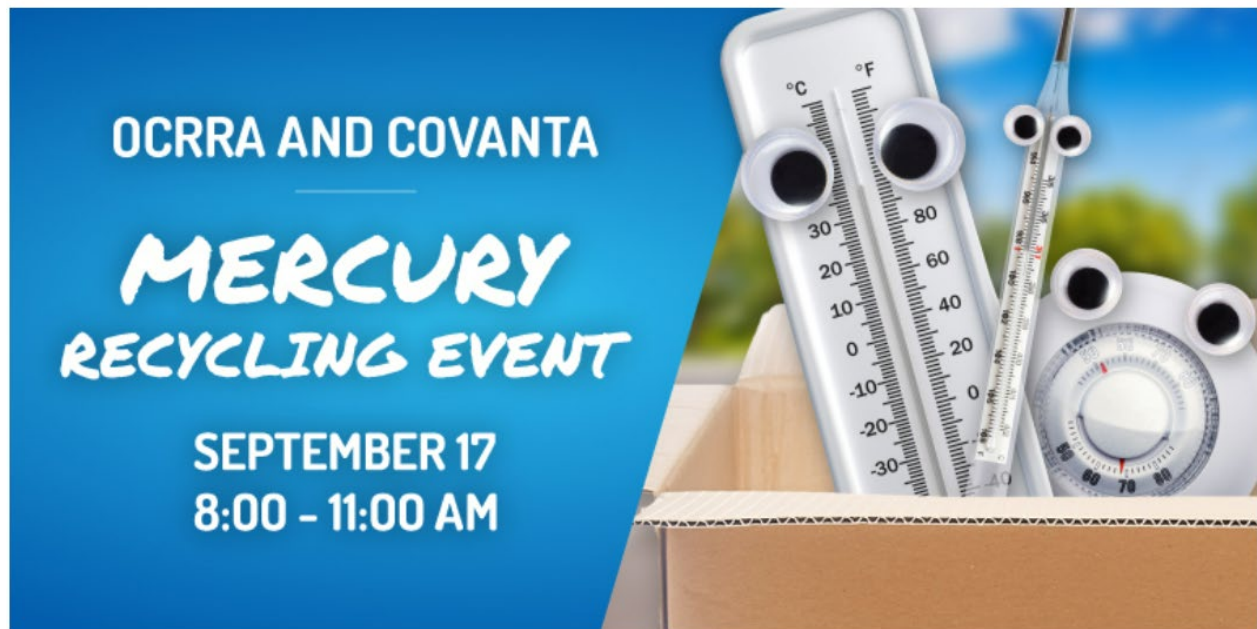


MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2022



Covanta Gives \$10 Lowe's Gift Card to Residents for Mercury Thermometers and Thermostats at OCRRA's Sept. 17 Drop-Off Event in Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (September 12, 2022) — Mercury can be harmful to humans and wildlife if improperly handled. Keeping mercury thermometers and thermostats out of the trash benefits the environment and the community.

To prevent the potential hazards of mercury for our community and environment, [OCRRA](#) and [Covanta](#), a leader in sustainable materials management and the operator of the local Waste-to-Energy Facility, are sponsoring a special mercury thermostat and thermometer take back day on Sat., Sept. 17, 2022.

Onondaga County residents are invited to bring old mercury thermometers and thermostats to Miller Environmental Group, Inc., ([532 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse](#)) from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 17. No materials from businesses are accepted. Only residential items are accepted.

Residents must complete an online [registration form](#), print it out and place it on their dashboard on the day of the event to keep traffic moving swiftly. (No printer? No problem. Just show us the form on your mobile device.) Attendees do not exit their vehicle during the event but will interact with staff at their window.

As a bonus for keeping harmful mercury objects from the waste stream, attendees will receive a \$10 gift card to Lowe's*. Residents bringing in mercury thermometers will also receive a replacement digital thermometer. Both rewards are courtesy of Covanta.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with OCRRA to remove mercury from the waste stream," said Paul Abt, Environmental Engineer at Covanta. "This is an important community effort and we thank all Onondaga residents who take part to ensure these harmful materials are properly managed."

“According to EnergyStar.gov, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury, which equal to the amount of mercury found in 125 compact fluorescent bulbs,” said Maria Bianchetti, OCRRA recycling specialist. “The volume of mercury in these thermometers and thermostats underscores why proper disposal through this program is so important for the environment and the community.”

If you cannot make the drop-off event, mercury thermometers can be managed through OCRRA’s Household Hazardous Waste Program, if brought in with other acceptable program materials. Search www.thermostat-recycle.org for locations to dispose of mercury thermostats year-round, as they are not accepted at OCRRA’s Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Does your item contain mercury?

- **Thermometers** that contain mercury have a **silver, metallic grey** or **black filling** in their tubes. *If the filling is red, blue, purple, green or any other color, it is not a mercury thermometer and is not eligible for drop off at this event. Unlike mercury thermometers, these can be thrown in the trash.*
- **Thermostats** that contain mercury have levers or dials that you must physically move to change the temperature. If you remove the faceplate of your thermostat and see a glass capsule containing a silver substance, it is a mercury thermostat. Do not remove or break the capsule. *If your thermostat is digital / programmable, it is not eligible for drop off; it can go in the trash.*

*One gift card per household, regardless of number of mercury-containing items that are dropped off.

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About OCRRA

OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature in 1990 to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. OCRRA’s system includes: a strong recycling and composting program, a foundation for local waste disposal at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, a convenient trash and recycling drop off site, a robust education component and programs for hard to manage materials, such as household hazardous waste, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. OCRRA’s award-winning programs are funded by trash drop-off fees and the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, NY. Learn more and get involved at www.OCRRA.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#).

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About Covanta

Covanta is a leader in sustainable materials management providing environmental solutions to businesses and communities across North America. Through its network of facilities and state-of-the-art services, Covanta is a single-source partner in solving today's most complex environmental challenges. For more information, visit covanta.com.

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