



RECYCLING BINS..... PG 2

Lidded carts on wheels are the future of local recycling.



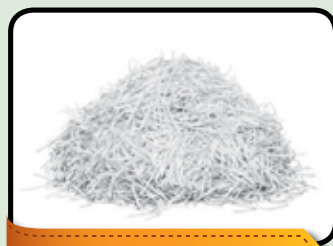
HOUSEHOLD TOXICS..... PG 4

What household toxics are accepted at OCRRA's drop-off programs?



DROP OFF PAINT..... PG 4

A new state law makes it more convenient to manage paint products.



CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS..... PG 5

Shred old tax forms with money-saving coupon inside!



COMPOST AND MULCH..... PG 6

Enhancing local landscapes and gardens with food and yard waste.

Small Steps Add up on Earth Day

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Earth Day is a great reminder of how much we depend on our home planet. As Carl Sagan said, "Anything else you are interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water." Making environmentally responsible changes in day-to-day life can feel overwhelming. Go ahead and start small. Small steps add up.

OCRRA's annual Earth Day Litter Cleanup is one way Onondaga County residents can make a big impact. Gather friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors and pick an area to clean on Friday, April 21 or Saturday, April 22 - or sign up for both days! Register online at OCRRA.org or mail in the form below. The deadline to register is April 12.

OCRRA supplies special stickers and instructions for you to tag and drop off bags of litter for free disposal. Tagged bags are brought to OCRRA by your municipality and weighed, so we can measure the overall impact of every step you take to fill a bag or two (or three or four). Over 2.8 million pounds of litter has been removed from our community and converted into electricity since the program's inception in 1991.



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2022.

The Otisco Lake Preservation Association shows off litter collected at last year's cleanup event.

Volunteering to clean up litter can inspire changes at home. First, you brush up on proper recycling rules. Then, composting sounds like a fun family project. Soon, you'll be calling on representatives to reduce carbon emissions! The scale of necessary environmental change in the world requires large scale solutions. Progress begins with each person who finds a way to do their part. Carl Sagan's quote continues, "Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolute critical moment in the history of our planet." Go ahead and start small. Small steps add up.



Earth Day '23

APRIL 21 & 22, 2023

Litter Cleanup Registration Form

Name of Group: _____

Number of Volunteers: _____

Name of Contact Person (one name only): _____

Address of Contact (where information/stickers are to be sent): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone #: (W) _____ (H) _____

Email: _____

Day(s) Your Group Will Be Cleaning:

Friday, April 21 Saturday, April 22 Both

You will receive two trash bag stickers per worker. Please indicate if you will need more.

Number of ADDITIONAL Stickers: _____

Remember, NO chemical waste, paint cans, furniture, appliances, yard waste or gas tanks are acceptable. OCRRA encourages groups to recycle any bottles and cans they find.

Municipality (city/town/village) where you are cleaning. This info. is used to provide instructions on litter drop-off.

What area are you cleaning? (You may choose any public space in the county. Be as specific as possible to avoid cleanup overlap. Include cross streets.)



Cleanup supplies are your group's responsibility. OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through your municipality. **Any questions, please call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.**

REGISTER ONLINE AT
OCRRA.ORG
 OR RETURN REGISTRATION
 VIA FAX (315) 453-2872
 OR MAIL TO: OCRRA
 100 ELWOOD DAVIS ROAD
 NORTH SYRACUSE, NY 13212

What's Happening to the Blue Bins?

The rumors are true, they are going away, but not tomorrow...

Kristen Lawton, Director of Recycling and Reduction

Residents have likely heard rumblings that the iconic blue bin, Onondaga County's trusty curbside mascot of recycling for more than three decades, is being canceled. Some residents may already live in an area that has replaced blue bins with rolling carts – which are indeed the wave of the future.

OCRRA began purchasing blue bins to incentivize recycling in our community in the 1990s. It worked! Thirty years in, Onondaga County has a robust recycling program supported by residents and businesses alike.

In 2021, our community recycled 51% of our discarded materials. That is 395,663 tons - or more than 791 million pounds of recycling in one year. This is no small feat and is thanks to each and everyone in the community doing their part to help "save the world a little each day."

