



Resident Survey: OCRRA Needs to Hear from You

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

Since January 2019, there have been many changes at the OCRRA transfer stations.

OCRRA thanks the community for their patience as we continue to work through a significant transition period at our transfer stations.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued new rules for transfer stations across New York State that required all operations to take place indoors.

The OCRRA Board of Directors developed a plan to modernize transfer operations and eventually consolidate them into one renovated location.

The Ley Creek Transfer Station is the oldest of OCRRA's campuses and proved too costly to retrofit for the new regulations, which is why the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station was chosen.

OCRRA's vision is to consolidate transfer operations, but keep commercial and residential customers separate to better meet our customers' different needs.

OCRRA is taking a phased approach to achieve this vision.

Phase I of the project was to close the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station for construction in 2019, which directed all traffic to the only other permitted site OCRRA has, the Ley Creek Transfer Station.

Until construction was complete on the new Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in summer 2020, OCRRA served both commercial and residential customers at Ley Creek.



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2020.

OCRRA needs your feedback on how to provide the best residential drop off services in the future. Visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAphase2 to share your opinion today!

In Phase II, OCRRA is evaluating the best way to serve residential customers over the long-term and will need your input. Please share your vision and suggestions to improve the customer experience by completing the short survey found at www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAphase2 or on our website, OCRRA.org.

Until Phase II is complete, residents will continue to be served at the Ley Creek Transfer Station off 7th North Street in Liverpool, Thursdays and Fridays, 6:30 am – 1:30 pm and every Saturday, 8:00 am – 11:30 am. Ley Creek is closed Monday through Wednesday and Sundays. Ley Creek is no longer able to serve commercial customers. It is a residential site only.

All commercial custom-

ers must use the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville now; Rock Cut Road is no longer able to serve residential customers.

Hours for commercial customers that hand-unload are Monday – Friday, 6:30 am – 1:30 pm. Commercial customers with self-dumping vehicles are welcome Monday – Friday, 6:30 am – 2:30 pm. The site is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

OCRRA knows that closure, construction, and transitions that occurred during Phase I may have been inconvenient and frustrating. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Never miss news on upcoming events or changes in operations; join OCRRA's email list. Visit www.OCRRA.org, enter

your email in the green section at the bottom of the page titled "Join our Mailing List."

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our customers' experiences in the long-term.

Kristen Lawton can be reached at klawton@ocrra.org.



COMPOST AND MULCH AVAILABILITY PG 2

Feedstocks were low due to COVID, but we still have supplies; get them while they last.



SHREDDING PG 2

Learn how you can shred your confidential documents year-round in Onondaga County.



ANNUAL WTE TEST RESULTS ...PGS 4-5

Waste-to-Energy Facility earns stellar marks again this year.



THE STATE OF OCRRA PG 7

OCRRA's Executive Director shares the big picture about local trash and recycling.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PG 8

Find out where you can recycle TVs and other electronics in our community.

Ditch the Bag

Don't put recycling in plastic bags in your recycling bin. **Any recycling put in plastic bags ends up as trash.** Carry items in a bag to your bin, but empty it and throw the bag away. **#RecycleRightNY**

Compost and Mulch Supplies

OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites offer residents a place to drop off their yard and food wastes and purchase compost and mulch for use in landscape and garden projects.

The onset of coronavirus meant less incoming food and yard waste, but OCRRA was still able to produce some compost and mulch this season. While supplies are less than normal, the quick reference chart below lists supply availability at the time of this newsletter's printing.

Compost and Mulch Availability		
	Jamesville Site	Amboy Site
Double-ground Bulk Mulch	✓	✓
Triple-Ground Bulk Mulch	✓	✗
Half Inch Bulk Compost	✓	✓
Quarter-Inch Bulk Compost	✗	Limited Supply
Quarter-Inch Bagged Compost	✗	✗

All supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call OCRRA in advance to check on availability if you need large volumes of material (315-453-2866).

The Amboy Compost Site is open year-round. The Jamesville Compost Site's last day of operation this season is November 21.

Compost Site Hours

Jamesville Compost Site
4370 Route 91, Jamesville

OPEN: April 1 to November 21
Thursday – Saturday
7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Amboy Compost Site
6296 Airport Road, Camillus

OPEN: Year-Round
Monday – Saturday*
7:30 am – 3:30 pm

*Note: Amboy Site will be closed on Saturdays from Nov 22 - April 1.

DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES

Art Credit: Pinckney Hugo Group, Syracuse, 2019.

