

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solid Waste Authority Offers Tips to “Green” Your Summer Barbecue

With the summer weather approaching, many of us are heading outside to barbecue and spend time with family and friends.

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority offers the following tips to minimize waste, increase recycling and save money on your summer parties.

- Fill up pitchers of water, lemonade and iced tea instead of buying large quantities of personal-sized beverage containers. This not only reduces waste, but saves money, too!
- Encourage recycling by placing clearly labeled recycling bins next to garbage cans. Keep the bins next to each other to increase recycling.
- Solo Cups: Make sure party guests are aware that plastic cups **can be recycled**. ALL plastic bottles, cups and containers (excluding Styrofoam, prescription medicine bottles and motor oil bottles) can be placed in your recycling bin.
- Avoid Styrofoam: Reusable plates and bowls are always the best choice, however if you are choosing disposable plates and bowls, avoid Styrofoam. Styrofoam cannot be placed in the recycling bin. Paper plates are a better alternative to foam; although they are not recyclable, they will take much less time to breakdown than plastic Styrofoam. Look for biodegradable and recycled-content paper goods.
- Buy in Bulk: Purchase large bags of chips and large bottles of ketchup and other condiments rather than individually packaged items. This will cost less money and will result in a lot less wrappers in the trash.
- **Propane tanks:** Whether you’re using a 1-pound or 100-pound propane tank, **never** place the tank in your recycling container or garbage can. Propane tanks can be **delivered** to the Authority’s Utica Facility located at 80 Leland Avenue Ext. for proper recycling/disposal at **NO CHARGE** Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday from 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- Grill with the lid down: not only is it more energy efficient, but also helps distribute heat thoroughly ensuring even cooking.
- Clean your grill while it’s hot: start cleaning your grill while it is still hot, using baking soda and a wire brush. This avoids using cleaners with phosphates or harsh fumes.
- Pack up leftovers: When the party comes to an end, make sure to pack up leftovers in reusable containers. If reusable containers are not an option, use aluminum foil as an alternative to plastic wrap and baggies. Clean aluminum foil can be placed in your recycling bin, unlike plastic wrap.

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- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Use rechargeable batteries for your radios, flashlights and other outdoor devices. Under the NYS Rechargeable Battery Law, rechargeable batteries such as car batteries, cordless drill batteries and rechargeable alkaline batteries **cannot be disposed of as garbage nor placed in your recycling bin.** Visit ohswa.org for a list of locations in which you can drop-off your rechargeable batteries at no cost. Regular household alkaline batteries can be placed in your regular trash for disposal.
- **Extras:** Choosing organic foods, e-vites versus mail invitations and using homemade decorations over store-bought decorations will round off the finishing touches of your “green” barbecue.

“If each family in Oneida and Herkimer Counties made a couple of small changes at their summer gatherings, the total impact on waste reduction and recycling would be tremendous. By reducing our region’s waste and increasing recycling, we not only preserve landfill space, but conserve valuable natural resources and energy,” stated Jamie Tuttle, Authority Recycling Coordinator.

For more information on recycling and waste disposal, please contact Authority Recycling Coordinator Jamie Tuttle at 733-1224 ext. 2300 or visit www.ohswa.org. You may also ask questions and find more information on the Authority’s Facebook page (Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority).

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