



# Onondaga County Legislature

**HASSINA K. ADAMS**  
Clerk

**NICOLE WATTS**  
Chairwoman

**SPENCER BERG**  
Deputy Clerk

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 17, 2026 GREGG ERIKSEN, CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Eriksen, Mr. Garland, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Meaker, Mr. Thompson**  
**ALSO PRESENT: Leader May, Mr. Brown, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Burtis; also see attached list**

Chair Eriksen called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY (OCRRA):** Michael Mokrzycki
  - a. **INFORMATIONAL:** Overview of OCRRA (*Attachment No. 1: OCRRA Presentation*)

Mr. Mokrzycki introduced OCRRA staff in attendance: Kristen Lawton, Director of Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) expert; Kevin Spillane, Executive Director, who is retiring after 44 years of public service; Tammy Palmer, Public Information Officer; and Jessica LaCelle, Public Information Assistant Specialist

- Mr. Mokrzycki noted the reappointment of Ms. Rodriguez on the agenda and encouraged the committee to reappoint her, recognizing her service as an OCRRA board member
- OCRRA is a nonprofit public benefit corporation with a 15-member board of directors
  - Appointments made by the Legislature, County Executive, City of Syracuse, and select towns
- Not directly supported by taxes; revenue sources include:
  - Tipping fees – the majority of revenue; charged when material is brought to OCRRA (household garbage, construction, recycling)
  - Electricity revenue from the waste-to-energy plant, sold wholesale to National Grid
  - Commodity revenues from processed recyclables: cardboard, metal, plastics
- Created to implement the flow control law; the Legislature has directed Municipal Solid Waste to OCRRA by law, allowing for reinvestment and providing outlets for material processing and transfer
- Mission: comprehensive solid waste management; OCRRA is the resource for residents when they need to know what to do with anything in their home
- Robust compost program as part of OCRRA's operations
- OCRRA operates: Rock Cut Road Transfer Station
  - Waste-to-Energy Plant

- Amboy Compost Facility
- Ley Creek Campus
- Ash Hauling
- Bypass Hauling, waste to regional landfill
- Community partnerships: county agreement dating back to 1990 to implement the solid waste management plan
  - Contracts with local haulers and the Material Recovery Facility; film plastics recycling at Wegman's; textiles at Salvation Army; batteries at Wegman's; household hazardous waste with Miller Environmental

### Key Contracts and Community Relationships

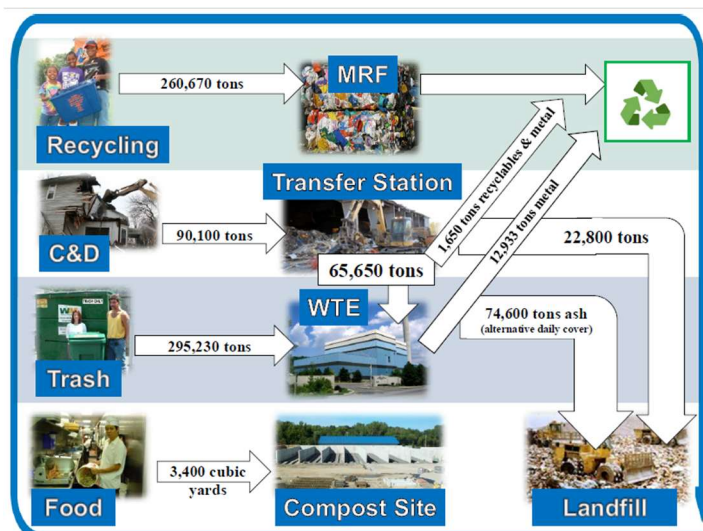
- County-OCRRA Agreement
- Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE)
- Local Waste Haulers
- Landfills for Ash & Bypass Disposal
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Markets for Recyclables/Metals
- Recycling Outside the Bin (film plastics, textiles, batteries)
- Household Hazardous Waste





- Mr. Meaker: I don't see anything on the slide about electronics
- Mr. Mokrzycki: OCRRA has partnerships for electronics as well; electronics Extended Producer Responsibility is being expanded in New York State

*Presentation continued:*



- Left-hand side lists the different materials from the home; focusing on top of the slide
  - Right-hand side shows where each material ends up
  - Recycling (curbside and commercial) goes to the Material Recovery Facility, then to recycling markets
  - Household trash goes to the waste-to-energy facility, producing ash used as daily cover at the landfill
- Waste-to-Energy Facility: over 30-year operating record; currently in a 20-year agreement with operator Reworld through 2035
- In 2015, over \$15 million was invested in upgrades to keep the plant operating
- Community made the choice to be a waste-to-energy community in the 1990s
- Waste travels less than 20 miles on average to the facility, compared to over an hour to a regional landfill
- Electricity produced can power over 30,000 homes; 90% volume reduction in waste; approximately 4% of waste recovered as metal



- Produces approximately three-quarters of a ton of carbon dioxide-equivalent reduction compared to landfilling
- Mr. Thompson: Can you explain the carbon dioxide reduction compared to landfilling in lay terms?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: When waste goes to a landfill it produces methane, which is a more warming gas; engineers convert that difference into a carbon dioxide-equivalent figure representing the greenhouse gas savings from going to waste-to-energy

