



# OCRRA 101: WHO AND WHAT IS OCRRA?

Tammy Palmer, Public Information Officer

If you grew up in Onondaga County, OCRRA may remind you of local recycling rules, the big blue Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville or the transfer station where you dropped off an old broken loveseat. Maybe the OCRRA compost that is feeding an okra plant in your garden comes to mind. After all, they're pronounced the same way. The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency is all of those things and so much more. Throughout this newsletter, we'll explore the 5 Ws of OCRRA. Who manages the agency, what does it do, when, where and why?

We'll start 50 years ago when many private and municipal haulers were taking loads of trash to unlined "dumps" in various towns and villages. Room for landfills was disappearing, the waste stream was growing and there was no long-term solution for modern waste disposal. An Onondaga County Solid Waste Disposal Authority (SWDA) existed with limited powers, but there was a clear need to explore emerging recycling, yard waste and waste-to-energy programs for a more comprehensive system.

Throughout the 1980s, OCRRA was extensively planned, debated and revised. Legislation was adopted in Albany to create a public benefit corporation with more authority. Yet, the agency remained inactive for years, until 33 of Onondaga County's municipalities agreed to a joint venture. A board of directors assumed control of the project in 1990, paving the way for OCRRA to officially replace SWDA and begin operations. Thank you to OCRRA's first director and former board member, Don Lawless, for sharing the timeline.

## Who is OCRRA?

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency is still governed by a board of directors. Fifteen members are appointed by county, town and city governments. Scan the QR code to see all of the current members. They work closely with OCRRA's directors, who share insights about our operations in the pages that follow.

## What is OCRRA?

We've come a long way. Today, the agency operates two transfer stations for waste drop-offs (one is closed for renovations) and two compost sites. Through contracts established by OCRRA, your curbside trash is turned into electricity at a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility and your recyclables are sorted, sold and made into new products. Numerous partnerships also provide drop-off locations for hard-to-manage items, such as batteries, fluorescent bulbs and household hazardous waste.

As a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation, OCRRA is not taxpayer funded. Operating expenses are primarily covered by tipping fees (the cost to drop off material at OCRRA sites), electricity generation at the WTE Facility, recovered scrap metal and other recycling revenues. OCRRA does not pick up curbside trash or recyclables. City, town or village officials maintain oversight of that part of the system. For example, Syracuse's DPW takes curbside waste to the WTE plant. Many municipalities hire private haulers to provide pickup

services to their residents.

Capturing the breadth of what OCRRA aims to accomplish each day is a difficult task. Perhaps the mission statement recently updated by board members explains it best.

### OCRRA Mission Statement

*To serve our community by providing a comprehensive municipal solid waste management system that is environmentally, socially and financially sound. Through innovative strategies, such as waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery, composting, disposal and education, we make our community a healthier and more sustainable place to live.*



Top: OCRRA staff clean up on Earth Day. Middle: Recycling carts. Bottom: Bag of OCRRA compost and compost piles at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Facility.

Tammy Palmer can be reached at [tpalmer@ocrra.org](mailto:tpalmer@ocrra.org).



**SCAN THE CODE**  
to see members of OCRRA's board of directors.

# WHEN AND WHERE CAN YOU VISIT OCRRA?

## Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

Dan Haas, Director of Transfer Operations

Need to get rid of scraps from a home renovation project? Did your couch or refrigerator break but you don't have a hauler who picks up bulky items? OCRRA's team at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville can help. The site serves residents, municipal and private haulers, contractors and other businesses. Materials dropped off include everyday trash, construction and demolition debris, recyclables and more.

A transfer station is designed to efficiently accept, inspect, consolidate, prepare and **transfer** waste to its final destination. In Onondaga County, common household and office trash, known as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), is processed at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility, directly across the street from Rock Cut Road Transfer Station (see page 3 to learn more). Haulers who pick up curbside garbage usually take their loads directly to the WTE site, where it is converted into electricity through combustion. However, some types of residential and commercial waste need special attention first, at OCRRA's transfer station. For example:

- Bulky items (e.g., couch, mattress, bed frame) must be reduced to a size that the WTE Facility can manage.
- Refrigerators, air conditioners and dehumidifiers must have refrigerant removed before being processed, to protect the environment.
- Some types of construction and demolition debris cannot be effectively combusted at the WTE Facility and are better managed at a landfill permitted for the material.
- Metals and tires are separated and sorted so those resources can be recovered. There is also a designated space for residents to drop off household recyclables.