Carts offer many benefits. Lids prevent litter AND keep out rain and snow, which makes sorting recyclables at the material recovery facility more efficient. Wheels make carts easier to move. Expect fewer injuries for haulers who no longer have to pick up bins, as carts are designed for trucks that lift and dump through automation.

Carts also hold more material. A recent study by The Recycling Partnership, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving recycling, found that cart collections bring in an average of almost 100 pounds more material per household annually than bin-based programs.

Carts are becoming the recycling industry standard, which is why OCRRA will not purchase more blue bins once our current supply runs out, likely in the next few years. What does this mean for residents? Each municipality in Onondaga County has the option to adopt carts or buy their own blue bins in the future. While OCRRA encourages a more efficient method of collection, OCRRA is not

mandating the switch to carts.

Not sure what your municipality is planning? Contact your municipality directly to share opinions and get answers. To date, carts have been introduced in the towns of Camillus, Fabius, Lafayette, Manlius, Pompey, and Tully; and the villages of Elbridge, Fabius, Manlius, North Syracuse, Salina, and Tully. The City of Syracuse, which makes up about 30% of our population, is working to distribute recycling carts in the next few years.

Rest assured, recycling rules are the same whether using a bin or cart. Find out what is acceptable for recycling and revisit the rules each year at www.OCRRA.org. Onondaga County recycles the best and the most when residents put the right things in and keep the wrong things out of their recycling. Thank you!

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



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2023.



RECYCLING RULES

Don't bag recyclables in paper or plastic bags! Place recycling loose in bin. • **All containers: Empty, rinse and reattach cap/lid.**

PAPER



- **Boxes:** Cardboard, pasta, takeout pizza, etc. (flatten; no frozen food boxes)
- **Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, mail, papers**
- **Cartons:** Milk, juice, etc. (plastic spouts OK)

PLASTIC

Ignore numbers; recycle by shape



- **Bottles** (no toxics)
- **Jars**
- **Jugs** (items with a handle)
- **Stackable tubs** (dairy/dairy alternative only)

METAL



- **Food & beverage cans**
- **Aluminum foil, disposable aluminum pans and plates** (clean and crumple)
- **Aerosol cans** (empty only)

GLASS



- **Food containers**
- **Beverage containers** (any color)

This is a scaled-back version of OCRRA's Recycling Rules brochure. It outlines what paper, plastic, metal and glass items are recyclable in Onondaga County. Visit OCRRA.org to see the full brochure that includes tips on how to recycle electronics, film plastics and other items that you can recycle. but just not in your recycle bin.

FACT: Workers' Compensation claims dropped by \$250,000 when Minneapolis, MN transitioned to recycling carts.

Make Wise Donations During Spring Cleaning

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Warmer weather is the perfect inspiration to clear out closets, cabinets and clutter. Donating items that can be reused is a great plan! First, make sure your old treasures are truly a benefit to someone else, not a disposal burden.

Check with stores to review acceptable donations and drop-off guidelines. For example, the Rescue Mission accepts clothing in any condition, including items that are ripped, missing buttons, or stained. Items simply need to be washed and dried. Remember to separate wearable donations from “rags” to speed up the sorting process.

The Rescue Mission will NOT accept bed pillows, infant furniture, mattresses, sleeper sofas, televisions and tires.

Most charity and thrift stores are looking for appliances, books, toys and furniture

in good enough condition to resell. Drop off items that will help their bottom line. Before you leave, spend some time shopping to fill your own needs with reusable items.

If you have donations that Thrifty Shopper, Goodwill, Salvation Army Thrift Stores or other outlets can't accept, consider hosting a garage sale or listing items on giveaway or “buy nothing” sites on social media. Check with crafty friends, art teachers and theatre groups that need fabric for costumes. Animal shelters or rescue groups may need blankets or towels that are not fit for your bath or bedroom. Anything that cannot be donated should go in the trash, where it can be processed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and turned into electricity.

