



2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED & UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING ANALYSIS

This report is submitted pursuant to:

- NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3142-00028/00011
Solid Waste Permit: Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility
- NYSDEC Permit Number 7 3156 00047/00001
Solid Waste Permit: OCRRA Landfill
- NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3148-00048/00003
Solid Waste Permit: Ley Creek Transfer Station

Period reported: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
Date: February 27, 2026
Planning Unit: County of Onondaga including the City of Syracuse, excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles
Contact Person: Ms. Kristen Lawton, Director of Recycling and Reduction, OCRRA, 100 Elwood Davis Road North Syracuse, NY 13212-4312

2025 Recycling Data

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) is a non-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature, which delivers a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. Since beginning operations in 1990, OCRRA has overseen the recycling of more than 12 million tons of material.

OCRRA inventories and records tonnages of all material recycled through the Agency's curbside program. **In 2025, 26,734 tons of materials were collected and recycled from households through OCRRA's curbside recycling program.** The OCRRA service area has a population of approximately 462,754 people, with roughly 191,926 households. It should be noted that this tonnage is curbside recycling managed through OCRRA's system. Curbside recycling is not flow controlled in Onondaga County.

In 2025, 413,397 tons of materials were recycled through mandatory and voluntary residential and commercial recycling programs in Onondaga County. Recycled material made up 51.71% of the total recycling and solid waste. (Table 1).

Table 1 - 2025 Recycling and Solid Waste Totals		
Recycling	Tons	% of Total Waste
OCRRA Curbside Recycling (Primarily Residential)	26,734	6%
Commercial Recycling (Primarily Business) ¹	386,663	94%
Total Recycling	413,397	51.71%
Solid Waste		
OCRRA Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	280,958	
MSW Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Recycling ²	(9,860)	
OCRRA Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D) ²	82,016	
Metal Removed from Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)	(1,743)	
Other Waste ³	34,643	
Total Solid Waste	386,014	48.29%
Total Recycling and Solid Waste	799,411	

¹ Data is voluntarily reported to OCRRA by recycling companies, governmental organizations, retail, and commercial firms. Reported data has been adjusted to eliminate known double counting. Data reporting is voluntary and is not audited by OCRRA. In cases when data is not reported voluntarily, OCRRA has gathered data from historical NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reporting.

²Ferrous, nonferrous, and other metals that are recovered from MSW at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility and recycled are subtracted to avoid double counting.

³Includes biosolids currently being sent to a landfill.

Table 1 shows the total recycling and trash generation for 2025 in OCRRA’s service area including the total solid waste percentages and the actual percentages / tonnages of recyclables removed from the waste stream. In addition to the mandatory recycling materials (see Table 4), this total also includes voluntary recycling materials such as batteries, food waste, electronic waste, hazardous waste, yard waste, and construction debris.

NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3142-00028/00011 issued to OCRRA to operate the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility includes a recycling goal of at least 40% processible waste annually. The processible recycling rate, as defined by NYSDEC, considers only those materials recycled that could have otherwise been disposed of at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility. For example, it does not include yard waste, which is unacceptable waste at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility. **The processible recycling rate in 2025 was**

51.00%. As such, OCRRA maintained the recycling goal of at least 40% processible waste, consistent with the NYSDEC Comprehensive Recycling Analysis (CRA) requirements.

The first CSWMP Biennial Update and Two-Year Extension was approved by NYSDEC on January 29, 2024; it extended the Local Solid Waste Management Plan through December 31, 2026. The projected recovery rates were 56%.

The second CSWMP Biennial Update and Two-Year Extension was approved by NYSDEC on January 26, 2026; it extended the Local Solid Waste Management Plan through December 31, 2028.

Table 2 shows 2025 totals for processible recycling and municipal solid waste.

Table 2 - 2025 Processible Recycling and Municipal Solid Waste		
Processible¹ Recycling	Tons	% of Total Waste
OCRRA Curbside Recycling (Primarily Residential)	26,734	
Processible Commercial (Primarily Business) ²	255,432	
Total Processible Recycling	282,166	51.00%
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)		
Incoming OCRRA Municipal Solid Waste	280,958	
MSW Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Recycling ³	(9,860)	
Total MSW	271,098	49.00%
Total Processible Recycling and Solid Waste	553,263	

¹Processible materials are those which could have been disposed of at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, including Non-Ferrous Metals, Ferrous Metals, Glass, Wood, Office Paper, Newspapers, Magazines, Corrugated Cardboard and Paperboard, Textiles, and Plastics.

