



SHREDDINGPG 2

Get a 50% off coupon and destroy your confidential documents anytime!



HOUSEHOLD TOXICS.....PG 3

Gather your icky items and make a disposal appointment online.



GET IT DELIVERED.....PG 4

Have OCRRA compost or mulch delivered to your home by local vendors.



COMPOST & MULCH.....PG 5

Learn the difference and how to use them both to improve your lawn, garden or landscape.



SHAMPOO BOTTLES.....PG 8

Can you recycle them in your blue bin or no?

Does Blue Bin Glass Get Recycled into New Bottles?

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Each year, Onondaga County residents put close to 4.9 million pounds of glass bottles and jars in their blue bins. These glass items do not get recycled in the way you might imagine. They cannot be made into new bottles because they break into tiny pieces, which contaminate other recyclables, such as plastic bottles, cardboard and newspapers. The glass collected at the end of the sorting process resembles a pile of sand, mixed with labels, caps and other items that are too small to be properly sorted. This material is so dirty and has so many miscellaneous items mixed in that it cannot be easily or cost-effectively cleaned and made into new bottles.

Unlike deposit bottles that are returned to redemption centers or reverse vending machines at grocery stores, which are

made into new bottles, blue bin glass is used at landfills in road base construction or as daily cover to keep trash from blowing away; a common practice across NYS. Unfortunately, there was not a better recycling option, until now!

OCRRA is partnering with TOMRA, a company that manages beverage containers that have a 5-cent deposit. Along with a few independent bottle redemption locations, TOMRA's redemption centers are now accepting non-deposit glass beverage bottles!

That is right - just bring your non-deposit wine, liquor, and glass juice/tea/ice coffee bottles when you go in to one of 10 participating drop off locations, along with your other deposit bottles, and they will make sure your empties get turned into new glass bottles!

These non-deposit beverage bottles make up half the glass in the blue bin by weight. For now, no food jars are accepted, just glass beverage bottles. New York State has not yet expanded the Bottle Bill, so you will not get a nickel for these items (as no deposit was paid on them at purchase). However, they will be 100% recycled into new bottles.

Properly sorted, uncontaminated /clean glass can be recycled infinitely without losing quality. Without recycled glass, new glass needs to be dug up from the shorelines and beds of rivers and lakes (desert sand is too fine). Recycling glass reduces the need for mined sand and preserves natural landscapes for wildlife and recreation.



OCRRA supports expanding the Bottle Bill to include these glass beverage containers. Until that happens, residents are encouraged to recycle their non-deposit glass beverage bottles at participating locations listed below. Non-participating locations will not take wine, liquor, juice, ice coffee or tea bottles. They continue to only collect 5-cent deposit bottles.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@ocrra.org.

How to Recycle Non-Deposit Glass

- 1. Know what is accepted:**
 - Wine bottles = YES
 - Liquor bottles = YES
 - Juice, iced coffee and tea bottles = YES
 - Food jars = NO
Those should still go in the blue bin
- 2. Remove caps and corks and place in trash**
- 3. Keep 5-cent deposit containers separate from non-deposit glass bottles**



DROP OFF	ADDRESS	CITY	PHONE
Cicero Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	6195 Route 31	Cicero	(315) 698-7358
FM Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	202 West Seneca St.	Manlius	(315) 682-4830
T & T Redemption II	2542 Otisco Valley Rd.	Marietta	(315) 263-3822
Here's Your Nickle Back Bottle & Can Return	2204 Brewerton Rd.	Mattydale	(315) 455-1667
Minoa Can & Bottle Return	330 Costello Pkwy.	Minoa	(315) 877-8619
Bottle's End Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	101 Montrose Ave.	Syracuse	(315) 876-0508
Teall Ave. Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	1833 Teall Ave.	Syracuse	(315) 432-0970
Thompson Road Bottle & Can Retrieval Center	6222 Thompson Rd.	Syracuse	(315) 437-1481
Central City Bottle Redemption	224 Chapel Dr.	Syracuse	(315) 488-6521
Papa Cans & Bottle Return	1421 West Genesee St.	Syracuse	(315) 478-1009

How to Properly Manage Batteries

Andrew Radin, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction

Batteries are prohibited from going in the trash in Onondaga County, which is why OCRRA has offered a battery collection program for 25+ years. Residents can drop them off at various locations in our community:

- All Onondaga County Wegmans
- Green Hills Farms' bottle return shed (Nedrow)
- Nightingale Mills True Value (4086 South St., Marcellus)
- Nightingale Tully Lakes True Value (6 Elm St., Tully)
- OCRRA's Ley Creek Transfer Station (Liverpool)
- Wrightway Hardware (9236 Oswego Rd., Baldwinsville)

Through this year-round drop off program, OCRRA ensures that over 130,000 pounds of household batteries are properly managed each year, including the recycling of over 10,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries.