*Presentation Continued:*

## OCRRA: Statewide Leader in Organics Recovery



- Amboy Compost Facility: county was instrumental in funding it; opened in 2011; was the largest municipal compost facility in New York State at the time and remains one of the largest
  - OCRRA has been a statewide leader in organics
  - Aerated static pile system – fans blow air up through channels behind the concrete bays, accelerating breakdown, increasing throughput, and producing more consistent finished material
- Mr. Garland: Do you accept materials from Onondaga County only or outside the county also?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Primarily in Onondaga County; outside-county material accepted on a space-available basis since food waste is not flow-controlled, separated organics are not flow-controlled, so OCRRA charges a tipping fee
- Mr. Thompson: Some of that gets resold, correct?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Yes; the compost is primarily distributed in-county, but OCRRA has a broker that helps disperse extra material outside the county when we have extra material
  - Compost was supplied for the Onondaga Lake shoreline restoration project; environmental remediation is one of the best uses for OCRRA's compost
- Mr. Thompson: Is this the facility in Camillus? Can you give us a sense of how much revenue the compost program generates. Are we doing enough with it? Could we be selling it to Home Depot as a revenue source?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Yes, the facility is in Camillus; the compost program brought in over \$1 million in revenue last year, made up of roughly equal proportions of food waste tipping fees in, green waste tipping fees in, and sales going out
  - OCRRA has a broker that helps place material with transportation and green remediation projects; actively working with a larger supplier
  - Large box stores like Home Depot require regional-scale supply that exceeds what OCRRA currently produces
  - OCRRA maintains good relationships with local retailers such as Away stores for bulk mulch and compost

*Presentation continued:*

- OCRRA is phasing out the smaller blue bins in favor of recycling carts in most communities
- Carts improve collection, reduce litter especially on windy days and keep recyclables clean and dry, maintaining the quality of the finished product
- Onondaga County supplies one of the highest-quality recyclable streams on the market; in down markets, buyers seek the highest-quality material and the county's focus on clean recyclables and public education makes that possible
  
- Mr. Thompson: Carts are rolled out in many municipalities but not all; I live in the Village of Liverpool and we still have the small blue bins, is there resistance to that, or is it happening in stages?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: There is an initial cost to the carts; communities hiring private haulers were able to transition as haulers upgraded to trucks with automatic side-lifts; those trucks are more conducive to the carts and haulers bid new contracts with carts
  - Smaller municipalities and villages still doing self-pickup bear the upfront investment cost
  
- Mr. Meaker: Who provided the bins?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: The bins were previously provided by OCRRA through a state grant at no cost to residents, but OCRRA has gone through its inventory and is no longer purchasing new bins
- Mr. Meaker: If someone new moves into town, they would have to purchase a recycling bin?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Correct; municipalities typically provide either bins or carts, depending on how they want to do collection
- Mr. Meaker: In my district they are providing nothing; if someone new moves in and calls me, my answer has always been to tell them to call OCRRA, now my answer has to be to go to Home Depot and buy a bin
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Ideally, OCRRA would encourage municipalities to provide and brand their own bins; in Clay's case with a private hauler, OCRRA recommends residents contact the private hauler, who is expected to provide the bin as part of the recycling service contract; the municipality can also choose to provide bins, but the recommendation is that it goes through the hauler
- Mr. Eriksen: Is the transition from bins to carts happening in conjunction with the private haulers' transition to that style of container?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Yes, in most cases it is compatible; a couple of haulers have not yet renewed their fleet for that style, but the largest haulers have all transitioned
  
- A significant part of OCRRA's mission is public education, teaching residents what to do with their waste and what goes in the recycling bin
- "OCRRA in the Classroom," a series of professionally produced videos; OCRRA can also present directly to classrooms; content available on OCRRA's YouTube page and other social media platforms

- Mr. Eriksen: Could you expand on tipping fees in more detail, who sets them, are they appropriate, and how much revenue do they generate?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: OCRRA's budget is adopted by the board of directors; it is a calendar year budget generally adopted in October of the prior year; tipping fees are reviewed every year
  - Tipping fees provide approximately 80% of OCRRA's revenue; the 2026 budget is approximately \$46 million
  - The board's strategy has been to provide a steady, incremental increase of approximately 2-3% per year to absorb commodity market volatility rather than imposing large annual swings; some years OCRRA loses money by design
  - When electricity rates are high, January electricity prices were the highest in more than 20 years at nearly 15 cents per kilowatt-hour, the plant produces stronger electricity revenue than budgeted
- Mr. Meaker asked for clarification on the connection between electricity prices and OCRRA's revenue
- Mr. Mokrzycki: The waste-to-energy plant sells the electricity it produces wholesale to National Grid at the market spot rate; when electricity prices rise, OCRRA also receives more revenue because the wholesale price has gone up
  - OCRRA is not setting the price, simply accepting the market rate
- Mr. Eriksen: How do tipping fees correspond to trends in the commodities market, do they generally stay consistent?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: OCRRA targets a gentle, steady slope and tries to minimize increases while accounting for anticipated capital needs; a five-year capital budget is reviewed by the board annually to plan for trucks, loaders, material handlers, and other equipment

