

FAQs: OCRRA's 2012 Budget

Q: Is OCRRA's 2012 Budget balanced?

A: Yes. OCRRA's Board of Directors adopted a 2012 Budget of \$33,619,000 of anticipated revenues and expenditures.

Q: Did fees go up?

A: Tip fees for regular household waste remains the same as 2011, there is a slight increase (less than 3%) for disposal of construction debris and roofing.

Q: How does OCRRA generate revenues?

A: Despite the name "Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency," OCRRA does not receive County tax dollars to fund our programs. OCRRA is a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation. Almost 90% of OCRRA's revenues come from the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and tipping fees.

Q: What services does OCRRA provide our community?

A: OCRRA provides trash / recycling disposal services as well as many environmental services that fall outside the typical "recycling" area. Most all of these services, which do have a cost, are provided to our community for free. Some of these programs include:

- Free [household hazardous waste](#) collection days
- Free blue bin giveaways
- [Battery collection](#) (curbside) throughout the month of July and year-round at Wegmans stores
- [Fluorescent bulb recycling](#) at local hardware stores
- Recycling education in schools and at businesses
- Free [recycling supplies](#) and advice for local businesses
- [Compost site services](#) (drop-off and pick up of materials)
- Management of trash and recyclables at the Ley Creek and Rock Cut Road [Transfer Stations](#)
- Investments in the [Waste-to-Energy Facility](#), where non-recyclable trash is used as fuel for generation of clean energy. [Covanta Energy](#), the organization that operates the Waste-to-Energy Facility, produces enough energy to be self-sustaining and generates enough electricity to power more than 30,000 homes a year.

Q: Did OCRRA use reserves to balance the budget?

A: No, the 2012 Budget was achieved without the use of reserves; it contains no surplus. It is a completely balanced budget.

Q: How does the cost of trash disposal compare to other services residents pay for each month?

A: Each year, the average family in Onondaga County generates one ton of trash. Disposal of this much trash costs \$74 per year.

When you consider all the value residents get from OCRRA services (including not only trash disposal, but also blue bins, household hazardous waste events, recycling information and advice, etc.), it is quite a deal, especially if you compare that to what residents pay for other services. (*e.g. one **MONTH** of an average cell phone contract costs slightly less than OCRRA's services cost for a full **YEAR.***)