For many years, special battery bags were mailed out to residents for curbside collection of alkaline batteries in July. A very small percentage of batteries were actually collected during this July program. The resources devoted to the July collection are better utilized elsewhere, as more batteries – and more types of batteries – are collected year-round at the drop offs mentioned to the left.

As such, yellow battery bags are no longer be mailed to residents, resulting in significant waste reduction.

OCRRA reminds residents to sort batteries into three categories before drop off: alkalines, rechargeables and button batteries.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAbatteryInfo to learn how to tell the difference between battery types.

This drop off program is for household batteries only. Business batteries are not accepted.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/BizBattery for informa-



The July Alkaline battery collection program that utilized yellow battery bags has ended. Residents are invited to drop their batteries off at 12 convenient locations throughout our community. This year-round program accepts not only alkaline batteries but rechargeable and button batteries too. No special bag is required for drop off.

tion about proper disposal of batteries generated by businesses. OCRRA thanks its retail partners, including Wegmans, Green Hills Farms, Nightingale Hardware and Wrightway Hardware, that all help make Onondaga County an environmental leader in battery recovery.

Andrew Radin can be reached at aradin@ocrra.org.

Looking to Shred Confidential Documents from Your Home?

OCRRA partners with local shredders to offer reduced price shredding services

Kristen Lawton, OCRRA Public Information Officer



OCRRA is unable to offer a confidential document shredding event in 2021 due to challenges associated with securing necessary volunteers to run a safe, efficient event; however, OCRRA is partnering with two local shredding companies to offer reduced-cost shredding services when presented with one of the coupons below. To keep costs down, bring confidential documents only. To learn what a confidential document is, check out the list below for guidance.

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

What is a Confidential Document?

Confidential documents contain account numbers.

Confidential documents include: medical documents, bank information, credit card statements, tax forms, other records containing account numbers.

Items containing only your name and mailing address are NOT confidential.

Non-confidential documents include: phone books, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, receipts.

Confidential Document Shredding Special

25¢ per pound

Monday – Friday | 9 am to 2 pm

- Call 1-800-62-SHRED for appointment.
- Limit 10 medium boxes or bags.
- No business docs. Onondaga County household materials only.
- Prohibited items: Cardboard, 3-ring binders, hanging file folders, plastic folder holder envelopes, large metal binder clips (staples, paper clips and rubber bands are okay).

4642 Crossroads Park Drive
Liverpool

COUPON EXPIRES: **DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Confidential Document Shredding Special

25¢ per pound

Monday – Friday | 8 am to 4 pm

- No appointment necessary.
- Unlimited drop off.
- No business docs. Onondaga County household materials only.
- Prohibited items: Cardboard, 3-ring binders, hanging file folders, plastic folder holder envelopes, large metal binder clips (staples, paper clips and rubber bands are okay).

1925 Park St. #2, Syracuse
Bodow Recycling Building

COUPON EXPIRES: **DECEMBER 31, 2021**

FACT: There is no longer a July battery collection, but batteries can be dropped off at local stores. See article above.

Household Toxics Drop Off Program Up and Running Again

No-cost disposal option available by appointment Monday, Thursday and Friday, all year long

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste program is back up and running after a short hiatus. Some household items should not be disposed in the trash or down the drain. For example, if you have unneeded oil-based paints, garden chemicals or automotive products around your home, OCRRA has a no-cost disposal option for you!

Appointments are available Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm; sign up today at www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics. Need assistance? Call us at (315) 453-2866. A confirmation email will advise on how to package and transport items and where to bring them (Miller Environmental Group—off Hiawatha Boulevard in Syracuse).

This program is free to residents, however, OCRRA pays a flat fee for each appointment, regardless of the number of items brought in. OCRRA appreciates residents bringing items in bulk, so that this essential service can continue to be offered at no charge. Please have at least a box full of toxics ready for drop off before making an appointment. Consider asking friends or neighbors if they have items as well, to maximize each appointment.