*Presentation Continued:*

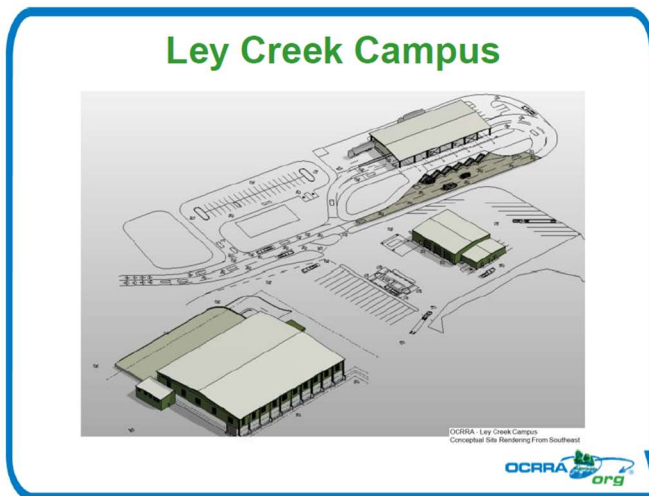
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): uses financial incentives to encourage manufacturers to design more environmentally friendly and recyclable products
  - Helps create a circular economy and a standard supply of recovered material
- Mr. Garland: Does New York State have any bill?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: They do for packaging

*Presentation Continued:*

- EPR is not a new concept, it is an umbrella term covering many programs; successful existing EPR programs in New York State include:
  - Electronics, rechargeable batteries, pharmaceuticals, paint, tires, and film plastics
  - All managed sustainably through small fees paid by manufacturers or users
- Seven states have enacted packaging EPR laws; New York State is currently considering similar legislation
- OCRRA's goals for a well-designed packaging EPR bill:

- Reduce total waste generated
  - Incentivize producers to design packaging for recyclability rather than the lowest cost
  - Shift some financial and operational responsibility from local governments and taxpayers back to producers
  - Provide funding for recycling education and infrastructure
- Mr. Kelly: Could you give us a rough timeline, how old are these EPR entities to begin with?
  - Ms. Lawton: Each program is a little different; most are relatively recent, within the last five years; some states are still in the rulemaking phase
  - Mr. Kelly: Have these states been studied in terms of cost-shifting, how much of the cost falls on producers versus consumers?
  - Ms. Lawton: How much EPR will impact residents on their day-to-day billing is a major concern; several studies show the cost to individual residents is extremely minimal because it is spread across the entire product line of every producer; people buy many different things so costs are spread broadly
    - European programs with long track records confirm this; OCRRA offered to share those studies with the committee

*Presentation Continued:*



- Ley Creek Campus: located in the Town of Salina; has served as a solid waste facility for the community for many years; OCRRA has been working toward a rebuild for several years and is entering the construction phase
- OCRRA will build a modern solid waste campus with new centralized services, currently residents must travel to Salvation Army for textiles, Wegman's for film plastics, and Miller Environmental for Household Hazardous Waste
- The new campus will provide a one-stop location
- The waste-to-energy plant is near full capacity; increased economic activity and population growth will require additional solid waste and transfer capacity

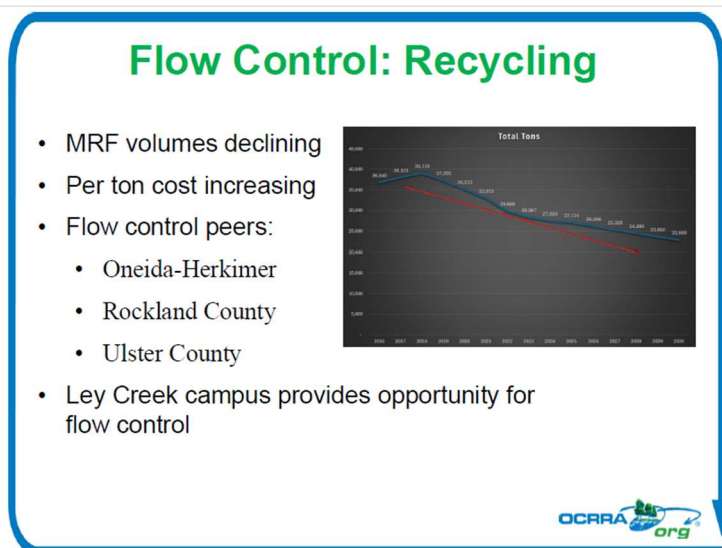
- Construction timeline: 2027-2028
- Demolition of the old transfer building was completed in the fourth quarter 2025; ready for construction
- New campus will include:
  - Enclosed transfer facility, indoor tipping required by New York State DEC regulation
  - Residential eco-drop facility with roll-offs for household trash and recycling
  - Household Hazardous Waste - pavilion building with separate bunkers for different waste streams
  - Maintenance area for trucks and equipment
- Mr. Meaker: Will there be a cost to residents to drop off items at the new campus?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Household Hazardous Waste is subsidized 100% by OCRRA now and that is anticipated to continue; residents currently make an appointment at Miller Environmental at no cost and OCRRA is billed directly; most items will remain at no cost to residents
  - Small fees will remain for TVs, white goods, and mattresses, similar to the current cost structure
- Mr. Ryan: Do you take mattresses?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Yes, we do. OCRRA shreds mattresses so they can be processed at the waste-to-energy facility rather than going to a landfill, recovering the metal inside
- Mr. Meaker: Is the fee schedule on the OCRRA website?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: The fee schedule is posted on OCRRA's website
- Mr. Thompson: You mentioned that much of OCRRA's work with recycling is around education; how much community outreach and education do you do with locations like this? Sometimes there is resistance, residents who don't want a waste facility or the Ley Creek campus nearby. What does the education look like around environmental impact near these sites?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: The board is going through environmental impact studies; those will be posted publicly as declarations are made
  - This site has been a solid waste area since the 1960s and is in an established industrial area; WEP had a facility right next door; the community is accustomed to it
  - When the old Ley Creek closed, OCRRA received many questions from residents on that side of the county who now have to drive to Rock Cut Road; residents appear to be excited to have the service restored closer to home
  - The Town of Salina has been a great partner throughout the process

