

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Authority Celebrates America Recycles Day

This Wednesday, November 15th, marks the 26th annual America Recycles Day. The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (Authority) is celebrating by recognizing Oneida and Herkimer Counties' recycling achievements. In 2022:

- 41,200 tons of recyclables were processed,
- 28,150 gallons of paint were recycled through the Authority's partnership with PaintCare,
- 10,523 tons of green waste were composted at the Authority's green waste compost site,
- 356 tons of electronics were recycled,
- and 4,584 tons of food waste were kept out of the landfill through the Authority's Food2Energy program!

To do even better in 2023, here are some tips on how to recycle right not just on America Recycles Day, but instead all year round!

- Also known as the "Plastic Recycling ABCs," **All Bottles, Cups and Containers** can be recycled, regardless of what number (1-7) they are. The only exceptions to this rule are Styrofoam cups, motor oil bottles and orange prescription medication bottles, which are all garbage items.
- Plastic film should be recycled at local retailers and should not be placed in your recycling bin. Items like plastic grocery bags, bubble wrap and or wood pellet bags can jam up the machinery at the recycling center, leading to shutdowns so workers can cut these items out of the machines and throw them in the garbage.
- Break down or fold up large cardboard boxes so you can fit more recyclables in your bin!
- Place any shredded paper in a clear plastic bag before putting it in your recycling bin. This is the only exception to the "No Bag" rule! Workers at the recycling center pull these bags off the line and empty them out so the paper can be recycled as it usually would if it was not shredded. Bagging your shredded paper helps ensure that it doesn't get blown away while it's being brought to the recycling center.

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In 2022, Oneida and Herkimer Counties had a recycling rate of 52%, which was much higher than the national recycling rate of 32%. By recycling even more, we can continue to keep even more waste out of the Regional Landfill, conserve valuable natural resources, help boost the economy, prevent pollution, save energy, and create more jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries. The recycling rate and amount of materials recycled year to year in Oneida and Herkimer Counties is something that the area can be proud of and continue to build off of in the future. Thank you for doing your part to recycle!

For any questions on what is accepted for recycling or to get specific disposal instructions for anything you are unsure of, visit www.amirecyclable.com or www.ohswa.org. The Authority can also be contacted at 315-733-1224, ohswa@ohswa.org, or through the Authority's Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.