

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**America Recycles Day 2015**

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> marks the 18<sup>th</sup> annual America Recycles Day, a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Each year, millions of people are encouraged to “Go Green” by reducing waste, increasing recycling, and purchasing recycled products.

Currently, Oneida and Herkimer Counties have an outstanding recycling rate of almost 56%, while recycling rates across the nation stand at approximately 35%. Residents and businesses in the region have made the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority’s solid waste management and recycling program one of the most recognized programs in New York State.

Since 1989, nearly one million tons of material has been collected in Oneida and Herkimer Counties and processed at the Authority’s Recycling Center, Compost Site, and Household Hazardous Waste Facility for recycling and proper disposal. Private recycling initiatives by industries and businesses in our two-County region have increased to over one million tons since 1991. All of these materials have been recovered for reuse and recycling, rather than being landfilled.

It is the Authority’s goal to be progressive and to continue to make recycling convenient for residents and businesses. The Authority has developed a new tool to help educate and encourage proper recycling and disposal methods. Residents can now visit ***AmIRecyclable.com?*** to download a mobile web application that allows users to search hundreds of items to determine whether they are recyclable or not. There is also a “Quick Finder” that highlights the top 12 items that are improperly recycled or disposed of.

The Authority continually monitors recycling markets to find long-term, secure markets for material. This allows the Authority to provide recycling opportunities for as many materials as possible. The Authority has been able to expand the list of acceptable plastic for recycling to include ALL plastic bottles, cups and containers, regardless of their number code, *except for Styrofoam, motor oil bottles, prescription medicine bottles and plastic bags*. Expanding the list of recyclable items not only allows us to recover items that would otherwise be landfilled, but also preserves valuable natural resources and conserves energy.

Additionally, the Authority continues to utilize a landfill gas to electricity plant at the Regional Landfill uses landfill gas to create electricity. Today, the plant is producing enough renewable energy to power more than 3,500 homes in our region. Over the next 20 years, the facility can be expanded to generate enough energy to provide the annual electrical needs for over 8,500 homes.

In recognition of America Recycles Day, the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority would like to encourage everyone to take an active role in protecting our region and in making a commitment to increase recycling and reduction of our waste stream. “Recycling at home, work and school benefits all of us by reducing pollution, preserving valuable natural resources, conserving landfill space and saving money,” stated David Lupinski, Director of Recycling for the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. For more information on ways to “Go Green” and other recycling information, please visit ***AmIRecyclable.com?***

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