



Clean Your Closet: Help Those in Need and the Planet

Textile event on May 16 at Destiny USA benefits Salvation Army and Rescue Mission

Theresa Evans, Recycling Specialist

Textiles, such as your clothing and household linens, have one of the lowest recycling rates of any reusable material. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, only about 15% of this material is currently donated or recycled, while 85% of it gets trashed in the United States every year. Fortunately, there is something you can do right here in Onondaga County to help address this problem: attend OCRRA's Textile Recycling Event at Destiny USA this spring!

On Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, bring your unwanted textiles to the Pink Parking Lot of Destiny USA, and leave them with us at no charge to you. These items will be accepted by both the Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army.

Textiles that cannot be resold in a Rescue Mission or Salvation Army retail store are sent to private sector recyclers, who turn the fiber into new products, such as insulation or industrial wiping rags. The sale of the materials along each step in this process, including to the private sector recyclers, helps generate revenue for the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army, which benefits those in need in our community.

"Whether we sell, give away or they go to salvage, the textile donations are life changing for someone in need in this community. Donations and store revenues account for almost 60% of the Rescue Mission's operating budget," said Jeanine Goodrich of the Rescue Mis-



Anterio Hardwick of the Salvation Army helps unload resident vehicles at the 2018 Textile Drop Off Event. Make a difference in the lives of those in need in our community and attend OCRRA's Textile Recycling Event happening on Saturday, May 16 at Destiny USA's Pink Parking Lot from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

sion. "To put it simply, each item equals meals, services and overnight stays to those we serve. Every \$2.42 spent in one of our Thrifty Shopper stores provides one meal to someone in need in our community, and we are serving up to 700 total meals daily."

Recycling textiles is a no-brainer; you can help the environment and people in need, all in one fell swoop. **Please note: textiles should NEVER go in the blue bin.** They do not get recycled this way and they cause machinery problems at the recycling sorting facility.

Donate textiles at the May event, or anytime year-round. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, visit: www.tinyurl.com/donate-textiles. Acceptable items

include clothing, shoes, linens, towels, stuffed animals, backpacks, curtains, etc. Do not worry if the materials are not "wearable," or if they are stained, are torn, are missing buttons or have broken zippers. They just need to be washed and dry.

Everyone can make a difference by recycling their unwanted clothes, shoes and other household textiles, even items that no one else can wear or use; they simply need to be washed and dry. When you donate and recycle textiles, you are supporting local jobs, increasing recycling and helping local charities assist those in need in our community.

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



GLASS RECYCLING...PG 2

What really happens to your blue bin glass?



WHEN IN DOUBT.....PG 3

Rhoda explains how "when in doubt, throw it out" reduces recycling contamination.



COMPOST & MULCH.....PG 4

Find out where and how to get OCRRA's amazing garden products.



PLASTICS RECYCLING.....PG 6

Not all plastics go in the blue bin. Learn which ones do and don't!



EARTH DAY..... PG 7

Beautify our community – register for the litter cleanup happening on 4/24 & 4/25.

What Can You Bring to the Textile Event?

Acceptable Items:

- Old clothes – **all items should be washed and dry**; rips, stains, missing buttons, non-functioning zippers are **okay**.
- All footwear.
- Accessories: hats, gloves, scarves, pocketbooks, duffle bags, totes, belts, ties.
- Linens: sheets, blankets, comforters, towels, draperies, table linens, placemats.
- Stuffed animals.

Preparation Instructions:

- There is no limit to what can be dropped off.
- Items are best delivered in bags.
- If you are bringing in rags or unwearable/unusable items, put them in a separate bag labeled "Rags."



Blue Bin Glass Could Live a More Useful Life...

Recently, OCRRA conducted a waste quantification and characterization study. This means OCRRA literally picked through samples of trash and recycling and sorted it into more than 60 categories. This exercise helps OCRRA better understand what is in our waste stream, which helps us make educated program and policy decisions.

Did you know that wine, liquor and other non-deposit beverage bottles make up about half of the glass in residential recycling bins? None of these beverage containers have a nickel deposit on them. What makes this interesting is that **glass in the blue bin is not as recyclable as glass that goes back to a bottle return to redeem for a deposit.**

Glass is unique from other recyclables. In a blue bin, unlike paper, metal or plastic, glass inevitably breaks into difficult-to-classify shapes and sizes. Glass collected from blue bins goes to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting. It comes out

with many unwanted contaminants inter-mixed, such as kitty litter pebbles, chunks of ceramics, small pieces of plastic, etc. (Please note: NONE of these items belong in the blue bin, they are all contaminants.) Contaminated glass is unusable by glass manufacturers; it cannot be turned into new bottles or other products unless it is processed further.

The cost of further processing blue bin glass is often higher than the cost of virgin materials, and so this glass faces a different fate; blue bin glass does not get turned into new bottles. In Onondaga County, it replaces topsoil at landfills as “daily cover” to prevent fires, odors, and blowing litter. The MRF’s cost of sorting this ultimately unclean glass exceeds its value. The MRF does not get paid for this material, they actually have to pay to send it to a landfill as daily cover.

There is some hope though. The five-cent deposit on certain beverage bottles and

cans not only provides a financial incentive to recycle those containers, but, due to the lack of other contaminants among the containers, produces a saleable material that is clean enough to turn into new bottles again!

A study by the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute identified that 65% of containers with a five-cent deposit in New York are redeemed – much higher than the national average for glass recycling, which is at 26.6%, according to the EPA. **If wine, liquor bottles and other non-deposit beverage bottles had a deposit on them, more than half the glass in the blue bin would get turned back into new containers, instead of covering a landfill in lieu of topsoil.**

Moral of the story? Return your redeemable bottles and support expansion of the bottle bill to include wine and liquor bottles, so more glass can repeatedly live a useful life, as glass is infinitely recyclable.

Nickel Deposit = More Recycling

48% of Blue Bin glass is wine & liquor bottles

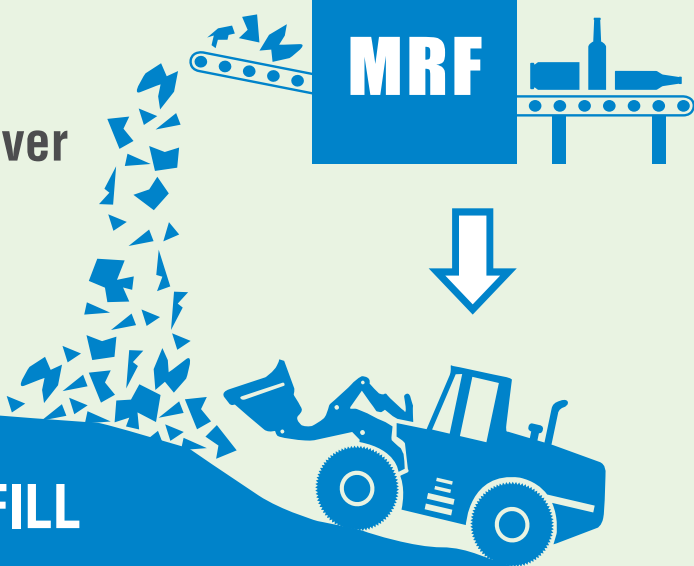
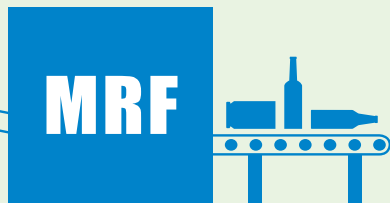
Expanding the Bottle Bill to include this glass ensures it gets recycled into new bottles!

BLUE BIN GLASS

Wine bottles, jelly jars, etc.

Mixes with contaminants during sorting. Is too dirty to be recycled into new bottles.

Used as landfill cover instead of topsoil

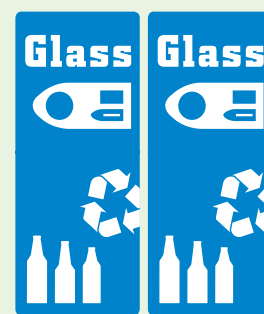


LANDFILL

End of the Line

DEPOSIT GLASS

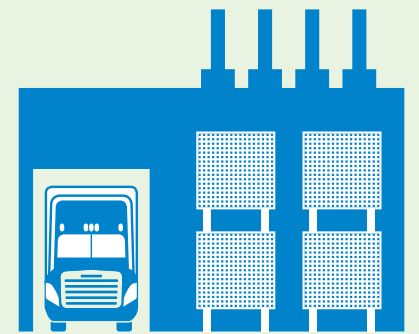
Beer bottles, soda bottles, etc.



5¢ Return



Clean



Bottle Factory

Cycle Continues Indefinitely

Art Credit: Eagle News

FACT: Blue bin glass can't be turned into new bottles, but deposit bottles can! Let's add a 5¢ deposit to wine & spirit glass.

Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

Progress Update

Structural steel for one of the new buildings is up and concrete has been poured for new scales at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. The site remains closed to customers until construction is complete in 2020. Once complete, OCRRA will start serving commercial customers at Rock Cut Road. Residential customers will continue to use the Ley Creek Transfer Station until plans for an improved residential drop off come together. Until future notice, all customers should use the Ley Creek Transfer Station.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Jamesville, 2020

Ley Creek Transfer Station

5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool

Monday – Friday, 6:30 am to 1:30 pm
Saturdays, 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Commercial and dual-axle vehicles are only accepted Monday through Friday and on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, when scales are open.



Recycling Rhoda

When In Doubt, Throw It Out

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

I attended a fabulous recycling workshop at the library last month and OCRRA said that if I don't know whether my item is recyclable, that I should simply throw it in the trash. What?! I thought your message was to reduce, reuse, recycle – not trash! If I'm not sure about an item, I've been putting it in my blue bin because you can sort it out for me, right?

–Surprised in Solvay

Dear Surprised,

The recycling presentation you attended, thank you for going to that by the way (!), was right on the money – if you do not know whether an item goes in the blue bin, and you don't have time to look it up on OCRRA.org or call us, then you should absolutely throw it in the trash. In fact, do-

ing that is crucial to the longevity of the recycling system. And look at this, we've even developed a cute little rhyme to help you remember what to do: **when in doubt, throw it out.**

Obviously, we're expecting our Nobel Prize in poetry to arrive any day now...

So, why is this the guidance of your friendly neighborhood recycling agency? Because **putting items in the recycle bin that do not actually have a market, and therefore cannot be sold and turned into new items, hurts recycling** (ouch!). We've got a cute name for that too, it's called "wish-cycling," or tossing non-recyclable items in the recycling bin, hoping they will be recycled, when in fact, they will not. A common example of wish-cycling occurs with boxes:

freezer boxes versus paperboard boxes to be exact. Freezer boxes, like a Lean Cuisine meal, are trash, not recyclable, because of a coating in their packaging that preserves food. Paperboard boxes, like a cereal box or a typical cardboard box, can be recycled all day and all night.

Recycling markets are currently experiencing a depression. The markets are flooded with material and the resale value is so low, that it is more costly than ever to recycle. In a depressed market like this, only the cleanest of recyclables are sought after by manufacturers looking to turn them into new products. Clean recyclables are those that have little or no wish-cycling items mixed in. If too much of the wrong stuff is in the blue bin, there is a high chance that the

manufacturer will reject the entire load, meaning that not only is the item that you "wished" was recyclable treated as trash, but so are all the other items in that blue bin that actually could have been recycled!

So, the next time you have an item that you are not sure about, whether it's a freezer box, a paper egg carton, or a plastic cup, do not toss it in the recycling bin without thinking. Instead, check the database on OCRRA's website (OCRRA.org) / call us, or, say it with me now: When in doubt, throw it out.

With Love,

Recycling Rhoda

P.S. Freezer boxes, plastic cups and paper egg cartons (or plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons for that matter) all go in the trash.

In Search of Compost or Mulch? Finding it is as easy as 1-2-3!

As the last of the snow melts away this spring, it is time to think about new garden and landscape projects. When planning these projects, knowing where and how to acquire OCRRA's mulch and STA*-certified compost is crucial to growing the best vegetables and creating the most beautiful landscapes in the neighborhood. To join the company of thousands of local residents and landscapers that rely on OCRRA's high-quality mulch and compost for their gardens and lawns each year, consider these options:

1) FILL YOUR TRUNK

If you are looking for less than a cubic yard of mulch or compost and have a car, mini-van or SUV, you may self-load with the trunkload option. **No site pass is needed.**

- ½" General Compost: **\$10 / trunkload.**
- Double Ground Wood Mulch: **\$5 / trunkload.**



2) BUY IT BY THE YARD

Mulch and compost can be purchased in bulk; OCRRA will load your truck or trailer for you. There is no self-loading and no site pass is needed. A pass is only needed if you are looking to drop off material. Don't have a truck or trailer? Check out a list of local haulers that will deliver mulch and compost to you by the yard at www.tinyurl.com/haul4u.

- ½" General Compost: **\$15 / cubic yard.**
- ¼" inch Premium Compost: **\$20 / cubic yard.**
- Double Ground Wood Mulch: **\$12 / cubic yard.**



3) BUY COMPOST IN BAGS

OCRRA compost is available at more than 30 retail locations (¼" premium compost only). Each store sets its own price point. Check page 5 for a list of retailers, which can also be found at OCRRA.org.



If you are only looking to drop off material at either the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site you will need a 2020 Compost Site Pass. This **\$25 residential pass** allows unlimited, year-round drop-off of yard waste and food scraps at both Compost Sites. It also comes with two free bags of ¼" premium compost. The drop off pass is for residential use only, and is not available to commercial customers. To purchase a 2020 Compost Site Pass, visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAcompostpass, or stop by one of the Compost Sites when they are open.

Visit OCRRA's award-winning Compost Sites and help "Save the World a Little Each Day," while also creating beautiful landscapes and gardens at home.

**STA or Seal of Testing Assurance is a certification bestowed upon organizations that rigorously test their compost products through third party laboratories. It is given by the US Composting Council, a national organization devoted to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry.*

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



Photo Credit: 123rf.com

Site Hours	Jamesville Compost Site	Amboy Compost Site
	4370 Route 91 Jamesville	6296 Airport Road Camillus
	Seasonally open to residents April 1 to November 30 Thursday – Saturday 7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Open to residents Year-Round Monday – Friday 7:30 am – 3:30 pm



Residential Mulch & Compost Haulers

The businesses listed below may be contacted to haul materials from OCRRA Compost Sites

HAULER	PHONE	BASED IN	SINGLE TRIP MAX VOLUME*
Alan Seabrook	(315) 481-9677	Syracuse: Serving Onondaga County	7 cu. yds.
Bill Guptill	(315) 345-5451	Nedrow	6 cu. yds.
Jeff's Cutting Edge Landscaping And Lawncare	(315) 488-2924	Van Buren – Serving West & Northwest Sides of Syracuse	3 cu. yds.
J.M. Landscape & Plowing	(315) 430-5549	Baldwinsville	7 cu. yds.
John Majowsky	(315) 247-8111	Onondaga County	8 cu. yds.
Landscapes Etc. LLC	(315) 447-5844	Cazenovia: Serving Manlius, Jamesville, Dewitt, Fayetteville, Chittenango	16 cu. yds.
Larry Belge: Commercial Lawn & Landscape	(315) 699-4912	Liverpool, Clay, Cicero, North Syracuse	5 cu. yds.
Mosher's Landscape	(315) 678-1431	Baldwinsville: Serving Onondaga County	3 cu. yds.
Northern Firewood	(315) 668-9663	West Monroe	15 cu. yds.

***Heavier products may have lower maximum volumes for a single trip.
OCRRA is neither recommending nor endorsing any of the service providers above.**

FACT: Store receipts should go in the trash. They often have a coating that renders them non-recyclable.

Buy OCRRA Compost By the Bag

These fine retailers set their own pricepoint for OCRRA's high quality, 1/4" US Composting Council certified material. Call for details.

North Area

- B'ville Supply – Baldwinsville
- Ballantyne Gardens – Liverpool
- CountryMax – Lysander
- CountryMax – Cicero
- Deaton's Agway – Pulaski
- Green Acres Lawn & Garden Center – Liverpool
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses – Fulton
- Pond & Rock Shop – North Syracuse
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus – Phoenix
- Village Ace Hardware – Baldwinsville

South Area

- Carol Watson's Greenhouse LaFayette
- CountryMax – Cortland
- CountryMax – Norwich
- Green Hills Farms – Nedrow

- Lee's Feed Store – Syracuse
- Neil Casey's Farm Market – Tully
- Valley View Gardens – Cortland
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center – LaFayette

East Area

- Aspinall's – Chittenango
- CountryMax – DeWitt
- EverGreen Landscaping and Garden Center – Syracuse
- Green Scapes – Jamesville
- Manlius True Value Hardware Manlius
- Materials Direct – East Syracuse
- Spruce Ridge Landscaping & Garden Center – Cazenovia
- Syracuse Cooperative Market Syracuse
- Village Ace Hardware – Fayetteville



Curbside Recycling



Milk and juice cartons
Empty and rinse.



Newspapers, magazines, catalogs and softcover books
Keep loose. Don't tie.



Plastic bottles and jugs
Empty and replace cap.



Cardboard, pizza, pasta, cereal boxes, etc.
Flatten.



Cans and jars
Empty and rinse. Labels are ok.



Papers, mail, envelopes



Plastic dairy tubs
Empty and rinse; no lids.

Art Credit: Pinckney Hugo Group, Syracuse, 2018.



OCRRA Blue Ribbon RECYCLER



Ann Gregory receives the Blue Ribbon Recycler Award on behalf of **Anchor QEA** from OCRRA's Dale Cocca. Anchor QEA's dedication to recycling permeates the business's culture with use of 100% recycled paper, reusable eating ware throughout, fluorescent bulb recycling, exclusive use of rechargeable batteries, and even hosting clothing drives for a local shelter, in addition to the collection of blue bin recyclable materials in all work spaces (they wisely pair trash and recycling containers with one another, which increases recycling participation).

Become a Blue Ribbon Recycler next quarter!
Apply at: www.tinyurl.com/BRrecycler

Tax Time is Here

It is time to purge old tax records! Shred them at home; bring them to Office Max, Staples, or a UPS Store to shred them (for a nominal fee); or hang on to them until July...

OCRRA is hosting a free shredding event at the New York State Fairgrounds' Brown Parking Lot on Saturday, July 11, from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. No registration is required; the event is for residential materials only, no materials from businesses will be accepted. Homeowners can bring up to five medium-size cardboard boxes of confidential documents to be shredded on site.

Why the Plastic Bag Law Makes Sense, Even if it Seems Inconvenient

Jack Mungo, SUNY-ESF Student



Photo Credit: istock.com.

The average plastic bag is used for 12 minutes. That is one of the many reasons the NYS Law banning plastic bags is a good idea for our planet. Join the reusable bag movement and reduce your impact on the environment today.

No doubt you have heard about the plastic bag ban that went into effect across NYS this year. You may be thinking, “What’s the big deal? My family only used them at the grocery store once every week or two.” Although that may be true, like poet Stanislaw Jerzy Lec said, “No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.” Everyone plays a part in protecting our environment.

According to analysts at Penn State University, Americans throw away over 100 billion plastic shopping bags per year. The average family takes home about 1,500 plastic bags per year and only 1–3 percent are recycled, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Typically, a plastic shopping bag is used for only 12 minutes. Bags often become litter. Over time, they break into tiny plastic pieces referred to as “microplastics.” Since they are so small, microplastics are able to enter the groundwater, polluting our drinking water and eventually making their way into streams, lakes and oceans for animals to ingest (which humans then consume).

Plastics are petrochemicals made from a byproduct of the oil refining process. More than 12 million barrels of oil need to be processed to make the 100 billion plastic bags used annually in America alone, according to analysts at biologicaldiversity.org.

Although paper bags are able to decompose more readily than plastic bags, they actually require more energy and resources to produce, according to a briefing note by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Reusable tote bags are the most environmentally-friendly option, with just one reusable bag saving over 22,000 plastic bags during its lifetime, according to Penn State analysts.

While it may seem inconvenient, **eliminating plastic bag (and paper bag) use is good for the environment.** Change can be hard, but when it is for a good cause, it is easier to get on board. Please remember your reusable bags and recycle the plastic bags that you have already accumulated.

Plastic bags cannot be recycled in your blue bin. When mixed with other recyclables they become too dirty to be recycled. They can also damage machinery at the sorting facility. This is why plastic bags and other stretchy, thin film plastics must be separated and returned to major big box stores, chain pharmacies and grocery stores, (e.g., Tops, Wegmans, Walmart, Target, Home Depot and Lowes). For more information visit www.ocrra.org/how-do-i-get-rid-of/plastic-bags/.

Jack Mungo can be reached at jmungo@syr.edu.

BLUE BIN OR NO?

Not all plastics can go in the blue bin. This visual guide shows TYPES of items you should know about. Please use this as a SHAPE guide. If you have an item that fits these general descriptions, put it in – or keep it out of – your recycling container, per the instructions below.

YES

Plastic Bottles



Plastic Jugs



Plastic Jars



Plastic Dairy Tubs (or Dairy Substitute)



NO

Film Plastics*



Clamshell Containers (Trash)



Cords & Hoses (Trash)



Plastic Cups (Trash)



*Stretchy film plastics are recyclable at big box retailers, grocery stores and chain pharmacies; they simply have to be clean, dry and devoid of labels. See OCRRA.org for details.

FACT: Plastic bottles are recyclable. Bottles have a larger base than top opening and often have a screw on cap.



