

# ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLABLES RECOVERED: 2004



This report submitted pursuant to NYSDEC Permit Number 7- 3142-00028/00002-0, Certificate to Operate the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility; NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3156-00047/00001-0 Permit to Construct and Operate the OCRRA Landfill; NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3148-00048/00001-0 Solid Waste Transfer Station-Ley Creek and NYSDEC Permit Number 7-3142-00036/00001-0 Solid Waste Transfer Station-Rock Cut Road.

Period reported: January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004  
 Date: March 1, 2005  
 Planning Unit: County of Onondaga including the City of Syracuse, excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles  
 Contact Person: A.T. Rhoads, Executive Director, OCRRA  
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## 1.0 Mandatory and Voluntary Recycling in 2004



OCRRA's Operation Separation recycling program, demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the environment again in 2004. Approximately **733,000 tons were recycled** through mandatory and voluntary recycling in the community, **for a recycling rate of 66%**. ( Table 1 ).

For the eighth consecutive year, OCRRA met the NYSDEC permit goal that calls for a least 40% processible recycling with a **43% reduction** in the processible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) within the service area. In this category, mandatory curbside and commercial recycling totaled **230,000 tons**. ( Table 2 ).

	<b>Tons (000's)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Recycling:</b>		
Curbside Recycling ( Primarily Residential )	43.4	
Commercial Recycling ( Primarily Business )	689.7	
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>733.1</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Solid Waste:</b>		
Incoming Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	316.5	
Less MSW Ferrous Recycling	(9.8)	
Incoming Construction & Debris (C&D)	63.0	
<b>Total Solid Waste</b>	<b>369.7</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Total Recycling and Solid Waste</b>	<b>1,102.8</b>	

**Table 2 - OCRRA 2004 Processible Recycling and Municipal Solid Waste**

*Processible materials could have been disposed of in the Waste-to-Energy Plant.*

*In 2004, 43% of processible materials were recycled.*

<b><u>Processible Recycling:</u></b>	<b><u>Tons (000's)</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
Curbside Recycling ( Primarily Residential )	43.4	
Processible Commercial ( Primarily Business )	186.8	
<b>Total Processible Recycling</b>	<b>230.2</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b><u>Municipal Solid Waste:</u></b>		
Incoming Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	316.5	
Less MSW Ferrous Recycling	(9.8)	
<b>Total MSW less MSW Ferrous</b>	<b>306.7</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Total Processible Recycling and Solid Waste</b>	<b>536.9</b>	

*Notes: 1. When calculating recycling rates, ferrous recovered from MSW is subtracted to avoid double counting.*

*2. Sources for this data include recycling companies, retail and commercial firms and governmental organizations which voluntarily report to OCRRA. Reported data has been adjusted to eliminate known double-counting. For example: If Generator A ships 500 tons of scrap metal to Recycler B and both organizations report 500 tons to OCRRA; OCRRA credits the system-wide total with 500; not 1,000, tons.*

OCRRA inventories and records recycling tonnages of all material, mandated and non-mandated, which is diverted for recycling through the efforts of the curbside program, private sector commercial and industrial entities, public and private institutions. Material items include, but are not limited to: bulky metals (scrap autos are not counted), food waste (composted), textiles, unique plastics, sludge, oils and wood. Deposit beverage containers are also reported in the recycling tonnage above.

**Table 3 - Mandated Recyclables in 2004 are as follows:**

**Residential:**

Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs  
 Home Office Paper and discarded Mail  
 Milk and Juice; gable-top Cartons  
 Glass; Food and Beverage Containers  
 Metal; Food and Beverage Containers including foil  
 Plastic Bottles; #1 and #2  
 Aerosol Cans  
 Corrugated Cardboard and brown Paper Bags  
 Paperboard, Pizza Boxes

**Commercial:**

All Office Paper  
 Corrugated Cardboard  
 Paperboard  
 Blue bin items ( if economically justified )

