502	1,694,729
Facility lease agreement, current portion	2,695,000	2,570,000
Assets limited to use, current portion	5,435,290	5,745,067
Total current assets	<u>32,680,590</u>	<u>36,204,972</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:		
Assets limited as to use:		
Funds held by trustee under indenture	256,085	257,000
Property, plant and equipment, net	23,886,295	21,823,526
Facility lease agreement, net of current portion	31,189,308	34,197,574
Total noncurrent assets	<u>55,331,688</u>	<u>56,278,100</u>
Total assets	<u>88,012,278</u>	<u>92,483,072</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred outflows - pension related	<u>1,438,770</u>	<u>1,707,490</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	4,884,418	4,355,860
Bonds payable - 2015 Series A, current portion (NOTE 8)	2,695,000	2,570,000
Bonds payable - 2019, current portion (NOTE 9)	670,000	640,000
Financed purchases liability, current portion	76,840	150,489
Accrued interest	311,739	338,127
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	352,897	308,367
Total current liabilities	<u>8,990,894</u>	<u>8,362,843</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Bonds payable - 2015 Series A (NOTE 8)	30,840,000	33,535,000
Bonds payable - 2019 (NOTE 9)	6,760,000	7,430,000
2015 Bond Premium	2,145,975	2,375,907
2019 Bond Premium	836,767	937,179
2015 Capital Fund	250,573	250,573
Financed purchases liability	-	76,840
Net Pension liability	1,917,292	1,582,978
Other postemployment benefits (NOTE 11)	88,176	117,120
Total non-current liabilities	<u>42,838,783</u>	<u>46,305,597</u>
Total liabilities	<u>51,829,677</u>	<u>54,668,440</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred inflows - pension related	29,385	845,860
Unearned revenue - bond related	657,248	727,676
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>686,633</u>	<u>1,573,536</u>
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	14,673,135	11,495,583
Restricted	5,435,290	5,745,067
Unrestricted	16,826,313	20,707,936
Total net position	<u>\$ 36,934,738</u>	<u>\$ 37,948,586</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Tipping fees	\$ 35,422,158	\$ 34,744,542
Electric revenue	7,602,095	5,473,955
Recovered material revenue	1,424,913	1,446,741
Grant revenue	323,882	485,340
Compost revenue	1,089,654	789,438
Other	<u>970,776</u>	<u>650,084</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>46,833,478</u>	<u>43,590,100</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Personal services	7,333,473	7,052,342
Contractual services -		
Landfill contracts	7,576,152	4,057,549
Other contractual services	121,367	109,533
Materials and supplies	675,257	757,944
Professional fees	503,924	790,457
Recycling	1,156,985	669,101
Compost	722,030	478,567
Hazardous waste disposal	204,093	193,205
Repairs and maintenance	1,362,110	1,167,800
Utilities	138,790	124,435
Insurance	594,964	541,214
Operating leases	159,157	145,439
Depreciation	1,687,098	1,438,566
Taxes and other payments to Host Communities	205,134	199,475
Other	687,361	742,235
Waste-to-Energy operations cost	<u>25,187,201</u>	<u>24,280,518</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>48,315,096</u>	<u>42,748,380</u>
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(1,481,618)</u>	<u>841,720</u>
NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE):		
Interest income - cash and repurchase agreements	290,973	888,078
Interest income - non-system	646,040	628,793
Amortization on 2015 deferred inflow	70,428	70,428
Interest income - facility lease agreement	1,303,251	1,429,668
2015 Bond Interest expense	(1,303,251)	(1,429,668)
2019 Bond Interest expense	(281,755)	(313,171)
Interest expense capital leases	(5,721)	(8,829)
Gain (Loss) on disposition of capital assets	<u>(252,195)</u>	<u>-</u>
Non-operating revenue, net	<u>467,770</u>	<u>1,265,299</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(1,013,848)	2,107,019
NET POSITION - beginning of year	<u>37,948,586</u>	<u>35,841,567</u>
NET POSITION - end of year	<u>\$ 36,934,738</u>	<u>\$ 37,948,586</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from tipping fees	\$ 34,939,302	\$ 34,943,445
Receipts from electric revenue	7,580,489	4,885,902
Other operating receipts	3,795,113	3,365,323
Payments to vendors and suppliers	(12,955,080)	(9,354,595)
Payments to employees	(6,160,832)	(5,923,661)
Payments for Waste-to-Energy (WTE) operations	(21,000,684)	(20,092,585)
Payments for insurance and employee benefits	<u>(1,987,508)</u>	<u>(1,835,368)</u>
Net cash flow provided by operating activities	<u>4,210,800</u>	<u>5,988,461</u>
CASH FLOW FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments on bonds outstanding	(3,210,000)	(3,050,000)
Payments on finance lease obligations	(73,649)	(146,331)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(3,981,616)	(2,606,570)
Payments for interest on bonds outstanding	<u>(1,947,460)</u>	<u>(2,108,118)</u>
Net cash flow used in capital and related financing activities	<u>(9,212,725)</u>	<u>(7,911,019)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Net change in funds held by trustee	310,693	356,005
Proceeds from interest on invested funds	<u>937,012</u>	<u>1,516,871</u>
Net cash flow provided by investing activities	<u>1,247,705</u>	<u>1,872,876</u>
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,754,220)	(49,682)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - beginning of year	<u>21,839,358</u>	<u>21,889,040</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - end of year	<u>\$ 18,085,138</u>	<u>\$ 21,839,358</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET		
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Operating income (loss)	\$ (1,481,618)	\$ 841,720
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash flow from operating activities:		
Depreciation	1,687,098	1,438,566
Debt service portion of Waste-to-Energy operations cost	4,186,517	4,187,933
Change in provision for bad debt expense	(101,732)	101,732
Other postemployment benefits adjustments	(28,944)	-
Bond insurance amortization	38,994	38,994
Change in pension costs	(235,490)	(58,420)
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	(381,124)	97,171
Electric revenue receivable and other receivables	(35,718)	(594,333)
Prepaid expenses	(10,271)	(149,234)
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities	<u>573,088</u>	<u>84,332</u>
Net cash flow provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 4,210,800</u>	<u>\$ 5,988,461</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