Business materials are not accepted. Residents of the Town and Village of Skaneateles are not eligible for this program as these municipalities are not part of the OCRRA service area.

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



Ron Pokrentowski, of Miller Environmental Group (left), removes household toxics from Adrian Rand's vehicle in May. Rand of Manlius made a no-cost appointment to drop off his household toxics through OCRRA's program. Schedule your appointment year-round on a Monday, Thursday or Friday. Visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics for a list of acceptable items and to make your appointment. Masks are required at appointments. Thank you.

Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2021.



Recycling Rhoda

Propane Tanks

Propane Tank Drop Off Locations

Ben Weitsman & Son
Solvay, (315) 488-3171

BJ's Wholesale Club
Clay, (315) 622-2600

BJ's Wholesale Club
East Syracuse, (315) 434-9100

Bodow Recycling
Syracuse, (315) 422-2552

B'ville Supply
Baldwinsville, (315) 635-5221

Country Propane
Clay and Central Square,
(315) 652-9822 or (315) 676-2978

Energy Gases
East Syracuse, (315) 446-8400

Dear Recycling Rhoda,

My family got the grill out this spring, and found our propane tank did not survive the winter. I know these don't go into the trash, but am sick of looking at it peeking from behind the grill out back. What can I do about it?

— Blown Out in Baldwinsville

Dear Blown Out,

Our jeans aren't the only thing straining their seams after a year in quarantine. Lots of us have replaced restaurants with al fresco dining at home (my stoop counts as al fresco, right?). With summer in full swing, intact grilling equipment is important for safety.

Propane tanks can usually be refilled over and over at special locations, but once they are no longer structurally sound, it's time to get rid of them responsibly. The bigger tanks (twenty

pound and up, the big grill-sized ones), need to be taken to one of the locations listed to the right. Check with the location you are heading to before bringing it. They'll give you instructions about how to prepare it.

The small propane tanks (think: 1lb, camping type) can go into the trash, once they have been totally emptied. Straining the seams is one thing, but we all want to avoid blowing up, at least outside of social media.

You might be thinking "but this is metal, shouldn't it get recycled?" and the answer is: it will be! Thanks to Onondaga County's Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, metal is pulled out of the trash. Each year more than 10,000 tons of metal is recycled from the trash this way!

Confidentially yours,
Recycling Rhoda

Need Compost or Mulch for a Spring Garden or Landscape Project?

How to Buy Compost and Mulch

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, see list below, right.



- 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.



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.



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2021

Site Hours

Jamesville Compost Site

4370 Route 91
Jamesville

Seasonally open to residents
April 1 to November 21
Thursday – Saturday
7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Amboy Compost Site

6296 Airport Road
Camillus

Open to residents
April 1 to November 21
Monday – Saturday
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.*
Custom Lawn-Scapes, Inc.	(315) 458-4921	North Syracuse: Serving Onondaga County	10 cu. yds.*
J.M. Landscape & Plowing	(315) 430-5549	Baldwinsville	7 cu. yds.*
John Majowsky	(315) 247-8111	Onondaga County	8 cu. yds.*
Joshua Korthas	(315) 450-7864	Syracuse: Serving Onondaga County	5 cu. yds.*
Landscapes Etc. LLC	(315) 447-5844	Cazenovia: Serving Manlius, Jamesville, Dewitt, Fayetteville, Chittenango	16 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.*
Polk's Hauling LLC	(315) 706-1698	North Syracuse: Serving Onondaga County	5 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.

Get a Drop Off Pass

If you are only looking to drop off material at either the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site you will need a 2021 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 2021 Compost Site Pass, stop by one of the Compost Sites when they are open.





Compost is a finely screened, nutrient-rich soil amendment that is added to plants, lawns and gardens to improve their growth, amongst other benefits.



Mulch is a coarser, woody material used to beautify landscapes, while suppressing weeds and retaining moisture.

Compost VS. Mulch: Differences and Uses

Lisa Piering, Public Recycling Specialist

What do plants need to grow? The answer is not quite “sugar, spice, and everything nice,” but you can get a bag of “everything nice” from OCRRA’s bagged compost retailers!

Soil is about 95% rock, comprised of silt, sand and clay. Getting goodness to your veggies, plants and flowers – and seeing beautiful results – depends on the remaining small amount of organic matter in the soil. In nature, it comes from rotting vegetation and wildlife. But gardens need compost and mulch! Both improve soil structure and nourish plants. However, they are used differently.