**Table 4 - OCRRRA 2004 RECYCLING, BY COMMODITY (Thousands of Tons)**

<b><u>COMMODITY</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>Pctg</u></b>
<b><u>Organic Wastes, except Papers</u></b>		
Food - Industrial and Commercial	155.5	21.2%
Yard Waste	37.3	5.1%
Wood	21.8	3.0%
Textiles	7.9	1.1%
Plastics	2.5	0.3%
<b><u>Total Organic</u></b>	<b><u>225.0</u></b>	<b><u>30.7%</u></b>
<b><u>Metals</u></b>		
Ferrous Metals, except MSW Ferrous	151.1	20.6%
MSW Ferrous	9.8	1.3%
NonFerrous Metals, except Aluminum	13.1	1.8%
Aluminum	9.6	1.3%
<b><u>Total Metals</u></b>	<b><u>183.6</u></b>	<b><u>25.0%</u></b>
<b><u>Paper</u></b>		
Corrugated Cardboard and Kraft Bags	68.6	9.4%
Newspapers and Magazines	52.2	7.1%
Office / Mixed Paper	30.9	4.2%
Gabled Cartons	0.3	0.0%
<b><u>Total Paper</u></b>	<b><u>152.0</u></b>	<b><u>20.7%</u></b>
<b><u>Sludge (D/S and Papermill)</u></b>	<b><u>121.8</u></b>	<b><u>16.6%</u></b>
<b><u>Bottles and Cans</u></b>		
Glass	8.2	1.1%
Bottle Bill	7.5	1.0%
Steel Cans and Household Metal	5.0	0.7%
HDPE and PET	1.4	0.2%
<b><u>Total Bottles &amp; Cans</u></b>	<b><u>22.1</u></b>	<b><u>3.0%</u></b>
<b><u>Other</u></b>		
Special & Hazardous Wastes	5.8	0.8%
Electronics and Batteries	3.9	0.5%
Appliances	0.2	0.0%
Miscellaneous	18.7	2.6%
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>733.1</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>

## ***2.0 2004 Recycling Programs Cost Approximately \$1,187,000***

OCRRA's trash tipping fee revenue provides the financing for critical recycling program components essential to achieving the mandated recycling rate. OCRRA is not funded by taxation. OCRRA does apply for, and occasionally wins, government and private grants through competitive application. Waste and recyclable hauling costs are ***not*** part of OCRRA service costs.

OCRRA manages the solid waste and recycling program for 33 municipalities in Onondaga County. Each Municipality is unique in its solid waste collection. Some provide waste and recyclables collection through their own public employees, some contract with private waste hauling firms to provide services for their residents and still others require residents to arrange for disposal and recycling by contracting with a private hauler or bringing their MSW and recyclables to one of the two OCRRA transfer stations. OCRRA maintains two drop-off centers for waste and recyclables; each accepts recyclables at no cost.

Program costs include OCRRA's Operation Separation comprehensive public education program. The program consists of: radio, TV, billboard, and print media campaigns; on-site visits to waste generators by a staff of recycling professionals offering technical assistance; classroom presentations by a New York State certified school teacher; and numerous brochures and teaching materials.

The OCRRA recycling program arranges for the collection, processing and marketing of residential recyclables and covers costs necessary to assure waste haulers a zero tip fee for residential recyclables. OCRRA also provides two drop-off centers for the collection of blue bin recyclables for those without curbside service. The transfer station drop-offs are also collection points for additional materials such as: paper from small offices/home offices; scrap metal; small appliances and household batteries. OCRRA costs cover the handling and recycling of these special items.

### ***During 2004, OCRRA's Operation Separation Program managed:***

- Two yard waste compost sites; open to the public six days per week, from April to November.
- Three "Household Hazardous Waste" (HHW) collection days;
- Quarterly "Household Computer and TV set" collection days;
- A month-long collection of hard-cover and soft-cover books during July;
- A mercury thermometer and thermostat exchange program;
- Our first, annual "Shred-a-Thon". Four companies stationed their mobile shredding trucks at Shoppingtown Mall and shredded household and small business confidential papers;
- The year-long collection of batteries through a network of local drop off points, including curbside collection of household batteries in July.
- OCRRA also administered special services and programs for businesses, schools, and apartment building managers and owners, each at a cost to OCRRA.