Recyclables should go in your blue bin LOOSE. **Recyclables in a plastic bag end up as trash.** The recycling sorting facility is a mechanical process. Humans cannot hand open bags to free the recyclables.

Each year 2 million pounds of recyclables are thrown away because they are enclosed in bags.

Put recycling in a bag to transport it to your bin, but empty the items into your bin (and reuse your bag) before leaving your bin at the curb. Otherwise, your recycling efforts are completely in vain.

Transfer Station Hours

Ley Creek Transfer Station
Residents Only. No Commercial Customers.
5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool
(Off 7th North St. exit of Route 81)
OPEN: Thu. & Fri., 6:30 am – 1:30 pm;
Sat., 8:00 am – 11:30 am.
CLOSED: Mon. – Wed. and Sun.

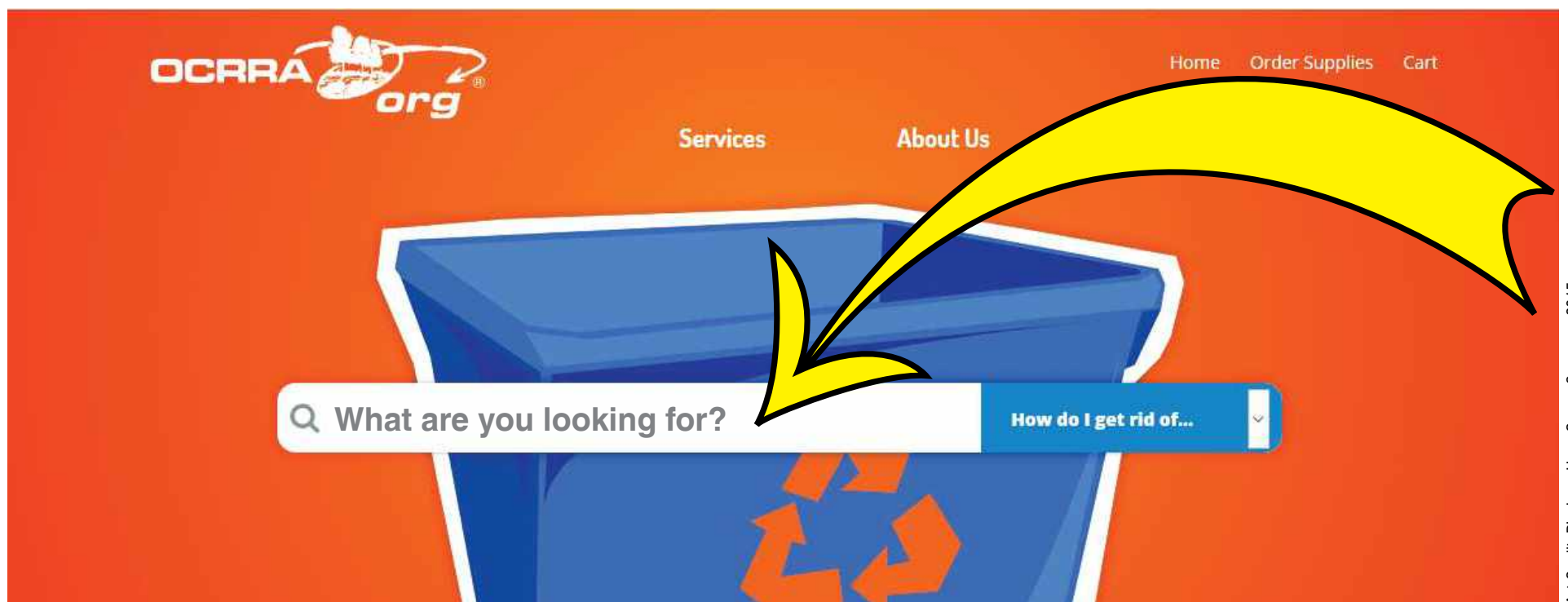
Rock Cut Road Transfer Station
Commercial Entities Only. No Residential Customers.
5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville
OPEN: Hand-unloading: Mon. - Fri., 6:30 am – 1:30 pm;
Self-dumping vehicles: Mon. - Fri., 6:30 am – 2:30 pm;
CLOSED: Sat. and Sun.

Document Shredding Update

Looking to shred your confidential papers including medical documents, bank information, credit card statements, tax forms, or other records containing account numbers? While OCRRA's 2020 shredding event was cancelled, there are various low-cost, year-round options for your urgent shredding needs. Visit www.tinyurl.com/ShredAllYear to learn more.

OCRRA shredding events are made possible thanks to many volunteers that turn out to make them a reality. As OCRRA is unable to fully staff a shredding event in 2020, we ask that you join our email list (it can be done at the bottom of www.OCRRA.org), so we can notify you when future shredding plans are solidified. Thank you.

Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2010.



Art Credit: Pinckney Hugo Group, Syracuse, 2015.

Get details on how to reuse, recycle or dispose of hundreds of items 24/7. Simply visit www.OCRRA.org and type in what you are looking to get rid of in the search field at the top of the page. If you cannot find what you're looking for, leave us feedback at the bottom of the page and we'll get you the info you need.

Get Answers: Search OCRRA's 'How do I get Rid of...?' Database

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

Cleaning out your home and wondering what to do with various items? Not sure if or where you can recycle your old TV? Have a mattress to unload? Looking to get rid of empty aerosol cans? Visit OCRRA.org and enter the item that you would like to dispose of in our handy 'How Do I Get Rid Of' search bar at the top of every page. Match-

ing items will be listed as well as helpful instructions to guide you through reusing, recycling, and/or trashing the item in question.

For example, maybe you have a good idea of what goes in your recycling bin, but you are not sure about other household items like old televisions that you have replaced or clothing that no longer fits. By using OCRRA's search-

able database, you will be directed to recycle your television at the Salvation Army on Erie Blvd. East, Battery World in Syracuse or at a local Best Buy. You will also learn that old clothes, including those that might be ripped or have a broken zipper, can be recycled via donation at any Rescue Mission or Salvation Army retail location in the community.

If you are ready to get rid of household items that have been taking up space, OCRRA is ready to help you put them to good use outside of your home. Visit our website today to quickly and easily determine "how to get rid of" your unwanted stuff, and help save the world a little each day.

Kristen Lawton can be reached at klawton@ocrra.org.



Recycling Rhoda

Bulky Plastics

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

We all know that plastic is recyclable, but is that true of really big plastic items like my old laundry basket and plastic car seat? Or, does recycling plastic only apply to the items that I use in my bathroom and kitchen like my shampoo bottles and yogurt cups?

*-Pondering Plastics
in Pompey*

Dear Pondering,

When it comes to plas-

tic, the popular adage of "bigger is better," is simply not true. Large plastic items like the ones you referenced, laundry baskets and car seats, as well as other big plastics like children's toys and kiddie pools or large storage bins are just not recyclable in our local system. It's important to make note of this because when you put the wrong items into your

recycling bin, you are actually doing more harm than good. Recycling contamination damages the sorting machinery at the local material recovery facility, (the place where all of the stuff in your blue bin goes to be sorted for recycling). If there is too much of the wrong stuff in there, then it can render an entire load of recycling as trash instead. YIKES!!

Stick to recycling plastic **bottles** (food, beverage, toiletry and cleaning supply bottles) and plastic dairy **tubs** like yogurt cups, cottage cheese or butter tubs. If your plastic item is big and bulky, especially if it is larger than the recycling blue bin itself, then it should be discarded in the trash. I mean, OBVIOUSLY, reuse it or donate it first. If

you are ever unsure about which items go in the blue bin and which go in the trash, you can always contact your friendly neighborhood resource recovery agency to find out (hint, hint, that's OCRRA!). And, don't forget our favorite rule of thumb, "when in doubt, throw it out."

Peace,
Recycling Rhoda

Annual Test Results Demonstrate Safety is Paramount at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville

Each year your trash is safely turned into enough electricity to power more than 30,000 homes



Photo Credit: Covanta, Jamesville, 2012

Each year the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility in Jamesville converts Onondaga County trash into enough electricity to power 30,000+ homes. It also removes more than 10,000 pounds of metal from our trash and recycles it each year.

Q: What is the purpose of annual air emissions “stack” testing?

A: Stack testing is an important tool that measures the amount of regulated pollutants being emitted from a facility. Stack testing consists of a series of sampling events, where a probe is inserted into the stack to collect a representative sample of the gases released, over a defined amount of time. Sampling and laboratory analysis must be conducted in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) protocols. **NYSDEC oversees, and is generally onsite during stack testing at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility.**

Q: How do the 2020 stack test results look?

A: The results from the 2020 stack testing indicate that the Facility is operating acceptably and that the air pollution control devices are functioning properly. As shown by the following graph, many of the tested constituents were considerably below the permit limit.

Q: Does the Facility conduct any other air emissions testing besides the annual stack testing?

A: Yes. The Facility has a continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) that measures combustion efficiency, air pollution equipment performance and stack emissions. The CEMS monitors carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides (NOx) as well as opacity and combustion temperatures.

Q: What is the status of the WTE Facility’s Air (Title V) Permit?

A: Pursuant to 621.11(L) of the Uniform Procedures Act and Section 401(2) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, an existing permit does not expire until the renewal process is complete. A complete and timely permit renewal application was submitted to NYSDEC. The Facility continues to operate under the NYSDEC air permit that was effective August 8, 2011 through August 7, 2016. The permit can be accessed on NYSDEC’s website at the following webpage: www.tinyurl.com/WTEpermit.

Q: What is the purpose of the semi-annual ash testing and how do the 2020 results look?

A: A representative sample of combined bottom and fly ash residue is collected according to NYSDEC protocols. This sample is then analyzed by an independent laboratory for leachable metals, according to EPA’s Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). TCLP analysis simulates landfill conditions (the final disposal site for the ash) and determines whether the ash residue exhibits hazardous characteristics. **Over the life of the facility (including the most recent 2020 results), TCLP analysis has always indicated that the ash residue is non-hazardous.**

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: For more detailed information on the test results please contact OCRRA’s Agency Engineer, Cristina Albanio, at 315.295.0743 or calbanio@ocrra.org.