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³When calculating recycling rates, ferrous and nonferrous metals recovered from MSW at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility are subtracted to avoid double counting.

Table 3 shows 2025 recycling totals by material type.

Table 3 - 2025 Recycling by Material¹		
Material Type	Tons	Percent of Total
<i>Organic Wastes (Excluding Paper)</i>		
Food	119,142	29%
Yard Waste	11,101	3%
Wood	4,833	1%
Textiles	4,276	1%
Total Organic Wastes	139,353	34%
<i>Plastics</i>		
Total Plastics	4,681	1%
<i>Metal</i>		
Non-Ferrous Metals	13,170	3%
Ferrous Metals	116,928	28%
Other Metals	1,743	0%
Total Metals	131,840	32%
<i>Paper</i>		
Corrugated Cardboard & Paperboard	98,393	24%
Office Paper, Newspapers and Magazines	5,844	1%
Books	566	0%
Total Paper	104,803	25%
<i>Other</i>		
Glass	5,564	1%
Hazardous Wastes	-	0%
Electronics/Computers	2,733	1%
Batteries	2,672	1%
Sludge/Wastewater	-	0%
Miscellaneous	21,751	5%
Total Other	32,720	8%
Total Material Recycled²	413,397	100%

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²Total Material Recycled does not include curbside recycling residue resulting from processing at the material recovery facility from residential curbside collection.

Required Recycling

The original Onondaga County Source Separation Law, which mandated recycling of certain materials by all waste generators, was passed by the County Legislature in 1989. The law was updated in 2011.

Table 4 lists mandatory recyclables.

Table 4 - OCRRA Mandated Recyclables
Office Paper and Discarded Mail
Newspapers and Magazines
Corrugated Cardboard, Brown Paper Bags, Paperboard, PizzaBoxes
Milk and Juice Cartons, Gable-top Cartons, Aseptic Cartons
Glass Food and Beverage Containers
Metal Food and Beverage Containers
Aluminum Foil
Aerosol Cans
#1 and #2 Plastic Bottles
#5 Plastic Dairy Containers
Soft Cover Books

Markets and Material Recovery

MRF Contract

For nearly 30 years, OCRRA has contracted with a local material recovery facility (MRF) that is owned and operated by WM-Recycle America (WM-RA). WM-RA is responsible for sorting, baling, and marketing the curbside residential recycling material collected by private haulers, municipal haulers, and municipalities with private hauling contracts. There is no contract arrangement between OCRRA and WM-RA for commercial materials generated in Onondaga County, only for residential materials.

The contract states that OCRRA pays a fee to WM-RA (\$88.87 / ton in 2025) to perform the sorting, baling, marketing and transport of the recycled materials and shares in revenues from sold materials (if any). Depending on market conditions, the contract results in either cost or revenue to OCRRA. Haulers may bring commercial recycling materials to WM-RA, but they must arrange through WM-RA separately.

2025 Recycling Markets

PAPER:

Mixed Paper:

Commodity values of mixed paper started out at \$40 / ton and steadily declined through the year, finally ending 2025 at \$25/ton in December.

Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC):

Similarly to mixed paper, OCC steadily declined throughout 2025. In January, the value was \$80/ton, ending the year at \$60/ton in December.

CONTAINERS:

Aluminum and Natural High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE):

Both commodities saw a quarter-over-quarter increase in Q2 from Q1, then saw a decline throughout the remainder of 2025. Aluminum averaged \$1,290/ton and Natural HDPE averaged \$1,463/ton during the year.

Colored High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), and Polypropylene (PP):

All three commodities were variable throughout the year. Colored HDPE averaged \$117/ton, PET averaged \$262/ton, and PP averaged \$253/ton.