By inspecting, separating and processing incoming loads, workers at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station help our community divert recoverable materials from landfills. After waste is processed at the transfer station, most of it is brought to the WTE Facility where it can be used to create energy and reduce environmental impacts - compared to landfilling. The system also ensures compliance with New York's environmental regulations and serves as a critical operational hub when waste volumes spike.

Without the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, our community would face significantly higher transportation costs, increased environmental impacts and reduced flexibility in managing the hundreds of thousands of tons of waste generated each year. The facility is an essential piece of infrastructure that helps preserve the quality of life enjoyed by Onondaga County residents while supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future. *Dan Haas can be reached at [dhaas@ocrra.org](mailto:dhaas@ocrra.org).*



Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

## Ley Creek Transfer Station

Cristina Alburnio, Director of Engineering

For more than 50 years, OCRRA's Ley Creek site in Liverpool has played an important role in managing Onondaga County's waste. Conveniently located just off I-81 and I-90 near 7th North Street, the site has evolved over the decades to meet the community's changing needs.

When the facility first opened in the early 1970s, waste delivered to the transfer station was shredded before being transported to a landfill. With the opening of the Waste-to-Energy Facility in the early 1990s, the Ley Creek Transfer Station was transformed. The building was expanded and served the disposal needs of both commercial haulers and residents for more than 30 years.

The site took on a different role between 2022-2024, serving as a storage area for metals and tires collected at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station before they were sent for recycling.

After decades of service, the transfer station building at Ley Creek had reached the end of its useful life. In 2025, the facility was carefully demolished with sustainability in mind. More than 200 tons of structural steel were recycled locally, concrete from the building was crushed and reused to fill the former basement, and old foundations and utility lines were removed to prepare the property for its next chapter.



Rendering of the future Ley Creek Transfer Station

Even before demolition began, OCRRA was planning for the future. Extensive environmental reviews, engineering studies and conceptual designs were completed. The goal was to determine the feasibility of constructing a new transfer station that meets modern New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulations adopted in 2018. Once New York's State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process was complete and permit applications were submitted, OCRRA began to set aside funding to support this significant investment.

Final design work is expected to be complete by spring, then the project will be advertised for public bidding. Construction is anticipated to take at least two years. When complete, the new Ley Creek Transfer Station will once again provide convenient waste disposal services for the community.

Looking even further ahead, OCRRA envisions the Ley Creek site growing into a resource management campus that offers expanded recycling and material recovery opportunities, creating a one-stop destination that supports a more sustainable Onondaga County.

*Cristina Alburnio can be reached at [calburnio@ocrra.org](mailto:calburnio@ocrra.org).*

## Onondaga County Resource Recovery (Waste-to-Energy) Facility

Cristina Alburnio, Director of Engineering

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it’s collected from the curb? In Onondaga County, municipal solid waste (MSW) is brought to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility (OCRRF) in Jamesville, where it is transformed into a valuable source of energy instead of being buried in a landfill. That is why you may hear the OCRRF referred to as a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility.

Every day, about 150 collection trucks, operated by city, town, village or commercial haulers, deliver residential and commercial waste to the WTE Facility. Conveniently located near the I-81 and I-481 interchange, the Facility is less than a 15-mile trip for most haulers, helping reduce transportation costs and vehicle emissions. Directly across the street, at Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, OCRRA fills between 50 and 100 truckloads of daily waste for deliveries to the WTE Facility.

Onondaga County’s waste is processed through one of three highly engineered boilers. The heat generated from the WTE combustion process is captured and converted into electricity, producing enough power annually for approximately 30,000 local homes.

Protecting air quality is a critical part of the waste-to-energy process. Before emissions leave the facility, they pass through a sophisticated air pollution control system where gases are scrubbed, filtered, and treated with materials such as aqueous ammonia, activated carbon and lime, to meet stringent environmental standards.

Having a WTE Facility in our community also offers important environmental benefits. Unlike landfills, the process does not produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By recovering energy from waste instead of burying it, the facility helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions while shrinking the volume of waste by about 90%. As a result, there is significant conservation of valuable landfill space and a reduction in transportation needs.