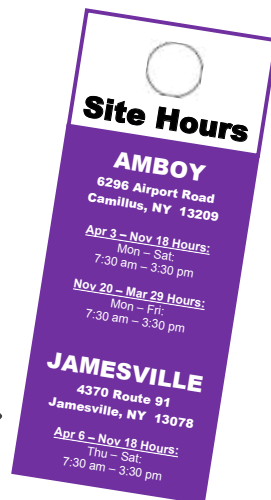
Reducing waste is the first step in protecting our natural resources. Reusing items is the



Photo Credit: iStock.com, 2023.

next step, followed by proper recycling. These strategies keep circulating what we've already extracted from the planet. That gives nature time to rebound before we tap resources again for brand new items.

Lisa Piering can be reached at lpiering@OCRRA.org



Recycling Rhoda

Food Scraps

Dear Rhoda,

I've learned it's not ideal to put a lot of food waste into the trash. It never goes with recyclables. So, where else should I scrape off the scraps on my dinner plate?

— Foodie in Fayetteville

Dear Foodie,

If your eyes are bigger than your stomach, you may be tempted to grab an extra scoop of your favorite dish. Consider this: food waste makes up approximately 21% of our trash in Onondaga County. Decisions made every day at the kitchen table have a major impact on the waste stream. Before emptying your plate in the trash:

1-Check out OCRRA's YouTube channel for tips on how to shrink your waste and make soil enriching compost at home. Seriously. It's fun!

2-Buy OCRRA's Compost Site Drop-off Pass for \$25. Onondaga County residents can drop off an unlimited amount of food

scraps (without packaging) and yard debris, which will be used to create compost sold by OCRRA.

- Purchase drop-off passes in-person at the Amboy Compost Site in Camillus or the Jamesville Compost Site.
- Buy a pass online at www.ocrra.org/shop

Passes are for residential users only; commercial customers have separate fees. A pass is NOT needed to buy OCRRA's compost or mulch; passes are only needed to drop off materials. Bonus: pass holders are given two bags of premium compost.

Don't pile up your plate, Foodie! Reducing food waste through meal planning, understanding date labels, eating leftovers and composting will minimize waste AND help the environment.

Yours truly,

Recycling Rhoda

AMBOY COMPOST SITE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday: until April 2

Monday – Saturday: April 3 – Nov. 18

Monday – Friday: beginning Nov. 20

JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday – Saturday (Residents)

April 6 – Nov. 18

Closed: beginning Nov. 19

New Hours for Household Toxics Drop-offs

Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist

It's time for spring cleaning in the garage, basement and garden shed. From pesticides to pool chemicals, there are many household items that should not go in the trash or down the drain. With a simple appointment, OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste program offers a free and safe disposal option for residents in Onondaga County (excluding the town and village of Skaneateles).

New this year, the first Saturday of each month will be open for drop-off appointments!

OCRRA's partner, Miller Environmental Group, is permitted to handle household toxics at their facility in Syracuse. OCRRA pays a flat fee for each appointment, regardless of the number of items dropped off. While there is no cost to you, OCRRA underwrites the cost of this service, so we ask that you check with friends and neighbors to completely fill a box of toxics before you make an appointment. This will help us keep costs down and continue the free program.

Learn what items are accepted at the toxics drop-off in the chart below. This free service is for residents only; business materials are not accepted. Appointments can be made online, at least 24 hours in advance, at www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAtoxics or by calling OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

NEW!
HOURS

Mondays and Fridays:
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursdays:
8 a.m. to noon

The first Saturday of the month
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Once a time is scheduled, OCRRA sends a confirmation email with advice for packaging and transporting items to Miller Environmental Group, which is off Hiawatha Boulevard in Syracuse. Thank you for safely and properly disposing of your household hazardous waste with OCRRA.

Maria Bianchetti can be reached at mbianchetti@ocrra.org.

How do I Get Rid of Paint?

Maria Bianchetti, Recycling Specialist

A new state law makes it more convenient to manage paint and paint products. There are multiple free drop-off locations in our community. Each site has its own hours and volume limits. Find the location closest to you at www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites and follow instructions for that site. The PaintCare program is open to all residents and businesses in Onondaga County. Acceptable items include:

- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Field and lawn paints
- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component)
- Stains
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives

Containers that are leaking or empty, and containers without the original printed manufacturer's label are not accepted. Questions? Call 1-855-PAINT09 or email info@paint.org.