Steel and Rigid Plastics:

Steel started the year at \$15/ton, increasing to \$40/ton in March and maintained that price throughout the remainder of 2025. Rigid plastics maintained the price of \$20/ton throughout the year.

GLASS:

For most of the first half of 2025, OCRRA paid an average of \$72/ton to dispose of glass as it was considered unsuitable for use as Alternative Operating Cover (AOC) in 2024 at the High Acres Landfill. From that point forward and through June of 2025, glass was landfilled as waste and was not counted as recycling for purposes of this report.

In an attempt to manage OCRRA's glass in a more beneficial manner, OCRRA and the Madison County Department of Solid Waste proposed a plan to the NYSDEC where OCRRA's MRF glass could be utilized as Alternative Operating Cover (AOC) at Madison County Landfill. In June 2025, the NYSDEC approved 3,500 tons of OCRRA MRF glass being used as AOC at the Madison County Landfill annually, under a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD).

Following the approval, from the end of June to December 2025, OCRRA transported more than 2,600 tons of glass to Madison County Landfill. This BUD saved OCRRA more than \$125,000 in glass disposal charges in 2025.

In 2026, OCRRA expects to reach the 3,500-ton limit and while the BUD allows for beneficial use of the glass, OCRRA will need to manage some glass as traditional landfill waste as more than 3,500-tons of glass are collected. The management of glass as landfill waste is a challenge. Reliable markets for glass collected curbside from residents do not exist and beneficial reuses are becoming limited as DEC modifies landfills' AOC outlets. Glass collected curbside cost our residents \$195,000 in 2025.

AVERAGE BLENDED VALUE:

The rise and fall of the market price of recyclable material affects the average blended value (ABV) of curbside recycling commodities. The ABV is based on the value of each commodity material type at a percentage that is representative of the material's weight in a typical ton of recycling. During 2025, the monthly ABV did not exceed our contracted processing fee of \$88.87 / ton, meaning OCRRA paid WM-RA to process recyclables per the OCRRA / WM-RA contract. In 2025, OCRRA paid a net total of \$1,087,679 to WM-RA to support the sorting and marketing of curbside residential recycling, an average of \$40.12 per ton.

Figure 1 shows monthly commodity prices for materials processed at WM-RA in 2025.

Figure 2 shows the monthly ABV of curbside recyclables processed at WM-RA in 2025.

Figure 3 shows the yearly ABV of curbside recyclables processed at WM-RA from 2015 to 2025.

