



Onondaga County Legislature

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Deputy Clerk

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE – MAY 17, 2022 **JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIRPERSON**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Kelly Mr. McBride

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Chase

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Spillane, Ms. Lawton, Ms. Albunio, Mr. Headd, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Harty, Ms. Lesniak, Mr. DeSantis, Mr. Beebe, Ms. Vilardi

Legislator McBride called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. *A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn and seconded by Dr. Kelly to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn and seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY:** Mr. Kevin Spillane, Executive Director
 - a. INFORMATIONAL: Blue Bins and Direction Update

Mr. Spillane:

- Item in newspaper regarding blue bins brought attention to OCRRA
- Ongoing changes starting with a change in leadership – he took over in December – Dareth Glance, former Executive Director, moved up to State DEC and will be very impactful to our area in his new role
- Came to OCRRA six years ago - spent 25 years in solid waste management – made a lot of changes – 2015 significant change with waste energy facility
- John Copanas serves as the Administrative Chair and Blair Page from the Town of Onondaga serves as the Board Chair and Governance Chair
- Mike Mokrzycki is the new Deputy Executive Director and will have an impact on broad umbrella projects
- Change in recycling director – Kirstin Lawton was Public Information Officer and is now the Recycling and Reduction Director
- Cristina Albunio been with OCRRA for four years as the Engineer – came on when finishing renovations at transfer station

Sustainable Solid Waste Management



Kevin Spillane, Executive Director
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
Onondaga County Legislature – May 17, 2022

OCRRA serves our community by providing a comprehensive solid waste management system that is environmentally, socially, and fiscally sustainable.

Including:

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collections**
- **Mercury Thermometer Exchange**
(Partnership with Covanta)
- **Battery & Fluorescent Bulb Recycling**
(Mercury removal)
- **Earth Day Litter Cleanup**
(Over 2 million pounds collected since '91)



Mr. Spillane:

- Team went out on Rock Cut Road on Earth Day – have a full time person to collect litter in that area
- Answered Ms. Kuhn's question about swirly light bulbs – return to most hardware stores

System Features

- **Recycling Services and Education**
 - ✓ Residential and Commercial Recycling
 - ✓ Environmental Programs (HHW, shredding, mercury, batteries, litter cleanup)
- **Trash Disposal** (Transfer Station & WTE Facility)
- **Organics Management** (Yard & Food Waste)



Mr. Spillane:

- Have to preserve disposal capacity whether for garbage or recycling – have to have space to get rid of it
- OCRRA is the largest food waste separation in the state
- Community partnerships – leverage relationships – employ people with disabilities – integral part of the battery sorting program

Community Partnerships

- **Municipal** (delivery agreements, shared services)
- **Private Business**
 - ✓ Haulers
 - ✓ Covanta
 - ✓ MRF
 - ✓ Miller Environmental (HHW)
 - ✓ Wegmans (Batteries)
 - ✓ Local Ace & TrueValue hardware stores (Bulbs)
 - ✓ Paper Shredding Companies (Confidential Docs)
 - ✓ Arc (Compost Bagging + Battery Sorting)
 - ✓ Reuse Organizations:
Rescue Mission and Salvation Army