Some savvy gardeners refer to compost, as “black gold.” **Compost** is an ideal soil amendment and contains fully decomposed organic material such as leaves, yard waste and, sometimes, food waste. It can be made at home or commercially. Commercial compost is made in large, controlled piles of decomposing organic material. The advantage is that bigger compost piles get much hotter. The larger, hotter piles effectively decompose all food and yard waste, and kill off invasive plant seeds, disease-causing organisms and unwanted roots. That means no aphids or knotweed hitching a ride to your garden!

Adding compost to your garden creates healthy soil and feeds your plants. By top-dressing existing plants with com-

post, “everything nice” will move down to your plants’ roots when you water. Or, use a garden fork to mix it into new beds. Wondering how much compost you would need in your garden? Check out this handy calculator for an estimate: www.tinyurl.com/CompostCalculator

Since OCRRA compost includes decomposed food waste that would otherwise end up in the trash, it reduces our community’s waste stream by millions of pounds each year. As a bonus, compost is a natural alternative to bagged chemical fertilizer. It is often better for plants, too, because it releases nutrients to the plants more evenly, retains moisture like a sponge and reduces the need for pesticides.

Mulch, on the other hand, is simply shredded woody material. It is excellent for retaining moisture in your garden and landscape; it will also reduce weed growth. Spreading a thick layer (2-4 inches) provides a clean, even look to your garden, leaving you with more time to sit back and enjoy your landscaping! And, over time, it will turn into a rich soil amendment like compost.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@ocrra.org.



How to Mulch Trees

1. Mulch should form a crater, not a volcano. Keep mulch away from the trunk to prevent tree-killing girdling roots.
2. You should be able to see the root-flare.
3. Mulch at least 3 feet around the tree or use the tree’s drip line as a guide.

Get OCRRA Compost by the Bag!

These fine retailers set their own pricepoint for OCRRA’s high quality, 1/4” US Composting Council certified material.



East Area

- Aspinall’s – Chittenango
- CountryMax – DeWitt
- Green Scapes – Jamesville
- Manlius True Value Hardware – Manlius
- Spruce Ridge Landscaping & Garden Center – Cazenovia
- Syracuse Cooperative Market – Syracuse
- Village Ace Hardware – Fayetteville
- Vollmer Farms – East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms – Rome

North Area

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

South Area

- Bob’s True Value – Syracuse
- Carol Watson’s Greenhouse – LaFayette
- CountryMax – Cortland
- CountryMax – Norwich
- Green Hills Farms – Nedrow
- Neil Casey’s Farm Market – Tully
- Valley View Gardens – Cortland
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center – LaFayette

West Area

- Maldonado Gardens – Elbridge
- Oliver’s Produce – Marcellus
- Silver Spring Farm Market – Onondaga Hill
- Sollecito Landscaping Nursery – Syracuse
- Town Square Ace Hardware – Skaneateles

Where Can I Bring My Trash — Ley Creek or Rock Road?

Now Residential Customers Go to Ley Creek and Commercial Customers Go to Rock Cut Road

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

Residents with items from their own home, such as household trash, recycling, bulky waste—like furniture—or construction and demolition materials, should use the Ley Creek Transfer Station in Liverpool, Thursday—Saturday.

Ley Creek serves households ONLY, not businesses. Trash disposal costs are determined by the type of vehicle materials are dropped off in; cars and minivans cost \$15; pickup trucks, SUVs, vans and trailers cost \$30.

Some items have additional disposal fees such as appliances with refrigerant, mattresses, microwaves

and tires. Recycling drop off costs \$2 per visit, regardless of volume. Explore www.tinyurl.com/LeyCreekInfo for specifics, as well as hours and directions.

Businesses, including contractors, with trash, bulky waste or construction and demolition debris should use the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville, Monday—Friday. Those who are hand unloading are welcome from 6:30 am – 1:30 pm, Monday—Friday. Those with self-dumping vehicles are welcome from 6:30 am – 2:30 pm, Monday—Friday. Loads are charged either by vehicle type or weighed over the scale, pending volume.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/RockCutRoad for specifics.

OCRRA is now working on a plan for improved residential services. There are two main options: moving residential services to the eastside of the county or improving the Ley Creek Transfer Station, so it too can comply with state regulations that require all operations to take place indoors.

Either option will take time to accomplish, but rest assured things are in the works.

OCRRA appreciates your patience as operations continue to evolve. Please join our email list to be made aware of future

changes and services. Sign up at the bottom of www.OCRRA.org.

