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Costumes and pumpkins are a waste in the trash

SYRACUSE, NY – Once the thrills of Halloween are over, there are plenty of options to give your costumes and pumpkins new life. Putting them in the trash is a waste.

Pumpkins: Reduce waste by using your pumpkins to bake a treat, feed an animal or compost. If you're not sure what to do, OCRRA is accepting pumpkins at Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites. Free drop-offs are accepted Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., now through Nov. 21.

Since pumpkins brought to OCRRA will be composted, all decorations must be removed, and painted pumpkins are not accepted. Nature will take its course as microorganisms break down pumpkins and other food waste in OCRRA's compost piles this winter. Eventually, the process will produce nutrient-rich compost that OCRRA screens and sells for gardens and landscaping.

Costumes: Clothing, shoes, sheets and other textiles never belong in home recycling bins. Putting them in the trash is a waste. Donate them instead. White, Betts and Mundy Branch Libraries will be accepting gently used costumes throughout the month of November, so they can give them away next year. If that's not possible, consider taking them to a thrift store or give them to a neighbor. Our communities pay for every ton of trash dropped off for processing. Removing Halloween costumes and other clothing from the waste stream, so they can be reused, helps our community save money and natural resources.

About OCRRA

OCRRA is a non-profit, public benefit corporation that was created to oversee solid waste management and the resource recovery system for Onondaga County residents. The Agency operates Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, as well as the Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites. OCRRA also oversees partnerships for recycling services, Waste-to-Energy operations, and household hazardous waste management, among other services. For more information, visit www.OCRRA.org.