OCRRA Rates

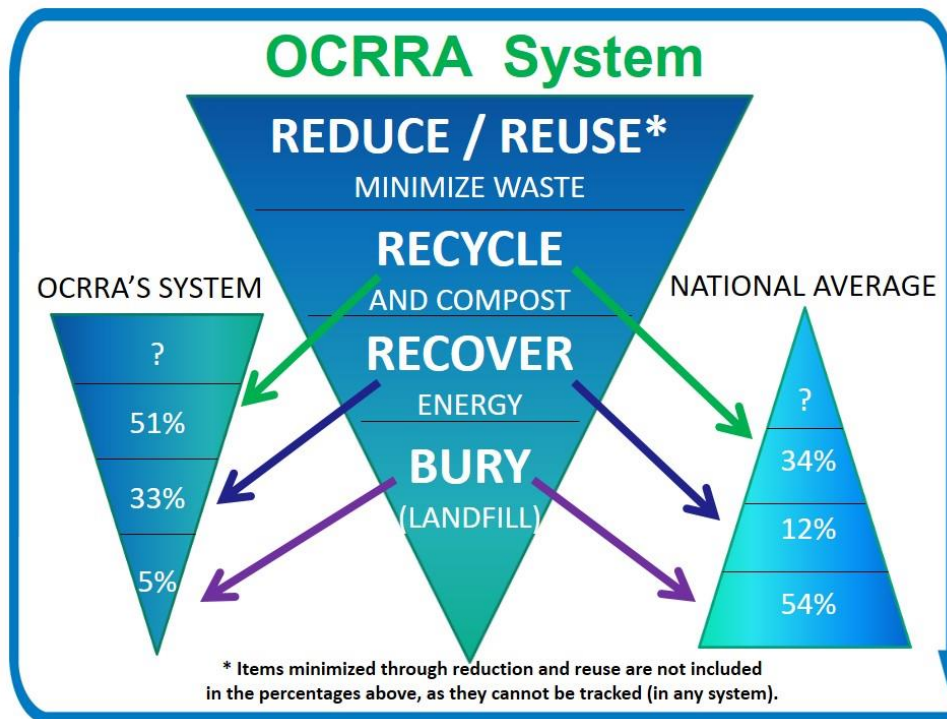
Prices remain steady for 3 years

- **MSW TIP** – \$100/ton for contracted haulers
- **C&D** – \$55/ton
- **Trash by the Bag** – \$3/bag (residential)
- **Food Waste** – \$42/ton
- **Tires** – \$7/passenger tire



Mr. Spillane:

- Same rates for two years –January 2021 to January 2024
- 2018-19 commodity market dissipated when China was no longer taking recycling materials
- Many places stopped taking recycling –Board worked with community to institute a recycling fee – been able to keep that constant
- Rely on energy sales –building reserves for future projects
- If you make something you need to help take care of it – an example is paint – new State law states that paint companies have to collect the material and cover the cost of this program



Mr. Spillane:

- Lead the country and above the national average for percentages – part of it is we were on the impact of the waste energy – have Van Buren sight and looking at other sights

OCRRA Board Looking Forward

Strategic plan under consideration focuses on:

- **Transfer capacity** and its impact on County's Solid Waste Plan
- **Disposal capacity** and its impact on long-term needs of local community
- **Recycling & waste reduction** including organics



Mr. Spillane:

- Both transfer stations were built in the 1970s
- Able to rebuild Rock Cut road – work with OC on the solid waste plan
- Plan states that if there is an emergency we need to be able to transport the waste – currently don't have capacity
- Have to maintain the disposal sight - last option is to be dig up farm land in Van Buren and bury the material

Rock Cut Road Rebuilt in 2019

- **\$12 Million investment** – First transfer station in NY permitted and built under new Part 360 regulations
- **Integrated system with WTE Facility**
- **Limited footprint** affects capacity and capabilities



Mr. Spillane:

- DEC regulates all facilities – updated in 2018 so Rock Cut facility was first to fall under these new regulations – was expensive – facility is across the street from incinerator – still has a capacity issue
- Need area to put waste while they are doing maintenance – move 1,500 tons a day – hire an outside engineering firm for an assessment

Rock Cut Road Rebuilt in 2019

Challenges ahead:

- **WTE downtime** – Struggle to keep up with demand and impact on operations
- **Optimization study** conducted to maximize throughput of new facility
- **Limited long-haul transport** and impact on County Solid Waste Management Plan



Ley Creek Residential Moving to Rock Cut Road

- **Rock Cut Road** – Expanded residential hours
Mon-Fri 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Sat 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Mercury items no longer accepted** due to changes in new Part 360 regulations
- **Plan** – Develop next steps for Ley Creek



Mr. Spillane:

- June 13 is the date of the move – can't have commercial and residential drop off sights combined

Ley Creek Future

- **Blank canvas** – Opportunity to add transfer capacity
- **Good location**
- **Current structure** beyond useful life
- **Feasibility study**
- **Consider additional services** such as EcoDrop
- **Expansion** hinges upon cooperation with County



Mr. Spillane:

- Will have a blank canvas – will start with a feasibility study to see what could be done with existing property
- Will ease the impact of the community – reduce the number of trucks on the road
- Trying to have one drop off location for all recycling – an Eco Drop – expand hours
- Will require additional land – been talking to landowners – OCRRRA can't acquire property without legislative approvals

Waste-to-Energy

- **30-year operating record**
- **Covanta contract extension (2015-2035)**
 - ✓ Legislative control of waste importation
 - ✓ Environmental oversight
 - ✓ \$15 million invested in upgrades



Waste-to-Energy

- **Provides key disposal secured** through next decade
- **WTE limited by permit** – Certain C&D items (pressure-treated lumber, tires, mattresses, etc.)