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

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

Businesses 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.

The Importance of Proper Medication Disposal

Waste-to-Energy Facility prevents drug ingestion and abuse while protecting the environment

Cristina Alburnio, OCRRA Engineer

OCRRA's Waste-to-Energy Facility manages all of the trash in Onondaga County. In addition to that, the facility provides reliable and secure destruction for unused medications. Properly disposing of unused medications is important because according to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. Most abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, occurs each year in April and October. These days of national recognition serve to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the misuse potential of medications. In 2020, at the October take back day alone, 16,880 pounds of prescription medication were collected here in Onondaga County.

In addition to these take back days, medication is collected year-round by local law enforcement agencies, pharmacies and other drop off sites. This material is then brought to the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility. Once these materials are at the WTE Facility, they are manually fed into boilers, combusted at over 2,000 degrees and converted into electricity. These efforts help reduce accidental ingestion by children and prevent drugs from landing in the hands of experimenting youth and habitual drug abusers.

Combusting these substances, also keeps them out of public water supplies and the global food chain. Research by the United States Geological Survey has shown that the chemicals in medications can travel through public septic systems and wastewater treatment plants, so flushing old medications down the toilet is not the right thing to do as diluted medications will likely end up in waterways.

The WTE Facility is equipped with state-of-the-art combustion controls and air pollution control equipment to ensure these drugs are destroyed in an environmentally responsible way. For a list of drop off locations, information on Kinney Drug's monthly collections and the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Take Back Days, visit www.tinyurl.com/MedDisposalOptions.

Another way to dispose of medication is to disguise it by mixing it with unwanted substances such as coffee grounds or rotten food scraps (to deter people or pets from ingesting them) and place it in the trash.



Drug take back items being dropped off prior to secure destruction at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville. In 2020, at the October take back day alone, 16,880 pounds of prescription medication were collected here in Onondaga County.

Photo Credit: Covanta, Syracuse, 2020.

Once it is safely in your trash, it will be brought to the WTE Facility and used to generate electricity along with the rest of your household trash. Each year the WTE Facility generates enough electricity to power 30,000 homes in our area.

When properly disposed, your unused medications will not end up in our waterways and you can be sure they are destroyed instead of being misused. Thank you to Covanta, who operates the WTE Facility, for supporting local drug take back initiatives that help protect humans and our environment.

Cristina Alburnio can be reached at calburnio@ocrra.org.



Dereth Glance, Executive Director



John Copanas, Board Chair

From the Executive Director and OCRRA Board Chair

OCRRA 2020: Reflections

OCRRA is a non-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature, which delivers a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents.

OCRRA's Board of Directors is comprised of 15 volunteer citizens appointed by the following government offices: the Onondaga County Executive, the Onondaga County Legislature Chair, the Mayor on behalf of the City of Syracuse, and the Towns of Onondaga and Van Buren, our host communities. The Board of Directors takes its financial and environmental duties seriously and works hard to deliver a reliable, envi-

ronmentally-sound and fiscally responsible solid waste system.

OCRRA provides a strong recycling and composting program; a foundation for waste disposal at the local Waste-to-Energy Facility; a robust public outreach and education service; and award-winning programs for hard to manage materials including household hazardous waste, fluorescent light bulbs and other mercury containing devices.

In 2020, OCRRA completed construction upgrades at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, bringing it into compliance with recently updated NYSDEC regulations. All operations at the facility are now undercover, allow-

ing for improved storm water management, noise reduction and customer service. The facility now serves commercial customers with a state-of-the-art automated scale system and improved load outs.

Residential customers will continue to be served at the Ley Creek Transfer Station with a new schedule; it is operational three days a week, including every Saturday.

Though COVID-19 impacted many aspects of our lives in 2020, despite restaurant closures and school closings which reduced incoming food scrap volumes, OCRRA was able to keep compost production up by changing our yard waste to food scrap ratios. This ensured

that there would still be ample volumes of compost and mulch to sell to our residents in 2021.

OCRRA appreciates the patience of all our customers who made the Transfer Station transition with us and helped keep our community safe by masking and respecting social distance guidelines while on our Transfer and Compost Sites.

The Recycling 2020 Ad Hoc Committee developed a report that outlined ways to sustain our recycling program, amidst rapidly deteriorating recycling markets. One of the key options the report outlined was to implement a recycling tip fee in 2021. After subsidizing the ever-increasing recycling cost for three years from our

reserves, and after careful consideration that the international recycling market would not rebound in the short term, the OCRRA Board elected to institute this fee and share recycling costs with haulers for the first time since the program began three decades ago.