2020 ANNUAL STACK TEST RESULTS

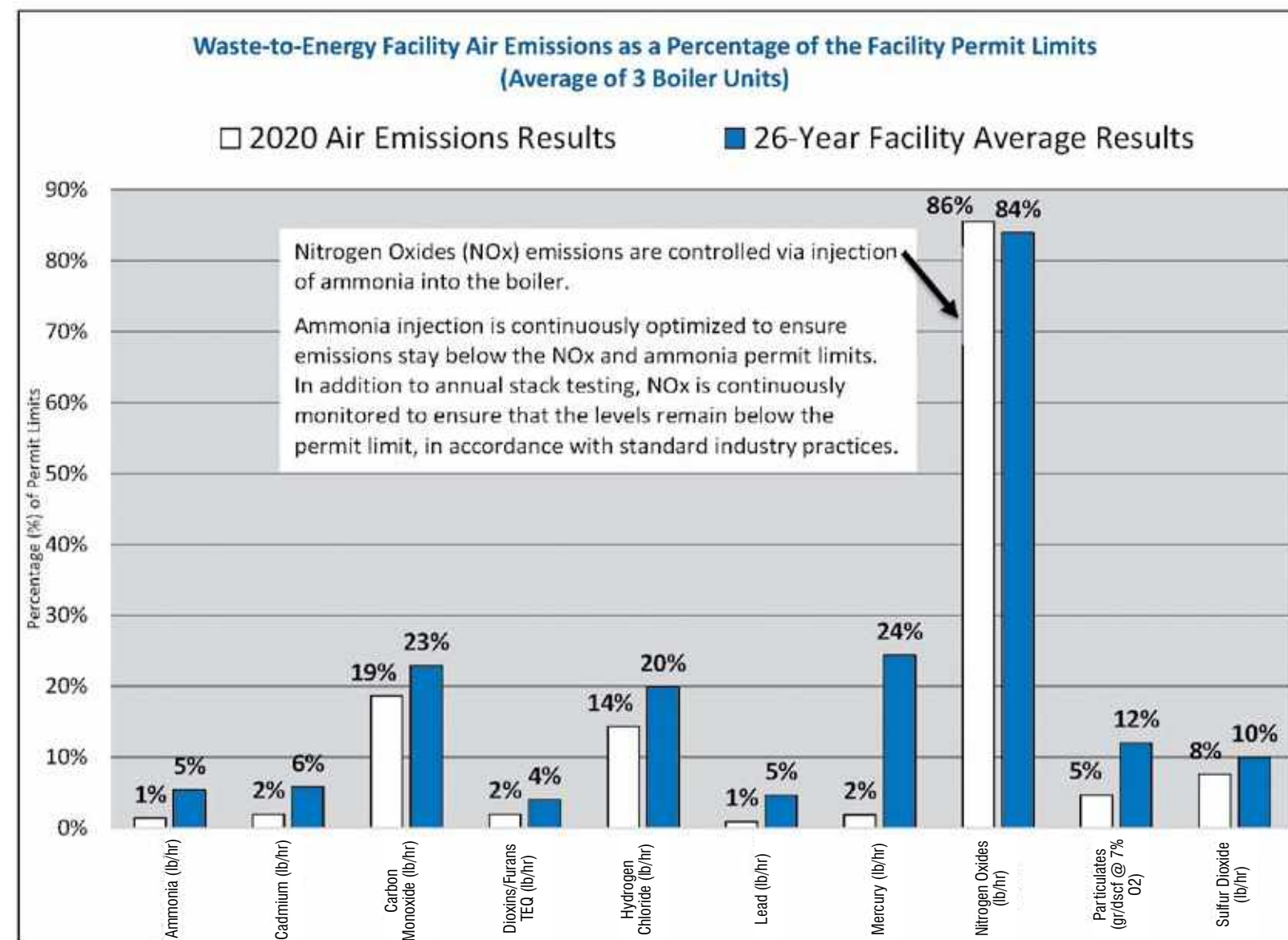
Constituent	Average Measured Emissions ¹			Permit Limit ²	Pass/Fail? ³	3-Boiler Average	% Permit Limit ³
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3				
Cadmium (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.000266 <	0.000165	0.000260	0.035	P	0.000230	1%
Cadmium (lb/hr)	0.0000430 <	0.0000256	0.0000443	0.0019	P	0.0000376	2%
Carbon Monoxide (lb/hr)	1.50	1.66	1.33	8.04	P	1.50	19%
Dioxins/Furans (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.194	1.16	2.49	30	P	1.28	4%
Hydrogen Chloride (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	1.94	4.94	2.40	25	P	3.09	12%
Hydrogen Chloride (lb/hr)	0.472	1.17	0.607	5.24	P	0.750	14%
Hydrogen Chloride Removal Efficiency (%)	99.8	99.4	99.7 ≥	95	P	99.6	--
Lead (mg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.00229	0.00158	0.00236	0.400	P	0.002077	1%
Lead (lb/hr)	0.000371	0.000244	0.000403	0.0381	P	0.0003393	1%
Mercury (lb/hr)	0.0000809	0.0000765 <	0.0000715	0.004	P	0.0000763	2%
Nitrogen Oxides (lb/hr)	50.1	49.8	48.9	58	P	49.6	86%
Particulate (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.000416	0.000492	0.000501	0.010	P	0.000470	5%
PM ₁₀ (gr/dscf @ 7% O ₂)	0.000318 <	0.000059 <	0.000147	0.010	P	0.000175	2%
PM ₁₀ , Filterable (lb/hr)	0.0845 <	0.0142 <	0.0386	3.16	P	0.046	1%
Sulfur Dioxide (lb/hr)	0.992	0.00117	2.68	16.2	P	1.2244	8%
Ammonia (ppmdv @ 7% O ₂)	< 0.472	0.694	0.624	50	P	0.597	1%
Ammonia (lb/hr)	< 0.0536	0.0763	0.0742	4.88	P	0.0680	1%
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (ng/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.00764	0.0137	0.0248	0.4	P	0.015380	4%
Dioxins/Furans-2,3,7,8 TCDD TEQ (lb/hr)	0.00000000124	0.00000000218	0.00000000428	0.000000129	P	0.00000000257	2%
Mercury (µg/dscm @ 7% O ₂)	0.501	0.495 <	0.419	28	P	0.472	2%
Mercury Removal Efficiency (%)	99.0	99.2 >	99.2 ≥	85	P	99.1	--

NOTES:

- ¹ Based on 3 test runs for each unit; used for compliance with permit limit.
- ² NYSDEC Title V Permit #7-3142-00028
- ³ Based on 3-Boiler Average; informational only; not used for compliance.

UNITS:

- gr/dscf = grains per dry standard cubic foot
- ppmdv = parts per million dry volume
- lb/hr = pounds per hour
- dscm = dry standard cubic meter
- @ 7% O₂ = concentration corrected to 7% oxygen
- ng = nanograms
- µg = micrograms
- mg = milligrams



ASH RESIDUE CHARACTERIZATION TEST RESULTS			
Semi-Annual Test Results - April 2020			
Constituent	Test Result (mg/L)	Permit Limit (mg/L)	Pass or Fail
Chromium	0.05	5	Pass
Arsenic	0.05	5	Pass
Selenium	0.053	1	Pass
Silver	0.05	5	Pass
Cadmium	0.054	1	Pass
Barium	0.685	100	Pass
Lead	0.054	5	Pass
Mercury	0.0004	0.2	Pass
Semi-Annual Test Results - October 2019			
Constituent	Test Result (mg/L)	Permit Limit (mg/L)	Pass or Fail
Chromium	0.05	5	Pass
Arsenic	0.05	5	Pass
Selenium	0.073	1	Pass
Silver	0.05	5	Pass
Cadmium	0.05	1	Pass
Barium	0.955	100	Pass
Lead	0.05	5	Pass
Mercury	0.0004	0.2	Pass
CONCLUSION			
Ash residue does NOT exhibit a hazardous characteristic. As such, it should continue to be managed as a non-hazardous solid waste.			