1. ORGANIZATION

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) was statutorily created in 1981 as a public benefit corporation under New York State law. OCRRA began active operations in 1990. OCRRA is exempt from federal income taxes under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 115.

Under an agreement between OCRRA and the County of Onondaga (County), OCRRA is responsible for implementing the County Solid Waste Management Program, as well as the construction, operation and otherwise ensuring the availability of solid waste management and recycling facilities for participating municipalities in the County of Onondaga, State of New York. Under current contracts, OCRRA's operations service the thirty-three participating municipalities in Onondaga County.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

OCRRA operates as a proprietary fund. Proprietary funds utilize an "economic resources" measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. All assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources (whether current or noncurrent) associated with their activities are reported.

OCRRA utilizes the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or an economic asset is used.

The accounting policies of OCRRA conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. The accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles is the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefits

OCRRA provides health insurance benefits to certain retired employees and their spouses and beneficiaries. OCRRA accrues the costs for these benefits based on an annual valuation of future expenses.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in checking, savings, money market accounts, and from time-to-time treasury securities with maturity dates of twelve months or less. Board designated cash has been allocated for a specific purpose via board resolution, is kept separate from other cash accounts, and may include treasury securities with longer durations to coincide when the cash need is anticipated.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are carried at their estimated collectible amounts. They are periodically evaluated for collectability based on past credit history with customers and their current financial condition.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment over \$5,000 are capitalized and recorded at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets, which range from 4 to 40 years. Depreciation expense amounted to \$1,687,098 and \$1,438,566 for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

Deferred Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, Deferred Outflows of Resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as expense until then.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, Deferred Inflows of Resources, represents a receipt of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as revenue until then.

Assets Limited as to Use

Assets limited as to use represent funds restricted as to use under OCRRA's Revenue Bond and Facility Lease Agreements.

Net Position

GASB requires the classification of net position into three components. These classifications are displayed in three components below:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - net position with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. See page 14 for detail of the \$5,435,290 restricted net position at December 31, 2025.
- c. Unrestricted net position - net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or net investment in capital assets, including board designated funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is OCRRA's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Revenue Classification

Tipping fees, commodity revenues, fees related to our principal operations and grants are considered operating revenues, as they derive from the OCRRA's principal purpose. Interest income and other miscellaneous sources are considered nonoperating.

Landfill and Related Costs

OCRRA has secured the required permit for the construction of an in-county landfill to be located in the Town of Van Buren (the "Landfill"). Currently, OCRRA transports the ash from the Waste-to-Energy Facility and other non-recyclable waste that cannot be processed at the facility to the High Acres Landfill, near Fairport, New York, the Seneca Meadows Landfill near Waterloo, New York and the Madison County Landfill near Nelson, New York generally under long-term contracts. Construction of the in-county landfill will occur when environmental and economic factors dictate that it is in the best interest of Onondaga County businesses and residents. The cost of the designated site is included in property, plant and equipment (see Note 6). Engineering and consulting fees related to siting, environmental studies and permitting of the Landfill are capitalized. According to Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18, *Accounting for Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Closure and Postclosure Care Costs*, should OCRRA decide to transport waste to the Landfill, OCRRA is required to accrue a portion of the estimated total of closure and postclosure care in each period that waste is accepted at the site. Recognition of such a liability shall begin on the date the Landfill begins accepting waste. As of December 31, 2025 there has been no waste delivered to the Landfill, and no waste is expected to be delivered during 2026.

Environmental and Regulatory Risk

OCRRA operates in an environmentally sensitive industry and is subject to extensive federal and state laws and regulations adopted for the protection of the environment. The laws and regulations are primarily applicable to discharge of emissions into the air and management of solid waste but can also include those related to water use, discharges to water and hazardous waste management. Certain aspects of these laws have extensive and complicated requirements relating to obtaining operating permits, monitoring, record keeping and reporting. Management believes that its facilities are in material compliance with permits and other applicable environmental laws.

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, OCRRA's deposits may not be returned to it.

Statutes authorize OCRRA to maintain deposits with financial institutions and to invest in certificates of deposit, obligations of New York State, the United States Government and its agencies, and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. obligations.

Unrestricted and restricted cash equivalents are covered or collateralized by either federal depository insurance, securities held by the pledging bank's trust department in OCRRA's name, or are U.S. Government and/or federal agency securities held by the Trustee.