The success and nationally recognized achievements of OCRRA are due in a large part to the people of Onondaga County, who have actively participated in our programs, provided valuable input and have led us to have one of the highest recycling rates in the United States. Thank you for helping to save the world a little each day!

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

Order Free Recycling Supplies for Your Work, School or Apartment

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Looking for a way to make recycling easier at work, at school or at your apartment building? Good news – OCRRA has free supplies available*. Just go to OCRRA.org and click "Order Supplies" in the top right corner. Pick your organization type and the items you need.

How do you know what you need? Consider your space and where people normally put trash. Make it easy by putting a recycle box next to each trash can.

OCRRA also has decals, fliers, posters and magnets that explain what can be recycled, to help coworkers, students and tenants participate.

OCRRA will contact you once your order has been placed to let you know when it can be picked up at our main office (100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syra-

cuse, 13212). To minimize contact, OCRRA will have supplies bundled for you in our reception area. Masks are required.

OCRRA recycling supplies are

a great way to increase recycling participation and accuracy.

*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.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@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>Learn More</p>	<p>Order School Supplies</p> <p>Are you a school administrator in need of recycling supplies or educational material?</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>Order Apartment Supplies</p> <p>Looking for recycling supplies?</p> <p>Tenants</p> <p>Managers</p>	<p>Buy Compost Passes or Trash Bag Stickers</p> <p>Purchase any of these items online today!</p> <p>Learn More</p>
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Improve recycling at your work, school or apartment 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.



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

Q: Can you settle a household debate for us? Do shampoo and other toiletry BOTTLES go in the recycle bin or is it only plastic bottles that used to have food or drinks in them? Thanks!



A: Yes, plastic shampoo BOTTLES go in the recycle bin, but not the squeezable plastic tubes.

Not all plastics can go in the blue bin, even if they have a number and a recycle symbol on them. Those symbols were developed by the plastics industry; they indicate the TYPE of plastic something is made from, not if it is recyclable. Sometimes, even plastics with the same number are not all recyclable. Sounds confusing, right? For instance, not all #1 plastics can be recycled (bottles = yes; crackable berry cartons, bakery clamshells or salad tubs = no).

Here's guidance to ensure you and your fellow family debaters are recycling right: ignore the numbers and pay attention to the shape of your plastic items. **Any plastics shaped like bottles, jugs, jars or wide-mouth/stackable dairy (or dairy substitute) tubs can be recycled in the blue bin.**

It doesn't matter what they previously contained, unless they contained a hazardous item. If they are empty but had a hazardous item in them, they should go in the trash. If they still contain a toxic material from your home, you should make an appointment for OCRRA's year-round household hazardous waste program. See page 3 for details.

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

Earth Day 2021



Photo provided by Bell Home Team.

After a year off, due to COVID, the community-wide clean up event returned on April 23 and 24. More than 4,160 volunteers collected 56,000 pounds of litter. Many thanks to all the volunteers and DPW staff who made the event such a success, including the Bell Home Team that cleaned up along Widewaters Parkway in DeWitt!

BLUE BIN OR NO?

Not all plastics can go in the blue bin. Ignore the NUMBERS on plastics. Use the shape as a guide instead. If you have an item that fits these general descriptions, put it in—or keep it out of—your recycling container.

YES

Plastic Bottles

Smaller opening than base



Plastic Jars

Screw on lids with necks



Plastic Dairy Tub

Stackable inside same item



Plastic Jugs

Item with handles



NO

Clamshell Containers (Trash)



Film Plastics*



Plastic Cups (Trash)



Cords & Hoses (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.

Mark Your Calendar

ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED

MON., JULY 5 AND MON., SEPTEMBER 6

Happy Holidays!

NEW GLASS DROP-OFF PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Wine, liquor and non-deposit beverage bottles can be recycled at drop offs. See page 1 for details.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

YEAR-ROUND

Shred them at reduced rates. See page 2 for coupons.

HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF

MON., THURS., FRI. BY APPOINTMENT

Miller Environmental Group
8:00 am–3:00 pm
Register at OCRRA.org.

FACT: Ignore numbers on plastics. Pay attention to shape. Only bottles, jugs, jars & stackable dairy tubs go in the blue bin.