Equipment at the Facility recovers roughly 12,000 tons of metal

### NEVER PUT RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC OR PAPER BAGS!



Bagged recyclables can’t be separated by sorting machines and get tangled around the equipment.

### STAY UP TO DATE!

FOLLOW US TO GET THE LATEST NEWS AND TIPS ON HOW TO REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE!



- » [Facebook.com/ocrra](https://Facebook.com/ocrra)
- » [Instagram.com/ocrra.cny](https://Instagram.com/ocrra.cny)
- » [LinkedIn.com/company/ocrra](https://LinkedIn.com/company/ocrra)
- » [Nextdoor.com/agency/ocrra](https://Nextdoor.com/agency/ocrra)
- » [YouTube.com/ocrra](https://YouTube.com/ocrra)



**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS**

for recycling every year, giving valuable materials a second life rather than sending them for disposal. Finally, the residue that comes out of the WTE process, called municipal combustor ash, is beneficially reused as daily operating cover at landfills.

The Waste-to-Energy Facility plays a vital role in Onondaga County’s integrated waste management system. Through energy recovery, metal recycling and significant waste reduction, OCRRA is protecting the environment while providing a reliable, sustainable solution for managing our community’s municipal solid waste.

Cristina Alburnio can be reached at [calburnio@ocrra.org](mailto:calburnio@ocrra.org).



Onondaga County’s Waste-to-Energy Facility

When and Where cont. on pg. 4

When and Where cont. from pg. 3

## Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites

Dan Haas, Director of Transfer Operations

OCRRA operates two compost facilities, located in Amboy and Jamesville, that are essential pieces of the organics recycling program. Together, these sites serve residents, municipalities, landscapers and commercial customers in Onondaga County, providing an environmentally friendly disposal option for food and yard waste. By recycling organic material into compost and mulch, OCRRA reduces waste and conserves natural resources.

**WHAT DO WE ACCEPT?**

Onondaga County residents and businesses can drop off the following items at OCRRA's compost sites: fruit, beans, bones, bread, brush, coffee grounds, coffee filters, eggs, dairy, fish, garden waste, grains, grass, hay, hedge trimmings, leaves, meat, paper cups, paper napkins, paper towels, pinecones, pine needles, plants, root balls, sod, sticks, straw, tea bags, tree limbs, vegetables and vines. **Only tree trunks less than 10 feet long** are accepted at OCRRA Compost Sites. **Tree stumps up to 48" at the tree end, not including the root ball, are only accepted at Amboy Compost Site.**

When organic materials arrive, they are inspected, sorted and ground up. Tree trunks and other clean wood waste are processed into mulch and sold for landscaping, community projects, gardens and more. Mulch conserves moisture in soil so plants don't need to be watered as often. It also suppresses weed growth and prevents soil erosion.

Food and yard waste is formed into narrow piles, or windrows, for composting. As microorganisms break down organic material, enough heat is generated at OCRRA's large-scale operations to destroy many weed seeds, pesty insects and plant diseases. Throughout the process, trained staff monitor moisture, temperature, oxygen levels and curing times to ensure the organic material decomposes efficiently. With the help of specialized equipment at Amboy Compost Site, the process takes roughly three months to complete.

Once fully matured, the compost is screened and tested to ensure it meets strict environmental and quality standards. OCRRA's premium compost is sold to homeowners, landscapers, municipalities and contractors who put valuable nutrients and organic matter back into local soils. This circular process minimizes waste: Grow food, recycle food scraps into compost, then use the compost to support new food growth.

Along the way, the Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites are supporting the reduction of greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration. In the air, carbon traps concerning levels of heat in the atmosphere. As plants grow bigger (with the help of nutrient-rich compost), they pull more carbon dioxide out of the air and store it. A healthy mix of soil, compost and hungry microbes will trap (or sequester) carbon in the ground where it beneficially feeds plants.

OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites process thousands of tons of organic material each year, supporting sustainability goals and giving Onondaga County an environmentally friendly option to turn waste into valuable products for our community.

Dan Haas can be reached at [dhaas@ocrra.org](mailto:dhaas@ocrra.org).



## OCRRA's Recycling Team Leads Onondaga County Toward Recycling Excellence

Kristen Lawton, Director of Recycling & Reduction

OCRRA's Recycling Team helps residents, students, businesses and apartment complexes recycle more effectively through education and outreach programs across Onondaga County. In addition to sharing a wide array of recycling information at local tabling events throughout the year, the Recycling Team also engages in targeted outreach to various segments of the community.