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Waste is Proof of Life

DERETH GLANCE, Executive Director, OCRRA

Onondaga County economic performance is optimistic. CenterState CEO's economic forecast predicts strong economic progress for 2020. In addition to record low unemployment levels, private sector employers added 7,100 new jobs in 2019, which is more than double the amount from 2018 and the largest gain in recent years. Additionally, more people, especially younger folks, are calling Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse home.

This is great news for our community. At OCRRA we see firsthand how waste is a byproduct of economic progress and a strong indicator of what activity is occurring in our community. Maintaining disposal capacity to sustainably manage the waste generated by a rebounding population with increased economic activity is essential to sustain the region's economic performance over the long term.

For OCRRA, our community's economic activity informs the steps we need to take to ensure our community has strategic disposal capacity into the future. Unlike most communities, a very small portion of our trash ends up in a landfill (7%). The bulk of our trash is processed at a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility (51%). When looking at mandatory recycling, a huge portion of our waste is recycled (42%). This is accomplished through recycling

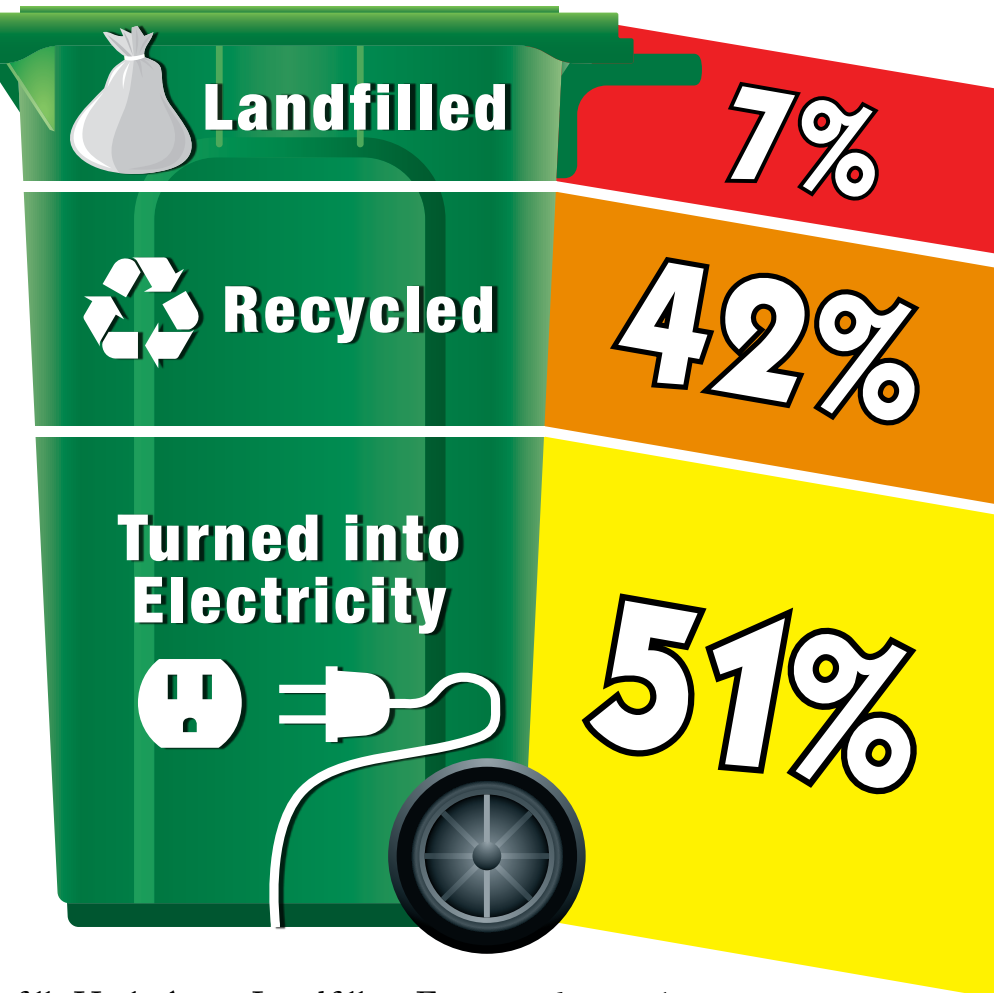
and composting yard and food waste. In addition, residents reduce waste by keeping nasty chemicals out of the trash and away from our storm drains by making convenient appointments—all year long—to drop off household hazardous waste for proper disposal.