At December 31, 2025, the carrying value of OCRRA's cash deposits were approximately \$23,774,911, and the bank balances were approximately \$23,543,980. OCRRA's deposit policies require OCRRA's cash to either be covered by depository insurance or collateralized by governmental securities held by the depository institution. At December 31, 2025, OCRRA had collateralized cash balances of approximately \$2,932,224, collateralized deposits at the Trustee of \$4,702,088, Treasury investments of \$12,829,875 and the remainder was covered by depository insurance.

4. OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

The Onondaga County Solid Waste Management System (System) has implemented a multi-layer “flow control” arrangement to ensure that all legal means of requiring delivery of waste into the System are utilized. First, OCRRA has “delivery agreements” with all 33 participating municipalities in Onondaga County. Those “delivery agreements” commit each municipality to “deliver or cause the delivery” of municipal solid waste (MSW) from their community to the System. Most of the residential MSW is delivered to the System pursuant to municipal pick-up, municipally contracted pick-up, and solid waste districts, implemented in accordance with the “delivery agreements.” In addition, in 2000 - 2001, all 33 municipalities enacted approved, in-state waste site designation laws committing delivery of all of their MSW to the System if the MSW is to be disposed of within the State. Also, in 2003, the Onondaga County Legislature enacted a local “flow control” law, based closely on the language and criteria found in the Oneida-Herkimer Law that directs all municipal solid waste in the 33 participating municipalities to OCRRA’s public Waste-To-Energy Facility. This type of arrangement was reviewed and deemed Constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in its April 2007 Oneida-Herkimer case. The 33 member municipalities have entered into delivery agreements with automatic renewals through 2035. Finally, OCRRA, as additional security, enters into hauler contracts directly with the area’s private and municipal waste haulers, wherein they have contractually committed to deliver all MSW picked up in the 33 participating municipalities to the System. The contracts provide stiff stipulated contractual damage penalties for violation of that contract provision.

5. ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE

Assets limited as to use are held by a trustee in accordance with the terms of the Revenue Bonds Master Bond Resolution (see Note 8) and certain trustee funds represent restricted net position reported on the Statement of Financial Position. The restricted net position includes the following funds at December 31:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Funds accumulated from System revenues to pay for 2015 debt service obligations	\$ 2,080,965	\$ 1,298,078
Funds accumulated from System revenues to pay for 2019 debt service obligations	638,068	605,621
Accumulation of earnings from System revenues to satisfy general OCRRA obligations	<u>2,716,257</u>	<u>3,841,368</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,435,290</u>	<u>\$ 5,745,067</u>

6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment activity for the year ended December 31, 2025 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Land	\$ 802,408	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 802,408
Landfill site	3,854,290	-	-	3,854,290
Landfill site costs	195,760	-	-	195,760
Landfill buildings and improvements	440,484	-	-	440,484
Buildings and improvements	11,861,274	6,396	(1,875,395)	9,992,275
Machinery and vehicles	14,354,633	2,347,913	(110,361)	16,592,185
Furniture and fixtures	153,653	17,547	-	171,200
Computer equipment	101,257	-	-	101,257
Leasehold improvements	3,455,138	343,254	-	3,798,392
Land improvements	3,247,367	-	-	3,247,367
Construction in progress	<u>438,380</u>	<u>1,630,198</u>	<u>(343,254)</u>	<u>1,725,324</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	38,904,644	4,345,308	(2,329,010)	40,920,942
Less: Accumulated depreciation				
Landfill buildings and improvements	(424,110)	(2,689)	-	(426,799)
Buildings and improvements	(3,696,054)	(378,175)	1,623,200	(2,451,029)
Machinery and vehicles	(10,634,958)	(1,142,613)	110,369	(11,667,202)
Furniture and fixtures	(133,216)	(5,640)	-	(138,856)
Computer equipment	(97,287)	(2,647)	-	(99,934)
Leasehold improvements	(2,060,871)	(152,919)	-	(2,213,790)
Land improvements	<u>(34,622)</u>	<u>(2,415)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(37,037)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(17,081,118)</u>	<u>(1,687,098)</u>	<u>1,733,569</u>	<u>(17,034,647)</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>\$ 21,823,526</u>	<u>\$ 2,658,210</u>	<u>\$ (595,441)</u>	<u>\$ 23,886,295</u>

Property, plant and equipment activity for the year ended December 31, 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Land	\$ 802,408	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 802,408
Landfill site	3,854,290	-	-	3,854,290
Landfill site costs	195,760	-	-	195,760
Landfill buildings and improvements	440,484	-	-	440,484
Buildings and improvements	11,679,475	181,799	-	11,861,274
Machinery and vehicles	12,289,991	2,064,642	-	14,354,633
Furniture and fixtures	147,371	6,282	-	153,653
Computer equipment	101,257	-	-	101,257
Leasehold improvements	3,455,138	-	-	3,455,138
Land improvements	3,247,367	-	-	3,247,367
Construction in progress	<u>84,534</u>	<u>353,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>438,380</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	36,298,075	2,606,569	-	38,904,644
Less: Accumulated depreciation				
Landfill buildings and improvements	(421,422)	(2,688)	-	(424,110)
Buildings and improvements	(3,325,968)	(370,086)	-	(3,696,054)
Machinery and vehicles	(9,731,597)	(903,361)	-	(10,634,958)
Furniture and fixtures	(128,769)	(4,447)	-	(133,216)
Computer equipment	(94,639)	(2,648)	-	(97,287)
Leasehold improvements	(1,907,951)	(152,920)	-	(2,060,871)
Land improvements	<u>(32,206)</u>	<u>(2,416)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,622)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(15,642,552)</u>	<u>(1,438,566)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,081,118)</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>\$ 20,655,523</u>	<u>\$ 1,168,003</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,823,526</u>