We have a recycling specialist dedicated to schools, colleges and summer camps that teach students about recycling, waste reduction and environmental responsibility. This helps build lifelong recycling habits, which they often teach their families.

We also have a recycling specialist who partners with property managers and tenants to improve recycling participation in apartment complexes through education, signage and solutions that make recycling easier and more convenient. OCRRA works with businesses to establish or improve recycling programs by providing guidance on collection systems, employee engagement and what items can and cannot be recycled in Onondaga County.

To support these efforts, OCRRA offers free recycling supplies, including posters, decals, cardboard collection bins and educational materials that help establish and reinforce proper recycling habits. These supplies can be ordered online at [OCRRA.org/order-supplies](https://ocrra.org/order-supplies).

By providing hands-on assistance, educational resources and free supplies, OCRRA's Recycling Team helps increase recycling awareness, improve participation and support a more sustainable Onondaga County.

Interested in a visit from a recycling specialist? Contact us at [OCRRA.org/visits](https://ocrra.org/visits) or scan the QR code.

Kristen Lawton can be reached at [klawton@ocrra.org](mailto:klawton@ocrra.org).



**SCAN THE CODE**  
to request a visit from a recycling specialist



Left: Jamesville Compost Site; Above: Compost piles at the Amboy Compost Site



Materials Recovery Facility

Brian Height, Recycling Program Supervisor

Household recyclables are mixed together in one container at your curb, but that’s not how they are sold to recyclers. First, haulers drop off recyclables at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Liverpool, NY, where bottles, cans, paper, cardboard and plastic items can be sorted and separated. The MRF in Onondaga County is operated by WM (Waste Management) Recycle America, under a contract with OCRRA.

The Facility serves as a critical link in OCRRA’s recycling system, helping ensure that acceptable materials are recovered and returned to the manufacturing stream rather than disposed of as waste. OCRRA reported 26,734 tons of curbside processible recycling in 2025. Going back to 1990, the results add up to 1.2 million tons of curbside material recycled.

Inside the MRF, recyclables travel through a sophisticated series of mechanical and automated sorting systems. A network of heavy equipment moves materials through screens that separate cardboard and paper from containers. Magnetic separators remove steel cans from conveyor belts while eddy current systems capture aluminum

Left: Recycling Specialist Lisa Piering teaches kids the rules of a recycling relay race at the Environmental Field Days in Green Lakes State Park. Above: Recyclables fed through a conveyor system are sorted at the MRF.

containers. Optical sorting technology uses infrared sensors and air jets to identify and separate different types of plastic, leading to cleaner and more valuable materials.

Employees perform quality-control checks throughout the process to remove safety risks and contaminants. Once sorted, recyclables are compacted into large bales, each containing a single material type, and shipped to manufacturers that use them to make new products.

In 2025, more than 413,000 tons of material were recycled through residential and commercial recycling programs across Onondaga County. Curbside recyclables play a notable role in that waste reduction success. By efficiently separating and marketing recyclable commodities, the local MRF helps conserve natural resources, save energy and support the circular economy.

Brian Height can be reached at [bheight@ocrra.org](mailto:bheight@ocrra.org).

LOCATIONS 

ROCK CUT ROAD TRANSFER STATION

5808 Rock Cut Road  
Jamesville, NY 13078

Residential Hours

Monday – Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to noon

Commercial Hours

Visit [OCRRA.org/locations](http://OCRRA.org/locations) or scan the QR code



SCAN THE CODE

for holiday closings, acceptable items, fees and hours for commercial customers. 

AMBOY COMPOST SITE

6296 Airport Rd.  
Camillus, NY 13209

Summer Hours

Monday – Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Winter Hours (begin 11/23/2026)

Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE

4370 Route 91  
Jamesville, NY 13078

Summer Hours

Monday – Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Winter Hours

(Closed beginning 11/22/2026)



SCAN THE CODE

for holiday closings, acceptable items and fees. 



# Recycling Rhoda

## RECALLED BATTERIES

Dear Rhoda,

I've heard the rechargeable battery on my power tool may have been recalled. How do I find out if that is true? What should I do with the battery?