NOTE: If you have BOTH paint AND acceptable household hazardous waste, you should make an appointment for OCRRA's toxics drop-off program at Miller Environmental Group. However, paint items alone are not accepted through OCRRA's toxics program. If you have paint items only, do not make an OCRRA toxics appointment, simply drop them off at a PaintCare location.

What Household Toxics are Accepted at OCRRA's Drop Off Program?

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

General Items:

- Toxic products
- Flammable products
- Poisonous products
- Corrosive products



Auto products:

- Antifreeze
- Body Filler
- Brake fluid
- Diesel fuel
- Engine degreaser
- Gasoline (cans can be returned; don't pour off at home)
- Transmission fluid



Cleaning Supplies:

- Oven cleaner
- Drain cleaner
- Lye
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Floor and furniture polish



Gardening supplies:

- Herbicides
- Pesticides



Painting Supplies:

- Brush cleaner
- Mineral spirits
- Paint stripper
- Paint thinner
- Solvents
- Spray Paint
- Turpentine
- Wood preservatives containing pesticides



Household Items:

- Adhesives
- Driveway sealer
- Epoxy
- Fluorescent bulbs*
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Lube grease
- Mercury thermometers*
- Mothballs
- Nail polish remover
- Petroleum products
- Pool chemicals



**These items are acceptable if brought in with other materials. They may also be managed outside this program. Visit OCRRA.org for more information.*

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Empty paint cans or cans of dried-up paint
- Asbestos of any type, including loose asbestos, pipes, pipe wrapping, shingles, tiles
- Auto batteries
- Batteries
- Controlled substances
- Electronic waste
- Empty aerosol cans that previously contained hazardous or non-hazardous materials
- Explosives
- Fire extinguishers
- Medical, pathological or etiological waste
- Mercury Thermostats
- Motor oil
- Pharmaceuticals
- Propane tanks of any size (including small camping tanks)
- Radioactive materials
- Smoke alarm
- Wallpaper paste or drywall sizing
- More than 30 pounds of solid material
- More than 20 gallons of liquid material
- Any container larger than five gallons, including 55-gallon drums

Visit OCRRA.org to search how to manage these items.

FACT: Household hazardous waste can be flammable, toxic, corrosive, reactive and dangerous if handled improperly.

Waste-to-Energy Newly Expanded Continuous Monitoring

Cristina Alburnio, PE Agency Engineer

In January 2021, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a renewed Title V Air Permit for Onondaga County's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility. Each year, roughly 360,000 tons of non-hazardous waste is diverted from landfills to the Facility on Rock Cut Road, where combustion generates steam to produce electricity.

As part of the Title V Air Permit, the Facility is required to have a robust Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) that performs over 30 million monitoring events each year. The 2021 renewed permit required an expansion of the CEMS, including continuous emissions monitoring of mercury and hydrogen chloride.

While these constituents were being monitored in the past, this change provides more frequent data that was previously unrecorded. OCRRA is supporting the cost of that service including \$300,000 for installation and \$150,000 annually for operation. The results are no surprise.

New data from continuous monitoring confirms what previous results had already indicated; the Facility is consistently operating well below permitted limits. The Title V Air Permit requires a 95% removal efficiency for hydrogen chloride. The CEMS shows the WTE Facility's robust engineering controls are typically over 99% efficient in removing hydrogen chloride from air emissions. For mercury, an 85% removal efficiency is required, while a 97% efficiency is consistently achieved.

While this additional monitoring is expensive, it does prove the Facility is continuing to operate in accordance with OCRRA's vision to maintain a world-class waste management system that benefits our community and environment.

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



Photo Credit: OCRRA, Syracuse, 2023

Permit requirements include continuous emissions monitoring of mercury and hydrogen chloride at the Waste-to-Energy Facility on Rock Cut Road.

The Waste-to-Energy Facility recovers about 12,000 tons of metal for recycling annually, enough to build 10,000 cars!

How to Get Rid of Old Tax Forms

Hint: Do Not Put Shredded Paper in Recycling Bins

Tammy Palmer, Public Information Officer

The Internal Revenue Service has guidance on IRS.gov to determine how long you should keep old tax forms. If it is time to get rid of a pile of confidential documents, Simple Shred partners with OCRRA to offer households a coupon for shredding services.