Direct program costs in 2004 (*unaudited*), associated with the recycling services are as follows:

<b><i>Table 5 – Expenses by Program</i></b>	<b><i>Expense</i></b>
Recycling Personnel	\$310,944
Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Fees	19,804
Public Education - Outside Service	299,551
Composting	34,303
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection	182,169
Blue Bin Expense	118,826
Computer and TV Collection	39,942
Other recycling programs	181,641
<b>Total Cost – 2004</b>	<b>\$1,187,180</b>

**“Blue Bin” recyclables** are collected at the curbside by private haulers, municipal haulers, and municipalities with private hauling contracts. The recyclables are taken for processing and marketing to a material recovery facility, or “MRF”. OCRRA’s MRF contract provides for a variable payment to the privately owned MRF. As a result of OCRRA’s contract, the MRF accepts the recyclables at no charge to the waste hauler. The MRF then sorts, bales and markets the residential recyclables.

The MRF contract is a valuable tool which allows OCRRA to formulate and maintain a reasonably uniform definition of “Blue Bin” recyclables. The contract also encourages stability in the local market for recyclable commodities, thus attenuating the variation in global market demand and pricing. This uniformity of definition and marketplace stability significantly facilitates the successful education and enthusiastic cooperation of the public.

Currently, OCRRA has contracts with two material recovery facilities which process recyclable material from the County’s curbside recycling program. The two MRFs use different processing methods when recycling material.

**Recycle America**, a service of Waste Management, processes material using the “single-stream” method. Single-stream recycling allows recyclable material such as paper, plastic, metal, glass and corrugated cardboard to be combined in one collection vehicle, taken to the MRF, dumped together and separated in one process. By compaction of all recyclables during collection on the street, the capacity of the trucks is maximized, saving trip costs for the hauler. This reduces the need for additional recycling trucks and reduces the time spent at each collection stop.



**Naef Recycling** is the other MRF which began processing OCRRA’s curbside material in December, 2002. Naef is a “dual-stream” processing facility. Recyclables are collected and delivered to the facility in a two-compartment truck. At this MRF, all paper is tipped on the floor in one section and all containers are tipped in another section. The material is sorted and baled along two parallel processing lines; one line for paper and one for containers.



Since OCRRA does not collect or directly market recyclables, the process chosen by each facility to sort material (dual- or single-stream) does not affect the Agency.

Single-stream recycling is a relatively new development nationally as well as locally. Some concern has been raised as to whether or not the baled paper fiber produced at the single-stream processing facility meets the quality specifications of the paper mills. OCRRA is monitoring the situation by periodically contacting the paper mills to find out the quality of the paper bales sold to the mills from the two MRFs, and by surveying other MRF facilities that utilize the single-stream method.

Taking into consideration the value of the commodities in the blue bin, OCRRA pays the MRFs for processing and marketing recyclables using a formula adopted in 1995. OCRRA's MRF payments for the period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 total **\$19,804**. OCRRA’s costs for processing and marketing recyclables were determined as follows:

Each month, OCRRA pays a charge for the processing and marketing of the curbside recyclables collected under the mandatory program. Revenue received from the sale of the material offsets a portion of the collection and processing costs. Using a formula based on the value and quantity of each material collected under the program, OCRRA arrives at the Weighted Per Ton Revenue (WPTR); i.e. the value, per ton, of program material. When the WPTR drops below \$52.25, OCRRA pays the difference between the WPTR and the \$52.25 per ton benchmark cost for processing and marketing materials by making a payment to the contracted MRF. The specific MRF payment is calculated according to the tonnage of

curbside program recyclables delivered to the MRF. An additional \$3 per ton administrative fee is also paid to the MRF.

The Agency’s MRF charges are determined by recycling market prices. In 2004, recycling markets were even stronger than in 2003 and OCRRA benefited from the strong demand and high prices. The strength in demand and pricing was due, in part, to continuing high demand from mills in Asia for recovered fiber, metals and plastics. Pricing for old corrugated containers started as low as \$55 per ton in January, and went as high as \$95 per ton in March and April. The pricing for old newspapers was strong all year long, beginning at \$65 per ton in January, the price peaked at \$85 per ton in the Spring and hovered around \$75 per ton in the second half of the year. Scrap iron and steel maintained high prices throughout 2004, with aluminum, copper and other nonferrous metals also enjoying strong demand. Aluminum can and foil prices peaked during the summer at about \$1,150 per ton and finished the year at \$860 per ton. Plastic prices, PET and HDPE , were strong all year, particularly in the second half.