Figure 1. 2025 Commodity Prices Month-to-Month

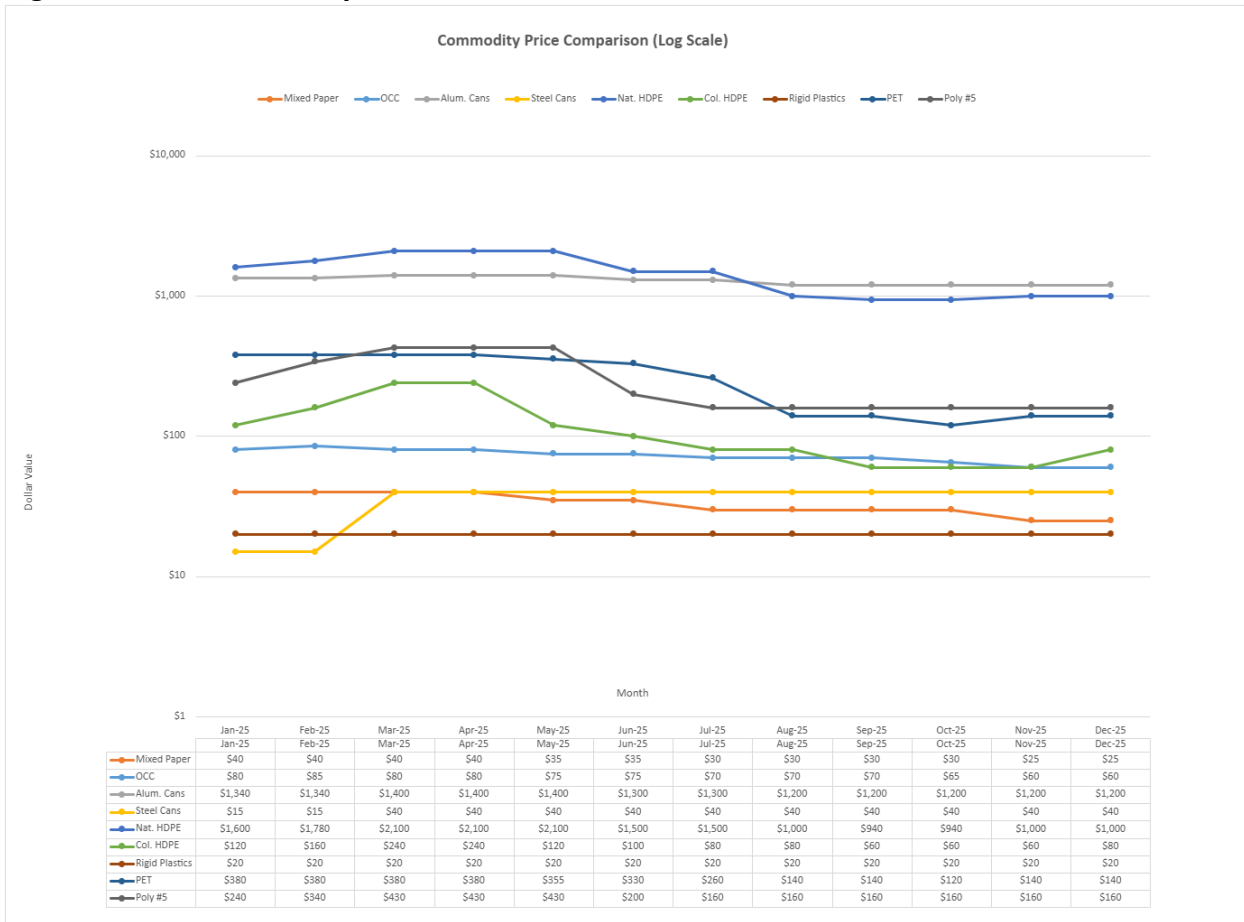


Figure 2. 2025 Average Blended Value of Curbside Recyclables by Month

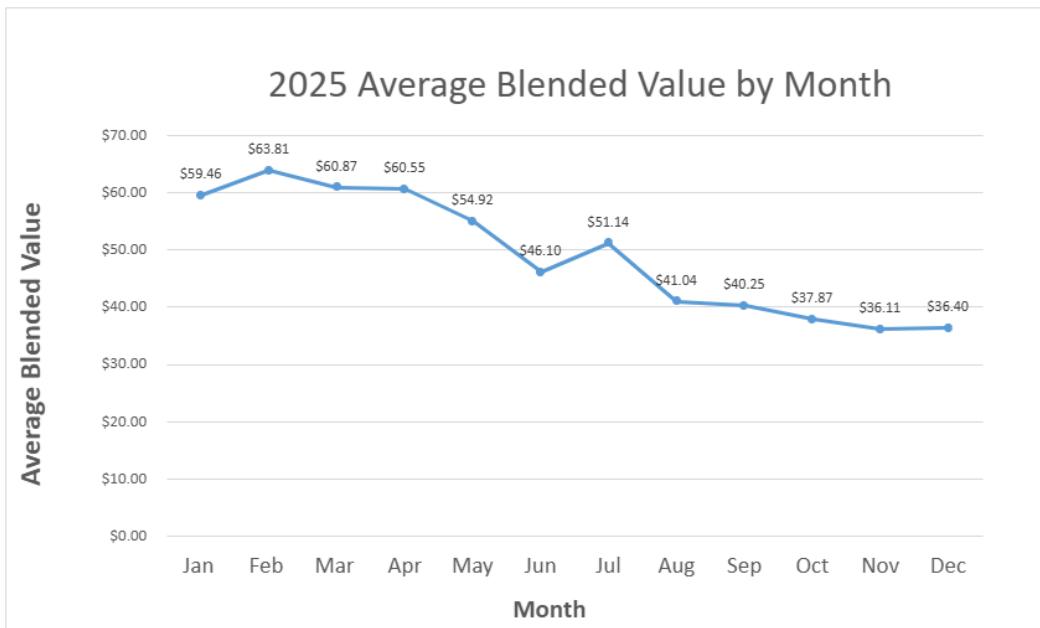
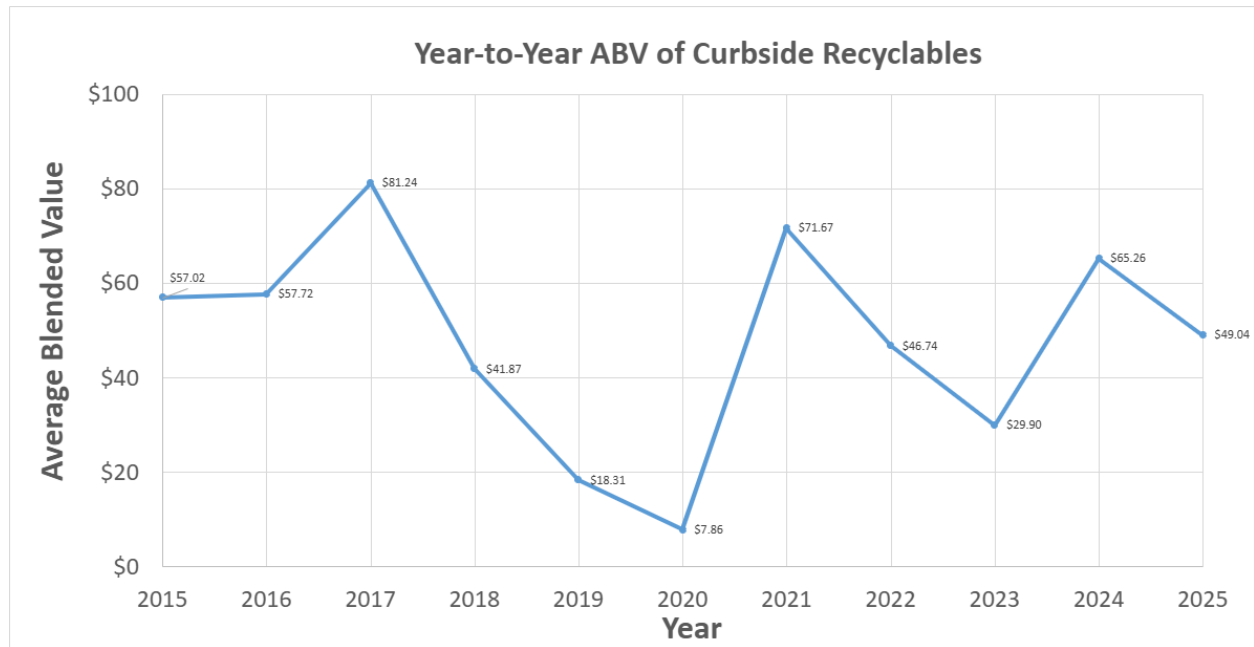


Figure 3. Year-to-Year Blended Value of Curbside Recyclables



Rock Cut Road Improvements

OCRRA’s Rock Cut Road Transfer Station made several operational upgrades in Q1 2025. Additional staffing and a new small excavator improved material sorting and recovery efforts, allowing two operators to recover more recyclables across all three buildings of the facility. As a result of these enhancements, OCRRA achieved notable increases in recovered materials, including metal (14% increase over 2024 recovery rates), incidental electronics (21% increase over 2024 recovery rates), and tires (11.5% increase over 2024 recovery rates). Note: Metal includes white goods with freon removed and resized for metal recycling.

2025 Recycling Program

OCRRA provides residents of Onondaga County a strong recycling and composting program; a foundation for waste disposal at the local Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility; a robust public outreach and education service; and award-winning programs for disposing of hard to manage materials. OCRRA’s work is not funded by taxes. Tipping fees charged to haulers for disposing of solid waste at our transfer station and Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility; tipping fees for haulers to deliver residential recycling to the MRF; revenue from electricity generated by the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility; and grant

funding from entities like the NYSDEC, provide the funds to operate OCRRA’s Recycling Program.