How to Dispose of Household Toxics

OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste drop off program has resumed with new COVID-19 protections in place! Residents may make an appointment at www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics to drop off their household toxics Monday – Friday, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. There is one appointment slot every 15 minutes, to reduce potential engagement with other residents.

Paperwork must be completed before arrival and submitted at the exterior window of Miller Environmental Group (the drop off location at 532 State Fair Blvd., just off Hiawatha Blvd.) Masks must be worn on site. Residents will then return to their vehicle and a staff member will remove items from their vehicle, minimizing contact during the visit.

Before you make your appointment, canvass your home for acceptable items and bring in whatever you have. Ask a neighbor or family member if they have qualifying items too and bring them in under one appointment. A list of acceptable items is available at www.OCRRA.org.

The program can only accept items from Onondaga County households (not businesses). This service is provided free to residents in OCRRA's service area.

If you must cancel your appointment, please let OCRRA know so we can make it available to other residents.

What can you bring?

- Automotive products: transmission fluid, brake fluid, engine degreaser, antifreeze, diesel fuel and gasoline.

- Cleaning supplies: oven cleaner, drain cleaner, lye, toilet bowl cleaner, floor / furniture polish, mothballs and petroleum products.
- Gardening supplies: pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc.
- Painting supplies: oil-based paints, stains or finishes, paint thinner, turpentine, brush cleaner, paint stripper and wood preservatives.
- Miscellaneous products: pool chemicals, lighter fluid, kerosene, driveway sealer, mercury thermometers and thermostats, nail polish remover, smoke detectors, loose asbestos and asbestos pipe wrapping (pipes removed); all asbestos must be double-bagged.
- Products labeled as toxic, flammable, poisonous or corrosive.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, North Syracuse, 2008.

Weed killer is just one example of the type of material accepted at OCRRA's Household Hazardous Wastes program. Visit OCRRA.org for a list of accepted items and to make a drop off appointment today.

Workplace Recycling Still Going Strong in Onondaga County

Order free recycling supplies online for your work, school or apartment complex today

Theresa Evans, Recycling Specialist

Businesses, apartment complexes and schools in Onondaga County can get free recycling supplies* such as decals and cardboard collection boxes from OCRRA to help make recycling easier in the workplace.

To order recycling supplies for your office, simply visit OCRRA.org, and click on the 'Order Supplies' link in the upper right corner. Select your organization type (business, apartment complex, school) and choose the items that will help put you on the path to recycling success. The order form illustrates all of OCRRA's free educational materials, including items like copy room posters, recycling bin decals, and container recycling boxes.

Once your order is received, a Recycling Specialist will contact you to set up appointment for pick

up. Supplies are arranged in a grab-and-go fashion, so minimal contact is required during pick up at our office at 100 Elwood Davis Road in North Syracuse.

Become one of the many proactive businesses in our community that increase their recycling by ordering OCRRA's free recycling supplies. It is an easy and

effective way to keep recycling going strong at work and at school.

**Quantity limits apply to certain items. These materials are for businesses, school*

staff and apartment complex managers in Onondaga County only, not for individual residents.

Theresa Evans can be reached at tevans@ocrra.org.

ORDER SUPPLIES

OCRRA provides the following items (except the trash bag stickers and compost passes), at no charge, to apartment complexes, businesses, hotels, motels and schools in OCRRA's service area (Onondaga County, NY - excluding the town and village of Skaneateles). Quantity limits apply to certain items.

<p>Order Business Supplies</p> <p>Are you a business manager looking for recycling supplies?</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;">Learn More</p>	<p>Order School Supplies</p> <p>Are you a school administrator in need of recycling supplies or educational material?</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;">Learn More</p>	<p>Order Apartment Supplies</p> <p>Looking for recycling supplies?</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;">Tenants</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;">Managers</p>	<p>Buy Compost Passes or Trash Bag Stickers</p> <p>Purchase any of these items online today!</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;">Learn More</p>
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Art Credit: OCRRA, Liverpool, 2020.

Improve recycling at your work, school or apartment complex by ordering free recycling supplies from OCRRA at www.OCRRA.org/order-supplies/. Posters, decals and recycling boxes can be picked up in a grab-and-go fashion at OCRRA's main office in North Syracuse.