Prices for program commodities in December, 2004 compared to prior years are charted below.

<b><u>Table 6 – Market Values by Commodity</u></b>	<b>Year End Market Value</b>				
	<b>(Dollars per Ton)</b>				
	<b>(After sorting, processing, densification)</b>				
<b><u>Commodity</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>
Newspaper (ONP) & Magazines (OMG)	\$75	\$60	\$70	\$45	\$60
Mixed Paper/Paperboard	\$50	\$50	\$40	\$20	\$25
Clear Glass	\$15	\$16	\$21	\$15	\$31
Green Glass	(\$7)	(\$7)	(\$25)	(\$25)	\$3
Brown Glass	\$15	\$15	\$0	\$15	\$31
Mixed glass	(\$7)	(\$7)	(\$25)	(\$25)	(\$19)
Tin	\$166	\$94	\$40	\$5	\$22
HDPE Natural; e.g. clear bottles	\$500	\$430	\$140	\$140	\$260
HDPE Colored	\$440	\$330	\$140	\$140	\$260
Aluminum Cans	\$860	\$1,085	\$640	\$780	\$740
Aluminum Foil	\$860	\$890	\$640	\$780	\$740
Corrugated Cardboard (OCC) & Kraft	\$75	\$55	\$60	\$40	\$40

*Prices for ONP, Mixed paper and OCC are based on the Official Board Markets (Buffalo high)*

OCRRA’s MRF contract is designed to provide stability to the local recycling program during market fluctuations by maintaining a relatively consistent definition of which materials are recyclable. This stability and consistency makes the program more easily understood by the residents and therefore supports high and stable recycling rates. The contract supports commodity prices during market dips, thus a regular resource recovery mix is achieved and stability in overall recovery continues.

During 2004, OCRRA’s expenses for MRF payments were \$19,804. The amount was \$153,633 less than the previous year, thanks to a continuing trend of favorable market conditions for recyclable commodities. **However, fluctuations in the commodity markets are difficult to predict from year to year with any degree of certainty. Consequently, recycling program costs are vulnerable to rapid and unforeseen increases in MRF costs as noted below.**

<b><u>Table 7</u></b>	<b>Total MRF</b>	<b>Weighted Per Ton</b>
<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>Payments</u></b>	<b><u>Revenue (WPTR)</u></b>
2000	\$ 74,043	\$62.98
2001	\$432,000	\$37.62
2002	\$334,970	\$45.83
2003	\$173,347	\$54.81
2004	\$19,804	\$76.27

### ***3.0 Program Enforcement***

OCRRA continues to enforce the Local Law mandating source separation for recycling through a system of public education, outreach and surveillance.

OCRRA's Operation Separation's recycling specialists call on apartment buildings having more than 5 units to ensure compliance with the recycling law and to assist in designing effective collection systems for recyclables. During 2004, OCRRA continued to provide free, high visibility decals to be affixed, with the permission of the waste hauler, to recycling totes and dumpsters. The stickers use a combination of text and graphics to make it clear just where tenants are to place their recyclables. There are two types of signs suitable for interior and exterior containers.

OCRRA's Operation Separation's business recycling specialists follow through on inquiries and complaints about business recycling. They are on the road 5 days a week calling on institutional, industrial and commercial businesses. In 2004, OCRRA's business recycling specialists visited hundreds of local businesses, and schools. Businesses can obtain our free recycling decals and containers.

When needed, an enforcement officer supplements the efforts of the business and apartment recycling specialists. An enforcement officer calls on businesses and apartment buildings when it is determined that other approaches have not resulted in cooperation.

Each enforcement officer spends a portion of the week inspecting loads of solid waste at the waste-to-energy plant looking for loads containing recyclables and issuing warnings and/or violations. Pictures are taken of the loads and the waste hauler must identify the origin of the waste. Then the business or apartment recycling specialist calls on the waste generator to determine the source of the problem and assist in designing a recycling program which will capture the mandated recyclables.

## ***4.0 Highlights of the 2004 OCRRA Operation Separation Program***

### **➤ COMPOSTING**

Over 29,400 visitors were served at the Agency's two yardwaste compost sites located in Jamesville and Camillus. Approximately 5,100 cubic yards of compost and 8,000 cubic yards of mulch were produced at the sites. The program's direct costs were approximately \$34,303; excluding allocated salaries of permanent employees.