7. FACILITY LEASE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT

In 1992, OCRRA issued Project Revenue Bonds for the purpose of constructing a Waste-to-Energy Facility (the "Facility") and funding certain reserves and other related costs. Pursuant to various agreements, Reworld (the "Partnership") also funded certain project costs and constructed the Facility. OCRRA leased the Facility and equipment to the Partnership under a long-term lease expiring May 8, 2015 with the Partnership having the option to purchase the Facility for \$1. This lease and service agreement was extended as described in the "Renewal of Facility Lease and Service Agreement" section below.

Pursuant to the facility lease agreement the real property comprising a portion of the Facility is leased to the Partnership.

Pursuant to the service agreement the Partnership operates and maintains the Facility for the processing of solid waste delivered by OCRRA to the Facility.

All revenues of the Facility, which include rates, fees, charges and other realized income received by OCRRA from the ownership, operation, use or services of the Facility, in excess of expenses, are to be paid directly to the Trustee for the benefit of the Partnership and Trustee. After satisfaction of those obligations, remaining revenues revert to OCRRA for its use.

OCRRA's obligation is unconditional and requires payment by OCRRA if there is no waste delivered; OCRRA remains responsible for debt service, which is also paid through the Trustee.

The obligations of the Partnership under the service agreement and facility lease are guaranteed to OCRRA and the Trustee by Reworld.

Renewal of Facility Lease and Service Agreement

In November 2014, OCRRA entered into a twenty (20) year extension of the Second Amended and Restated Service Agreement with the Partnership until May 8, 2035. The extension includes a mutual option to extend the term of the Service Agreement for an additional five (5) years until May 8, 2040. Under this Service Agreement extension, OCRRA was required to refinance the 2003 Series B bonds for a term that is coterminous with the base term of the Service Agreement extension (See Note 8). This is in addition to the service fee and other facility related OCRRA cost obligations, i.e. operations and maintenance charge, pass through costs, ash disposal costs and debt service on any Capital Refurbishment bonds.

OCRRA committed to a minimum annual waste delivery obligation of 320,000 in 2015 and 345,000 tons for full years thereafter, with OCRRA paying shortfall damages equal to the Partnership's lost electric and metal revenue for each shortfall ton. The maximum annual waste capacity is the Facility's permitted capacity less some limited tonnage available to the Partnership for Supplemental Waste. Net electric revenue is shared 90% OCRRA/10% Partnership and metal revenue is shared 50%/50% with a ceiling amount. OCRRA remains responsible for ash transport and disposal with some limited exceptions.

OCRRA will have legal ownership of the Facility during the term but at the end of the term, the Partnership will own it with an option for OCRRA to purchase it at that point for Fair Market Value. The Partnership will retain tax ownership of the Facility during the term. OCRRA would account for this agreement as a sale in accordance with GASB 87.

OCRRA established a Capital Refurbishment Fund to assist in funding OCRRA's share of needed Capital Refurbishment Projects, which is included with assets limited to use on the Statement of Net Position.

7. FACILITY LEASE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT (Continued)

Renewal of Facility Lease and Service Agreement (Continued)

As described in Note 8, OCRRA issued 2015A and 2015B series debt in accordance with the terms of the facility lease renewal. This resulted in the recognition of new facility lease assets, which will be recognized throughout the term of the contract extension and in an amount approximating the underlying debt service requirements of the 2015A and 2015B series debt. OCRRA may refinance, issue or call any debt issued under the contract extension at OCRRA's sole discretion as long as such action does not violate the extension agreement terms. OCRRA may call any new bonds issued under the terms of any bond indenture provided OCRRA provides adequate advance notice to the Partnership at least prior to October 1st of the preceding year. The debt service for the refinanced 2003 Series B bonds and Capital Refurbishment bonds, as applicable, will be added to the Service Fee, and payment will be made in a similar fashion as under the previous service agreement. The Partnership will provide an initial \$21,000,000 parent guarantee declining on an annual basis by \$500,000 per year until it reaches \$16,000,000.