At our community's Waste-to-Energy Facility on Rock Cut Road, over 10,000 tons of metal is recovered for recycling and enough electricity is generated to power over 30,000 homes, each year. From a strategic disposal perspective, it is important to note that unlike a landfill, which has diminishing airspace – meaning landfills only last until they are filled, the WTE Facility capacity is renewed annually. Once it empties, it can begin operations again the next year.

That being said, OCRRA still needs access to a landfill for the disposal of certain materials. Some materials, such as tires, hard fill, pressure-treated wood, PVC pipe, gypsum board and other large construction and demolition materials are sent to a landfill because they are difficult to manage in the WTE Facility. This is called “bypass” material. OCRRA sends bypass material to the Camillus Landfill and to Seneca Meadows Landfill in Waterloo. Seneca Meadows Landfill holds 30% of the disposal capacity for the entire state of New York.

The landfill is scheduled to close in 2025.

OCRRA also has arrangements with Madison County Land-



fill, High Acres Landfill in Fairport and Seneca Meadows Landfill to dispose of the ash from the WTE Facility. These landfills use the ash, instead of harvesting topsoil to cover their landfills at the end of each day, to reduce odors and keep vermin away.

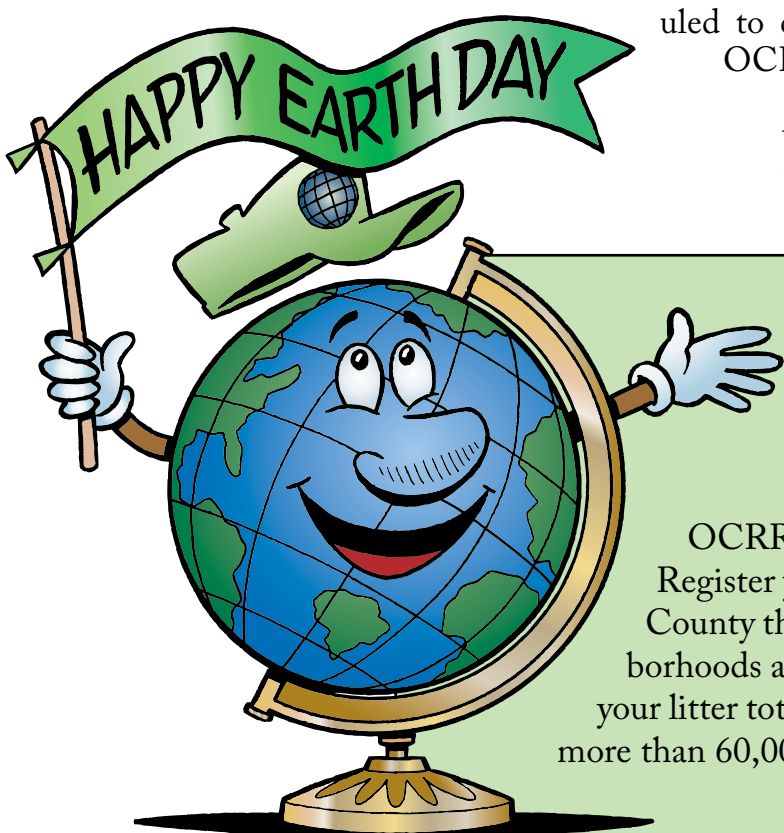
OCRRA continually works to ensure resources are recovered for their highest value while maintaining long-term disposal capacity. In 2020, OCRRA adopted a fee to support recycling mattresses. Mattresses are too large to be directly processed at the WTE Facility and for years were bypassed to Seneca Meadows Landfill. Since 2017, OCRRA has been shredding mattresses. This recovers their metal and

reduces their size, so we can extract their value – and no longer fill trucks up with lightweight bulky mattresses and send them across the state.

Waste is a part of life – and may, in reality, be proof of life. As our local economy is revitalized, building additional sustainability into our solid waste management system takes on more urgency.

Transforming trash into a resource that can be recovered and reused again and again is one way to help save the world a little each day.

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



Help Beautify our Community! Register for Earth Day 2020

OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Cleanup happens Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25. Register your group, large or small, by Friday, April 17. Collect litter anywhere in Onondaga County that you think needs sprucing up! OCRRA invites businesses, church groups, neighborhoods and interested individuals to visit OCRRA.org to sign up. Registering ensures that your litter total is added to the county-wide tally. Last year more than 6,000 volunteers collected more than 60,000 pounds of litter from roadsides, parks and public spaces in our community.