Annually, residents purchase a car-window sticker for \$10 which allows them to drop-off all their yard waste and take away compost during the year. In 2004, 3,383 stickers were sold for a total of \$33,830. Additionally, commercial users paid a total of \$8,990.

A lease with the City of Syracuse Dept. of Public Works allowed the DPW to use a tub grinder which OCRRA purchased with a 50% grant from NYSDEC, at no charge. In exchange, the City provided the necessary labor to operate and maintain the tub grinder and other equipment.

### **➤ HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS**

Household Hazardous Waste Days continue to be one of the most popular services the Agency offers. Three HHW Days were held in 2004, serving some 3,000 households.

Direct costs included: the fee charged by the vendor to conduct the event; battery and propane cylinder handling; lab fees for testing the paint collected; Strathmore Paint's charges to reformulate and package the paint for the paint give-away to municipalities and human service agencies. Indirect costs included the OCRRA personnel to work on the day of the event as well as the countless hours beforehand; advertising the events, taking reservations, recording and sending out information/confirmation packets to each of the more than 1,000 households who made appointments for each event. OCRRA has been awarded a \$321,000 NYSDEC grant to cover nearly 50% of certain direct costs of the HHW events. Total direct costs in 2004 for this valuable community program were approximately **\$182,169**. Additionally, OCRRA received a \$5,000 grant from the Onondaga Lake Partnership to promote awareness of the hazardous waste collection program in Syracuse's urban and southwest neighborhoods.



### **➤ HOUSEHOLD COMPUTER RECYCLING DAYS**

The EPA reports that electronics are the fastest growing portion of America's trash. EPA estimated that 250 million computers are destined to become obsolete by the year 2005, and that more than 3.2 million tons of electronic waste will find their way into thousands of landfills across the country. To encourage the safe management of old computers, OCRRA took the environmentally sound approach of removing computer equipment from the waste stream by implementing a household computer recycling program. In 2003, OCRRA expanded its computer recycling program to include TV sets. The program ensures that material, which cannot be recycled or reused, will be disposed safely at an approved site.



Onondaga County residents were able to drop off old computer equipment and TVs at the Ley Creek Transfer station at 4 events, once each quarter, in 2004. The agency accepted 2 computer systems per household each day. Over 275,000 pounds of old computer equipment and TVs were collected, comprised of:

- 2,638 monitors
- 2,336 computer towers
- 1,246 printers,
- 1,655 keyboards
- 149 laptops
- 813 mice
- 154 scanners
- 1,459 TVs.

The direct program costs to OCRRA were over \$39,942. Dell Computer Corporation provided a \$10,000 grant to support November’s event. Indirect costs included the OCRRA personnel to work on the day of the event as well as the behind the scenes activities such as: advertising the events and answering telephone inquiries requesting information.

### ➤ BATTERY COLLECTION

County residents can drop off their old batteries at area Wegmans grocery stores; the Kinney drug store in Tully and the Noble Ace Hardware store in Elbridge. In addition, OCRRA maintains two Drop-off centers at its transfer stations and there is an annual July curbside collection of batteries. More than **137,000 lbs.** of batteries were collected and recycled or safely disposed in 2004 at a cost of approximately **\$15,899**, excluding allocated salaries of permanent employees and support activities such as advertising and transportation costs incurred on our weekly pick-ups from the battery bins at our partner’s stores.



### ➤ PUBLIC EDUCATION

Every year a significant percentage of the population needs to hear the recycling message for the first time. Every year we wish to reinforce our recycling message among those who have heard it before. And, every year, we need to inform the public of our special events.



In 2004, approximately **\$299,551** was spent on direct public education through radio, TV, and print media campaigns. OCRRA also employs a six-person, professional recycling team engaged in spreading the recycling message and bringing all levels of technical assistance to the residents, schools and businesses in the OCRRA service area.

Our recycling educator, a New York State certified teacher, spoke to over 12,000 local students.

In addition to paid media advertising, OCRRA also publishes a newsletter, *Operation Separation Update*, that goes out to approximately 45,000 residents each quarter.