#### Financing sources:

- Ley Creek campus total project cost: approximately \$100 million
- OCRRA cash reserves: over \$6 million; approximately 1% of tipping fees set aside monthly toward the Ley Creek reserve
- Anticipated DEC grants: approximately \$2 million for the eco-drop construction phase
- Pending federal infrastructure grant: \$5 million (application submitted)

- County contribution requested: \$10 million; a decision is not required today; this is an asset for the community and important for supporting the county's anticipated growth
- Remainder to be financed through bonding; OCRRA would like to work with the county on the bonding; every percentage point saved on the interest rate could save the community over \$20 million at no out-of-pocket cost to the county, by utilizing the county's bond rating
- Leader May: How much of a premium are you willing to pay to split?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Split in half. The county's bond rating is slightly better than OCRRA's and utilizing it would save the whole constituency money
- Mr. Kelly noted that this is a great example of the strong fiscal management of the county over the last several years; the bond ratings agencies have continued to affirm our strong standing and it is always nice to be reminded that it means something, it presents genuine savings to taxpayers
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Absolutely, even when not bonding for OCRRA, every time the county bonds it saves taxpayers money
- Mr. May: Is the \$10 million county contribution in the Capital Improvement Plan or will it be discussed at a later date?
- Mr. Donnelly (Deputy County Executive): Further discussion with county leadership will be required

*Presentation Continued:*



- Flow Control: the last update to the Legislature on this topic was in 2023
- Graph shows that recycling tonnage delivered to the OCRRA-sponsored Material Recovery Facility has been steadily declining, a trend spanning roughly 10 years
- When curbside recycling is brought to the curb, that material is not flow-controlled; it is not required to come to an OCRRA-sponsored facility; some haulers are taking it to their own or outside facilities
- OCRRA is supportive of the free market and is not saying this has been bad; however, as tonnage at the OCRRA-sponsored Material Recovery Facility decreases, the per-ton processing cost for remaining material increases

- In strong commodity markets this may be acceptable; but when markets decline, and they will, haulers will bring material back to OCRRA when it is more expensive to manage; the public bears the risk of recycling without reaping the benefit in high-market years
- This was a conscious decision when OCRRA was created: solid waste was flow-controlled but recycling was not
- Most peer counties have since flow-controlled recycling
- OCRRA recommends the Legislature consider flow-controlling recycling in the near future
  - Flow control requires a government or government-interest facility; the county did not have one when OCRRA was created; the Ley Creek campus will provide that opportunity
  - When you don't have flow control for recycling, some of your larger haulers will have a competitive advantage on handling recycling because of their investments in recycling capabilities due to their general size
- Mr. May: Because of their investments in recycling capabilities?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Yes, because of their general size
  - OCRRA is not asking for an immediate switch; recommends a delayed implementation so that haulers who have invested time and money into recycling can get some payback. However, the system is deteriorating and once overall control is lost, OCRRA cannot guarantee that recyclables will have a place to go
- Mr. Garland: Looking at the chart, are you processing less but making more?
- Mr. Mokrzycki: Processing less and paying more
  - OCRRA pays a base processing fee to the private Material Recovery Facility and receives a rebate depending on commodity markets; when markets are good, net cost is lower; when markets, especially fiber, decline, net cost is higher; overall cost per ton is rising because fewer tons are being processed
- Flow control benefits:
  - Consistent volumes allow for a more consistent tipping fee and reinvestment in infrastructure
  - Ensures materials are recycled or handled in the most environmentally friendly way; when haulers take material outside the community, OCRRA cannot confirm what happens to it; OCRRA can confirm end-market destinations for all material processed at the OCRRA-sponsored Material Recovery Facility
  - Encourages hauler competition; flow control has been a successful model for solid waste management in this community for over 30 years

b. Confirming Reappointment to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

- Ms. Rodriguez is an existing OCRRA board member; resume included in packet
- No other names or recommendations were brought forward; members expressed comfort with moving forward, noting the endorsement from Mr. Mokrzycki