Simple Shred is located in the Bodow Recycling building off Hiawatha Boulevard in Syracuse. Confidential documents will be destroyed within 24 hours of drop-off, according to the company. To learn what is considered a confidential document, check out the list on this page!

In addition to Simple Shred, you may also contact Confidata or your nearest Staples or UPS Store for shredding policies, pricing and instructions.

If you destroy your own documents, do NOT put shredded paper in a recycling bin. The material is too small to be captured at facilities where recyclables are sorted. For a nominal fee, you can recycle shredded paper at Bodow Recycling. Alternatively, you may put shredded paper in your trash where it will be converted into electricity at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville.

Paper that is NOT shredded and does NOT contain confidential details can be added loosely to your recycling bin. In order to ensure proper sorting of materials, do not place paper or any other recyclables inside of a bag.

Tammy can be reached at tpalmer@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.



Confidential Document Shredding Special

25¢ per pound

Year-round, Monday - Friday
8 am to 4 pm

Items will not be shredded instantly, but will be destroyed in 24 hours or less following drop-off.

- 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, 2023

FACT: Shredded paper NEVER belongs in recycling bins. Small shreds are hard to sort and contaminate recyclables.

Improve Gardens and Landscapes with OCRRA Compost and Mulch

Help your plants grow better, reduce the need to water or use chemical pesticides and suppress the spread of plant diseases with OCRRA Compost. Suppress weeds and give your garden or landscape a professional, finished look with OCRRA Mulch. Both are available in different grades at the Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites.

1) Mulch:

- **Trunk Loads:** (Double Ground Mulch only) Car, van and SUV owners can load their trunk for \$5.
- **Bulk Double Ground Mulch:** OCRRA loads a truck or trailer for \$13/cubic yard.
- **Bulk Triple Ground Mulch:** OCRRA loads a truck or trailer for \$15/cubic yard.

2) Compost

- **Trunk Loads:** (1/2" General Compost only) Car, van and SUV owners can load their trunk for \$10.
- **Bulk General Compost:** (1/2" Compost) OCRRA loads a truck or trailer for \$16/cubic yard.
- **Bulk Premium Compost:** (1/4" Compost only available at Amboy) OCRRA loads a truck or trailer for \$20/cubic yard.
- **Bags:** (1/4" Compost only) Buy at retailers listed below (they set their own price point) or purchase at OCRRA Compost Sites for \$5/bag or five bags for \$20.

Don't Mulch Before the Spring Thaw

Lisa Piering, Recycling Specialist

Like many gardeners in Central New York, you may be counting the crocuses, waiting for the day you can start playing in your flower and veggie beds. But, did you know there is such a thing as mulching too soon? Mulch, a chunky woody material, is an excellent insulator.

Just like a thermos keeps contents warm or cold, mulch insulates the ground from temperature swings in the air. Adding mulch while the ground is still frozen will slow down the thawing process. This can be desirable if a volatile spring is in the forecast, but you will generally want to wait before replacing mulch that decomposed over the winter.

Once everything has thawed, a new layer of mulch helps prevent weeds and shields moist soil from the warming sun. You will not have to water as often on a dry day and the double-duty wood chunks prevent a pool of mud when there is rain in the forecast.

Remember to never mulch right up against a tree's trunk. Root systems buried by deep mulch may grow upward toward the open air. These girdling roots often encircle, and can eventually strangle, the base of a tree. The spot where the trunk widens, the root flare, should always be visible to prevent girdling roots.

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



Photo Credit: iStock/ozguroskun

OCRRA's mulch is better than ever! This year, we have fine-tuned the process to produce a more refined double-ground and premium triple-ground mulch. That means our mulch will have a more uniform appearance across your landscape. Plus, it's easier to apply since fewer woody chunks will get stuck in your rake. Visit us to see the difference!

Get OCRRA Compost by the Bag!

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

These local retailers set their own prices for bags of OCRRA's U.S. Composting Council Certified 1/4" Premium Compost:

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
- Sollecito Landscaping Nursery – Syracuse
- Town Square Ace Hardware – Skaneateles



From the Executive Director's Desk...