— Curious in Camillus

Dear Curious,

Thank you for this important question! You may already know that rechargeable batteries never belong in your home trash or recycling bins. They can get crushed or damaged inside a garbage truck and start a fire. Since **recalled** batteries may also pose a fire risk, they cannot be accepted at battery drop-off locations throughout Onondaga County. Fortunately, recalls often come with return instructions and may even



provide a free replacement.

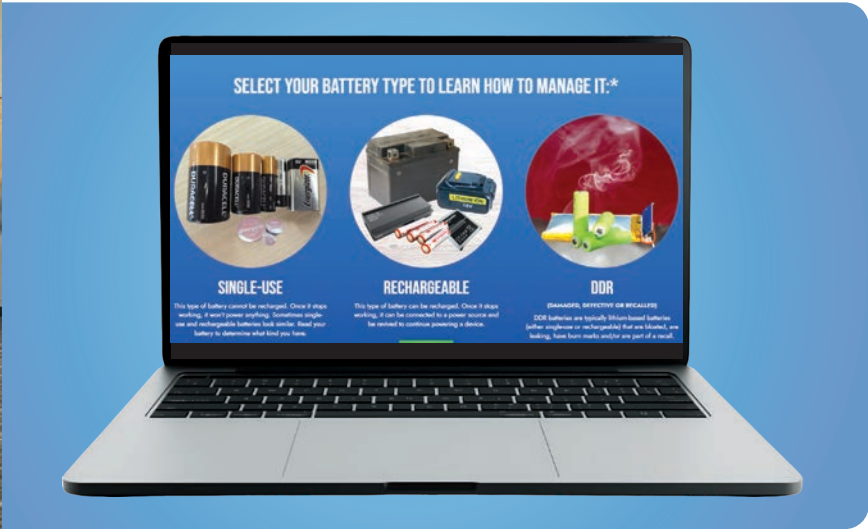
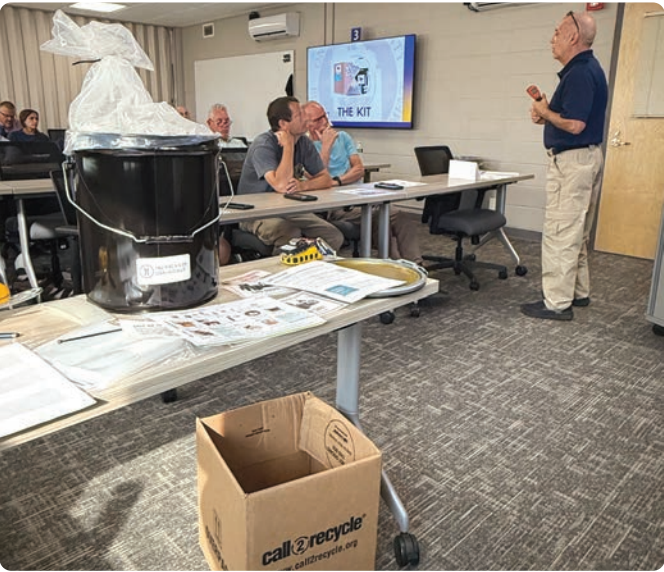
For example, did you hear about the recent recall of rechargeable batteries used in various Kobalt yard power tools? The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports they could short-circuit during charging and cause a fire. Scan the QR code for a link to the recall, where the manufacturer lists affected models and explains how to submit a claim. Once approved, the company will send a replacement battery and a prepaid shipping label to return the recalled battery.

Curious if you have a recalled battery? You can go to [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) to search active recalls and product safety warnings published by the CPSC. A quick search could protect your family, your home and our community.



**SCAN THE CODE**  
to learn more about the recall of Kobalt yard power tool batteries.

Signed,  
**Recycling Rhoda**



Far Left: Onondaga County's Dept. of Emergency Management trains firefighters on how to manage damaged, defective or recalled (DDR) batteries that are recovered after a fire incident. OCRRA helped launch the training program in 2025, with grant support from the U.S. Department of Energy. Left: Visit [OCRRA.org/batteries](https://www.ocrra.org/batteries) to learn how to dispose of your batteries.

## COSTUME CLOSET

Onondaga County Libraries Aim to Reduce Halloween Waste



Clothing and other textiles NEVER belong in your recycling bin. However, a fun costume can be reused! Before Halloween, the Betts, Mundy and White branch libraries in Syracuse will give away gently-used costumes until supplies are gone. Once the Costume Closet schedule is finalized, details will be shared on [OCRRA.org/events](https://www.ocrra.org/events).