***A motion was made by Mr. Garland, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

## 2. Memorializing the Governor and Legislature of the State of New York to Enact the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act

- Resolution was sponsored by Legislator Denton and would express the Legislature's support for the pending state packaging EPR bill; purpose is to encourage New York State to adopt the legislation
- Mr. Eriksen opened discussion; noted the committee is not under the gun and does not need to vote today
- Mr. Kelly: At the February meeting of our committee, Majority Leader Hernandez stated that this body would not offer ceremonial memorializing resolutions; does this resolution pertain to existing state law?
- Mr. Eriksen: It pertains to a bill currently before the State Legislature
- Mr. Kelly: Does this resolution involve an opt-in or a pass-through to any existing state law or the proposed bill?
- Mr. Eriksen: I do not believe it does; this is simply a statement in favor of a proposed bill
- Mr. Kelly: So if we pass this today or at our April session, this does not change state law?
- Mr. Eriksen: Correct
- Mr. Kelly: How can anybody argue that this is anything but a ceremonial memorializing resolution? Are we not in favor of Majority Leader Hernandez's proposed standard?
- Mr. Thompson asked Leader May: Was there an agreement that if a resolution was supported bipartisan by the leaders it would come forward that way, what is your understanding?
- Mr. May: There is no agreement at this point; the only thing that has really happened is that we broke recent tradition with a recent memorializing, ceremonial, non-binding resolution; that opened a can of worms to vote up or down anything we feel like doing, whether it is relevant or not
  - It is important for this body to distinguish whether a home rule requirement is involved; if the Legislature needs to endorse something via vote for the county to participate, that is not ceremonial, it requires legislative action
- Mr. Thompson: Would that be the example of the hunting resolution that we ratified that was required?
- Mr. May: Yes
- Mr. Thompson: The question Legislator Kelly is asking is whether this is opting into something or simply giving a thumbs up to the effort
- Mr. Eriksen: My understanding is that this would be giving a thumbs up to the effort; Cortland County has done something similar recently
- Mr. May: Are you the sponsor of this resolution?
- Mr. Eriksen: The sponsor of this resolution is Legislator Denton; I am happy to take this back for further discussion
- Mr. May: In principle this sounds okay for protecting the environment and all those good things; but it is going to cost somebody more; if the committee is to make a decision one way or the other, there needs to be a great deal of data to responsibly take a position

- This could cost taxpayers more, could cost manufacturers more, and could grow government because somebody needs to regulate it; at this stage none of us have any idea in fairness how much of this has been thought through
  - The environmental benefits being proposed are not something anyone would argue with but the cost and details need to be understood
  - I have always been against memorializing resolutions; the county is not state government and is not here to carry water for state-elected officials; the Legislature is here to do county business; at this stage there is no way to have insight on all of the implications
- Mr. Kelly: I am not hung up on the relative merits for or against this proposed legislation; my concern is that there are a lot of really important things happening in Onondaga County and county business to deal with. This resolution does not address things happening right now in Onondaga County; it is not a home rule requirement; there is no existing mechanism; the Legislature can ask anybody to do anything, when does it end?
  - The Legislature should focus on what is going on in Onondaga County
- Mr. Meaker: Legislator Eriksen, do you know who the sponsors and co-sponsors of the bill are at the state level?
- Mr. Eriksen: I think it appears on the resolution itself; it is appropriate to get more information from the sponsor and co-sponsor if the committee wants to take this forward
- Mr. Garland: The legislation has the potential to save millions of dollars and because Legislator Hernandez's name was mentioned, taking it off might be the most prudent thing
- Mr. Thompson: Since we have recycling experts in the room, it might be prudent to invite them for further insights
- Mr. Eriksen: I am happy to reach out to OCRRA for additional input; OCRRA will be a great resource in those discussions
- Mr. Thompson: Where will those discussions happen? I thought this committee would be the appropriate venue
- Mr. Eriksen: Information will be gathered first and then the item can be brought back here, possibly with input from other parties

*The item was withdrawn by the Chairman pending further information; no vote was taken.*

### **3. APPOINTMENTS: Brian Donnelly, Deputy County Executive**

- Mark Olson – New appointment; former County Legislator
- Reappointment of Craig Dennis
  - Resumes included in packets
- a. Confirming Appointment and Reappointment to the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board (Mark Olson, Craig Dennis)

***A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to approve the appointment of Mark Olson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

*A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve the reappointment of Craig Dennis; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

- b. Confirming Reappointment to the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board (Carlton Conklin)
  - Appointment is a recommendation from the Farm Bureau and is being handled through a separate resolution


*A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**4. DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDING OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

- a. Review and Discussion of Vacancies and Prospective Candidates for Outside Boards and Commissions
  - Vacancies exist on the Onondaga County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board and the Deer and Tick Management Committee
  - Mr. Eriksen asked members to pass along any names or expressions of interest; will reach out to Majority Leader Hernandez regarding the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board vacancy
  - Mr. Thompson: Do the nominees for these positions need to be legislators, or are community members and subject-matter experts eligible?
  - Mr. Eriksen: If the resolution does not specify members of the Legislature, a candidate with a relevant background such as tick management or entomology, would be appropriate; noted we do not want the pro-tick lobby
  - Names and suggestions should be directed to Clerk Adams and Chairwoman Watts

C. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



HASSINA ADAMS, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DATE: MARCH 17, 2026

| NAME (Please Print) | DEPARTMENT/AGENCY |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Makrzycki   | OCERRA            |
| Tammy Palmer        | OCERRA            |
| Jess LaBelle        | OCERRA            |
| Brian Donnelly      | CECR              |
| Jason Dean          | Finance           |
| KYLE MADDEN         | County LEG.       |
| Andrew Burt         | CITIZEN           |

**ATTACHMENT NO. 1:**  
**OCRRA PRESENTATION**



**OCRRA**  **org**®

# Agenda

1. **What is OCRRA?**
  - Our Structure and Services
2. **Extended Producer Responsibility**
3. **Ley Creek Campus**
4. **Recycling – Flow Control**

**Ask Questions Anytime!**

# OCRRA's Organization

## What is OCRRA?

- Non-profit, public benefit corporation created by the NYS Legislature
- Governed by 15-person board appointed by County, Town, and City governments.
- No tax support; revenue comes from tipping fees, electricity and commodity revenues
- Serving 33 Towns & Villages in Onondaga County, and the City of Syracuse
- **Flow controlled municipal solid waste (MSW)**

# OCRRA's Mission

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



# Key Operations of OCRRA



**Rock Cut Road  
Transfer Station**



**Waste-to-Energy**



**Amboy  
Compost Facility**



**Ley Creek  
Campus Rebuild**



**Ash Hauling**



**Jamesville  
Compost Facility**



**Bypass Hauling**

# Key Contracts and Community Relationships

- County-OCRRRA Agreement
- Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE)
- Local Waste Haulers
- Landfills for Ash & Bypass Disposal
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Markets for Recyclables/Metals
- Recycling Outside the Bin  
(film plastics, textiles, batteries)
- Household Hazardous Waste





**Recycling**

260,670 tons

**MRF**

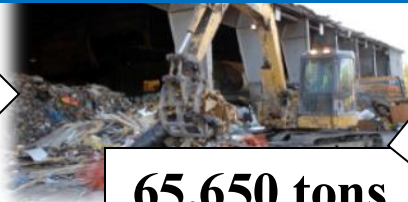


**Transfer Station**



**C&D**

90,100 tons



65,650 tons

**WTE**



**Trash**

295,230 tons



**Food**

3,400 cubic yards



**Compost Site**



**Landfill**

1,650 tons recyclables & metal

12,933 tons metal

22,800 tons

74,600 tons ash  
(alternative daily cover)

# Waste-to-Energy

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



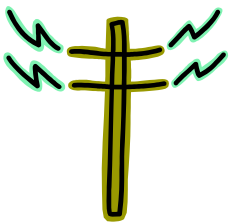
# Local Solid Waste Management Energy & Materials Recovery



Incoming waste travels ~20 miles



Power  
30,000+  
homes



~3.5% of waste  
is recovered  
metal



90% Volume  
Reduction



# GHG Avoidance from WTE

Processing  
non-recyclable waste  
at the WTE Facility  
avoided **272,090\*** ton  
of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022

\* based on 0.75 ton CO<sub>2</sub> / ton processed  
based on NYS WTE GHG Reduction  
Overview, July 2016



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**OCRRA's sustainable solid waste system avoids  
almost one million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e each year**

# OCRRRA: Statewide Leader in Organics Recovery



# Benefits of Compost




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

# Recycling: Cart Rollout

- Blue bins started the recycling program and incentivized the public to source separate
- Community has outgrown blue bins as we recycle more
- Carts improve collection, reduce litter, keep recyclables clean & dry



# Public Education



## OCRRA in the Classroom

OCRRA

Public ▾


5 videos 84 views Last updated on Jul 18, 2024

▶ Play all

↻ Shuffle


These videos are valuable tools for teachers to share information about the history of waste management in Onondaga County, recycling, composting, reducing waste, and trash disposal.

☰ Sort

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OCRRA in the Classroom: Waste Management Overview

OCRRA • 5 views • 3 weeks ago

4:06
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OCRRA in the Classroom: Composting