Strategic Community Relationships Have a Ripple Effect

Arc of Onondaga, Food Bank of Central New York and OCRRA team up to tackle food waste

Kevin Spillane, Executive Director, OCRRA

Onondaga County produces roughly 60,000 tons of food waste each year. Unfortunately, most of it ends up in the trash. Strategic relationships can lead the way to better choices for our environment and the bottom line.

OCRRA's composting program is one of the cornerstones of our community's recycling and reuse efforts. Approximately 5,000 tons of food waste is accepted each year from local schools, grocery stores, restaurants and hospitals. Residents can also purchase a pass to drop-off household food and yard waste at the Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites.

Instead of clogging the waste stream, food scraps and yard waste are recycled into nutrient-rich compost, sold by OCRRA and local retailers for gardens and landscaping (see list on page 6).

The Food Recovery Hierarchy outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency prioritizes actions organizations can take to prevent and divert wasted food.

After reducing food surpluses, the next strategy on the hierarchy is a call to feed hungry people by donating extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters. The strategy

is both logical and worthwhile, but it will take more than donations to actually reduce food waste. Real progress requires innovation.

Nationwide, an estimated 30% to 40% of the food supply is wasted. Even if every pound was donated, non-profits face the burden of storing and distributing food, as well as disposing of anything that spoils.

Unlike food pantries, most food banks do not distribute food directly to the public. The Food Bank of Central New York operates a 74,000 square foot warehouse for food purchased in bulk or acquired through donations. Supplies make their way to hundreds of community partners across eleven counties.

In the past, food that spoiled before distribution was sent to a facility in Utica, NY where a machine removed packaging. The remaining food waste was sent to a wastewater treatment plant in Oneida County, where it was anaerobically digested, or broken down by bacteria, to produce energy. Today, a strategic partnership in Onondaga County has paved the way for an even better solution. OCRRA's Amboy



Arc of Onondaga worker Anthony Petrelli removes packaging from food waste at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site.

Compost Site is only a few miles away from the Food Bank of Central New York's warehouse. The short distance reduces the cost and environmental impact of trucking shipments to Utica. First, food packaging must be removed for proper composting.

OCRRA offered the opportunity to Arc of Onondaga, which serves those with intellectual and physical disabilities in our community. The two agencies had previously partnered on a battery sorting program and a compost bagging operation. Now, Arc of Onondaga members have the opportunity to earn income by depackaging food that will be turned into high-quality compost!

Within three months, 46,000 pounds of food waste, everything from lettuce to persimmons, was delivered to the Amboy Compost Site and depackaged by Arc.

The Food Bank of Central New York is cost-effectively supporting their core mission of

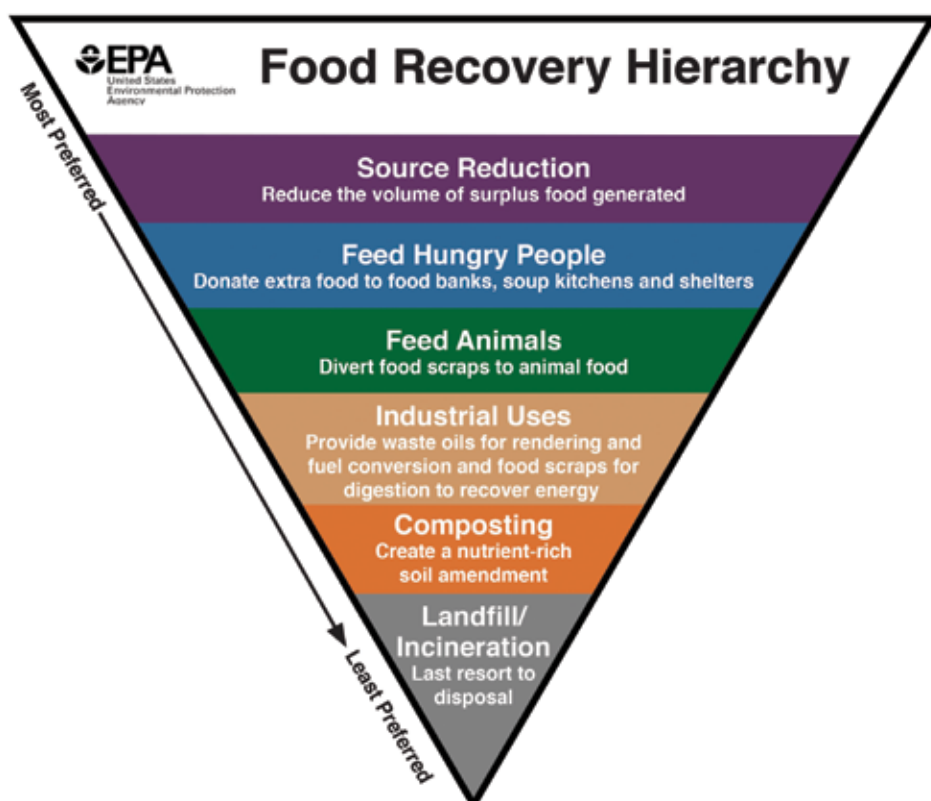
providing food to the hungry, while also giving our neighbors with disabilities another option to join the workforce AND helping the environment.