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Change and Adaptation: The Theme for 2020

Complete our survey and help OCRRA evolve our residential drop off services

Dereth Glance, Executive Director, OCRRA

Pandemic aside, the year 2020 has been transformative for OCRRA. The Rock Cut Road Transfer Station construction project is now complete and all commercial customers are being served at one of the four buildings located on that campus. I am grateful for the patience that our customers, especially our residential customers, have demonstrated during all these changes.

Firstly, construction delays pushed the \$12 million completion of the project from end of year 2019 to May 2020, coinciding with the busiest time in the trash business. This was never the plan, but then again, nearly nothing in 2020 went according to plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic also further complicated matters, but thankfully the Rock Cut Road construction project was deemed essential and continued to completion with additional safety measures in place. Larger commercial customers began accessing the site in June with the smaller commercial haulers being fully moved over by mid-August.

Ley Creek Transfer Station is now only serving residential customers and is open every Thursday, Fri-

day and Saturday. With the commercial Rock Cut Road Transfer Station operational, at a strategic level, OCRRA intends to focus on residential customers in the next phase of consolidating its operations and we want to hear from you.

OCRRA developed a short survey for residents to complete to share their ideas and preferences for residential trash and recycling drop off services. Options on the table include searching for a new location, investing in Ley Creek, or providing access to Rock Cut Road during non-commercial hours of operation. Please make your voice heard by completing the survey here: www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAphase2.

Recycling markets remain in recession

Recycling markets continue to cost OCRRA far more than can be recouped from the material's value. In March 2020, an ad hoc committee of the OCRRA Board published the *Recycling 2020 Report*, which included short- and long-term recommendations on how OCRRA could address the unsustainable financial reality of today's recycling system.

For years, OCRRA has subsidized curbside recycling by paying the difference between the cost of sorting / marketing material and what that material fetched at market. In some years OCRRA earned revenue and other years OCRRA paid, but never more than \$370,000 per year. In 2018, the loss of the Chinese export market created an abundantly over-supplied recycling system with half of the demand it once had, crashing markets. Three years later, it has still not improved and OCRRA has seen its subsidy rise from \$688,000 in 2018 to \$1.8 million in 2019

and \$2.5 million in 2020. OCRRA anticipates costs near or above \$2.5 million in 2021. This is no longer a trend we can weather alone. In 2021, OCRRA anticipates cost sharing with municipal and private haulers that deliver curbside recyclables for sorting and marketing.

Renewing Recycling

Even if markets lack adequate monetary value for our recyclables, we know recycling fuels our local economy, conserves precious resources and avoids disposal at the Waste-to-Energy Facility or landfills. Can the system be bet-

ter? Of course. A few areas where OCRRA is working to make the bin better:

- Beyond the Bin:** Textiles and thin film plastic are recyclable, but they cannot be processed effectively from a curbside bin. The Salvation Army and Rescue Mission have resumed operations after the spring COVID-19 shutdown and are ready to take your unwanted, clean, and dry textiles for re-sale and recycling. Thin film plastics, like the now-banned plastic retail bags and over-wrap of paper towels and

— continued on page 8



2020 brought much change and required adaptation. To help OCRRA improve our residential drop off program, please complete the survey found at www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAphase2. Make your voice heard today!

Art Credit: OCRRA, Liverpool, 2020.

Keep These Plastics OUT of the Recycling Bin to Reduce Contamination

Just because an item is made out of plastic, does not mean it goes in the blue bin. Not all plastics can be turned into new plastics. Only put plastic items that are shaped like bottles, jugs, jars or are stackable dairy tubs in the blue bin.

Keep plastic cups, takeout containers, crackable bak-

ery or produce cartons (e.g., berry cartons) and plastic bags* out of the blue bin. These items are not recyclable in the bin. Putting them in devalues the rest of the good recycling. If there are too many of them in the recycling stream, they can turn entire loads of recyclables into trash.

*Plastic bags and other stretchy film plastics that are clean and dry and devoid of labels can be recycled at large retail stores. Visit OCRRA.org for details.



Change and Adaptation

continued from page 7

cases of water bottles, can be recycled into durable goods like weather-proof decking. Collect your clean and dry plastic bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, etc. and drop them off at any big box store for recycling. And, while you are at it, don't forget to bring your clean reusable bags with you too.