After Halloween, the same library branches will collect clean and gently-used costumes during the entire month of November. Those donations will be given away next year.

If you can't make it to the library's drop-off locations, look for a costume swap online or consider organizing one in your neighborhood. Many thrift stores also carry Halloween costumes, and are great for building your own!



### WORK FOR OCRRA!

Join a team dedicated to serving the community and supporting our environment.

Visit [OCRRA.org/jobs](https://www.ocrra.org/jobs) to see our current career opportunities.



OCRRA employees participating in Earth Day Cleanup

# WHY DO WE NEED OCRRA?

Mike Mokrzycki, Interim Executive Director

Why OCRRA? Humor me for a moment and pick one item around you. What is it made of? When will you need to reuse, recycle or dispose of it? Where does it go? Who ensures it goes to the best place? All these questions help to answer, “Why OCRRA?”

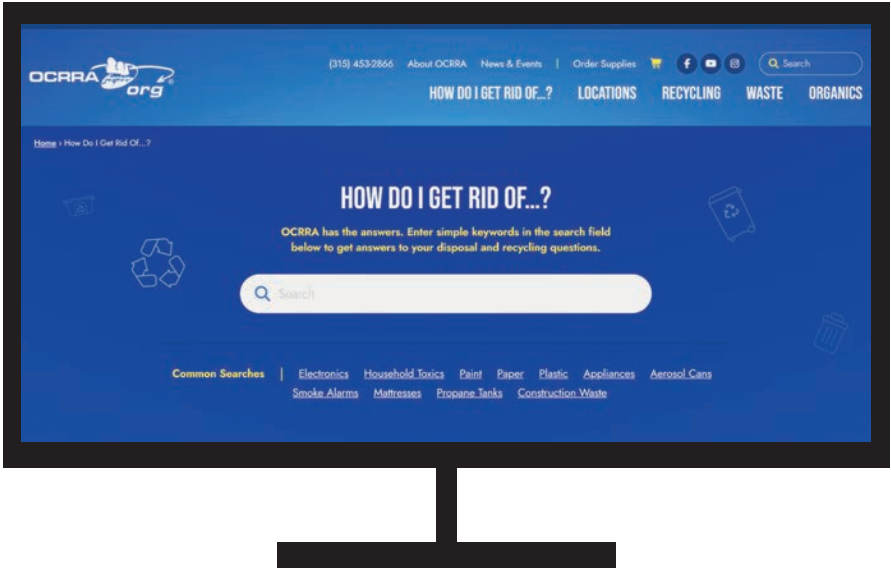
For decades, the community has invested in OCRRA to manage your disposal needs. For more than 30 years, the OCRRA system has delivered curbside recycling programs, composting facilities, classroom education, sustained disposal at our Waste-to-Energy Facility and so much more. According to the Waste-to-Energy Association, there are only 75 active Waste-to-Energy facilities across the USA (compared to 2,600 landfills). We are proud to provide the community with this disposal capacity.

While we could (and do – see page 3) pepper

ever-changing materials that end up in stores and in our homes, to make it easier for you, our customers, to get rid of them in an environmentally friendly way.

Whether the item you picked was a television playing in the background (visit [OCRRA.org/ewaste](http://OCRRA.org/ewaste) for disposal help), the leftover paint sitting your garage ([PaintCare.org](http://PaintCare.org) has dozens of drop-off locations) or the physical newsletter you are holding (give it to a friend), OCRRA can help.

What was my item? A brown, corrugated shipping box with air



pillow packaging. I’m sure you know what to do with the box – flatten and recycle. The air pillows? Pop them, then drop them in film plastic recycling bins at large grocery or big box stores. If you’re not sure what to do with your item, a searchable database on [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) can provide answers around-the-clock. Questions can also be sent to [info@OCRRA.org](mailto:info@OCRRA.org). We’re always excited to hear from residents who want to do the right thing. Helping you manage your waste is why OCRRA is here.

Mike Mokrzycki can be reached at [mmokrzycki@ocrra.org](mailto:mmokrzycki@ocrra.org).