Leveraging strategic relationships is how OCRRA manages all of Onondaga County's solid waste. For example, OCRRA contracts with:

- Covanta to operate the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste Management to sort and market curbside recyclables
- The Food Bank of Central New York and Arc of Onondaga for a local composting solution

These types of relationships create a ripple effect that can have a major impact on the lives of people in every corner of our community, as well as the environment.

Kevin Spillane can be reached at kspillane@ocrra.org.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes actions organizations can take to prevent and divert food waste.



Help reduce food waste. Learn how to compost at home on OCRRA's YouTube page: <https://tinyurl.com/TipsComposting>

FACT: Meat, bones, dairy and fatty foods DO NOT compost well in a home system and attract animals.

How to Recycle TVs and Other Electronics in Onondaga County

Looking to get rid of old TVs, computers, monitors, keyboards, tablets, printers, gaming consoles and other electronics? While OCRRA locations do not accept electronics, there are several locations in Onondaga County where they can be dropped off for recycling.

LOCATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	DETAILS	COST
Battery World	5820 E Molloy Rd., Syracuse	(315) 437-1404	Appointment required. Call for details.	Free
Best Buy	3401 Erie Blvd. East, Dewitt	(315) 449-1784	Various items accepted. Call for details.	Fee may be charged pending items dropped off
Bruin Recycling	1001 Vine St., Liverpool	(315) 410-0050	Drop off hours: M-F, 6am- 10pm. No TVs or old-style CRT monitors	Free
Miller Environmental Group	532 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse	(315) 451-6666	Call in advance of drop off.	Free
The Salvation Army	2433 Erie Blvd. East, Syracuse <i>(E-waste accepted at this Salvation Army location ONLY)</i>	(315) 445-0520	One television accepted per drop off. No projection or rear projection televisions.	Free

What is E-waste?

Just because something plugs in or has a circuit board does not mean it is an electronic device, according to the law. The NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act defines acceptable electronics as:

- Televisions
- Computers
- Computer Peripherals* (monitors, keyboards, a mouse or similar pointing devices, fax machines, document scanners, printers)
- Small Electronic Equipment* (tablets, VCRs, digital video recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, video game consoles, etc.)
- Small Scale Servers

* Computer peripherals and small electronic equipment also include any cable, cord or wiring permanently affixed to or incorporated into such products.



Mark Your Calendar

**OCRRA'S EARTH DAY
LITTER CLEANUP**

APRIL 21-22

Choose one day or both

Register at OCRRA.org

**JAMESVILLE COMPOST
SITE OPEN**

APRIL 6-NOVEMBER 18

Residential Service
Thursday - Saturday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**CLOSED FOR THE
HOLIDAY**

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

OCRRA sites closed for
Memorial Day

**LEY CREEK
TRANSFER STATION**

**CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Use Rock Cut Road Transfer
Station in Jamesville

FACT: Before recycling, wipe mobile devices or destroy computer hard drives to protect personal information.