OCRRA • No views • 3 weeks ago

3:34
- 


OCRRA in the Classroom: Recycling

OCRRA • 8 views • 3 weeks ago

3:31
- 

OCRRA in the Classroom: Reduce Waste

OCRRA • 3 views • 3 weeks ago

3:52
- 

OCRRA in the Classroom: Trash

OCRRA • No views • 3 weeks ago

4:29

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

**EPR**: Uses financial incentives to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products and reduce waste

**Goal**: Create a circular economic model that boosts supply and demand of recycled materials



# Successful Programs in NYS

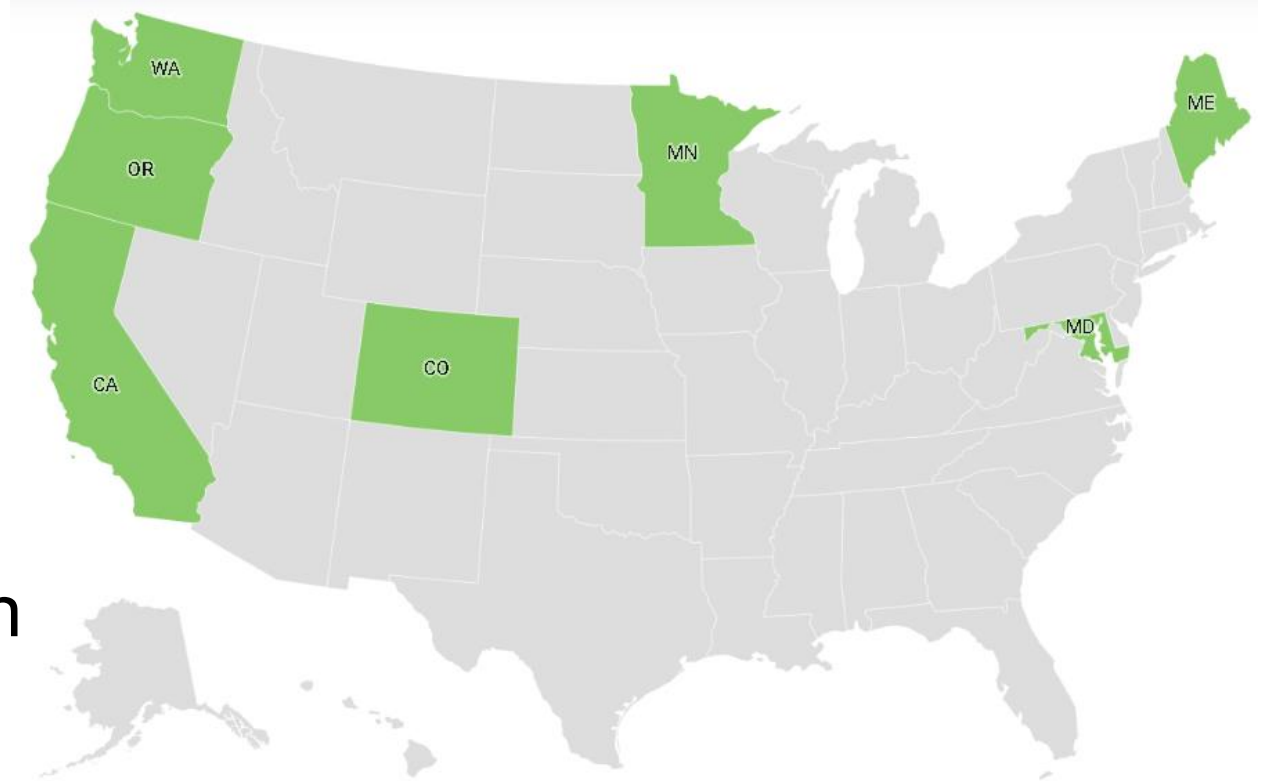
- Electronics
- Rechargeable batteries
- Pharmaceuticals
- Paint
- Tires
- Film Plastics



# Mapping U.S. Packaging EPR

## 7 States with EPR Laws

- Maine
- Oregon
- Colorado
- California
- Minnesota
- Maryland
- Washington



# Goals of EPR for Packaging

- **Reduces waste**
- **Incentivizes producers to design for recyclability and reuse**
- Shifts financial and operational responsibility from taxpayers and entities like OCRRA to producers
- Funds recycling education, infrastructure, and provides market stability



# Ley Creek Future

- **Good location**
- **Modern** solid waste campus
- **New services:**
  - EcoDrop
  - Increased recovery
    - Metal
    - Cardboard
- **Preparation for increased economic activity!**
- **Construction 2027 & 2028**