The Waste-to-Energy operations cost is composed of the following:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating and pass-through costs	\$ 21,000,684	\$ 20,092,585
Capital charge (2015 Bond Debt Service)	<u>4,186,517</u>	<u>4,187,933</u>
Total	<u>\$ 25,187,201</u>	<u>\$ 24,280,518</u>

Future minimum annual payments from the Partnership are as follows at December 31:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ 2,695,000
2027	2,830,000
2028	2,975,000
2029	3,120,000
2030	3,275,000
2031 – 2035	<u>18,640,000</u>
Total future minimum payments	33,535,000
Less: Income recognized prior to May principal payment	<u>(1,796,667)</u>
Net Investment in Lease Agreement	31,738,333
Less: Current portion	<u>(2,695,000)</u>
Long-term portion	<u>\$ 29,043,333</u>

8. 2015 SERIES A AND 2015 SERIES B BONDS PAYABLE

In 2015, OCRRA issued \$54,560,000 in Revenue Bonds, consisting of Series 2015A Tax-Exempt Bonds totaling \$53,505,000 and Series 2015B Taxable Bonds totaling \$1,055,000. The 2015A bonds bear interest at an escalating rate from 3% to 5%. The 2015A bonds have a tiered maturity schedule with annual principal maturations through May 1, 2030, and an \$18,640,000 final maturity on May 1, 2035. The 2015B bonds bore interest at 1.75%, and matured May 1, 2016.

The 2015A bonds maturing on May 1, 2035 are subject to mandatory sinking fund requirements on May 1, 2031 and on each May 1 thereafter as follows:

<u>May 1:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2031	\$ 3,445,000
2032	3,580,000
2033	3,720,000
2034	3,870,000
2035	4,025,000

As part of the debt issuance, \$42,695,385 in outstanding 2003B bonds were refunded and retired.

Activity relative to the 2015A and 2015B bonds payable for the year ended December 31, 2025 was as follows:

	Balance at December 31, <u>2024</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Balance at December 31, <u>2025</u>	Due in <u>one year</u>
2015A	\$ 36,105,000	\$ -	\$ (2,570,000)	\$ 33,535,000	\$ 2,695,000
2015B	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 36,105,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (2,570,000)</u>	<u>\$ 33,535,000</u>	<u>2,695,000</u>
Bond Premium	<u>2,375,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(229,932)</u>	<u>2,145,975</u>	<u>229,932</u>
Total	<u>\$ 38,480,907</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (2,799,932)</u>	<u>\$ 35,680,975</u>	<u>\$ 2,924,932</u>

Activity relative to the 2015A and 2015B bonds payable for the year ended December 31, 2024 was as follows:

	Balance at December 31, <u>2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Balance at December 31, <u>2024</u>	Due in <u>one year</u>
2015A	\$ 38,550,000	\$ -	\$ (2,445,000)	\$ 36,105,000	\$ 2,570,000
2015B	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 38,550,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (2,445,000)</u>	<u>\$ 36,105,000</u>	<u>2,570,000</u>
Bond Premium	<u>2,605,839</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(229,932)</u>	<u>2,375,907</u>	<u>229,932</u>
Total	<u>\$ 41,155,839</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (2,674,932)</u>	<u>\$ 38,480,907</u>	<u>\$ 2,799,932</u>

8. 2015 SERIES A AND SERIES B BONDS PAYABLE (Continued)

General covenants require OCRRA to impose charges sufficient to pay debt service, enforce certain contractual obligations that assure continued flow of Onondaga County waste into the System, prepare annual budgets and maintain proper books and records, and to furnish appropriate financial information to the Trustee on an annual basis. These bonds are available on the secondary market but are lightly traded. Specific covenants include the setting of tipping fees and user charges that when taken together with other System Revenues, produces revenues available for debt service in each fiscal year equal to or exceeding 110% of all debt service on the bonds outstanding during the period, and the maintaining of \$3,000,000 in unencumbered cash reserves as of June 30 and December 31 of each fiscal year.

Interest paid as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, amounted to \$1,554,600 and \$1,679,975 respectively.

The following is a schedule of the future minimum payments under the bond agreement, including mandatory sinking fund requirements as of December 31:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 2,695,000	\$ 1,422,975	\$ 4,117,975
2027	2,830,000	1,284,850	4,114,850
2028	2,975,000	1,139,725	4,114,725
2029	3,120,000	987,350	4,107,350
2030	3,275,000	827,475	4,102,475
2031 – 2035	18,640,000	1,922,000	20,562,000
Total	<u>\$ 33,535,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,584,375</u>	<u>\$ 41,119,375</u>

9. 2019 BONDS PAYABLE

In 2019, OCRRA issued \$10,835,000 in Revenue Bonds, as subordinate lien bonds under the 2015 Master Indenture. The 2019 bonds bear interest at an escalating rate from 3% to 5%. The 2019 bonds have a tiered maturity schedule with annual principal maturations through May 1, 2034. Interest paid amounted to \$387,500 and \$418,625 in 2025 and 2024, respectively. These bonds are subject to the covenants contained in the 2015 Master Indenture. Activity relative to the Series 2019 bonds payable for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Balance at December 31, 2024</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance at December 31, 2025</u>	<u>Due in one year</u>
Series 2019	<u>\$ 8,070,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(640,000)</u>	<u>\$ 7,430,000</u>	<u>\$ 670,000</u>
Bond Premium	<u>\$ 937,179</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(100,412)</u>	<u>\$ 836,767</u>	<u>\$ 100,412</u>
	<u>Balance at December 31, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance at December 31, 2024</u>	<u>Due in one year</u>
Series 2019	<u>\$ 8,675,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(605,000)</u>	<u>\$ 8,070,000</u>	<u>\$ 640,000</u>
Bond Premium	<u>\$ 1,037,591</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(100,412)</u>	<u>\$ 937,179</u>	<u>\$ 100,412</u>