FACT: Cylindrical prescription vials go in the trash. They are not considered true bottles because they do not have a “neck.”

In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart, that OCRRA mourns the unexpected passing of Bill Bulsiewicz, our Agency Counsel. Bill saw it all at OCRRA. He began his career here in 1990, at OCRRA's inception. Bill was a wealth of historical information and provided us all wise legal counsel. He played a pivotal role in ensuring that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the *Oneida-Herkimer* decision, which maintains the right of municipalities to "flow control" garbage; an underlying principle supporting the OCRRA system.

Bill was an avid outdoorsman; regularly taking part in fishing trips and bird hunting outings with his beloved Brittany Spaniels, Riley and Petey. We will miss Bill's wise counsel, his depth of knowledge, his good humor and his kindness. Rest in peace, Bill.



**Bill Bulsiewicz
1949-2020**

Recycle E-Waste

Electronics including TVs and Monitors (free):

- **Salvation Army** on Erie Blvd. in Syracuse accepts working / non-working TVs and monitors. They cannot be physically broken. Only one TV per visit. They also accept other functional electronics. Before drop off, call (315) 445-0520.

Electronics including TVs and Monitors (small charge):

Best Buy locations and Battery World accept TVs and monitors for a charge, pending size. They accept other electronics for free. Call ahead for details:

- **Best Buy, Destiny USA**, (315) 426-1588;
- **Best Buy, DeWitt**, (315) 449-1784;
- **Battery World**, East Molloy Road, Syracuse, (315) 437-1404.



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2019.

Electronics EXCLUDING TVs and Monitors (free):

Staples locations and Bruin Recycling accept electronics, excluding TVs and monitors. Call ahead for details:

- **Staples, Camillus**, (315) 488-4071;
- **Staples, Clay**, (315) 715-0112;
- **Staples, East Syracuse**, (315) 463-8040;
- **Bruin Recycling**, 1001 Vine Street, Liverpool, (315) 410-0050.
Bruin Recycling has a 24/7 drop-off for electronics, excluding CRT televisions and monitors (tube style).



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

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

Q: OCRRA says to recycle "wide-mouth, stackable dairy tubs" – but, what about Cool Whip containers, non-dairy yogurts and veg-an cream cheese tubs? The ones I have didn't contain DAIRY, but they look the same as the dairy versions...



A: So, when changes in the recycling industry dictated that we move away from identifying recyclable plastics by the NUMBER they had on the bottom, we needed to find a simple way to convey only certain plastics are recyclable. This is why OCRRA switched to SHAPE identification.

When it comes to PLASTICS, if it fits the SHAPE description below, it can go in the recycling bin. If it does not, it should go in the trash (unless it is a clean, dry plastic bag; they can be recycled at area grocery, pharmacy and retail stores).

- **BOTTLE** – something that has a smaller opening than base (has threads at the neck for a screw on cap) – this includes shampoo bottles, body wash bottles, dish soap bottles, ice tea bottles, etc.
- **JUG** – something with a handle – like a milk jug or laundry detergent bottle.
- **JAR** – similar to the bottle description; it does not matter if it is cylindrical or square shaped. (e.g., peanut butter jar, pickle jar, mayo jar, nut jar, etc.)
- **WIDE-MOUTH, STACKABLE DAIRY (or dairy substitute) TUB** – any tub that previously contained a DAIRY (or dairy substitute) like butter, yogurt, sour cream, cream cheese, etc. It must be able to nest inside itself though. If you can't stack them inside themselves, they are not recyclable. Tub lids are NOT recyclable.



All other plastics should go in the trash. Adding them to the blue bin will only contaminate the other recyclables and if there is too much contamination, entire bales of material will be thrown out instead of recycled.

Mark Your Calendar

ROCK CUT ROAD TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION
Until Further Notice Use
Ley Creek Transfer Station

TEXTILE DROP OFF EVENT

SAT., MAY 16
8:00 am – 12:00 noon
DESTINY USA PINK LOT

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED

MONDAY, MAY 25
Memorial Day

SHRED-O-RAMA

SAT., JULY 11
8:00 am – 12:00 noon
NYS FAIRGROUNDS BROWN LOT
No registration needed.
See article on page 5

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF

Year-Round by Appointment
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
M – F, 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
Register at **OCRRA.org**

FACT: Only metal cans go in the blue bin. All other metal goes in the trash; it is pulled out at the WTE Facility and recycled.