The Agency’s website, [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org), provides extensive recycling and waste reduction information, as well as recycling instructions in Spanish. Online registration for household hazardous waste collection and various other events such as Earth Day is also available on the OCRRA website.

➤ **BOOK RECYCLING**

In 2004, OCRRA added soft-cover books to the book recycling program. County residents, businesses, and schools had the opportunity to drop off their old hard- and soft-cover books at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station throughout July. The program is a tremendous success, resulting in the collection of over 270,000 pounds of old books in 2004. OCRRA also encourages “grass-roots” opportunities for book recycling at community libraries, book swaps, school sales, etc., by promoting these events on our website, in press releases and in our quarterly newsletter.



➤ **MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

OCRRA continued a mercury thermometer exchange program at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. The Agency teamed up with Bristol Myers Squibb and Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection to provide residents with non-mercury thermometers in exchange for mercury thermometers. The mercury thermometers that were collected were then properly disposed as part of the Agency’s household hazardous waste collection program. The mercury thermometer exchange program helps prevent mercury contained in household thermometers from escaping into the environment when the thermometers are broken or thrown away. In 2004, mercury thermostat collection was added to this program.

➤ **RECYCLED PAINT GIVE-AWAY**

The Agency continued our direct mail campaign to reach out to hundreds of community organizations, inviting them to use recycled paint from OCRRA’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection. As a result, over 2,000 gallons of recycled/reprocessed paint were provided to dozens of non-profit agencies, municipal entities, park systems, and other human service organizations. OCRRA conducted the paint give away July and November. Organizations receiving the recycled paint include: the Spanish Action League, the Village of Jordan, Bishop Ludden High School, Burnett Park Zoo, Kirk Park Football, North Area Meals on Wheels and the Inter-Faith Housing Corporation.



➤ **FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHRED-A-THON**

Over 500 households dropped-off 60,000 pounds of paper at OCRRA’s first Shred-a-Thon at Shoppingtown Mall on November 12 and 13 in conjunction with New York State’s “America Recycles Day” activities. Paper was shredded on site by four, local, shredding companies, and then recycled. Local media coverage included WIXT-TV9, WSTM-TV3, WTVH-TV5, WCNY-TV 24, WSYR Radio, WFBL Radio, The Syracuse Post Standard, Eagle Newspapers, and the Business Journal.



➤ **FREECYCLING and ReStore**

What if “E-Bay”™ was free? It would probably work a lot like the **Freecycle Network**. The goal of the Onondaga County Freecycle Network is to reduce waste by connecting individuals who are throwing away goods with others who are seeking them. Whether you're looking to discard or acquire an item, Onondaga County Freecycle is the place to do it. Clothing, credenzas, canoes, computers, and all the little things in between may be available on the Network. Visit often, availability changes by the minute!

In 2004, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, Inc. began accepting donations of recycled building materials for the **ReStore**, a home improvement resale store. If you are remodeling your home, or just cleaning out your garage, consider donating your leftover home improvement and construction materials so that another person can improve their home. The idea is to help others improve their standard of living, while keeping usable materials out of the trash.

OCRRA strongly supports the goals and programs of the Freecycle Network and ReStore. Residents can link to the Freecycle Network and ReStore websites through our website, [www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org). OCRRA also promotes the Freecycle Network and ReStore at our community events and in our newsletter.

➤ **WASTE DISPOSAL COST RELIEF FOR LOCAL CHARITIES**

In 2004, OCRRA again provided a "recycling credit" to the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities for each documented ton of material (clothing, furniture, etc) recycled through these human service organizations. These recycling credits, in the amount of \$10.00 per ton, were credited towards these organizations' monthly waste disposal fees through the OCRRA system, with certain limitations. In 2004, OCRRA provided these organizations with approximately \$86,800 in relief of their waste disposal costs.

➤ **BOTTLE BILL LAW EXPANSION**

The return rates for deposit cans and bottles in Onondaga County ranged from 77 percent to a whopping 95 percent in a 1998 study. But the *discard* rates for non-returnable containers in Onondaga County, a national recycling leader, ranged from 68 percent to 87 percent.