9. 2019 BONDS PAYABLE (Continued)

The following is a schedule of the future minimum payments under the Series 2019 supplemental bond agreement as of December 31:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 670,000	\$ 354,750	\$ 1,024,750
2027	705,000	320,375	1,025,375
2028	740,000	284,250	1,024,250
2029	780,000	246,250	1,026,250
2030	820,000	206,250	1,026,250
2031 – 2034	3,715,000	383,125	4,098,125
Total	<u>\$ 7,430,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,225,000</u>

10. RETIREMENT PLANS

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS)

OCRRA participates in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) also referred to as New York State and Local Retirement System (the System). This is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system, providing retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), established to hold all net position and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System, System benefits are established under the provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (NYS RSSL). Once an employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. OCRRA also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP), which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The System is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to the benefits provided, may be found on the following website shown: www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244.

The System is noncontributory for the employees who joined prior to July 27, 1976. For employees who joined the Systems after July 27, 1976, and prior to January 1, 2010, employees contribute 3% of their salary, except that employees in the System more than ten years are no longer required to contribute. For employees who joined after January 1, 2010 and prior to April 1, 2012, employees in NYSERS contribute 3% of their salary throughout their active membership. For employees who joined after April 1, 2012, employees contribute 3% of their salary until April 1, 2013 and then contribute 3% to 6% of their salary throughout their active membership. The Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the System's fiscal year ending March 31.

Contributions for the current year and two preceding years were equal to 100 percent of contributions required, and were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 723,628
2024	617,645
2023	495,650

10. RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, OCRRA reported a net pension liability of \$1,917,292 and \$1,582,978, respectively, for its proportionate share of the NYS ERS net pension liability. The net pension asset/liability was measured as of March 31, 2025 and 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by the actuarial valuations as of those dates. OCRRA's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of OCRRA's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2025 and 2024, OCRRA's proportion was .0111823% and .0107510% respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, OCRRA recognized pension expense adjustments of \$(239,937) and \$(24,727), respectively.

At December 31, 2025, OCRRA reported deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 475,885	\$ 22,448
Changes of Assumptions	80,407	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	150,425	-
Changes in proportion and differences between OCRRA's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	189,332	6,937
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>542,721</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,438,770</u>	<u>\$ 29,385</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year Ended March 31:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ 389,558
2027	546,352
2028	(115,126)
2029	45,882
2030	-
Thereafter	-
Total	<u>\$ 866,666</u>

OCRRA recognized \$542,719 as a deferred outflow of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions made subsequent to the measurement date of March 31, 2025, which will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2026.

10. RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) (Continued)

At December 31, 2024, OCRRA reported deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 509,876	\$ 43,164
Changes of Assumptions	598,488	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	773,276
Changes in proportion and differences between OCRRA's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	135,892	29,420
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>463,234</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,707,490</u>	<u>\$ 845,860</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year Ended March 31:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ (261,243)
2026	331,649
2027	482,162
2028	(154,172)
2029	-
Thereafter	-
Total	<u>\$ 398,396</u>

OCRRA recognized \$463,234 as a deferred outflow of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions made subsequent to the measurement date of March 31, 2024, which will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2025.

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability at March 31, 2025 was determined by using an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2024, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2025. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	<u>ERS</u> 2.9%
Salary increases	4.3%
Investment Rate of Return (net investment expense and inflation)	5.9%
Cost of living adjustments	1.5%

Annuitant mortality rates are based on ERS System experience from 2016 - 2020 and mortality improvement assumptions based on the Society of Actuaries MP-2021 scale.

The actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2025 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2015 – April 1, 2020.

10. RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized below:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-term Expected Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	25.0%	3.54%
International Equity	14.0	6.57
Private Equity	15.0	7.25
Real Estate	12.0	4.95
Opportunistic/Absolute Return	3.0	5.25
Credit	4.0	5.40
Real Assets	4.0	5.55
Fixed Income	22.0	2.00
Cash	1.0	.25
Total	100%	

The real rate of return is net of the long-term inflation assumption of 2.90%.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension liability was 5.9%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially. Based upon the assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position (000's)

The components of the current-year net pension liability of the employers as of March 31, 2025 were as follows:

Total pension liability	\$ 247,600,239
Net position	<u>230,454,512</u>
Net pension liability (asset)	<u>\$ 17,145,727</u>
ERS net position as a percentage of total pension liability	<u>93.08%</u>

10. RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to the Discount Rate Assumption – December 31, 2025

The following presents OCRRA's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 5.90%, as well as what the OCRRA's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower (4.9%) or 1% higher (6.9%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease <u>(4.9%)</u>	Current Discount <u>(5.9%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(6.9%)</u>
Proportionate Share of Net Pension liability (asset)	\$ 5,548,884	\$ 1,917,292	\$ (1,115,090)

New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to the Discount Rate Assumption – December 31, 2024

The following presents OCRRA's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 5.90%, as well as what the OCRRA's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower (4.9%) or 1% higher (6.9%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease <u>(4.9%)</u>	Current Discount <u>(5.9%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(6.9%)</u>
Proportionate Share of Net Pension liability (asset)	\$ 4,977,043	\$ 1,582,978	\$ (1,251,771)

Deferred Compensation Plan

Several of OCRRA's employees elect to participate in the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan under Section 457 of the Tax Law.

11. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

Health Insurance Benefits

In addition to providing pension benefits, OCRRA provides health insurance benefits to certain retired employees and their spouses and beneficiaries, hired before April 10, 2002, between the ages of 55 and 65 under a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan, the OCRRA Postretirement Healthcare Benefits Plan. The plan is administered by OCRRA. OCRRA's Board of Directors has the authority to establish and amend the plan's benefits.

Funding Policy

Eligible employees who retire from employment between the ages of 55 and 61 may waive their COBRA rights and continue their health insurance benefits (exclusive of dental coverage) by paying the full cost of the coverage. These employees at age 62 may continue coverage until they become Medicare eligible by paying 25% of the coverage with OCRRA contributing the other 75% of premiums for eligible retired plan members and their spouses. Once these employees are eligible for Medicare they lose their coverage and receive payments equal to \$50 per month until their death. The payments are intended to offset the cost of Medicare supplemental benefits, but retirees are not required to use the payments for that purpose. Represented employees hired after January 1, 2002, and non-represented employees hired after April 10, 2002 are not eligible for any postemployment benefits.

11. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (Continued)

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

OCRRA's annual other postemployment benefit (OPEB) cost is calculated based on the net OPEB obligation and the estimated amortization years remaining. OCRRA has elected to calculate the OPEB obligation and related information using the alternative measurement method permitted by GASB Statement 75 for employers in plans with fewer than one hundred total plan members. The following table shows the components of OCRRA's annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in OCRRA's net OPEB obligation:

Annual required contribution	\$ 35,035
Actuarial adjustment	(28,944)
Contributions made	<u>(35,035)</u>
Decrease in net OPEB obligation	(28,944)
Net OPEB obligation - beginning of year	<u>117,120</u>
Net OPEB obligation - end of year	<u>\$ 88,176</u>
Annual OPEB cost	\$ 35,035
Percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed	100%

OCRRA's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, the net OPEB obligation for the fiscal year 2025 and the two preceding years were as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>	<u>Annual OPEB Cost</u>	<u>Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed</u>	<u>Net OPEB Obligation</u>
12/31/2023	\$ 24,713	95.37%	\$ 172,994
12/31/2024	15,118	37.7%	117,120
12/31/2025	35,035	100.0%	88,176

The projection of future benefit payments for an ongoing plan involves estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about retirement age and healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with long-term perspective of the calculations. The valuation is performed December 31 of each year.

11. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (Continued)

Methods and Assumptions (continued)

The following simplifying assumptions were made:

- *Retirement age for active employees* - Based on the historical average retirement age for the covered group, active plan members were assumed to retire at age 63.4 years.
- *Marital status* - Marital status of members at the calculation date was assumed to continue throughout retirement.
- *Eligibility* - Retirees are entitled to benefits until the age of 65 years.
- *Healthcare cost trend rate* - The expected rate of increase in healthcare insurance premiums was a rate of 5% with minor fluctuations ending at an ultimate rate of 5% after eight years.
- *Health insurance premiums* - 2026 health insurance premiums for retirees were used as the basis for calculation of the present value of total benefits to be paid.
- *Early Retirees* - Health insurance costs for early retirees were calculated based on actual expenses during 2025 and assumes that each retiree retains their current coverage through the date they become Medicare eligible.

Based on the historical and expected returns of OCRRA's cash and cash equivalents, a discount rate of 3% was used.

12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Operating Leases

OCRRA leases land, equipment and office facilities under operating leases. Rental payments under these agreements were approximately \$138,000 and \$129,000 during 2025 and 2024, respectively. Obligations under all cancelable and non-cancelable long-term operating leases are as follows at December 31, 2025:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ 115,800
2027	61,300
2028	4,800
2029	-
Total	<u>\$ 181,900</u>

Financed Purchases:

Since 2017, OCRRA has utilized a municipal finance lease program for the purchase of replacement equipment required for OCRRA operations. These agreements allow OCRRA to preserve cash reserves while purchasing needed equipment in a timely manner. The interest rate on the outstanding agreement is 2.80%. During 2025, OCRRA made principal payments of \$150,489, and interest payments of \$5,360. The net book value of assets under these financed purchases at December 31, 2025 is \$115,964.

12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

Financed Purchases (continued):

The following is an aggregate schedule of future principal and interest payments as of December 31, 2025:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 76,840	\$ 1,084	\$ 77,924

Property Stabilization

In 1997, OCRRA approved a property stabilization program to assist a limited number of property owners who live immediately adjacent to the landfill site. Payments under the plan make up a portion of the difference between the fully assessed value of a property and the actual sales price. In 2025 and 2024, no such payments were made.

Landfill Contracts

OCRRA maintains direct contracts with local area landfills, including High Acres Landfill, Seneca Meadows Landfill, and Madison County Landfill. OCRRA has access to Ontario Landfill through third-party haulers, as needed. OCRRA's disposal contracts range from one to five years, with rates representative of market rates for construction and demolition debris, incinerator ash residue, and tires. The current disposal contracts expire between 2026 and 2029. Total costs incurred under all agreements were \$5,166,687 and \$3,611,437 during 2025 and 2024; respectively and are included in landfill contracts on the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position.

