

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

April 22, 2016

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Emily M. Albright, Authority Director of Recycling
Phone: (315) 733-1224 Ext. 1600



Utica Zoo Celebrates Annual Earth Day Events & RecycleOne Business Certification

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority is pleased to announce that the Utica Zoo located in Roscoe-Conkling Park has obtained the Authority's RecycleOne Business Certification.

For over 100 years, the Utica Zoo has been a regional facility and a sparkling gem for the Mohawk Valley. The Zoo has grown from its small beginnings with three fallow deer in 1914, to its present collection of over 200 animals from 80 different species. Of the 80 acres of land set aside for the Zoo's use, 40 are presently developed.

The Utica Zoo creates unique experiences and promotes public appreciation of wildlife through education, conservation and recreation. "Here at the Zoo, we have been an advocate for both the environment and its wildlife through our solid waste reduction, material repurposing, recycling and energy conservation program. We are pleased to know that it will make a significant impact on both the Zoo and environment," said Kathleen Mallory, Utica Zoo Education Program Coordinator.

Some of the sustainable efforts include:

- Forming an active Green Team
- Hosting annual Earth Day events and educational programs
- Updating to energy star qualified appliances
- Donating unused produce to a local pig farmer
- Composting of animal waste, bedding and food scraps
- Using Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certified Paper
- Converting from paper to electronic records
- Replacing all light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs
- Proper disposal of sharps and medical waste
- Proper recycling of electronics
- Reusable food containers and preparation utensils
- The reuse and repurpose of various donations
- Providing garbage and recycling containers throughout the property
- Developing an aggressive recycling program for all events and activities at the Zoo
- Implementing waste reduction and energy efficient policies and practices
- During daily operations, many materials are repurposed and reused:
 - Use of shredded paper and newspaper for animal bedding and lining of cages
 - Use of cardboard boxes and old toys as enrichment for the animals
 - Use of fallen trees around the property for both animal habitat and play

"The Utica Zoo has done a tremendous job. They have gone above and beyond and are consistently working on new projects and innovative ways that they can improve or help the environment and its wildlife. The Utica Zoo is well deserving of this certification," concluded Emily Albright, Authority Director of Recycling.

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

The Utica Zoo will be hosting its annual Earth Day Events on Saturday, April 30th, from 11am to 3pm. For more information, please visit their website at www.uticazoo.org.

The **RecycleOne Business Certification** requires an on-site review from Authority staff to verify that specific solid waste management, recycling and energy reduction criteria have been achieved. If the criteria have been achieved, the Authority will issue the facility or business an official **RecycleOne Business Certification**.

For more information on the Authority's free **RecycleOne Business Recycling Program**, contact Emily Albright, Director of Recycling, at (315) 733-1224 Ext. 1600 or visit www.RecycleOneBusiness.com to download the **RecycleOne Business Recycling Program Guide**.