OCRRA is taking a proactive role to change the discard statistics by supporting an expanded New York State bottle bill deposit law to include non-carbonated products such as water, juices, teas and sports drinks. OCRRA has obtained over 5,000 signatures from residents who support the expansion of the bottle bill through petition signings at various local events, such as the New State Fair and the annual flower and garden show. OCRRA also encourages visitors to our web site, [www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org), to show their support of an expanded bottle bill by completing an online petition and writing their State Assembly member and Senator.



The Agency’s Board resolution to expand the “bottle bill” underscores the Agency’s commitment to the New York State solid waste management hierarchy, which emphasizes waste reduction, reuse, and recycling first, and then waste to energy, followed by landfilling. By creating a deposit for the additional bottles, we hope to see more of them recycled and fewer littering our neighborhoods and roadways.

## OCRRA'S COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

OCRRA is committed to maintaining high levels of community participation in the Operation Separation recycling program. In 2004, OCRRA's recycling team were part of numerous area events and fairs, including the New York State Fair, the Flower and Garden Show, and the Golden Harvest Festival at Beaver Lake Nature Center. A variety of recycling information was distributed including over 2,000 blue bins, recycling instructions, battery bags, household hazardous waste sign-up, and compost-site sticker sales. The Agency gave away recycling bins at the Regional Farmers Market, Juneteenth Celebration in Downtown Syracuse, and street fairs on State Street, Westcott Street and at LeMoyne College. Over 25,000 people were contacted through these events. Members of OCRRA's recycling team joined with **NOJAIM's Supermarket** to distribute several hundred blue bins to City of Syracuse residents at the grocer's location on West and Gifford Streets, in the city's southwest side.

### ■ *Recycling Containers*



Recycling containers were distributed to hundreds of schools, businesses, restaurants and parks to encourage separation and recycling of paper and beverage containers. ( Pictured left ).

A total of 85 recycling receptacles for bottles and cans were a gift from the American Plastics Council. (Right) They were used in venues such as the New York State Fair, P&C Stadium, the Rosamond-Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park, and the Museum of Science and Technology.



### ■ *Earth Day*



OCRRA ran ads on WSYR radio and in the *Syracuse Business Journal* promoting Earth Day litter clean up. Finally, the annual Earth Day litter clean up on the Saturday after Earth Day, which OCRRA coordinated, saw record participation with over **126,000 pounds** of litter and 1,300 tires collected by approximately **6,000 volunteers in 242 community groups**.

### ■ *America Recycles Day*

OCRRA participated with the NYS Steering Committee supporting the national America Recycles Day on November 15 that promotes the purchase of products made of recycled materials. OCRRA submitted over 5,000 pledge cards collected during the State Fair.



Beyond these noteworthy activities, a host of other services continued to be provided through the recycling program, including the following:

- ✓ Provided a recycling drop off six days/week, year round for mandatory recyclables at the Agency transfer stations. This service includes a no-charge drop-off for household scrap metal and office paper from small businesses.
- ✓ Coordinated a curbside collection of phone books during a six-week period that coincided with the distribution of the new Verizon phone book. Verizon Yellow Pages and Alltel provide free space to OCRRA to run its recycling instructions in the back pages of their phone books.
- ✓ Expanded its web site activity with emails to thousands of businesses and residents with handy recycling reminders and offers to contact the Agency for recycling assistance.
- ✓ Operated an automated hotline answering common recycling questions; twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- ✓ Submitted grants to support a variety of Agency programs, including advertising and public education, household hazardous waste collection, computer recycling and recycling personnel costs.
- ✓ Participated in solid waste associations including: membership in the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>) the state recycling organization; Andrew Radin is a member of the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management, and Jeff Cooper is a member of the Solid Waste Association of North America.
- ✓ Expanded our e-mail list to over 8,000 addresses;
- ✓ Worked closely with the Agency's Public Communications Officer to communicate OCRRA's environmental programs and services to the community.
- ✓ And proudly, the OCRRA recycling department completed 2004 with zero time lost due to work-related accidents.

**OCRRA's recycling team members are:**

- Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling & Waste Reduction,
- Jeff Cooper, Recycling & Waste Reduction Operations Manager,
- Douglas Grady, Recycling Specialist,
- Elaine Van Avery, Recycling Educator (Contracted Service Provider),
- Tom Monty, Compost Site Technician, and
- Our seasonal Compost Site gatekeepers.