OCRRA entered into an Interim Host Community Agreement (Interim Agreement) with the Town of Van Buren (Van Buren) in 1998. The Interim Agreement provides for annual payments to Van Buren during the period prior to development of the landfill facility. The Interim Agreement includes provisions for annual increases based upon a five-year rolling average of the Van Buren tax rate. In no case shall such annual increase be greater than 2%, according to the Interim Agreement. The Host Community Interim Agreement was extended pursuant to an automatic renewal provision through the year 2026.

OCRRA recorded payments to Van Buren in the amount of \$63,269 and \$62,643 in 2025 and 2024, respectively.

Waste-to-energy capacity

The County's solid waste management plan relies heavily on consistent and continued disposal capacity at the waste-to-energy plant. Should the plant capacity significantly diminish, or become unavailable altogether, the cost of waste disposal to the community would substantially increase. OCRRA maintains emergency rates with local landfills for municipal solid waste disposal should the need arise.

Litigation

OCRRA is occasionally a party to various proceedings arising in the normal course of business. There are presently no proceedings pending that would have a significant impact on the financial position of OCRRA.

Recycling

OCRRA's current contract with a local material recovery facility has certain termination clauses. Should either party cancel this agreement, OCRRA could incur significant expenditures to continue its recycling program. OCRRA's agreement with the facility runs to December 31, 2026.

12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

Union Contract

OCRRA's contract with union employees runs through December 31, 2026.

Financial Assurance

OCRRA maintains several permits and registrations with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Regulations require that OCRRA calculate and provide financial assurance for closure costs related to these facilities. OCRRA has elected to meet this requirement through a local government financial test. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, OCRRA's estimated closure costs were \$2,523,622 and \$2,460,261, respectively, related to non-landfill facilities. These costs are recognized in the year a facility's operations cease; or amortized from the date a decision has been made to cease operations through the closure date. More information on these requirements can be found in the NYS DEC Regulations, specifically 6 NYCRR Part 360.

13. NATIONAL GRID AGREEMENT

OCRRA and National Grid participate in an electricity purchase agreement through 2026. National Grid and OCRRA have established the upper limit for the agreement at 243,000,000 Kwh. For calendar year 2025, OCRRA received 77.50% of the market rate. In 2025 and 2024, respectively, OCRRA received an annual average sale price of 4.70 and 2.94 cents per kilowatt hour.

14. CONCENTRATION

The top five haulers delivered approximately 61.0% and 57.6% of the total municipal solid waste to OCRRA during the years ended December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively. These haulers also accounted for approximately 56% and 53% of accounts receivable at December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated by management through March 11, 2026, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS
DECEMBER 31, 2025**

<u>Year</u>	Actuarial Value of <u>Assets</u>	Total OPEB <u>Liability</u>	<u>Funded Ratio</u>
December 31, 2023	-	172,994	0%
December 31, 2024	-	117,120	0%
December 31, 2025	-	88,176	0%

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PENSIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability (Asset) – in thousands

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	.01%	.01%	.01%	.01%	.01%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$1,917	\$1,583	\$2,281	(\$875)	\$11
Covered employee payroll	\$5,294	\$4,945	\$4,465	\$3,983	\$3,673
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	36.21%	32.01%	51.09%	(21.97%)	84.22%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	93.08%	93.88%	90.78%	103.65%	86.39%

Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability (Asset) – in thousands

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	.01%	.01%	.01%	.01%	.01%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$3,102	\$917	\$420	\$1,154	\$2,019
Covered employee payroll	\$3,683	\$4,044	\$3,894	\$4,021	\$3,653
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	22.68%	10.78%	28.70%	28.70%	55.26%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	96.27%	98.24%	94.70%	94.70%	90.70%

Schedule of Contributions, Pension Plans – in thousands

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 613	\$ 492	\$ 496	\$ 403	\$ 547
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>\$ 613</u>	<u>\$ 492</u>	<u>\$ 496</u>	<u>\$ 403</u>	<u>\$ 547</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$5,294	\$4,945	\$4,465	\$3,983	\$3,673
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	11.58%	9.95%	11.11%	10.12%	14.89%

Schedule of Contributions, Pension Plans – in thousands

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 535	\$ 531	\$ 553	\$ 524	\$ 533
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>\$ 535</u>	<u>\$ 531</u>	<u>\$ 553</u>	<u>\$ 524</u>	<u>\$ 533</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>	<u> -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$3,683	\$4,044	\$3,894	\$4,021	\$3,653
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	14.53%	13.13%	14.20%	13.03%	14.59%



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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS PLLC

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
North Syracuse, New York

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise OCRRA's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 11, 2026.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered OCRRA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of OCRRA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of OCRRA's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether OCRRA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of OCRRA's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the OCRRA's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Grossman St Amour CPAs

Syracuse, New York
March 11, 2026

OCRRA Management

Kevin Spillane
Executive Director

Michael Mokrzycki
Deputy Director

Cristina Albunio
Director of Engineering

Kristen R. Lawton
Recycling & Waste Reduction Director

Dan Haas
Director of Transfer Operations

Tammy Palmer
Public Information Officer

James Gascon, Esq.
Outside Legal Counsel

Renee Czerwiak
Executive Secretary

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