2) A Better Bin: What is recycled during these marginal market conditions? Cardboard is king. It is processed right here in Solway into new cardboard, which is then made into new boxes at a facility in Camillus. Cardboard recycling supports almost 500 jobs in Onondaga County. Please breakdown those boxes and place them in your curbside recycling container.

Mixed paper markets continue to be very weak, but the paper is being processed into new paper products, like liner board for cardboard boxes, paper board, and paper. OCRRA reports quarterly to the NYS-DEC on the state of local recycling markets. Check out the latest economic reports here: www.tinyurl.com/QuarterlyDEC.

3) Bottle Deposits Work: In 2019, OCRRA scientifically sampled trash and recycling as part of

a Waste Quantification and Characterization study. The study provided data on what items and how much of them are in a typical ton of garbage and recycling. A big takeaway is that those five-cent deposits on beverage containers ensure that no matter whether a bottle is made of glass, plastic or aluminum, they are recycled.

A fact of curbside recycling is that glass bottles in the blue bin do not get turned into new bottles. They are too dirty and are instead used as landfill cover or in engineering applications. This is in direct contrast to what happens to glass bottles with a deposit. They remain clean and can readily be turned back into another glass bottle. OCRRA is urging the State Legislature to adopt an expanded bottle bill that includes wine and liquor bottles (they comprise almost half of the glass in the recycling bin), while also exploring alternative glass collection methods. See the full report here: www.tinyurl.com/WasteQC2019.

Compost Scarcity?

Compost is made from our community's food and yard waste. The NYS State Fair provides a significant amount of high-quality material, like bedding for show horses and cows,

as well as other organic agricultural by-products. Syracuse University and SUNY ESF cafeterias sent all their food waste to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site, as well 16 schools in the County. COVID-19 put a stop to almost all of that incoming food waste. As a result, OCRRA predicts a shorter supply of compost this fall and in spring 2021.

Hopeful for a Better Run in 2021

Cancelling the community-wide Earth Day Litter Cleanup in April 2020 was a hard decision and we are hopeful that Onondaga County residents will continue to dutifully wear masks, social distance and keep our COVID infection rates down so we can safely collect roadside litter and beautify our community in spring 2021.

Your comments on the future of residential drop off services for recycling and trash are very important. They will inform our Board and staff as we determine the next step for improving residential services.

The times are a changing, so please remember to stay up-to-date with OCRRA by subscribing to our email blasts and following us on Facebook.

Mask up and recycle on. Thank you for all you do to help save the world a little each day.

Dereth Glance can be reached at dglance@ocrra.org.



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

Follow OCRRA on Facebook and ask us all your recycling and disposal questions!

Q: I am cleaning out my basement and have an old TV to get rid of. Do you have any upcoming electronics recycling events I can bring it to?

A: Recycling electronics is very important as old TVs and e-waste like monitors, computers, tablets, printers, etc. all contain heavy metals. They should be properly managed to ensure these toxic items do not go in the trash or contaminate the environment and cause health problems for humans and wildlife.



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2020.

When NYS passed legislation requiring manufacturers to take back electronics for recycling, many businesses cropped up to take these items in. While OCRRA no longer accepts these items at our transfer stations and does not have collection events any longer, there are many ways you can properly manage your old electronics, including TVs.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/2RecycleEwaste for details on what locations will accept various items. TVs are accepted at multiple locations. Some will take them in for a fee, while the Salvation Army on Erie Blvd. East will take one TV per vehicle at no charge during normal hours of operation. They cannot accept physically broken TVs. They do not have to work, but they cannot be physically broken when dropping off at the Salvation Army on Erie Blvd. East.

Battery World on East Molloy Road in Mattydale and local Best Buys will take TVs for a fee. Contact them for details.

For guidance on managing physically broken TVs, call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

Join OCRRA's email list to be made aware of electronics recycling events hosted by local politicians. Sign up in the green section at the bottom of OCRRA.org entitled, "Join our Mailing List."

Also, please contact Assemblywoman Pam Hunter and let her know that you support her legislation requiring consumer electronic manufacturers to take back TVs year-round at no cost. Assemblywoman Hunter can be reached at (315) 449-9536 or HunterP@nyassembly.gov.

Mark Your Calendar

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED

THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE

Last Day of Operation This Season NOVEMBER 21

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS **DROP-OFF**

Year-Round by Appointment MILLER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP M – F, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Register at OCRRA.org.

BUSINESS RECYCLING SUPPLIES

Order Online at OCRRA.org Improve your work, school or apartment complex's recycling efforts!

FACT: The Salvation Army on Erie Blvd. East in Syracuse will accept one TV per vehicle for recycling at no cost.