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THIS BIENNIAL PUBLICATION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



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OCRRA’s waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

- Printed on Recycled Paper -

*OCRRA supports many different programs within the community where you can drop off items for recycling or eco-friendly management, including batteries, household cleaners and fluorescent bulbs.*

you with statistics about how much metal is recycled and how much electricity is produced, I appreciate how much land we save. Each year, the Waste-to-Energy facility saves approximately 10 acres of land from becoming a landfill. Over its lifetime, the facility and system you have invested in has saved several hundred acres that continue to be used for parks, schools, housing and future development. Your investment has tangible results!

Our recycling, composting and other disposal partnerships are all designed to augment and maximize what waste-to-energy provides. Waste is sorted at our transfer stations, pulling out materials not suitable for waste-to-energy. Our compost sites provide locations for yard waste to be turned into usable mulch and compost. OCRRA supports many different programs within the community where you can drop off items for recycling or eco-friendly management, including batteries, household cleaners and fluorescent bulbs. All of these programs keep the remaining waste stream optimized for your Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Our structure, as you read about on the front cover, allows us to provide a reliable and necessary service to the community, like a utility. It is our job to navigate the



# OCRRA HAS NEW CLASSROOM RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

*Worksheets, videos and class activities are ready for lesson plans*

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

It’s back-to-school time! Even if you don’t have a child in school, we all benefit when our fellow citizens understand the impacts of waste and resource consumption on the planet that is keeping us alive. You may think of natural resources like a trust fund we need to manage for the long-term. Perhaps your interest in protecting the planet is out of pure awe and wonderment. Either way, a strong understanding of how Earth systems are impacted by human activity, for better or worse, is important.

To support teachers with these lessons, OCRRA’s classroom resources are newly expanded and updated. Numerous videos and activities aim to give teachers more tools to meet New York State learning standards in a variety of areas, such as climate change and sustainability.

Each activity was vetted by a group of local master teachers. The topics cover aspects of Onondaga County’s waste management system, including recycling, compost and waste-to-energy. They also include exercises that tie these topics into lessons already being taught in science, health and social studies classes with standards tied into math and English skills. For example, composting makes a lot more sense when you’ve learned about the role of decomposition in the food chain!

*Homeschools, 4-H clubs, scout groups and parents who want to keep their kids engaged over long school breaks are also welcome to use them.*

OCRRA currently has resources broken down into grade bands: K-2, 3-5 and middle school. A high school section is planned for 2027. This allows teachers to pick activities suitable for their students’ current knowledge base and abilities.

The activities include worksheets, research projects, interactive games, experiments and community initiatives. Lessons build on lower-level foundations to help students climb the proverbial ladder toward understanding both the consequences of misusing the Earth and the ways humans can positively contribute to the global ecosystem. Homeschools, 4-H clubs, scout groups and parents who want to keep their kids engaged over long school breaks are also welcome to use these resources. Each topic comes with answer keys. Visit [OCRRA.org/classroom](https://www.ocrra.org/classroom) to see what is available. We’re excited to see how this investment in the next generation will benefit our community and the world.

Lisa Piering can be reached at [lpiering@ocrra.org](mailto:lpiering@ocrra.org).



SCAN THE CODE to view the resources available at [OCRRA.org/classroom](https://www.ocrra.org/classroom)





A lightbulb icon is positioned above a laptop. The laptop screen shows a video titled 'RECYCLING!' with a play button overlay. To the left of the laptop, there are two worksheets titled 'Yes or No?' with sections for 'Answer Key', 'Resources?', and 'Which sentence sounds like...'. One worksheet includes a 'Yes or No?' section with a 'Resources?' section and a 'Which sentence sounds like...' section. The other worksheet includes a 'Yes or No?' section with a 'Resources?' section and a 'Which sentence sounds like...' section.

# Mark Your Calendar!



## PUMPKIN DROP-OFF



**November 1-21, 2026**

No painted pumpkins  
No pass required

**OCRRA Compost Sites**

## JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE



**November 22, 2026**

Closed for season  
Reopens Spring 2027

Open for Christmas tree drop-off

## CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF



**January 4-8 & 11-15, 2027**

No weekends  
No pass required

**OCRRA Compost Sites**

## ALL SITES CLOSED

- Nov. 26, 2026
- Dec. 25, 2026
- Jan. 1, 2027

Happy Holidays!

**OCRRA.org/locations**