OCRRA’s recycling department is responsible for educating the public about mandatory recycling rules and providing technical assistance to residents, schools, and businesses in Onondaga County. In 2025, OCRRA demonstrated that aggressive steps are being taken to increase the recycling of all waste streams, including continued reduction through economically feasible recycling. In 2025, OCRRA engaged over 30 classrooms, community organizations and tabling events, educating over 1,750 community members in-person on recycling, reduction, and reuse.

OCRRA’s enforcement officer augments the educational efforts of the team’s recycling specialists. The enforcement officer visits businesses and apartment complexes to confirm compliance with local recycling laws. They also inspect loads of solid waste at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility and OCRRA’s transfer station and issue warnings and/or notices of violations for loads that contain recycling. The enforcement officer and recycling specialists work together to assist waste generators in designing a recycling program that will capture the mandated recyclables.

Table 5 shows program costs for 2025 recycling services.

Table 5 - 2025 Recycling Program Costs	
Program	Expenses
Recycling Personnel	\$ 486,679
Compost Personnel	\$ 495,470
Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Fees	\$ 1,087,679
Public Education	\$ 397,663
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection	\$ 207,744
Other Recycling Programs ¹	\$ 622,992
Total Cost	\$ 3,298,228

¹Includes equipment maintenance, hauling and disposal fees, charity credits, postage, memberships, and miscellaneous expenses.

2025 Efforts to Improve Recycling Rate

In 2025, OCRRA's award-winning recycling programs delivered environmental solutions, excellent public education, and quality disposal and recycling services to the residents of Onondaga County. Examples of measures taken to improve recycling include:

- More than 8,900 tons of food scraps and food process waste were composted at OCRRA's state-of-the-art compost site. Food scraps were combined with yard waste to generate finished compost.
- Resident and commercial customers purchased more than 21,390 cubic yards of compost at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site and 7,915 cubic yards at Jamesville Compost Site, adding valuable soil amendment back into the community's soils.
- 4,169 volunteers from 312 groups participated in OCRRA's annual Earth Day Litter Cleanup. More than 120,000 pounds of litter were collected from neighborhoods across Onondaga County.
- More than 150 tons of recycling were collected at OCRRA's Transfer Stations from residents without curbside recycling collection.
- 1,743 tons of metal were separated and recycled at OCRRA's locations. In addition, 9,860 tons of metal were separated and recycled at OCRRA's Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility.
- 1,120 pounds of rechargeable batteries, 46,403 pounds of alkaline batteries, and 3,219 pounds of button and coin batteries were recycled in 2025 through partnerships with The Battery Network (formerly Call2Recycle) and National Lamp Recycling. OCRRA's battery recycling program provides residents with 13 convenient drop-off locations to dispose of rechargeable, alkaline, and button batteries free of cost.
- More than 10,100 fluorescent bulbs were sent to American Lamp Recycling through OCRRA's bulb recycling program, keeping over 35,500 milligrams of mercury out of the environment and waste stream. OCRRA partners with local hardware stores to provide residents convenient locations to drop off old fluorescent bulbs for free recycling.
- More than 12,300 bags of OCRRA's premium 1/4-inch compost were sold through a network of 30+ lawn and garden retail outlets, helping to return valuable nutrients to local soil.
- Close to 1,900 residents took advantage of OCRRA's free Household Hazardous Waste program in concert with Miller Environmental Group.

- 88 residents of Onondaga County attended OCRRA/Reworld's 12th Annual Mercury Collection Event in September held at Miller Environmental Group. 185 mercury thermometers, 44 mercury thermostats, and 17.5 pounds of liquid mercury were collected, diverting 8,300 grams of mercury from the waste stream. This is equivalent to removing approximately 1,850,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs from the waste stream.
- OCRRA advocated for expansion of the New York State Bottle Bill and supported Extended Producer Responsibility for various products, by serving on committees of the New York Product Stewardship Council and New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling. These efforts helped advance the Expanded Battery Recycling Law which was signed by the Governor in 2025. The law will add e-mobility battery management to NYS's existing battery collection infrastructure.
- OCRRA employees shared their expertise by presenting at various industry conferences in 2025, including the annual Federation of New York Solid Waste Conference and the New York State Organics Summit.