# Ley Creek Past



# Ley Creek Campus

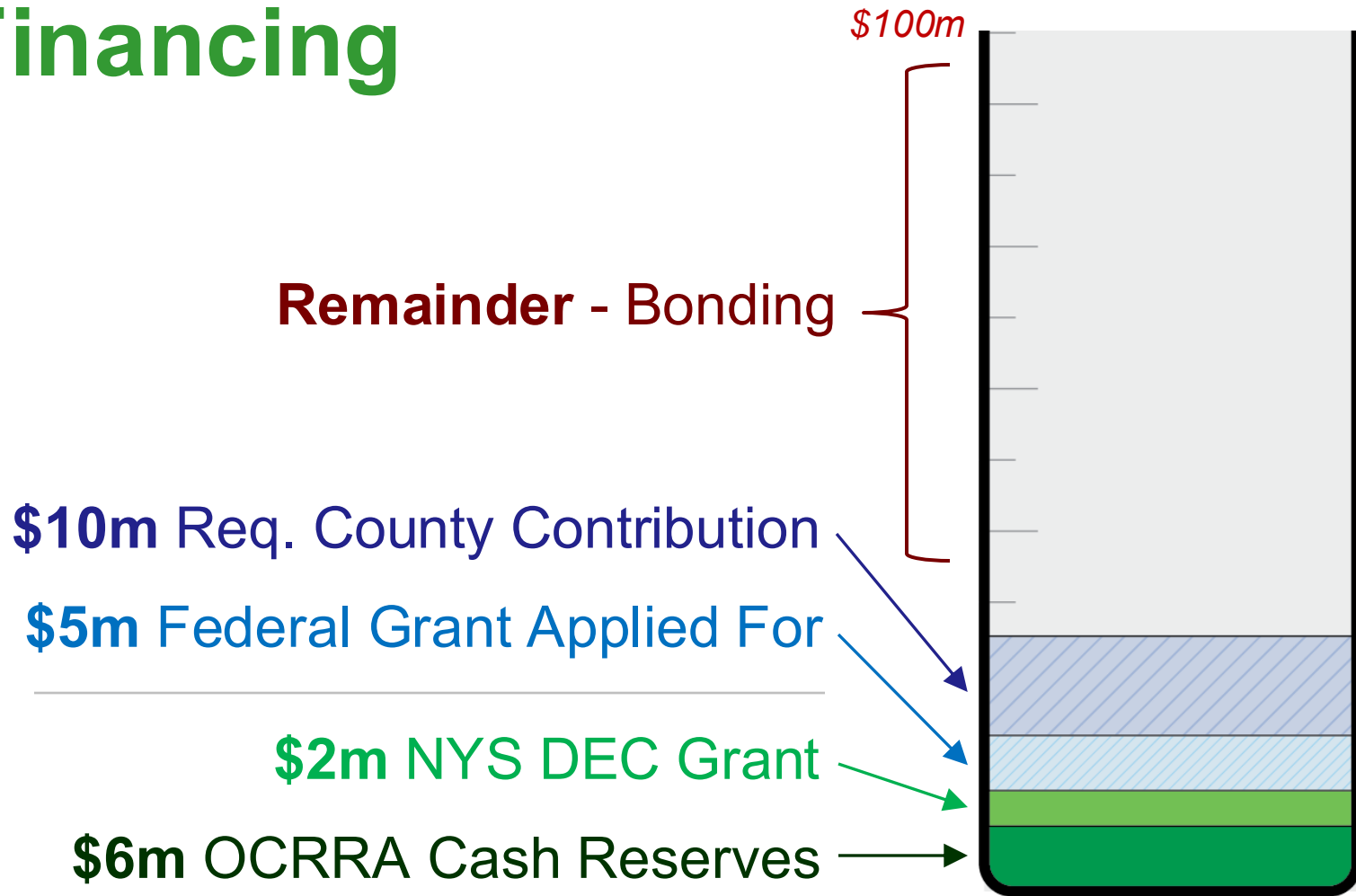


OCRRA - Ley Creek Campus  
Conceptual Site Rendering From Southeast

# Transfer Station and EcoDrop



# Ley Creek Financing



# Ley Creek Ask

## 1) \$10 Million Cash Support

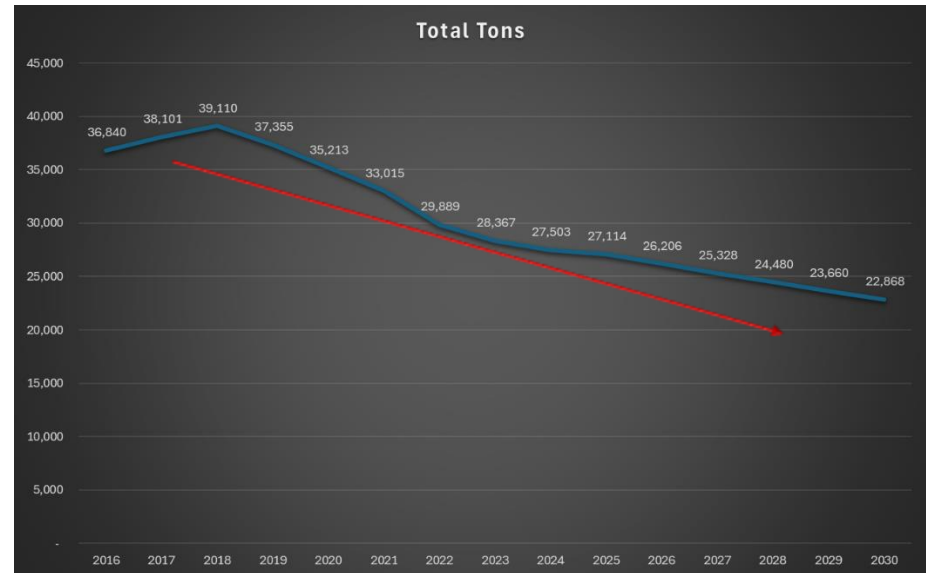
- Rebuilds vital community asset
- Prepares community for expanded economic development

## 2) Assistance with Financing

- County enjoys lower bond interest rates
- Saves constituency money – no out of pocket for County

# Flow Control: Recycling

- MRF volumes declining
- Per ton cost increasing
- Flow control peers:
  - Oneida-Herkimer
  - Rockland County
  - Ulster County
- Ley Creek campus provides opportunity for flow control



# Flow Control Benefits

- Consistent volumes = Consistent tipping fees
- Allows reinvestment in recycling infrastructure
- Ensures materials are recycled
- Encourages hauler competition – everyone on equal playing field
- Successful for solid waste in our community for over 30 years!



# *Questions? Contact us!*

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*Follow us on our socials!*

