

March 20, 2024

Board Chair Corey Dunham

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Re: Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2023

Mission: To sustain a world-class waste management system that benefits our community and environment

Chair,

New York State requires that OCRRA management report directly to the chair of the board each year on the Agency's progress and compliance with its mission. I am pleased to report that the Agency was both diligent and successful in carrying out our Mission in 2023. In achieving this goal the Agency acted in accordance with our core values of:

- Integrity & Honesty
- Safety
- Environmental Stewardship
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Public Engagement
- Excellence in Customer Service

Guided by the Agency's vision, OCRRA uses effective and fiscally-sound strategies, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, disposal and public education, to ensure the safe and reliable disposal of waste while making our community a more sustainable and healthy place to live. Below are some program highlights, also contained in our annual report.

2023 Program Highlights:

- **RECYCLING:** OCRRA and county businesses recycled more than 492,800 tons of material, for a 56% recycling rate. Special services to the community include the collection of rechargeable batteries and over 1,500 appointments to properly dispose of household hazardous waste. The collection of 11,000+ fluorescent bulbs kept more than 38,706mg of mercury out of the environment.
- **LEY CREEK:** OCRRA closed on the purchase of the Ley Creek North Property, setting the stage for continued redevelopment of the Ley Creek site into a modern material management facility.
- **COMPOSTING:** OCRRA's pioneering food scrap composting program processed over 7 million pounds of food scraps from commercial and institutional generators. This was an increase of 45% from the previous year. More than 18,000 yards of compost was produced in 2023.

- **ENERGY RECOVERY:** In 2023, the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility processed 360,833 tons of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste (enough to overfill Syracuse University's JMA Wireless Dome) and, in doing so, generated 256,513 megawatt hours of electricity. 13,412 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metal were also recovered for recycling.
- **DISPOSAL:** The by-product of the energy recovery process is a non-hazardous ash that, per the NYS DEC has a beneficial use as landfill cover. OCRRA has disposal contracts with several area landfills. In 2023, combined, OCRRA sent about 76,000 tons of ash to High Acres Landfill (Fairport, NY), Seneca Meadows Landfill (Waterloo, NY) and Madison County Landfill (Canastota, NY).

REPORTING

The Agency supports transparency in all its operations, meetings and financial reporting. The Agency's comprehensive website (www.ocrra.org) contains several years' worth of useful reports including our Annual Reports, Recycling Reports, Compost Site USCC STA Test Results, WTE (waste-to-energy) Air Emissions and Ash Testing Data, and Annual Budgets.

Agency Meetings <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/meetings/>

Annual Reports <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

Open Procurements <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/procurements/>

Agency Policies <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/>

For additional information we have a very convenient portal for submitting FOIL requests (<http://ocrra.org/contact-us/foil-requests/>).

The Agency received an unqualified, clean opinion from our external auditors for 2023; that is included in our Annual Report on the website. In addition, all New York State and Authority Budget Office reporting requirements and deadlines have been met and documents for these related requirements are available on our website at <http://ocrra.org/about-us/information/reports-and-policies/#abo>

In conclusion, the Board of Directors, employees and the community can be proud that OCRRA has once again met its Mission in a manner that affirms what good government is all about.

Very truly yours,



Michael A. Mokrzycki

Deputy Director