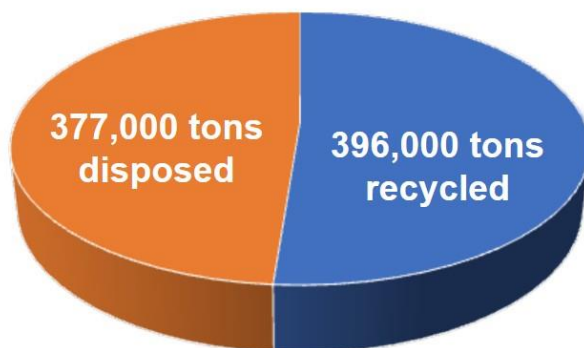


Mr. Spillane:

- Made a huge investment in incinerator – contract goes to 2035 – make sure they aren't impacting the environment
- Mattresses and tires are always a huge problem – next steps would be decided by this legislature
- Have to have landfill space because not everything can go to incinerator

2021 Trash vs. Recycling

51% recycled!



OCRRRA
org

Mr. Spillane:

- Still need to do more – need to find ways to redirect – large part of waste is food waste or film plastic – very light material but there is a tremendous amount

Kicking Glass Recycling Up a Notch



- **50% of curbside glass is wine and liquor bottles.**
- **Curbside glass = engineering applications**, not new bottles
- **NEW Pilot Program** – non-deposit glass bottles NOW accepted at participating redemption centers
 - Wine and liquor bottles
 - Non-deposit glass beverage bottles
- **Glass will be recycled into new glass bottles!**



Mr. Spillane:

- The more glass moves the more it breaks and becomes finite pieces – by the end it picks up other wastes – may look at bypassing recycle bins – this will make sure it stays out of the program

Ms. Lawton:

- Collected 30k lbs. of glass at drop-off points after asking people to participate

Dr. Kelly:

- What is the of materials – Answered by Mr. Spillane most products are recyclable and we can find a market – wish cycle is done by many where items are placed in the recycle bin but they aren't recyclable – can't find a market for everything – people put recycling in plastic bags – can't recycle these bags –

Carts vs. Blue Bins

- Blue bins started the recycling program and incentivized the public to source separate
- Community has outgrown blue bins as we recycle more and more



Carts vs. Blue Bins

- Many communities have moved to carts on their own to address need for more capacity
- Carts improve collection, reduces litter, keeps recyclables clean & dry



Mr. Spillane:

- Many communities have made the transition to totes from blue bins
- Blue bins aren't big enough so become litter – gets rained or snowed on – then becomes trash
- Camillus worked with dependable disposal and transitioned to totes

Ms. Kuhn:

- For the communities that have moved from blue bins to totes have you seen an increase in extra material because totes are larger – Mr. Spillane answered no, spend \$250k a year on education – work social media platforms to educate people

Mr. Spillane:

- Answered Mr. McBride's question what is the plan for blue bins – working with town of Manlius and asking people to return them – have a collection spot

Extended Producer Responsibility



- **PaintCare** now up and running

Mr. Spillane:

- Manlius costs were the same for blue bins and totes – can't get CDL drivers – can change to every other week
- Problem is the cost of the totes – made a commitment to provide blue bins for the next three years
- Providing options for communities –grant programs, purchase through their bid program
- Haulers could also participate – have costs to repair and maintain totes

Trash and Recycling Carts

COST SAVINGS.

Budgets benefit from decreased disposal costs, smaller collection crews, more efficiency on the route, and decreased workers' compensation.



Decreased disposal costs



Smaller collection staff



Automation & compaction mean more efficient routes



Flexibility to collect bi-weekly



Decreased Workers' Compensation claims

Grant programs from
NYS DEC and
The Recycling Partnership



Organics Recovery

- Largest municipal facility in NYS
- Goal: Process 5,000-7,000 tons food waste/year
- Compost available in bulk and by the bag



Mr. Spillane:

- Take in 40 tons of yard waste – still not recovered from COVID – buffets and schools not fully participating
- Need to get more food waste

Resident Communications



OCRRA provides **free content to fill space in your newsletters**. Help your residents recycle more with helpful reminders.

Contact OCRRA's Public Information Officer for details: wwallak@ocrra.org or (315) 453-2866, ext. 1214.



Ensuring Our Community's Future Waste Disposal Needs

- Expand diversion efforts
- 10% of waste stream is food waste – Need to expand organic waste diversion such as community digester
- Expand public-private partnerships
- Explore new local waste disposal options
- Leverage/develop town/county partnerships



Environmental Benefits of Using Compost



- Carbon sequestration
- Storm water control
- Erosion control
- Moisture retention
- Replaces chemical pesticides and fertilizers
- OCRRA provided compost to County for Onondaga Lake shoreline restoration



Kevin Spillane,
OCRRA Executive Director
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(315) 453-2866, ext. 1212



Save the world
a little each day.

A motion was made by **Ms. Kuhn**, seconded by **Mr. McBride** to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at **2:13** p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: MAY 17, 2022

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Kevin Spillane	OCRRA
Aristea Lawton	" "
Christina Albano	" "
Gabe Brass	Comptroller's
Tenisha Murphy	CE Office
Shannon Healy	WEP