

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2016

Contact: Jamie Tuttle, Recycling Coordinator at 733-1224 ext. 2300

Electronics Recycling Increases by 50% in Oneida and Herkimer Counties

With technology and electronic devices rapidly evolving, electronic waste is a growing segment of the solid waste stream. Starting in 2003, the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority began offering a free **drop-off** program for electronics recycling to residents and businesses in the two-County region. Since then, the Authority has recycled more than 6 million pounds of electronic waste.

Many electronics contain elements such as lead, mercury and cadmium that are considered safe when the items are used as directed, but can be hazardous if disposed of with household trash and compacted at landfills. If improperly handled, these toxins can be released into the environment, posing a threat to human health.

In 2015, the electronics recycled at the Authority's facilities increased nearly 50% in comparison to 2014. The **1.2 million pounds** of electronic waste collected in 2015 was diverted from the Regional Landfill and sent to registered electronics dismantlers who separate the electronics into various raw materials such as plastic, glass, steel, copper, lead, gold and aluminum for recycling or reuse.

"Electronics contain many valuable and recoverable materials. In order to conserve natural resources and energy needed to produce new electronic equipment from virgin resources, electronic equipment can be refurbished, reused and recycled instead of being landfilled," stated Authority Superintendent of Waste Collection Bill Schrader. "We have the residents and businesses who utilize the electronics drop-off program to thank for the program's success."

As of January 2015, the NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act prohibits electronic waste such as computers, televisions, and other small electronic equipment from being disposed of as garbage. **Electronics cannot be placed in your curbside recycling bin.**

Options for recycling unwanted electronics:

- Contact your **municipality or waste hauler** for electronic waste collection options as many provide curbside collection.
- Donate or sell unwanted, working electronics.
- Residents and businesses may **deliver** unwanted electronic waste to the Authority's Utica and Rome Convenience Stations **year-round, at no charge** for proper recycling. *Businesses must schedule an appointment prior to delivery by calling 733-1224.*
- Consider trading mobile devices for cash through Verizon Wireless, AT&T, and websites such as Gazelle.com.
- Visit www.greenergadgets.org to enter your zip code and find the nearest electronics drop-off location.

For more information on electronics recycling and for a full list of electronic waste accepted by the Authority, please visit www.ohswa.org or call 733-1224.

-End-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neil C. Angell
Chairman

Harry A. Hertline
Treasurer

James M. D'Onofrio

James A. Franco

Nancy A. Novak

Robert J. Roberts, III

William A. Rabbia
Executive Director

Kenneth A. Long
Vice Chairman

Vincent J. Bono

Barbara Freeman

James M. Williams

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary