



**The Authority**<sup>TM</sup>  
ONEIDA-HERKIMER SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

20  
24

Annual Report

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## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

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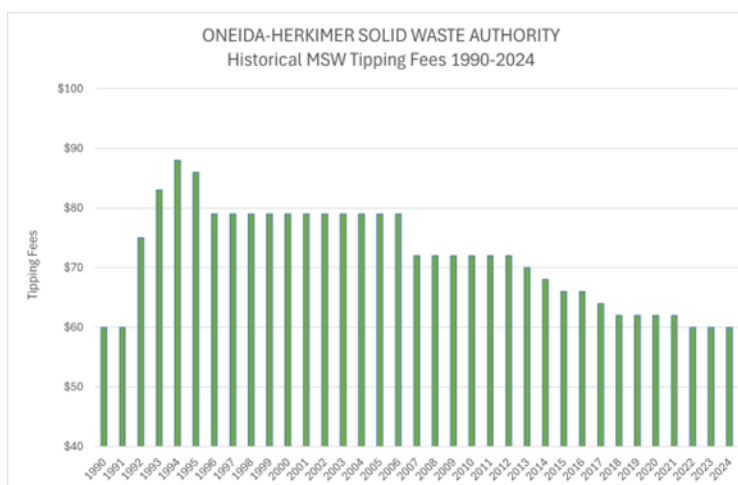
On behalf of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority), I am pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report. This year marked the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the formation of the Authority.

In 2024, the Authority maintained stable solid waste tipping fees with no cost increase to the businesses and residents of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Having a diversified revenue stream and planning for the future has kept the Authority financially stable.

In 2024, the Authority paid down the principal on the only debt issue in the amount of \$1,780,000. The remaining principal of \$5,792,593 will be paid in full by April 1, 2026. The Authority is proud of the fact that we have been able to operate with no addition to our debt.

The Authority continues to build reserves designated for future landfill expansions and capital projects. The Authority believes these reserves will assist in supporting the five-year Capital Plan and prevent any need to borrow equipment in the future.

The Authority saw an increase in revenue from interest in investments in 2024 due to the increase and stabilization of interest rates. In 2024, the interest earned was \$1,963,609.



The Authority continues to receive healthy tonnages for Municipal Solid Waste, Construction and Demolition Debris, Sludge, Source Separated Organics, and Contaminated Soil. Municipal Solid Waste saw an increase of 5,551.4 tons. These waste classes are an integral part in keeping rates stable and absorbing any increases in expenses.

The recycling markets in 2024 showed an increase in the market from 2023. For 2024 the Authority earned \$2,422,591 in recycling sales which increased by \$638,020 from 2023. The strength in the markets allows for the Authority to continue to accept recyclables at no charge and keep fees from rising.

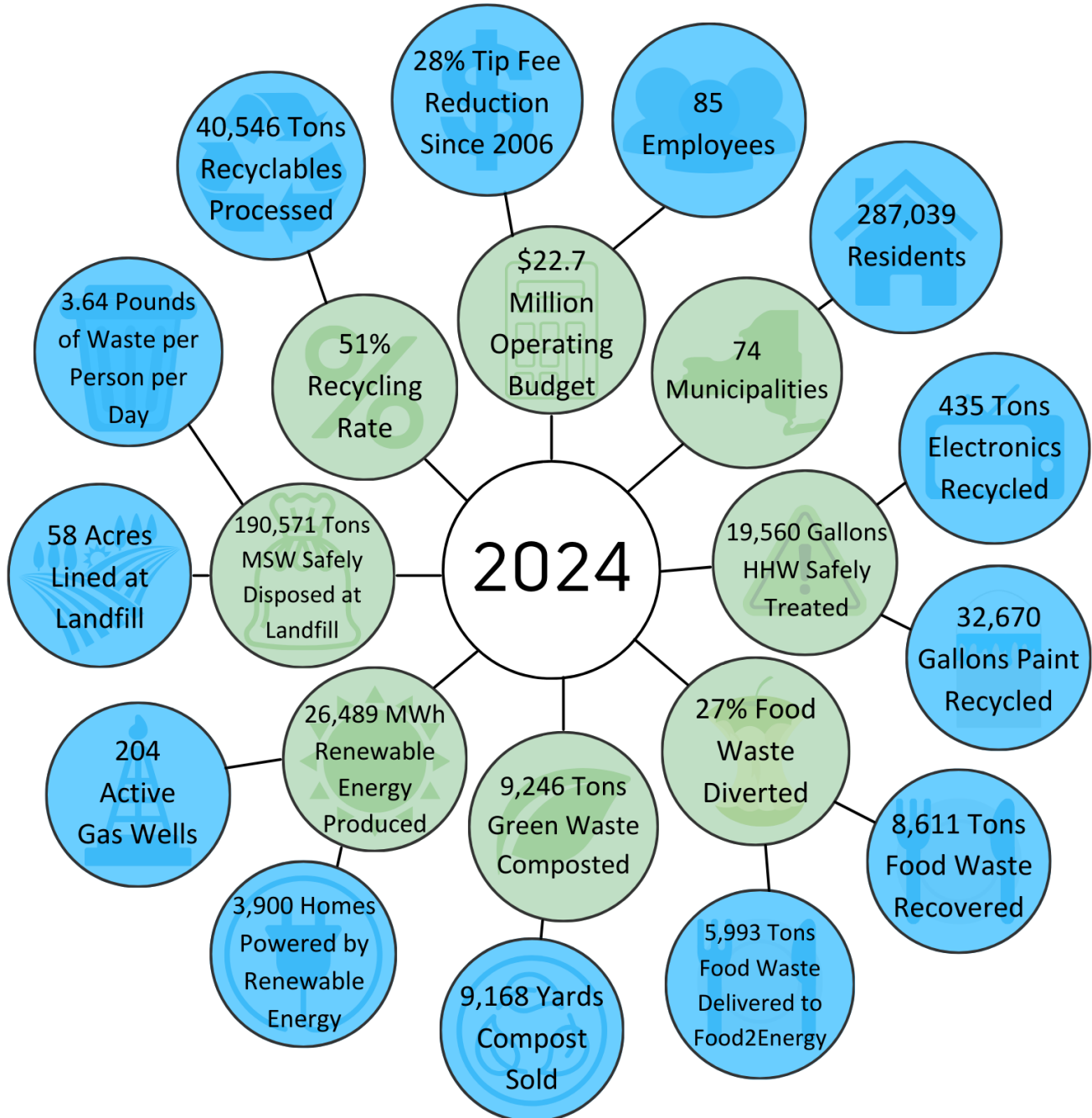
The Authority continues to be a leader in the region with recycling efforts. This year the Authority invested in robots to aid in the separation of valuable recyclable material. Robots can separate more material from the waste stream, provide analytics on the recycling container waste stream, and work alongside existing employees in a safe environment. The Authority is committed to continue to research and invest in best management practices and technology that will decrease the amount of valuable material being sent to the landfill.

I am proud of the accomplishments and hard work from the Authority's employees and my fellow colleagues on the Authority Board. While we continue to manage the region's waste and recyclables in a safe, reliable and efficient manner, I invite you to review this summary of our operations, and feel free to call anytime.

Kenneth A. Long

Chairman

# Annual Overview



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors is comprised of ten members representing an outstanding combination of interests and experiences in the private and public sectors. A member of the Authority Board is deemed a public officer with “legal, fiduciary, financial and ethical responsibilities” to the Authority. Three of the members are appointed by the Legislature of Herkimer County; four appointed by the Board of Legislators of Oneida County; and three appointed by the County Executive of Oneida County.

Board of Directors	
Member	Business Affiliation
<b>Kenneth A. Long, Chairman</b>	Retired Business Manager of the Central Valley Central School District and former Herkimer County Legislator
<b>Vincent J. Bono, Vice Chairman</b> Vice Chairman, Audit Committee Vice Chairman, Finance Committee	Partner in Bono Brothers LLC, Property Management Group; Herkimer County Community Development Director; and former Herkimer County Legislator
<b>Steven R. Boucher</b>	Assistant Professor of Business at Herkimer College; Oneida County Legislator; and Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Board Member
<b>Robert Comis</b>	Retired from Local Government: Held the positions of Purchasing Agent, Commissioner of Public Works, Chief of Staff and City Manager; Member of City of Sherrill's Planning Board
<b>James M. D'Onofrio</b> Chairman, FOIL Appeals Committee	President of Arlott Office Products and former Oneida County Legislator
<b>James A. Franco</b> Audit Committee Finance Committee FOIL Appeals Committee	Retired DPW Superintendent, Village of Herkimer
<b>Barbara Freeman</b> Chairwoman, Governance Committee FOIL Appeals Committee	Retired Teacher; former Member, Village and Town of Boonville Environmental Councils
<b>Nancy A. Novak</b> Governance Committee	Retired Manager of Safety & Regulatory Compliance at Bonide Products, Inc.; Member of Mohawk Valley Environmental Information Exchange and Mohawk Valley Safety Professional Consortium; and Co-Leader, Girl Scouts of the USA
<b>Richard G. Redmond, Treasurer</b> Chairman, Audit Committee Chairman, Finance Committee	Vice President of Facility Operations for Mohawk Valley Garden at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium; Decorated retired Major who served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years
<b>James Williams</b> Governance Committee	Retired from the United States Postal Service; Army Vietnam War Veteran; and former Member of the Ava Town Planning Board
Former Board Members	
Alfred A. Barbato, Sr. (1995-2004), Robert Julian (1988-1990), Larry Barton (2004-2005), Michael Lane (1988-1992), Gerald C. Brodock (1988-2005), David Link (1988-1995), R. W. Burrows, Jr. (1988-1995), Robert McLaughlin (1988-2009), Vincent Casale (2009-2013), Charles Patterson (1992-1995), Louis Critelli (1992-2008), Robert J. Roberts, III (2009-2018), Alicia Dicks (2009-2014), Dr. Guy Wilcox (1988-2004), A. Frank Dolan (1988-1991), David Yeaton (1997-2008), Donald L. Gross (1995-2013), Harry A. Hertline (1998-2023), Neil C. Angell (2004-2023)	

## Authority Board Committees

### Audit Committee

The purpose of the Authority's Audit Committee is to assure that the Authority's Board fulfills its responsibilities for the Authority's external audit process, the financial reporting process and the system of risk assessment and internal controls over financial reporting; and provide an avenue of communication between management, the independent auditors, and the Board of Directors. One joint Audit Committee-Finance Committee meeting was held in 2024.

### Finance Committee

The Authority's Finance Committee oversees the Authority's annual budget, investments, capital plans, accounts receivable, debt and other financial matters of the Authority. In 2024, there was a total of four Finance Committee meetings, including one joint Finance Committee-Audit Committee meeting.

### Foil Appeals Committee

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority is a public entity and, as such, complies with New York State's Freedom of Information Law [FOIL]. Under the FOIL, the public has a right to inspect and receive copies of most records retained by the Authority. In the event a request is not handled in a timely manner or where a requestor disagrees with the determination to withhold certain records, the Authority established a FOIL Appeals Committee to address and carryout the appeals process. The FOIL Appeals Committee meets on an as needed basis.

### Governance Committee

The Authority's Governance Committee was established to assist the Board by keeping it informed of current best practices in corporate Governance; reviewing corporate Governance trends for their applicability to the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority; updating the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority's corporate Governance principles and Governance practices; and advising those responsible for appointing directors to the Board on the skills, qualities and professional or educational experiences necessary to be effective Board members. One Governance Committee meeting was conducted in 2024.

### **Mission Statement**

The Authority's mission is the management of the region's solid waste and recyclable material in an environmentally sound, cost-effective, efficient and safe manner. The Authority remains committed to maintaining and enhancing the region's self-reliant integrated solid waste management system while protecting the health, safety and welfare of the region.

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority is a New York public benefit corporation which was created by the State Legislature at the request of Oneida and Herkimer Counties by passage of Article 8, Title 13-FF of the New York Public Authority Law on September 1, 1988. The Authority was created to address environmental problems associated with improper solid waste disposal, to develop new facilities and programs for waste reduction and recycling, and to address the lack of long-term disposal capacity for non-recyclable waste.

With this charge and mandatory recycling laws enacted by both Counties, the Authority has developed a regional, comprehensive, integrated system of facilities to serve all the residents, businesses, industries and institutions of the two Counties. This integrated system promotes reduction, maximizes recycling, and provides safe, economical disposal for non-recyclable waste. The Authority owns and operates a Recycling Center, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, Green Waste Composting Facility, Regional Landfill, three Transfer Stations, and a Source Separated Organics Processing Facility (Food2Energy Facility). Services include recycling, green waste composting, food waste diversion program, providing public education, promoting waste reduction and reuse of materials, and school “Go Green” initiatives, full-scale electronics collection, and sewage sludge management. The Authority developed the region’s first Local Solid Waste Management Plan in 1991. The plan included development of the comprehensive integrated solid waste management system. The original plan has been fully implemented. The Authority’s current Local Solid Waste Management Plan is through 2026.

The Authority is governed by a 10-member Board of Directors, employs approximately 85 people and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$23 million.

In 2007, the Authority won a landmark case in the United States Supreme Court (United Haulers v. Oneida-Herkimer) establishing a national precedent for local public solid waste systems.

The Authority revenue structure is primarily a fee for service system. A system tip fee is charged for all non-recyclable waste delivered to the Authority. These fees cover the majority of expenses in the Authority budget. The Authority receives additional revenue from other sources such as investments, sale of landfill gas, sale of carbon credits, sale of recyclables and grants. The Authority receives no funding from the Counties.



# 2024 Performance Measure Report

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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- ✓ Implementation of Local Solid Waste Management Plan including continuous review and application of new technologies.
- ✓ Compliance with environmental, employee health and safety, and all other federal and state regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Maintenance of long-term stable rates and prudent fiscal management.
- ✓ 100% compliance with all ABO reporting requirements.
- ✓ Operating with full transparency and good governance.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURE: IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LSWMP) INCLUDING CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR ALL SYSTEMS, FACILITIES AND PROCESSES:

- Completed 5<sup>th</sup> full year of operations of the Authority's Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility (Food2Energy).
- Utilized a force main pipeline to convey processed organic waste to the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant's anaerobic digesters for electrical generation operations.
- Processed 5,993 tons of food waste from local businesses and residents.
- Supported waste reduction through NYS Product Stewardship Council.
- Completed 13<sup>th</sup> operational year of single stream Recycling Center in Utica.
- Continued to process over 40,500 tons of recyclables at the Recycling Center.
- Achieved an overall recycling rate of 51% for Oneida and Herkimer Counties.
- Continued operation of the Landfill Gas (LFG) to Electricity Facility, which utilizes two generators to convert LFG (methane) into electricity. The facility represents a joint venture by the Authority and Waste Management Renewable Energy (WMRE) to provide green energy made from landfill gas to the market.
- Installed 19 new gas collection wells at the Regional Landfill (RLF) continuing to advance the active landfill gas collection system which brings the total number of wells to 204.
- Continued work with BERQ RNG to develop plans to reuse all landfill gas captured at the Regional Landfill. In 2024, BERQ worked to finalize a DEC Air Permit and finalized a design for their facility.
- Continued to safely dispose of 190,571 tons of waste and beneficially reuse 48,484 tons of material at RLF.
- Mohawk Valley Materials completed the RLF stage 2 capping project. The total capped area at the landfill is now 13 acres.
- Mohawk Valley Materials completed the first stage of Cell 8 construction.

- Continued to process over 9,200 tons of green waste and converted it into marketable compost at the Green Waste Composting Facility in Utica.
- Continued to safely dispose of over 19,560 gallons of household hazardous waste received from over 14,250 area households at the HHW Facility.
- Recycled 32,670 gallons of paint through the PaintCare program.
- Recycled 435 tons of electronics and computers.
- Continued implementation of a “Go Green” School Recycling Program that assists teachers, students and staff on the value of recycling, conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Continued to achieve higher than expected waste densities at the Regional Landfill through the use of GPS technology and compaction equipment, extending the projected life of the Regional Landfill.
- Continued organics (food waste) recovery programs in schools and colleges and continued to accept spent hops from FX Matt Brewery for composting.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ALL OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**

- Maintained compliance with all Facility Permits and Regulations.
- Completed all necessary actions to comply with the new 6 NYCRR Part 360 Solid Waste Management Facilities regulations that became effective November 4, 2017.
- Developed and submitted the following Annual Reports: Eastern Transfer Station (including the Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility), Western Transfer Station, Green Waste Composting Facility, Spent Hops Organics Composting Project, Waste Transporter, Recycling Center, Regional Landfill, Webb Transfer Station, Webb Recycling Facility, two Land Clearing Debris Facilities, Brush Processing Facility, Pallet Processing Facility, Waste Oil, Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Electronic Waste Collection Site per 6NYCRR Part 360 Permits/Registrations.
- Developed and submitted Title V Permit, Air Regulations Compliance Certifications & Emission Statements for RLF.
- Developed and submitted SPDES (stormwater management) Annual Certifications and DMRs for RLF, Utica Complex, and Western Transfer Station in Rome.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required Closure Post-Closure Report for Ash Landfill, Rome, NY.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required quarterly Environmental Monitoring Reports for the Regional Landfill, Ava, NY.
- Developed and submitted NYSDEC required State Agency Environmental Audit.
- Conducted NYSDEC required weekly inspections related to RLF SPDES permits.
- Continued annual employee health and safety training and provided regular toolbox talks to supplement safety awareness and training. All training follows New York State Public Employee

Safety and Health (PESH). Annual training topics covered include: Hazard Communication, Hearing Conservation, Workplace/Sexual Harassment Prevention, Workplace Violence Protection, Spill Prevention, Lock Out Tag Out, Bloodborne Pathogens, Emergency Response, Confined Space, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention.

- Held regular Safety Committee Meetings with employee representatives from all facilities, including Administrative Staff and the Executive Director. The Safety Committee allows employees and supervisory staff to discuss safety issues, operational recommendations, and provide updates on the Authority in general. Notes are compiled from each meeting. Supervisory staff addresses each issue and provides a solution and a written response attached to the meetings notes, which are posted for all employees to review.
- Employees received or renewed Landfill Operator Certifications through the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management (NYSASWM).

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURE: MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM STABLE RATES AND PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

- Tipping fees remained the same for 2024. Tipping fees remain lower than they were in 1992.
- The Finance Committee tasked Senior Management to prepare an extensive long-term financial plan that forecasts revenues, expenses, capital purchases and future tipping fees for the next five years.
- For 2024, the Authority earned \$2,422,591 in sales of recyclables. This was an increase of \$638,020 or 36% from 2023.
- The Authority had a \$904,596 addition to its net asset position for 2024.
- The Authority continued to make yearly deposits to a Landfill Equipment Replacement Fund.
- The Authority assisted the City of Utica through reduced tipping fees for demolition and cleanup of ongoing industrial development projects at the Utica Harbor.
- The Authority realized \$313,931 in landfill gas sales for 2024. This was a decrease of \$21,109 or 6% in comparison to 2023.
- The Authority continued to fund future landfill cell expansions with current tipping fees.
- The Authority made all necessary deposits to Landfill Closure Funds as required.
- The Authority processes recyclables from Oswego, Lewis and Fulton Counties. In 2024, \$941,416 in processing fees from these agreements was received.
- Carbon credits from the destruction of methane at the Regional Landfill continued to be marketed. The Authority realized \$919,258 in carbon credit revenue for 2024.
- The Authority paid down \$1,780,000 in scheduled long-term debt for 2024. The Authority has reduced long-term bonded debt by \$12,275,000 over the last five years.
- Completed equipment purchases and capital improvements in the amount of \$8,106,620.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE: 100% COMPLIANCE WITH ALL ABO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATING WITH FULL TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE.**

- Authority filed all necessary reports with ABO on time.
- Authority updated its website to reflect all ABO requirements.
- Authority Board of Directors authorized and approved filing of all reports with ABO office.
- All Authority Board Members and Authority Senior Management have attended mandatory ABO training.
- The Governance Committee and Authority staff reviewed all ABO Policy Guidance and recommendations issued during the year.
- Operating with full transparency and good governance.
- The Governance Committee met and reviewed all Governance Policies and developed recommendations for the full Board.
- Board of Directors and Governance Committee reviewed and approved policies including procurement policy, disposition of property, ethics and whistle blower policy.
- Continued to publicly auction surplus equipment through Authority-approved Property Disposition Policy.
- Board of Directors and Governance Committee reviewed and approved its Mission Statement and Performance Measures without modification.
- All agendas and minutes of Board meetings and Committee meetings were posted on the Authority's website.
- Submitted 2025 draft budget to counties, municipalities and the public for review and comment.
- Conducted a public hearing required for adoption of the budget.
- Submitted 2025 adopted budget to the counties and state-wide officials.
- The Finance Committee conducted four meetings including one joint Finance-Audit Committee meeting during 2024 and reviewed and approved the Authority's Investment Policy.
- The Finance and Audit Committees met with the Authority's independent auditors to review the 2023 audit.
- The Finance Committee reviewed the Authority's five-year financial plan with staff.

# 2024 Highlights and Notable Events

## FIVE YEARS OF FOOD2ENERGY PROGRAM

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2024 marked the five-year anniversary of the Authority's Food2Energy program. Residents, schools, and commercial businesses are encouraged to deliver bagged, packaged or palletized food waste to the Authority's Source Separated Organics Processing Facility in Utica. The recovered material is then de-packaged and emulsified into a slurry and is delivered to the Oneida County Sewer District's (OCSD) anaerobic digestion system, allowing for the collection of methane gas that is turned into electricity. Food2Energy conserves landfill airspace, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduces disposal costs for source separated organics by \$20 per ton and increases the energy production generated in the anaerobic digesters by providing a comingled feedstock to the OCSD's independent collection and anaerobic digestion of biosolids. Currently, the OCSD is getting 25-30% of its energy needs met by the biogas generated from the anaerobic digesters.

37.3 Million Pounds  
Organics Recovered



Since 2019

Since its installation in 2021, the Authority has been utilizing a slurry pipeline to convey food waste to the OCSD. At the onset of the Food2Energy program, the Authority utilized a tanker trailer to transport the slurry to the OCSD. This method was cumbersome which hindered operational production. By implementing the force main, the Authority has sped up production, conveyed slurry in greater volumes and greatly decreased the time dedicated to conveyance. To date, Food2Energy has allowed for the recovery of 18,640 tons of source separated organics.

## CELL 8 CONSTRUCTION BID AWARD

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On November 10, 2023, seven bids were received by the Authority for the construction of landfill Cell 8. Each bid was evaluated for compliance with specifications for the project by the Authority's consulting engineer, Barton & Loguidice. The bid price of \$7,075,171.91 by Mohawk Valley Materials (MVM) was determined to be an acceptable low bid. In 2024, MVM worked to screen soil to be used as a part of the landfill liner system and excavated Cell 8 to subgrade. Construction will continue in the Spring of 2025 and end in September 2025.

## REDUCED TIPPING FEE PROGRAM

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In 2020, the Authority introduced a new program to assist local municipalities and Oneida-Herkimer Counties when disaster occurs with reduced tipping fees for disposal of disaster debris and/or to assist industrial development agencies and developers relating to clean-up projects.

In December 2020, the Authority Board adopted a policy for the reduced tip fee programs that includes an application, eligibility requirements and processes to establish rate structure and tonnage limits for such programs.

The Authority's 2024 adopted budget included both a natural disaster debris tipping fee and a Brownfield clean-up/IDA project tipping fee at rates of \$42/ton. Both programs must be approved through an application process.

In 2024, the Village of Whitesboro was approved for a reduced tipping fee for flood related debris. In the past decade, the Village of Whitesboro has been hit with several major floods. The City of Rome was approved for a reduced tipping fee to assist with the clean up of debris from St. Mary's Church, which was destroyed in the July 2024 tornado.

## BERQ RNG LANDFILL GAS USE UPDATE

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The Authority currently collects and manages landfill gas generated at the Regional Landfill in Ava, NY. Landfill gas is currently managed through a system of vertical and horizontal wells located throughout the landfill. The landfill gas is currently utilized by a landfill gas to energy plant operated by WMRE, which employs two internal combustion engines. The portion of the landfill gas not utilized for energy production is destroyed through the use of flares.

On December 20, 2021, the Authority Board authorized the issuance of a Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to explore additional landfill gas utilization options, consistent with the Authority's state-approved Local Solid Waste Management Plan and regulatory permits, in an effort to beneficially use more landfill gas.

A draft request for proposals (RFP) was released for interested developers for the utilization of all or a portion of the gas collected at the landfill. A final RFP was issued on April 6, 2022 and six proposals were received. The proposals were evaluated and respondents were interviewed. The Authority Board awarded BERQ RNG with a 20-year contract based on their proposal and their qualifications. BERQ intends to produce renewable natural gas and convey it to natural gas distributors. This will be done either through a direct pipeline or a virtual pipeline.

In May of 2023, BERQ submitted an air permit application to the DEC as a part of the required regulatory permits needed to operate their plant at the landfill. BERQ's plant designs have been completed and a plant equipment vendor has been chosen. Construction of BERQ's facility is expected to begin in the Summer of 2025.

## AUTHORITY MASCOT

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In the Fall of 2023, the Authority began planning for the addition of a mascot to its outreach and education programming. The Authority's Mascot, Binny, was officially unveiled at the Authority's 2024 Earth Day Recycling Event. Binny joined Authority staff for 10 presentations and assemblies in 2024, was featured in two of the Authority's radio advertising campaigns and was the main subject of the Spring 2024 school challenge through the Authority's first ever Binny Poster Contest. The Authority also created a webpage for Binny on its website and at [www.hellobinny.com](http://www.hellobinny.com). Binny will continue to be a key part of the Authority's education and outreach efforts for years to come.

## RECYCLING CENTER ROBOTS

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At the Authority's May 2024 Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed allowing for the Authority to enter into a three-year agreement with EverestLabs for the install and upkeep of two AI sorting robots at the Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center. The robots use Everest Labs' RecycleOS AI software which not only gives the robot arms the "eyes" that they need to work, but also provides valuable data on the recyclables that pass through this specific part of the sorting system. As items pass underneath the AI vision system that is situated above the conveyor belt, they are identified and categorized by the type of material they are made of. The AI software communicates with the robotic arm, which picks up items using suction and throws them into the appropriate bin for recovery using a burst of air. In



addition to identifying items that need to be sorted out, the AI software can also be used to identify items that have either not been sorted properly or items that are not accepted for recycling. This data can be used to see if there are any parts of the sorting process that need to be adjusted or if there is a need for more outreach and education on whether or not certain items are recyclable.



# Authority Facilities and Program Updates

## ONEIDA-HERKIMER RECYCLING CENTER



The Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center opened in 1991 and was characterized locally as marking the beginning of a new era in environmental management in Central New York. In addition to all the households in the region, over 400 businesses and industries use the facility directly. The Oneida-Herkimer system is regarded as being one of the most comprehensive recycling programs in the country.

When the Recycling Center was built in 1991, the dual stream sorting and processing technology that was implemented was considered state of the art. The Recycling Center has effectively and consistently processed, without interruption, recyclable material for over 30 years. Since opening, the Recycling Center has successfully served the two Counties and processed over 1,234,213 tons of recyclables.

The Authority currently operates a cutting-edge single stream processing system. The single stream processing system was constructed in 2011 and operation began in January 2012. This took the place of the Authority's previous dual stream processing system. The single stream processing system utilizes mechanical star screens and optical sorting technology to sort recyclable material by size and type. This advanced technology is able to perform efficiently with high throughput.

The single stream processing system provides added convenience to both residents and businesses. Recycling was made easier—all recyclables can be mixed together. Collection of recyclables was made more efficient; mixed recyclables can now be compacted, saving fuel, mileage and labor costs, while decreasing truck emissions.

The 2024 recycling rate for Oneida and Herkimer Counties is

**51%**





Cardboard



Mixed Rigid Plastics



HDPE Natural



Shredded Paper



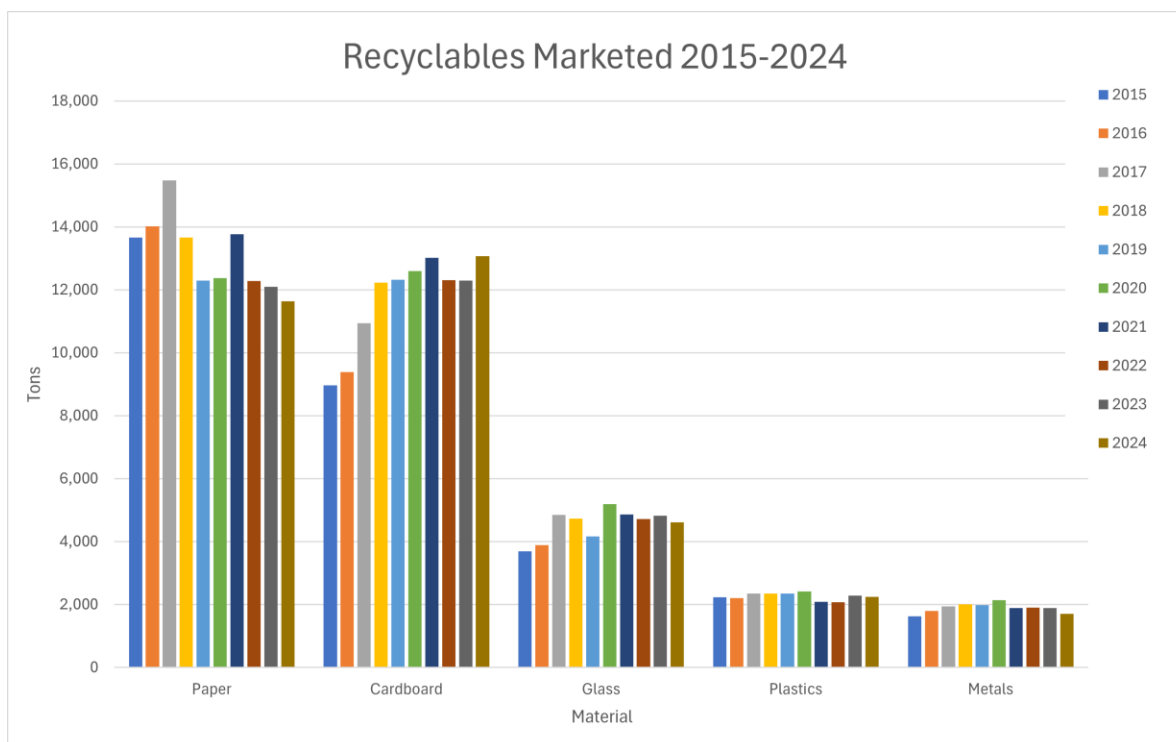
HDPE Colored

Once sorted, the Authority directly markets recyclables. The Authority has business relationships with 40 local and interstate buyers for these materials.

In 2024, the Authority processed and marketed over \$2,422,591 worth of recyclables.

Since 2018, global recycling markets were affected by China's "National Sword Policy" and market pricing hit an all-time low. However, in recent years, the market values for several commodities have rebounded.

The Oneida-Herkimer system is designed to be the market of last resort and we are still able to properly sort and recycle materials when markets are low. This is facilitated through the Authority's integrated system tipping fees, which subsidize recycling when necessary.



2024 Recyclables Marketed		
Material		Tons
Mixed Recyclables Delivered	Mixed Paper	4,699
	Mixed Containers/Rigid Plastics	138
	Mixed Recyclables (Single Stream)	35,709
Total Recyclables Delivered		40,546
Paper Marketed	Newspaper/Magazines/Boxboard	11,632
	Corrugated Cardboard/Kraft Bags	13,067
	Mixed Office Paper/Junk Mail	41
Total Paper Marketed		24,740
Plastics Marketed	PET Colored Plastic (#1)	1,067
	HDPE Natural Plastic (#2)	469
	HDPE Colored Plastic (#2)	355
	Mixed Plastics (#3-7)	172
	Mixed Rigid Plastics	185
Total Plastics Marketed		2,248
Glass Marketed	Glass Aggregate (Mixed)	4,612
Total Glass Marketed		4,612
Metals Marketed	Ferrous (Tin) Cans	986
	Mixed Aluminum	110
	Light Metal White Goods	190
	Scrap	423
Total Metals Marketed		1,709
<b>Total Recyclables Marketed</b>		<b>33,309</b>

#### OUT OF COUNTY RECYCLABLES

Since investing in its state-of-the-art single stream processing facility to process recyclables from Oneida and Herkimer Counties, the Authority has proven it has excess capacity which will allow more recyclables to be processed. Under its enabling legislation, the Authority is authorized to process out-of-region recyclables.

## SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING PROGRAM REACH



The Authority has had an intergovernmental agreement for the processing and marketing of recyclables from Oswego County since 2013. The Authority's operating experience with Oswego County demonstrated the ability to continue to accept additional tonnage, without increasing fixed costs. The Authority is currently in a five-year agreement with Oswego County to accept their recyclables and will continue to do so through December 2028.

The Authority Initially entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Lewis County in January 2016 for the processing and marketing of recyclables. The Authority is currently in a five-year agreement with Lewis County to accept their recyclables and will continue to do so through December 2027.

The Authority also holds an intergovernmental agreement with Fulton County for the processing and marketing of recyclables, which has been held since 2017. The Authority is currently in a five-year agreement with Fulton County to accept their recyclables and will continue to do so through January 1, 2026.

In 2024, the Recycling Center processed 11,726 tons of recyclables from outside the Oneida-Herkimer region. Tipping fees are collected for this material to cover the recycling processing costs, providing the Authority with additional revenue to offset operational expenses.

### PRIVATE RECYCLING INITIATIVES

On an annual basis, the Authority requests information on private recycling efforts from businesses, industries, and institutions in the two Counties to represent the recycling rate for the region more accurately. A paper and electronic survey form was sent to more than 1,000 local businesses to gather more precise private recycling information.

Materials that are being privately recycled include more than the "common" household recyclables. Examples include such items as pallets, paper mill sludge, food waste, plastic film and fabrics. The combined public and private recycling rate for 2024 is 51%. This recycling rate proves the commitment that industries, businesses, and residents have for recycling and reuse and is much higher than the national recycling rate of 32%.

## RECYCLEONE CAMPAIGN

**ONE BIN  
NO BAGS**  
EASIER. MORE CONVENIENT. LESS COST.  
**MIX ALL YOUR  
RECYCLABLES TOGETHER**



The Authority maintains an excellent recycling rate. The overall recycling rate for 2024 in Oneida and Herkimer Counties is 51%. However, frequent, and consistent communication from the Authority is necessary to remind residents of recycling guidelines.

To keep residents informed of the Authority's single stream recycling program, dubbed RecycleOne – One and Done, the Authority continued its public education campaign throughout 2024. The Authority invested resources into direct public education through radio, tv, web and print media. The RecycleOne campaign communicates to residents that recycling is easier and more convenient than ever. The Authority continues to provide informational posters, recycling reminders and RecycleOne bin decals to haulers and municipalities to further get the message directly to residents.

## BUSINESS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Authority continues to promote its Business Recycling Program which assists businesses, industries, schools, and other commercial establishments by providing information on starting and maintaining a recycling program as well as decreasing the volume of waste produced by businesses.

Through a waste assessment/audit, the Authority evaluates current solid waste and recycling practices; identifies waste generation points; assesses individual workspaces and waste produced to document participation and compliance rates; and determines potential opportunities for increasing recyclable material recovery. This service is provided free of charge. As part of the Business Recycling Program, the Authority also offers a voluntary RecycleOne Business Certification program which recognizes businesses and industries for taking steps to reduce solid waste, increase recycling and save energy.



In 2024, the Authority awarded Wolfspeed's Mohawk Valley Fab (MVF) Facility with a RecycleOne Business Certification. Authority staff worked with Wolfspeed's Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) department to further develop the facility's recycling efforts, with the main focus being on helping employees recycle properly. EHS department members first toured the Authority's recycling center to gain a better understanding of where the facility's waste materials end up and to discuss the possibility of sending their food waste to Food2Energy. Next, posters were created to be placed above Wolfspeed's garbage, recycling and food waste bins and employee trainings on recycling took place both in person and virtually. Approximately 150 employees attended the trainings. Through the process of becoming certified, Wolfspeed's EHS department developed close working relationships with their waste hauler, janitorial service company and the Authority, ensuring their recycling program's expansion and longevity.



### 2024 RECYCLING CHAMPION

The Authority annually recognizes one local business, organization or school that has taken initiatives to reduce their solid waste stream through recycling and proper disposal. Utica Creative Reuse was the recipient of the Authority's 2024 Recycling Champion Award. Utica Creative Reuse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping usable materials out of the waste stream and advancing access to the arts across Central New York. With the help of more



than 50 volunteers, Utica Creative Reuse held 75 events at 20 locations in 2024, serving about 1,500 visitors. Since its formation in September 2023, Utica Creative Reuse has diverted 5,885 pounds of unwanted arts and crafts materials from the waste stream. Utica Creative Reuse Founder and Board President Sarah Marris-Swann attended the Authority's December 2024 Board of Directors meeting to accept the 2024 Recycling Champion Award.



## GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY



The Authority's Green Waste Composting Facility is in its 31st year of operation. This regional facility serves area residents, municipalities, private haulers, businesses, institutions and landscapers. About two-thirds of the population of Oneida and Herkimer Counties utilize this site. Composting organic material is just as important as recycling paper, plastic

metal and glass, all of which help reduce our reliance on landfills. In 2024, the facility received over 9,246 tons of green waste (grass, leaves, brush, etc.).

At the Green Waste Composting Facility, green waste is ground, placed in windrows and turned as needed to facilitate natural decomposition, all in compliance with New York State regulatory requirements. The end-product of these efforts is compost.



The Authority's compost can be purchased in convenient 45-pound bags, or in bulk. In 2024, 16,621 bags of compost were sold. This very successful program is in direct response to the requests of local residents wanting a more convenient way to get compost.

Approximately 40 local businesses and municipalities regularly purchase bulk compost from the Authority.

In addition to selling bagged compost in 2024, the Authority sold 8,430 cubic yards of bulk compost.

## AUTHORITY COMPOST CERTIFIED BY THE U.S. COMPOSTING COUNCIL



The Authority has produced and marketed over 140,915 yards of high-quality bulk municipal yard waste compost since 1997. In September 2013, the Authority's compost was certified by the U.S. Composting Council under its Seal of Testing Assurance Program (USCC STA), which is the leading compost testing labeling program in the country. USCC STA certification supports and documents that all Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority compost has

been rigorously tested by third party laboratories to ensure that it meets all state and federal environmental requirements.

The compost testing requirements include chemical, physical, and biological compost tests. It also includes EPA testing for health and safety standards (pathogens and metals). The USCC STA certification allows the Authority's compost to be utilized in large volumes for grass seeding and turf maintenance by professional users such as the New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Thruway Authority, landscape architects, landscapers, soil suppliers and others.

The Authority's finished compost is made entirely from processed brush, leaves and grass clippings, fully cured and screened to one-half inch. Through this certification, the Authority can promise that residents and businesses are purchasing consistent, high-quality compost that is guaranteed to provide maximum benefits.

Authority yard waste compost is available in bulk or convenient 1.2 cubic feet bags that can be purchased at both EcoDrop facilities and landscape supply centers throughout the two-county area. To date, more than 249,248 bags of compost have been sold.

## COMPOSTING BEER HOPS



The FX Matt Brewing Company of Utica completed a "Green" project in 2014 to reduce the amount of material being sent to the landfill for disposal. FX Matt installed a bio digester that processes the brewery's wastewater to produce methane gas that will in turn power a generator to provide up to 50% of the electrical needs of the brewery. The brewery wastewater contains large amounts of compostable hops and grain from the production of beer.

After the wastewater passes through the bio digester, the remaining hops and grain material is de-watered and delivered to the Authority's Green Waste Composting Facility for composting.

The hops and grain material are mixed with wood chips and non-cured compost and placed in a separate compost windrow for decomposition. The hops and grain compost is kept separate from the municipal yard waste compost and utilized for special compost projects.

The Authority began composting spent hops and grain from Saranac in 2014. In 2024, over 35 tons of spent hops and grain material was delivered to the Authority for composting.

### WOOD PALLETS



To assist local industries, clean wood pallets are accepted at the Authority's Green Waste Composting Facility at a reduced fee. Pallets are ground into chips and shipped to market for use as animal bedding.

In 2024, more than 633 tons of pallets were processed at the site.

### BRUSH PROCESSING FACILITY/LAND CLEARING DEBRIS FACILITY

To better serve the residents of western Oneida County, the Authority operates a State-Registered Compost/Brush Processing Facility adjacent to the Western Transfer Station in Rome. In 2024, 1,239 tons of green waste were delivered to the site.

Stumps, oversized tree limbs, root balls and compost tailings are disposed of at the

Authority's Registered Land Clearing Debris Facility located in Rome. This facility received 1,296 tons in 2024. The Authority also operates a Land Clearing Debris Facility in Utica. In 2024, that facility received over 1,253 tons of material.





## SOURCE-SEPARATED ORGANICS PROCESSING (FOOD2ENERGY) FACILITY

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**THE FOOD2ENERGY FACILITY AND PROGRAM IS AN ACHIEVEMENT IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS AN EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES.**

It is a goal of the Authority to be proactive in terms of diverting waste and preserving this region we call home. Food2Energy is an example of that. In 2024, the Authority's Food2Energy facility completed its fifth full year of operation. With Food2Energy, we are able to divert food waste, which is approximately 22% of the waste stream, from the Regional Landfill. In 2024, the facility accepted and processed 5,993 tons of source-separated organic waste.

### SSO FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROGRAM HISTORY

The Authority has continually evaluated options for organics diversion to find a practical and economical solution to integrate into its existing solid waste management system. Examples of source-separated organic (SSO) waste includes grocery store bakery and produce waste, institutional cafeteria and restaurant waste, and food production waste.

In 2016, engineering consultants, Barton & Loguidice (B&L), were tasked to conduct a source-separated organics feasibility study. This project is consistent with the Authority's Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP). The LSWMP calls for continued investigation of organics collection and outlets for diverted food waste. The project is also consistent with the New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, *Beyond Waste*, which identifies anaerobic digestion as an available technology for organics management with the added benefit of more efficient biogas production than landfills and the greater potential for energy recovery.

The study looked at the feasibility of processing the food waste and diverting it to the anaerobic digesters that the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) planned to install at the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) on Sewage Plant Road. The feasibility study also assessed the quantity of available organics, the type and sizing of the collection and processing equipment, including any upgrades to the Authority's Eastern Transfer Station, and any potential issues for collection and processing.



B&L determined that the separate collection and processing of commercial organics as a feedstock for the OCSD anaerobic digesters would be feasible, given the information that is currently available. On May 15, 2017, the Authority Board authorized issuance of a Request For Proposals (RFP) under 120-w of the General Municipal Law for entering into an agreement for the Source Separated Organics Processing Facility (SSOPF). A Draft RFP for design, construction and installation of an SSOPF adjacent to the Authority's Eastern Transfer Station in Utica was released on May 17, 2017. One joint proposal from RRT Design and Construction (RRT) and the Authority's consulting engineer, B&L was received. An extensive evaluation of RRT's proposal, including meeting with the respondent and contracting references, was conducted by Authority staff. RRT has experience building and designing SSOPFs and also constructed the Authority's single stream processing facility. Based upon this evaluation, the Authority entered into an agreement with RRT for the design, procurement, and installation of the SSOPF.

RRT substantially completed construction of the \$3.4 million facility in June 2019. The OCSD also completed construction of anaerobic digesters directly adjacent to the Authority's Eastern Transfer Station in 2019. The facility has been operational and is accepting organic waste from large generators, as well as voluntary disposal from smaller generators and residents.



The Authority's new organics diversion program, "Food2Energy", allows participants to deliver bagged and packaged source separated organics to the Authority's processing facility where packaging is separated from organic waste (food scraps). The recovered organic waste is turned

into a slurry mixture and is discharged at the OCSD's anaerobic digesters at the WPCP. The organic slurry used in the anaerobic digesters will help to produce enough energy to provide up to 50% of OCSD's power needs.

The Food2Energy program provides an economic incentive for large generators to participate in the program through a reduced tipping fee of \$40/ton for organics, in comparison to the 2024 \$60/ton tipping fee for municipal solid waste in Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

### FOOD2ENERGY PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

The Authority assists with the Food2Energy program implementation and offers a variety of helpful resources to large waste generators and businesses interested in joining the effort. Approximately ten large food processors, grocery stores, and manufacturers consistently participate in the program. Additionally, pilot programs have been conducted at all five colleges in the Oneida-Herkimer region, with one college adopting the program permanently. Over 100 residents regularly take advantage of the Authority's Food2Energy drop-off location at the Utica EcoDrop.



The following local businesses participated in the Food2Energy program in 2024:

- ARC Herkimer
- Chobani
- Compassion Coalition, Inc.
- Food Bank of CNY
- Hamilton College
- HP Hood
- McCraith Beverages

Natural Upcycling, Northstar Recycling, Agri-Cycle Energy, Casella Waste Systems, CNY Green Bucket Project and Bliss Environmental Services hauled food waste to the Authority's Food2Energy Facility in 2024.

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits, Food2Energy provides our region with the infrastructure to be ahead of the curve when it comes to an organics mandate. In April 2019, New York State passed legislation requiring large generators of organic waste (producing at least two tons per week) to divert the material from regional landfills through waste reduction, donation, or delivery to a certified anaerobic digestion or composting facility (if such facilities are within 25 miles of the generator). The new mandate went into effect on January 1, 2022.

## UTICA AND ROME ECODROP FACILITIES



In order to provide as many environmentally sound recycling and disposal options for residents of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, the Authority has two EcoDrop facilities located at its locations in Utica and Rome. The EcoDrop facilities are open six days a week, Monday through Saturday. These facilities were designed to work jointly with a wide range of public and private waste collection systems by providing convenient disposal options for special or one-time waste, while also providing an option for residents who may not be able to subscribe to a specific collection system.

### EcoDrop Accepted Items

Items marked with \$ have a disposal fee.

Recyclables	Tires (\$)
Household Garbage (\$)	Green Waste - Bagged or Car Load
Food2Energy Organics (\$)	Green Waste - Truck/Trailer Load (\$)
Construction & Demolition Debris (\$)	Automobile Batteries
Bulk Items (\$)	Empty Propane Tanks/Cylinders
Appliances	Used Motor Oil & Antifreeze
Appliances with CFCs (\$)	Electronics
Clothing/Textiles	Bulky Rigid Plastic
Rechargeable Batteries	Lightbulbs

**These items are accepted year-round at the Utica and Rome EcoDrop facilities.**



2024 EcoDrop Quantities		
Material		Quantity
Textiles	Clothing	11 Tons
Motor Oil & Antifreeze	Motor Oil	4,945 Gallons
	Oil Filters	385 Gallons
	Antifreeze	550 Gallons
Tires	Tires	1,823 Tons
Batteries	Automobile Batteries	13 Tons
	Recyclable Batteries	1.16 Tons
Bulbs	Fluorescent Lamps	15 Tons
	Miscellaneous Bulbs	10,787 Bulbs
Miscellaneous Waste	Cooking Oil & Grease	976 Gallons
	Propane Tanks & Fire Extinguishers	7,019 Tanks
Electronic Waste	Recycled Electronic Waste	286 Tons
	Computer Monitors (CRTs)	441 Units
	Computer Components (CPUs)	896 Units
	Televisions	8,333 Units

EcoDrop brochures are available at all Authority facilities and are also distributed at the public events that the Authority participates in.

**EcoDrop**  
ONEIDA-HERKIMER SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

**EcoDrop Utica**  
68 Central Avenue  
Utica, NY 13502

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 4pm  
Sat: 7am - 2pm  
Sun: CLOSED

**EcoDrop Rome**  
1715 Riverway Road  
Rome, NY 13440

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 4pm  
Sat: 7am - 2pm  
Sun: CLOSED

**Accepted Materials:**  
Household Appliances, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washers, Dryers, Freezers, A/C Units, and more.  
Automobile Batteries, Radios, and more.  
Household Appliances, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washers, Dryers, Freezers, A/C Units, and more.  
Automobile Batteries, Radios, and more.

**Residential Fee Schedule**

Recyclables (Paper, Plastic, Metal, Glass)	No Charge
Household Appliances (Up to 10 cubic ft.)	\$2.00
750 lbs. to 1,000 lbs.	\$25.00
1,001 lbs. to 1,500 lbs.	\$30.00
1,501 lbs. to 2,000 lbs.	\$35.00
2,001 lbs. to 2,500 lbs.	\$40.00
2,501 lbs. to 3,000 lbs.	\$45.00
3,001 lbs. to 3,500 lbs.	\$50.00
3,501 lbs. to 4,000 lbs.	\$55.00
4,001 lbs. to 4,500 lbs.	\$60.00
4,501 lbs. to 5,000 lbs.	\$65.00
5,001 lbs. to 5,500 lbs.	\$70.00
5,501 lbs. to 6,000 lbs.	\$75.00
6,001 lbs. to 6,500 lbs.	\$80.00
6,501 lbs. to 7,000 lbs.	\$85.00
7,001 lbs. to 7,500 lbs.	\$90.00
7,501 lbs. to 8,000 lbs.	\$95.00
8,001 lbs. to 8,500 lbs.	\$100.00
8,501 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	\$105.00
9,001 lbs. to 9,500 lbs.	\$110.00
9,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	\$115.00
10,001 lbs. to 10,500 lbs.	\$120.00
10,501 lbs. to 11,000 lbs.	\$125.00
11,001 lbs. to 11,500 lbs.	\$130.00
11,501 lbs. to 12,000 lbs.	\$135.00
12,001 lbs. to 12,500 lbs.	\$140.00
12,501 lbs. to 13,000 lbs.	\$145.00
13,001 lbs. to 13,500 lbs.	\$150.00
13,501 lbs. to 14,000 lbs.	\$155.00
14,001 lbs. to 14,500 lbs.	\$160.00
14,501 lbs. to 15,000 lbs.	\$165.00
15,001 lbs. to 15,500 lbs.	\$170.00
15,501 lbs. to 16,000 lbs.	\$175.00
16,001 lbs. to 16,500 lbs.	\$180.00
16,501 lbs. to 17,000 lbs.	\$185.00
17,001 lbs. to 17,500 lbs.	\$190.00
17,501 lbs. to 18,000 lbs.	\$195.00
18,001 lbs. to 18,500 lbs.	\$200.00
18,501 lbs. to 19,000 lbs.	\$205.00
19,001 lbs. to 19,500 lbs.	\$210.00
19,501 lbs. to 20,000 lbs.	\$215.00
20,001 lbs. to 20,500 lbs.	\$220.00
20,501 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	\$225.00
21,001 lbs. to 21,500 lbs.	\$230.00
21,501 lbs. to 22,000 lbs.	\$235.00
22,001 lbs. to 22,500 lbs.	\$240.00
22,501 lbs. to 23,000 lbs.	\$245.00
23,001 lbs. to 23,500 lbs.	\$250.00
23,501 lbs. to 24,000 lbs.	\$255.00
24,001 lbs. to 24,500 lbs.	\$260.00
24,501 lbs. to 25,000 lbs.	\$265.00
25,001 lbs. to 25,500 lbs.	\$270.00
25,501 lbs. to 26,000 lbs.	\$275.00
26,001 lbs. to 26,500 lbs.	\$280.00
26,501 lbs. to 27,000 lbs.	\$285.00
27,001 lbs. to 27,500 lbs.	\$290.00
27,501 lbs. to 28,000 lbs.	\$295.00
28,001 lbs. to 28,500 lbs.	\$300.00
28,501 lbs. to 29,000 lbs.	\$305.00
29,001 lbs. to 29,500 lbs.	\$310.00
29,501 lbs. to 30,000 lbs.	\$315.00
30,001 lbs. to 30,500 lbs.	\$320.00
30,501 lbs. to 31,000 lbs.	\$325.00
31,001 lbs. to 31,500 lbs.	\$330.00
31,501 lbs. to 32,000 lbs.	\$335.00
32,001 lbs. to 32,500 lbs.	\$340.00
32,501 lbs. to 33,000 lbs.	\$345.00
33,001 lbs. to 33,500 lbs.	\$350.00
33,501 lbs. to 34,000 lbs.	\$355.00
34,001 lbs. to 34,500 lbs.	\$360.00
34,501 lbs. to 35,000 lbs.	\$365.00
35,001 lbs. to 35,500 lbs.	\$370.00
35,501 lbs. to 36,000 lbs.	\$375.00
36,001 lbs. to 36,500 lbs.	\$380.00
36,501 lbs. to 37,000 lbs.	\$385.00
37,001 lbs. to 37,500 lbs.	\$390.00
37,501 lbs. to 38,000 lbs.	\$395.00
38,001 lbs. to 38,500 lbs.	\$400.00
38,501 lbs. to 39,000 lbs.	\$405.00
39,001 lbs. to 39,500 lbs.	\$410.00
39,501 lbs. to 40,000 lbs.	\$415.00
40,001 lbs. to 40,500 lbs.	\$420.00
40,501 lbs. to 41,000 lbs.	\$425.00
41,001 lbs. to 41,500 lbs.	\$430.00
41,501 lbs. to 42,000 lbs.	\$435.00
42,001 lbs. to 42,500 lbs.	\$440.00
42,501 lbs. to 43,000 lbs.	\$445.00
43,001 lbs. to 43,500 lbs.	\$450.00
43,501 lbs. to 44,000 lbs.	\$455.00
44,001 lbs. to 44,500 lbs.	\$460.00
44,501 lbs. to 45,000 lbs.	\$465.00
45,001 lbs. to 45,500 lbs.	\$470.00
45,501 lbs. to 46,000 lbs.	\$475.00
46,001 lbs. to 46,500 lbs.	\$480.00
46,501 lbs. to 47,000 lbs.	\$485.00
47,001 lbs. to 47,500 lbs.	\$490.00
47,501 lbs. to 48,000 lbs.	\$495.00
48,001 lbs. to 48,500 lbs.	\$500.00
48,501 lbs. to 49,000 lbs.	\$505.00
49,001 lbs. to 49,500 lbs.	\$510.00
49,501 lbs. to 50,000 lbs.	\$515.00
50,001 lbs. to 50,500 lbs.	\$520.00
50,501 lbs. to 51,000 lbs.	\$525.00
51,001 lbs. to 51,500 lbs.	\$530.00
51,501 lbs. to 52,000 lbs.	\$535.00
52,001 lbs. to 52,500 lbs.	\$540.00
52,501 lbs. to 53,000 lbs.	\$545.00
53,001 lbs. to 53,500 lbs.	\$550.00
53,501 lbs. to 54,000 lbs.	\$555.00
54,001 lbs. to 54,500 lbs.	\$560.00
54,501 lbs. to 55,000 lbs.	\$565.00
55,001 lbs. to 55,500 lbs.	\$570.00
55,501 lbs. to 56,000 lbs.	\$575.00
56,001 lbs. to 56,500 lbs.	\$580.00
56,501 lbs. to 57,000 lbs.	\$585.00
57,001 lbs. to 57,500 lbs.	\$590.00
57,501 lbs. to 58,000 lbs.	\$595.00
58,001 lbs. to 58,500 lbs.	\$600.00
58,501 lbs. to 59,000 lbs.	\$605.00
59,001 lbs. to 59,500 lbs.	\$610.00
59,501 lbs. to 60,000 lbs.	\$615.00
60,001 lbs. to 60,500 lbs.	\$620.00
60,501 lbs. to 61,000 lbs.	\$625.00
61,001 lbs. to 61,500 lbs.	\$630.00
61,501 lbs. to 62,000 lbs.	\$635.00
62,001 lbs. to 62,500 lbs.	\$640.00
62,501 lbs. to 63,000 lbs.	\$645.00
63,001 lbs. to 63,500 lbs.	\$650.00
63,501 lbs. to 64,000 lbs.	\$655.00
64,001 lbs. to 64,500 lbs.	\$660.00
64,501 lbs. to 65,000 lbs.	\$665.00
65,001 lbs. to 65,500 lbs.	\$670.00
65,501 lbs. to 66,000 lbs.	\$675.00
66,001 lbs. to 66,500 lbs.	\$680.00
66,501 lbs. to 67,000 lbs.	\$685.00
67,001 lbs. to 67,500 lbs.	\$690.00
67,501 lbs. to 68,000 lbs.	\$695.00
68,001 lbs. to 68,500 lbs.	\$700.00
68,501 lbs. to 69,000 lbs.	\$705.00
69,001 lbs. to 69,500 lbs.	\$710.00
69,501 lbs. to 70,000 lbs.	\$715.00
70,001 lbs. to 70,500 lbs.	\$720.00
70,501 lbs. to 71,000 lbs.	\$725.00
71,001 lbs. to 71,500 lbs.	\$730.00
71,501 lbs. to 72,000 lbs.	\$735.00
72,001 lbs. to 72,500 lbs.	\$740.00
72,501 lbs. to 73,000 lbs.	\$745.00
73,001 lbs. to 73,500 lbs.	\$750.00
73,501 lbs. to 74,000 lbs.	\$755.00
74,001 lbs. to 74,500 lbs.	\$760.00
74,501 lbs. to 75,000 lbs.	\$765.00
75,001 lbs. to 75,500 lbs.	\$770.00
75,501 lbs. to 76,000 lbs.	\$775.00
76,001 lbs. to 76,500 lbs.	\$780.00
76,501 lbs. to 77,000 lbs.	\$785.00
77,001 lbs. to 77,500 lbs.	\$790.00
77,501 lbs. to 78,000 lbs.	\$795.00
78,001 lbs. to 78,500 lbs.	\$800.00
78,501 lbs. to 79,000 lbs.	\$805.00
79,001 lbs. to 79,500 lbs.	\$810.00
79,501 lbs. to 80,000 lbs.	\$815.00
80,001 lbs. to 80,500 lbs.	\$820.00
80,501 lbs. to 81,000 lbs.	\$825.00
81,001 lbs. to 81,500 lbs.	\$830.00
81,501 lbs. to 82,000 lbs.	\$835.00
82,001 lbs. to 82,500 lbs.	\$840.00
82,501 lbs. to 83,000 lbs.	\$845.00
83,001 lbs. to 83,500 lbs.	\$850.00
83,501 lbs. to 84,000 lbs.	\$855.00
84,001 lbs. to 84,500 lbs.	\$860.00
84,501 lbs. to 85,000 lbs.	\$865.00
85,001 lbs. to 85,500 lbs.	\$870.00
85,501 lbs. to 86,000 lbs.	\$875.00
86,001 lbs. to 86,500 lbs.	\$880.00
86,501 lbs. to 87,000 lbs.	\$885.00
87,001 lbs. to 87,500 lbs.	\$890.00
87,501 lbs. to 88,000 lbs.	\$895.00
88,001 lbs. to 88,500 lbs.	\$900.00
88,501 lbs. to 89,000 lbs.	\$905.00
89,001 lbs. to 89,500 lbs.	\$910.00
89,501 lbs. to 90,000 lbs.	\$915.00
90,001 lbs. to 90,500 lbs.	\$920.00
90,501 lbs. to 91,000 lbs.	\$925.00
91,001 lbs. to 91,500 lbs.	\$930.00
91,501 lbs. to 92,000 lbs.	\$935.00
92,001 lbs. to 92,500 lbs.	\$940.00
92,501 lbs. to 93,000 lbs.	\$945.00
93,001 lbs. to 93,500 lbs.	\$950.00
93,501 lbs. to 94,000 lbs.	\$955.00
94,001 lbs. to 94,500 lbs.	\$960.00
94,501 lbs. to 95,000 lbs.	\$965.00
95,001 lbs. to 95,500 lbs.	\$970.00
95,501 lbs. to 96,000 lbs.	\$975.00
96,001 lbs. to 96,500 lbs.	\$980.00
96,501 lbs. to 97,000 lbs.	\$985.00
97,001 lbs. to 97,500 lbs.	\$990.00
97,501 lbs. to 98,000 lbs.	\$995.00
98,001 lbs. to 98,500 lbs.	\$1,000.00
98,501 lbs. to 99,000 lbs.	\$1,005.00
99,001 lbs. to 99,500 lbs.	\$1,010.00
99,501 lbs. to 100,000 lbs.	\$1,015.00

**Household Hazardous Waste ONLY Accepted at EcoDrop Utica**

Many household products can be potentially harmful to people and the environment. When these products are disposed of properly, they can become hazardous.

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority has a special Household Hazardous Waste Collection at EcoDrop Utica. Bring your household hazardous waste to EcoDrop Utica for safe disposal. There is no charge for residents to drop off household hazardous waste. For more information and pricing, call 315-733-2224.

**Services for Select Businesses**

Small quantity hazardous waste generators in Oneida and Herkimer Counties that are registered with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) may use the EcoDrop Utica facility. There is no charge for businesses to drop off household hazardous waste. For more information and pricing, call 315-733-2224.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

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The Oneida-Herkimer Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) Facility opened for its 32<sup>nd</sup> season on April 1, 2024 and operated through September 30, 2024. There is no charge for residents to drop off HHW. In 2024, 19,560 gallons of household hazardous waste were collected at the Authority's HHW facility and shipped for disposal.



This facility is one of the first permanent facilities in the northeast to recycle paint and to accept a full range of HHW. This facility serves Oneida and Herkimer Counties' residents and select businesses.

HHW products can be harmful to the environment if improperly disposed into the waste stream. Items such as paints, cleaners and fertilizers are accepted at the HHW Facility, allowing residents to properly dispose of these hazardous substances. The Authority has a specially designed HHW collection facility for receiving, sorting, packaging and storing household hazardous waste material.

In May 2022, the Authority began working with PaintCare under New York State's postconsumer paint collection program. PaintCare is a program of the American Coatings Association (ACA), a membership-based trade association of the paint manufacturing industry. Working through the Paint Producer Stewardship Initiative (PPSI) facilitated by the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), the ACA supported the passage of the nation's first paint stewardship law. 32,670 gallons of paint were recycled in 2024 through this partnership.



To further accommodate the volume of residential HHW, in 2018 the Authority designed, procured, and installed an HHW storage building at the Utica EcoDrop. Like the existing storage sheds, the storage building was engineered to collect hazardous, flammable and potentially dangerous substances delivered to the Utica EcoDrop by residents. By effectively doubling the previous storage capacity, this structure allows the Authority to serve residents' disposal needs safely and securely.

# Accepted Household Hazardous Wastes



Chemistry Sets  
Cleaning Solvents & Degreasers  
Cooking Oil & Grease  
Fertilizers  
Furniture Stripper  
Glues & Sealants  
Herbicides  
Insecticides & Pesticides  
Kerosene  
Oil & Latex Based Paints  
Wood Preservatives  
Unusable Gasoline  
Rust Preventatives & Removers  
Pool Chemicals  
Polishes  
Photographic Chemicals  
Paint Thinners  
Oven Cleaners

**These items are accepted at the Authority's Utica  
EcoDrop from April through September.**

## SERVICES FOR SELECT BUSINESSES

Conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQG) and universal waste generators are allowed to drop-off waste after obtaining approval from the Authority.

In 2024, 72 CESQGs and universal waste generators took advantage of this program, resulting in substantial savings for these generators. Under this program, small businesses are charged a fee for disposal costs.

### ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP-OFF



The program allows residents, institutions and businesses to deliver computer and electronic equipment to the Authority for recycling and proper disposal. The Authority accepts electronics (E-waste) from businesses, individuals and other generators year-round. After the Authority accepts E-waste, it is sent to a registered electronics dismantler that separates the electronics into various raw materials such as plastic, glass, steel, copper, lead, gold and aluminum for recycling or reuse. These materials are used as feedstock in the manufacturing of new products.

In 2024, 435 tons of computers and electronic equipment were accepted for recycling and proper disposal, including computers, monitors, CPUs, keyboards, computer components, televisions, video equipment, CD/DVD players, desktop copiers, fax machines, microwaves, electronic games, printers, toner cartridges, cellular phones, battery chargers, calculators, answering machines and other electronics. It is estimated that over 50,000 individual items were recycled.

Residents can bring computers and electronic equipment year-round for recycling at no charge. Businesses are required to set up an appointment with the Authority prior to delivery and may be charged for costs associated with recycling.

The program also manages material such as lead solder, silver, mercury switches, batteries and other components present in almost all electronics. Through the program, these materials are properly processed to recover not only heavy metals, but high value material, such as gold and silver along with more common metals and plastics.





### FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULB DROP-OFF

Fluorescent light bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) contain mercury and should be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. To assist residents with proper and safe disposal of bulbs containing mercury, the Authority expanded the CFL drop-off capability for residents. Over 14 tons of light bulbs were collected in 2024.

In addition to the Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, residents may also bring CFLs to Jay-K Lumber (New Hartford), the Town of Marcy Offices, Sherrill DPW, City of Little Falls DPW, Ace Hardware (Rome) and the Boonville Municipal Commission.

2024 Household Hazardous Waste Quantities		
Material		Quantity
Paints	Recyclable Paint	19,560 Gallons
	Non-Recyclable Paint and Solvents	10,395 Gallons
	Resins & Adhesives	5,265 Gallons
Chemicals	Pesticides & Chemicals	2,574 Gallons
	Aerosol Waste	1,340 Gallons
	Cleaning Solutions & Waxes	165 Gallons

## AUTHORITY TRANSFER STATIONS

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The Authority owns and operates two transfer stations, the Eastern Transfer Station in Utica and the Western Transfer Station in Rome. These facilities receive municipal solid waste, industrial/commercial waste, and construction and demolition debris from Oneida and Herkimer Counties only. The transfer stations provide the means to efficiently receive, inspect, and aggregate waste for transport to the Authority's Regional Landfill.



Inspections at the transfer stations provide a means to ensure the public's exposure to environmental liability is controlled. At each transfer station, waste is inspected to first ensure that no dangerous or hazardous materials are received. If they are, actions are taken immediately for safe and legal disposition. Inspections are also utilized to verify compliance with state and local recycling laws.

To ensure compliance with regulations, all industries are inventoried, and special waste is profiled, reviewed and approved prior to disposal. Authority staff visits manufacturers in Oneida and Herkimer Counties on a continuous basis to provide free assistance to these businesses regarding recycling, reduction and solid waste disposal.

Waste from both the Eastern and Western Transfer Stations is hauled to the Authority's Regional Landfill by the contracted hauler, Fred Burrows Trucking and Excavating, LLC of Whitesboro.

Following a competitive 120-w bidding process, the Authority again awarded a five-year contract, commencing October 24, 2021, to Fred Burrows Trucking and Excavating, LLC for the transportation of waste from the transfer stations in Utica and Rome to the Regional Landfill. Fred Burrows Trucking was awarded the three previous five-year contracts. The Authority received a total of four proposals – Fred Burrows Trucking and Excavating, LLC; T.J. Allen Bulk Services, LLC of Westmoreland; CWSI of Utica; and Colucci Trucking of Rome. Fred Burrows Trucking and Excavating (Burrows) offered the lowest total cost to the Authority, using designated routes and required equipment over the contract period.

## TRANSFER STATION DISPOSAL DATA

The Authority's transfer stations receive waste from individual collection trucks. At the transfer stations, waste is loaded in Burrows' high-capacity walking floor transfer trailers for transport to the landfill. There is ample equipment so that peak traffic times can be avoided and there are no shortfalls during high waste generation periods. A fleet of about 40 trailers is committed to the task of transporting this waste. The Authority continues to provide a GPS system for each of the contractor's tractors, to allow for real time tracking/compliance, speed and fuel use.

2024 Transfer Station Disposal Data		
Eastern Transfer Station	Municipal Solid Waste	129,766 Tons
	Construction & Demolition Debris	36,921 Tons
	Total: 166,688 Tons	
Western Transfer Station	Municipal Solid Waste	52,604 Tons
	Construction & Demolition Debris	16,039 Tons
	Total: 68,643 Tons	

## TOWN OF WEBB TRANSFER STATION



The Authority designed and constructed a transfer station in the Town of Webb. The Webb Transfer Station is designed to process approximately 2,500 tons per year of municipal solid waste and recyclables.

The Town operates the facility and transports the collected materials. The facility, which opened in June 1994, provides solid waste services for the northern portion of Herkimer County.

Waste from the facility is transferred by the Town to the Authority's Regional Landfill for disposal. The Town's recyclables are delivered to the Authority's Recycling Center. Bulk metals are marketed to local scrap metal dealers. In 2024, the Town of Webb Transfer Station delivered 2,130 tons of municipal solid waste to the Regional Landfill and 549 tons of recyclables to the Recycling Center.

## ONEIDA-HERKIMER REGIONAL LANDFILL

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The Regional Landfill is an important part of the environmental infrastructure that serves Oneida and Herkimer Counties, and a pivotal part of the system operated by the Authority. The landfill provides all waste generators with the highest level of environmental security thereby guarding against significant liability for the long-term. The landfill site was selected because of highly favorable hydrogeologic conditions.

The Authority operates the newest landfill in New York State, the Oneida-Herkimer Regional Landfill, which serves a combined population of approximately 287,000. Initial construction of the landfill was phased over three years with multiple contracts being awarded following competitive bidding. Construction was completed in 2006.

The Regional Landfill opened on October 24, 2006. The landfill is permitted to accept only non-hazardous waste generated within Oneida and Herkimer Counties. The landfill's approved design capacity is 1,000 tons per day. The landfill permit authorizes development of a total of 19 landfill cells covering a 150-acre footprint. Initial Construction included the following work:

- Approximately 58 acres of double composite landfill liner
- Leachate manholes and associated piping and accessories
- Two 1.3 million gallon leachate storage tanks and secondary containment liner
- Surface water drainage system
- Sediment control and stormwater detention basins system (25 acres)
- Mitigation wetlands (62.5 acres)
- Access and Perimeter Road completion
- 12,000 sq. ft. maintenance/office building

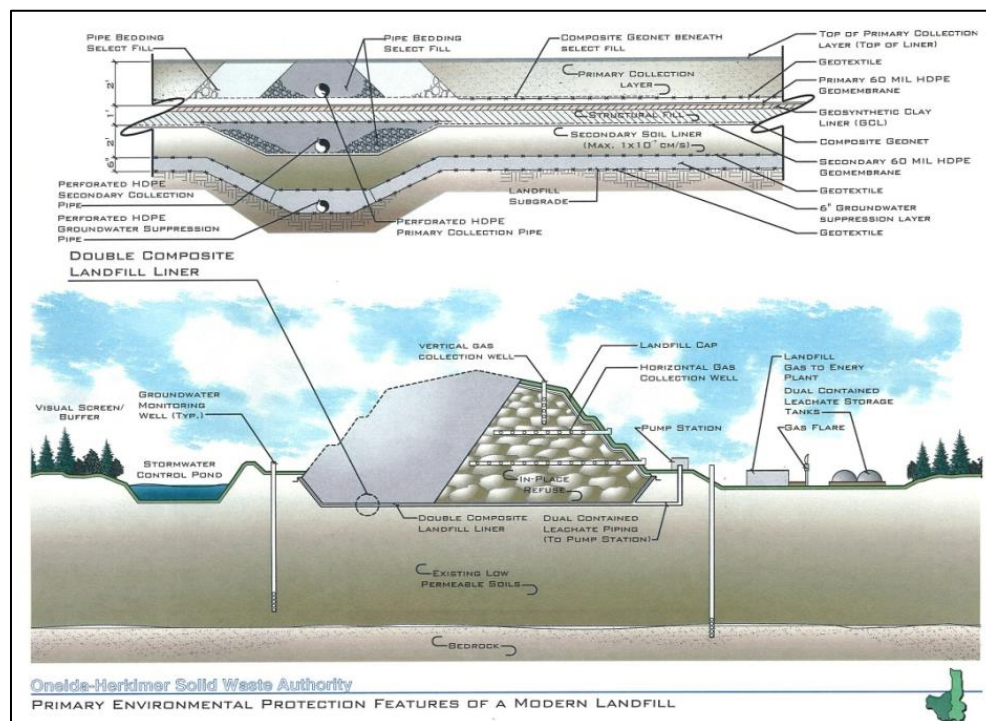


- Leachate pump house
- Leachate load-out building
- 9-bay cold storage building
- Fuel island
- Sand barn
- Miscellaneous site work and other related items

Construction included the core of the landfill's design, a multi-layer liner system which is based on the latest in engineering technology. Referred to as a dual composite liner system, the entire bottom of the landfill area is protected by multiple layers of clay, composite materials, and synthetic liners (12 in all).



### STATE-OF-THE ART LANDFILL LINER SYSTEM



The landfill facility employs the best available engineering systems to protect the environment. Additionally, the landfill provides a cost-effective and financially stable means of disposal, representing a reduction in disposal costs when compared to exportation of waste.

The liner system is designed to collect any liquid which comes into contact with waste (leachate) and direct that liquid into collection pipes embedded in the liner system which convey the leachate into the leachate storage tanks until it is loaded into tanker trucks for treatment at off-site wastewater treatment facilities.

As a further precaution, monitoring wells placed around the landfill area allow for continuous testing of groundwater to ensure no leakage has occurred.

Authority surveys have shown that landfill air space is being consumed at a rate less than original engineer estimates. The lower consumption is a result of higher compaction efficiency than estimated. The Authority's use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to aid operation in compaction has contributed to higher compaction and more efficient use of landfill space.

The Authority constructs landfill cells on a regular basis, depending on existing cell usage and fill progression projections. The Authority has constructed seven cells, and in 2024 started the construction of an eighth cell [Cell 8]. Projections for the fill progression at the Landfill were provided to the Authority by the Authority's consulting engineers, Barton & Loguidice (B&L). B&L completed design for



the Cell 8 liner system and sealed bids for Cell 8 construction were solicited in compliance with General Municipal Law. A pre-bid meeting was held with prospective bidders and on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 seven bids were received and each was evaluated for compliance with the specifications for the project. The bid price in the total amount of \$7,075,171, submitted Mohawk Valley Materials, Rome, NY, was determined to be an

acceptable low bid. Mohawk Valley Materials was awarded the bid and construction began in the spring of 2024.

New York State Regulations and the Permit require that the Regional Landfill be closed in a phased manner. The location and construction of the phased closure of the facility were elements of the plans prepared and submitted to the NYSDEC during the Authority's comprehensive landfill siting process, which included review of compliance with all the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

When areas of the landfill are filled to grade and have had sufficient time to allow for settling of waste, the areas are closed. Closure involves installing geotextiles and geonets to existing landfill cover soil, infilling with an additional capping soil liner and finalizing the site work with topsoil and seeding. This process prevents additional stormwater from entering the system and increases the collection capability of the landfill gas system.

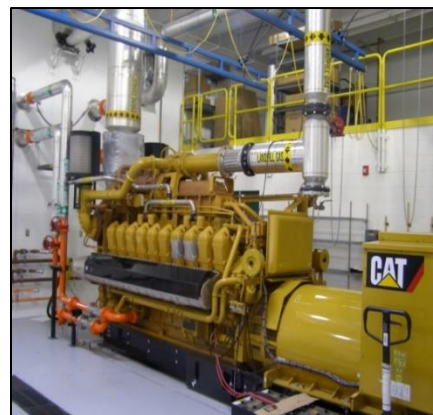
In 2020, a 5-acre Phase One Closure was completed along the north side of the Landfill.

In the Spring of 2023, Powis Excavating & Contracting began work on Stage 2 Closure. Powis was awarded the contract in 2022 after being determined the successful bidder by Barton & Loguidice and the Authority. Approximately 3 additional acres were capped. Phase 2 of Stage 2 Closure was awarded to Mohawk Valley Materials (MVM) on February 16, 2024 by Barton & Loguidice and the Authority. MVM successfully capped 5 acres, which extended further along the north side of the landfill. As of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 a total of 13 acres at the landfill are capped.

2024 Regional Landfill Materials Management Data	
Material	Tons
Municipal Solid Waste (Non-Recyclable Waste)	190,571
Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)	59,754
Direct Haul Industrial Waste	4,157
Direct Haul Asbestos Waste	8,560
Direct Haul Sludge	23,079
Alternative Operating Cover (AOC)	43,032
Total: 329,153 Tons	

### LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT/GAS TO ENERGY PROJECT

In 2008, the Authority Board of Directors authorized a study to determine the most beneficial utilization of collected landfill gas. Engineer estimates predicted that in 2011, there would be an adequate volume of landfill gas produced to begin energy recovery. Initially, it was estimated that one generator could be installed which would produce about 1.6 megawatts of power, or enough to provide about 2,100 average homes with power.



Over the next 20 years of operations, the number of generator sets is projected to grow to 7 with a total facility power output of 11.2 megawatts, capable of powering over 8,500 homes. The heating needs of the landfill facility will also be met.

The release of methane from landfills is a contributor to greenhouse gas generation. The Authority's Landfill Gas to Electricity project represents a significant commitment by the Authority to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint by capturing methane from our landfill and converting it to green energy. This project is a win-win for the environment, the Authority and energy consumers.

In 2010, the Authority implemented active landfill gas collection and control through the use of a blower skid and flare. The active landfill gas collection system collects the gas through a network of wells and pipes located in the landfill cells. This collection system puts the landfill under negative pressure pulling gas to the generator and flare, thereby avoiding emissions to the atmosphere.



Any excess gas that is not being burned for electricity is flared. The Authority currently utilizes three candlestick flares. Two 8-foot flares are run to burn excess gas up to 1200 Standard Cubic Feet per Minute (SCFM). In 2020, the Authority installed a 12-foot candlestick flare with three additional blowers and can destroy up to 3,000 SCFM of landfill gas.

In order to beneficially utilize the gas, the Authority entered into a contract (via the NYS 120-w procurement process) with Waste Management Renewable Energy (WMRE) to build and operate a landfill gas to electricity facility. The WMRE facility currently features two internal combustion engines that are fueled with landfill gas and thereby generate electricity.

The Municipal Commission of Boonville is also a key participant in this project, primarily through the electrical interconnect and transmission infrastructure aspects on the project.

This project began generating electricity in early 2012 with one engine. The facility expanded in 2013 with the installation of one additional engine.

In 2024, one gas well expansion project was completed. This consisted of installing new gas wells as well as re-drilling wells that were underperforming in order to increase the gas system collection capabilities. The Regional Landfill's active gas collection system now consists of 157 vertical wells and 47 horizontal wells.

In the future, there will also be substantial excess heat produced in the electricity generation process that can be recovered. Heat recovery is often an attractive feature in establishing aquaculture, horticultural or agricultural industries.



## COMMUNITY COMPENSATION PLAN

The Authority held numerous public hearings at the start of the landfill siting process in 1991 to gain input on the idea of providing a community compensation agreement for the community where the landfill would be located. Based upon this input, the Authority made a commitment to provide such a community compensation agreement. Agreements were subsequently negotiated with the Town of Ava and the Town and Village of Boonville, where the landfill is located.

In 2007, the Authority and Village of Boonville entered into a written agreement in which the Authority made a commitment to assist the Village in developing a possible bypass at the Village's option. In June 2015, the Village of Boonville voted against a bypass. In lieu of a bypass, the Authority and Village sought to make mutually beneficial modifications to the Agreement to improve transportation through the Village at the intersection of State Route 294 and State Route 46. In December 2015, the Authority and Village approved an Amendment to the Agreement which provided for Authority funding of certain improvements at the intersection. This project allows the public and the Authority to more safely utilize the intersection and benefits the Village and the Erwin Library and Institute. The Authority and Board of Trustees of the Erwin Library and Institute also entered into an Agreement regarding the intersection project. The project included demolition of the former Dollar General Store, owned by the Library. This project was completed in 2016.

In April 2016, the Authority solicited bids, in compliance with General Municipal Law Section 103, for the furnishing of all labor and material necessary for the Erwin Library Parking Lot Construction. The scope of work included reconstructing the northwest quadrant of the intersection of State Route 294 and State Route 46, reconstructing the Erwin Library site parking lot, installation of new drainage structures and associate pipes, adjustment of existing drainage structures, concrete sidewalk and curb improvements, installation of streetscape elements, installation of a handicap ramp, and overall landscape improvements. On May 9, 2016, the contract, in the amount of \$254,361.70, was awarded to Central Paving, Inc. of Frankfort, NY. Central Paving began construction in July 2016 and the project was successfully completed in August 2016.

### KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN OF AVA AGREEMENT

- Annual payment to the Town of \$345,000.
- Continuation of equipment loan and free trash disposal (2 clean-ups) by the Authority to the Town valued at \$20,000 per year.
- Annual payment of \$25,000 toward emergency services.
- Regular reporting by the Authority to the Town on environmental monitoring.
- The payments by the Authority will be made annually and increase over the 25-year term bringing the total value of the agreement to over \$9 million.
- As provided under New York State law, and as done for other jurisdictions when the Authority owns property, the Authority also makes payments in lieu of taxes to the Town of Ava and Oneida County for the real property taxes. The payments by the Authority exceed the payments by prior property owners. Therefore, the Town and County have seen no loss of tax revenue due to the landfill.
- The Authority also makes annual payments to the Adirondack Central School District.

### KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN & VILLAGE OF BOONVILLE AGREEMENTS

- Annual payment by the Authority to the Village of \$45,000 and \$50,000 to the Town.
- One-time \$10,000 contribution for emergency services.
- Authority will provide for transportation of waste and recyclables from the Boonville Transfer Station with no disposal charge for the first 600 tons of refuse each year.
- Authority will provide transportation and disposal of wastewater treatment sludge from the Village's wastewater treatment plant.
- The Authority paid for all expenses associated with improving the State Route 294 and State Route 46 intersection. This included a parking lot and improvements to the Library and Dodge Pratt Northam property. Upon completion of the improvements to the intersection, the Authority provided the Village with a one-time payment of \$400,000 to be utilized by the Village toward additional improvement projects determined by the Village.
- Regular reporting by the Authority to both the Village and the Town on environmental monitoring and transportation.
- First option to purchase power from the Authority landfill gas to energy project is granted to the Boonville Municipal Power Commission.

## LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2008, the Authority developed a long-term management plan for property owned adjacent to the landfill site. The Authority owns over 1,200 acres at the site. A total of 986 acres were acquired for use as landfill buffer. The landfill buffer area features a large beaver pond/wetland complex, portions of Moose Creek, forested uplands, and high-quality forested wetlands. This area has been put aside and preserved by the Authority as a natural area used by an extensive list of wildlife including river otters and brook trout and many species of waterfowl and birds of prey, including bald eagles and golden eagles.

One parcel of property acquired for the landfill site contained approximately 66,000 fir and spruce seedlings that were planted to be used for Christmas trees and wreath making. Each year, the Authority plants over 300 more saplings on its property. A plan was developed to ensure the use of sound forestry practices on the property. The plan allows community groups, solicited through a public process, to manage the Christmas tree plots and use them for fundraising opportunities. The plan also includes working with the County Forester to manage the remaining forested lands. In 2024, the Boonville Knights of Columbus continued to manage the Christmas trees on the site and use them for an annual fundraiser.

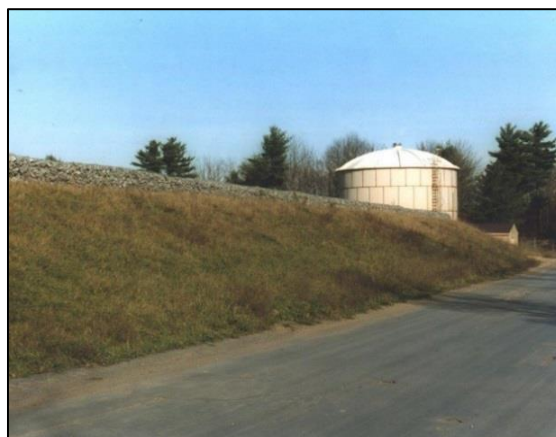
## LEACHATE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL

The Authority has approval for disposal and treatment of landfill leachate with the City of Rome Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant. In 2024, a total of 29,733,724 gallons of leachate from the Authority's Regional Landfill were shipped for treatment.

## ASH LANDFILL

Throughout 2024, the Authority continued the routine maintenance, monitoring, and testing of the Authority's Ash Landfill (ALF) located on Tannery Road, Rome. This landfill was closed and capped in 1997 in compliance with NYSDEC Part 360 regulations. The ALF is fully lined with both primary and secondary leachate collection systems.

Leachate is pumped to the City of Rome Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment. Monitoring and testing of the ALF are performed as part of the 30-year post-closure requirements of the NYSDEC approved Closure and Environmental Monitoring Plan. This landfill has a fully funded reserve that will cover the post-closure costs for a 30-year period.



## SOLAR ARRAY SYSTEM

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Beginning in 2014, the Authority entered into a solar power purchase agreement with SolarCity Corporation [Tesla] of San Mateo, CA. The Agreement authorized construction of a ground-mounted solar array system on roughly 8 acres of Authority property adjacent to the Authority's Western Transfer Station in Rome, NY. Construction was completed in 2016 and the system began operating in July 2017.

The array will generate approximately 1.1 megawatts annually of renewable energy. This is enough energy to offset the Authority's combined electricity needs at its Rome and Utica facilities, including the Authority's single stream Recycling Center.

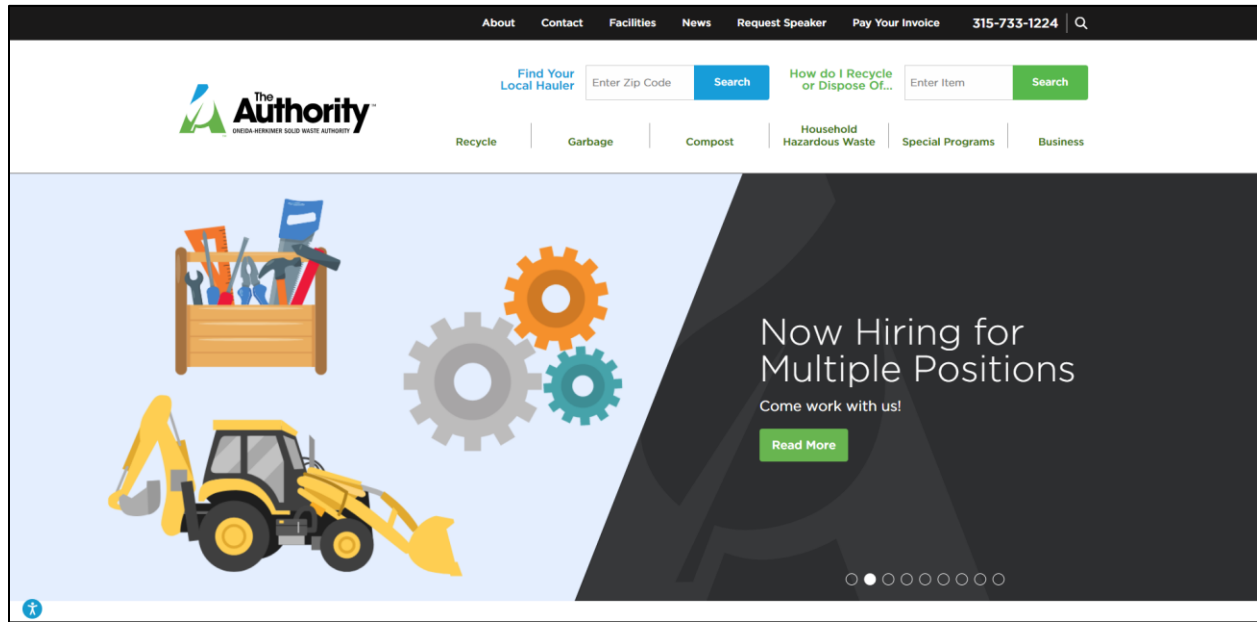
In 2024, 1,167,521 kWh of power was generated. To date, the solar array has produced enough renewable energy to power 1,195 homes.

Solar Array System	
Number of Homes Powered Annually	183
Numbers of Homes Powered, 20 Year Term	2,380
Total Pounds CO2 Avoided, 20 Year Term	34,000,000
Number of Trees Saved	400,000

# Public Education and Community Outreach

## AUTHORITY WEBSITE

For comprehensive information on the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, we invite you to visit our website at: [WWW.OHSWA.ORG](http://WWW.OHSWA.ORG).



The Authority's website provides accurate and up to date information about all Authority facilities, including its Recycling Center, Transfer Stations, Green Waste Composting Facility, Source Separated Organics Processing Facility, Solar Panel Array, Regional Landfill and the Utica and Rome EcoDrops.

The website was designed to help users access recycling and solid waste information in a quick and efficient manner. It highlights the Authority's curbside and drop-off recycling services, as well as its special programs.

- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL
- RECYCLEONE BUSINESS CERTIFICATION
- SCHOOL RECYCLING & 'GREEN TEAMS'
- ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
- COMPOSTING
- FOOD2ENERGY

The website offers its "Am I Recyclable" and "Find a Hauler" tools and special announcements directly on its homepage. With the user-friendly layout, resources such as Authority brochures, municipal flyers and guidelines and other Authority documents are easily accessible to users.



### INCLUDED ON OUR WEBSITE

- ✓ Comprehensive information about all Authority services and programs.
- ✓ Icon system under search tool.
- ✓ “Am I Recyclable?” quick finder that highlights the top 12 items that are improperly recycled or disposed of and includes a Mobile Web App which can be viewed by visiting [www.AmIRecyclable.com](http://www.AmIRecyclable.com).
- ✓ “How Do I Recycle or Dispose of” search tool that allows users to type in hundreds of items to learn how to properly recycle or dispose of a particular item.
- ✓ “Find a Hauler” tool that allows residents in Oneida and Herkimer Counties to type in their zip code to view a list of waste haulers that service their location.
- ✓ User-friendly set-up with categorized information valuable to residents, businesses, haulers and schools.
- ✓ Online invoice payment service.
- ✓ Video series, including FAQ videos available for viewing.
- ✓ Mobile-friendly format allows optimal user experience from multiple devices (i.e., smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktops).
- ✓ Timely information highlighted under “News”.
- ✓ Website users can “Contact Us” with questions via an electronic submission.
- ✓ Pop-up to subscribe to E-Newsletter.
- ✓ “Employment Opportunities” page showing current open positions with the Authority.
- ✓ A new page featuring the Authority’s mascot, Binny, highlighting outreach and education efforts and educational resources that the Authority is able to offer.

## AUTHORITY SOCIAL MEDIA

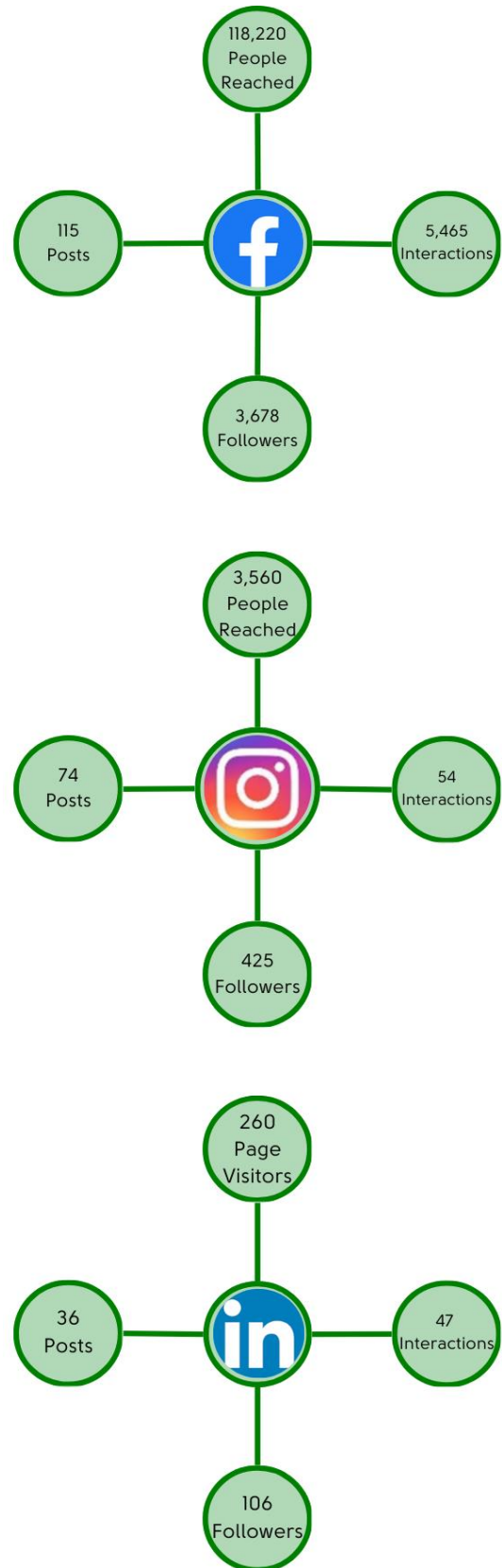
In 2024, the Authority continued posting on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Facebook is used to reach the older demographic within Oneida and Herkimer Counties, with the majority of users being 65+ and Instagram is used to reach the younger demographic, with the majority of users being in the 35-44 range. LinkedIn is used to engage with Oneida and Herkimer County businesses and professionals.

Authority staff continued using Loomly, which allows for social media posts to be created and scheduled for posting on each social media platform. Using this program helps keep the Authority's social media campaigns more consistent and therefore more effective. In 2024 the Authority's social media featured:

- Employee spotlights
- Business recycling resources
- Trivia Tuesday
- Recycling event collection totals
- Photos of facilities
- Food waste reduction
- Holiday recycling reminders

Comments and shares of our posts on social media are encouraged, and Authority staff responds to all comments and messages on its social media platforms.

Social media has proven to be a beneficial method of sharing information on solid waste and recycling, and the Authority will continue to use social media to connect with businesses, residents and others in the Oneida-Herkimer County area.



## AmIRecyclable? Campaign

In 2024, the Authority continued its educational campaign and mobile web app, “Am I Recyclable?.” The goal of the campaign is to target contamination in the recycling stream. Through social media marketing, the campaign helps educate and encourage audiences to engage in the recycling conversation.

The “Am I Recyclable?” tool is a Mobile Web App which is a scaled down version of the “How Do I Recycle or Dispose Of” search tool on the ohswa.org website. This mobile web app includes a “Quick Finder” which highlights the top 12 items (batteries, clothing, electronics, garden hoses, medical waste, paint cans, plastic bags, plastic, propane, scrap metal, string lights and Styrofoam) that are improperly recycled or disposed. The mobile web app can be viewed by visiting [www.AmIRecyclable.com](http://www.AmIRecyclable.com).

**AmIRecyclable?™**  
How do I recycle or dispose of...

Enter Item Go!

Batteries	Electronics	Medical Waste	Plastic Bags	Propane Tanks	String Lights
Clothing	Garden Hoses	Paint Cans	Plastic Toys	Scrap Metal	Styrofoam

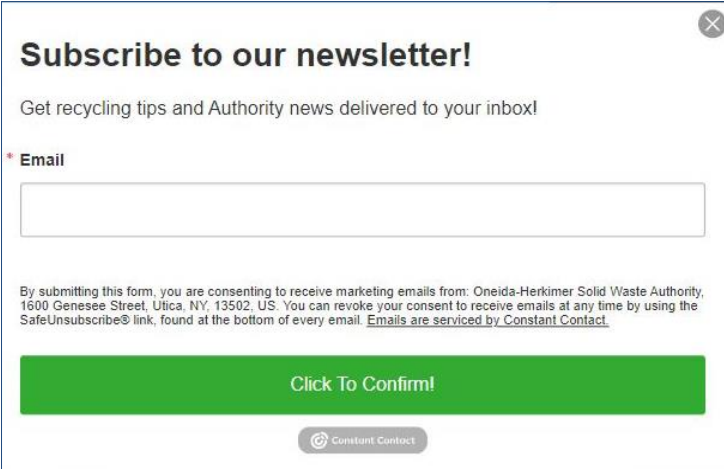
Download the AmIRecyclable Mobile App Today!

► Learn how to add a shortcut to your home screen

Add Now!

## AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

In March of 2019, as part of the Authority's recycling education and outreach efforts, the Authority launched a newsletter through Constant Contact. This newsletter focuses on providing accurate and helpful recycling information to subscribers, as well as reporting on Authority news and events. In 2024, newsletter topics included guidance on disposing of household hazardous waste, back to school recycling reminders and holiday recycling.



**Subscribe to our newsletter!**

Get recycling tips and Authority news delivered to your inbox!

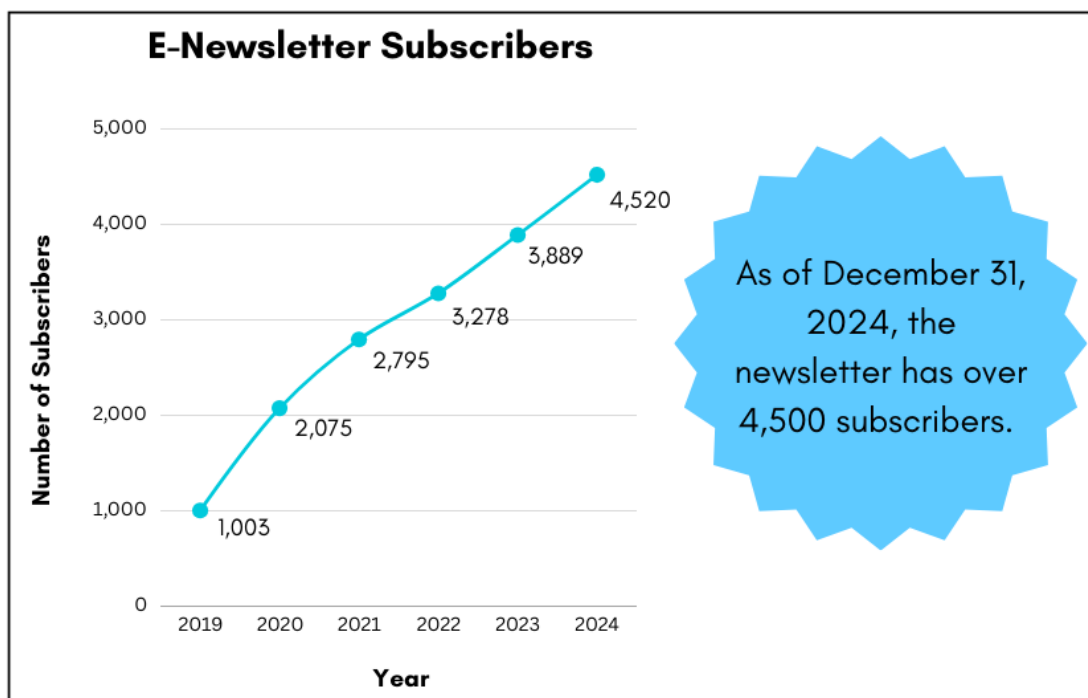
\* Email

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from: Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, 1600 Genesee Street, Utica, NY, 13502, US. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the [SafeUnsubscribe®](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.](#)

Click To Confirm!

Constant Contact

The newsletter gives readers quick, easy to understand answers to common recycling questions. Subscribers can reply to the newsletter to ask additional questions or seek clarification on proper disposal of items. This provides a convenient way for readers to engage with the Authority. The newsletter frequently directs people to the Authority's website, social media and the "Am I Recyclable?" search tool, increasing website traffic and views of the information available on Facebook and Instagram. Newsletters are periodically shared on social media, giving social media followers the opportunity to subscribe to the newsletter as well.



## AUTHORITY PRESENTATIONS AND TOURS



Authority staff maintains a strong commitment of outreach to the public through presentations on a wide range of Authority activities and issues, including information on waste reduction, reuse of materials, recycling, landfill operations, backyard composting, anaerobic digestion/food waste diversion, sludge management and services provided at Authority facilities.

In 2024, Authority staff provided presentations to groups within the community including but not limited to the Utica Rotary Club, Remsen Quilting Club, Clayville Library visitors, and Safe Schools Mohawk Valley. In addition, presentations were given to employees of Wolfsped and Mid-York Library System.

In 2024, the Authority provided presentations and tours of the recycling center to over 40 different educational institutions including elementary, middle and high schools, BOCES Programs, ARC Programs, MVCC Lab Classes, and Hamilton College Students.

Presentations and tours of the recycling center are available by contacting the Authority office at (315) 733-1224 or [WWW.OHSWA.ORG](http://WWW.OHSWA.ORG).



## GO GREEN SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Authority continues its efforts to improve recycling in schools throughout our region and is dedicated to working with the schools in Oneida and Herkimer Counties to develop, support and maintain recycling programs in each school through a “Go Green” initiative.

The Go Green School Recycling Program provides educational tools, resources, promotional materials, technical information, recommendations, program training and waste evaluations to the schools.

### GO GREEN: IT'S EASY!

**01** ASSEMBLE YOUR GREEN TEAM

**02** CONDUCT A WASTE AUDIT

**03** IDENTIFY WHAT TO RECYCLE

**04** ESTABLISH YOUR COLLECTION SYSTEM

**05** SET GOALS & REWARDS





In addition to the Green Team section of the Authority’s website, a School Recycling Program Guide assists teachers and educates students on the value and long-term benefits of recycling, conservation and environmental stewardship. The Authority offers free promotional posters, banners, decals, Green Team badges and recycling containers to local schools.



## SCHOOL FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING PROGRAM

The Authority’s Go Green School Recycling Program is committed to taking recycling to the next level. In combination with our overall school recycling program, the Authority designed a food/green waste composting program for the schools of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. In doing so, the Authority is prepared to aid and facilitate local schools with composting initiatives.

The Authority has assisted the following schools/facilities in developing and facilitating a plan for separation and removal of food waste in their cafeteria:



Poland Central School District	Gansevoort Elementary School
New York Mills School District	Barringer Road Elementary School
Holland Patent Middle School	Westmoreland Middle School
Sauquoit Valley Elementary School	McConnellsville Elementary School
Camden Elementary School	Mohawk Valley Community College
Central Valley Academy	Herkimer College
Frankfort-Schuyler High School	Munson
Adirondack Middle School	United Cerebral Palsy of Utica
Adirondack High School	United Cerebral Palsy of Rome
Harts Hill Elementary School	United Cerebral Palsy of Chadwicks
Staley Upper Elementary School	Utica Zoo
Denti Elementary School	Hugh R. Jones Elementary School

## SCHOOL RECYCLING CHALLENGES

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The Authority held two school recycling challenges in the Spring and Fall of 2024. The goal of these challenges is to get students engaged with recycling in more creative ways and to build a sense of teamwork to show that recycling is something that everyone can do!

The Spring 2024 school challenge was the Authority's first ever Binny Poster Contest, in honor of the unveiling of the Authority's new mascot, Binny. Students could choose between coloring and/or decorating a Binny coloring page or making their very own Binny poster from scratch. 150 entries were received, with winners being from Watson Williams Elementary School, Poland Elementary School, Jones Elementary School, and Mount Markham High School. The first-place winners in the coloring page and poster categories also received a school visit from Binny.



The Fall 2024 school recycling challenge was the Plastic Film Challenge, in which participants are tasked with collecting plastic film and delivering it to a store for recycling. Twelve schools participated in the challenge, collecting a total of 705 pounds of plastic film. Sauquoit Elementary School collected the most plastic film for the elementary school group at 295 pounds or 0.84 pounds per student and Camden High School collected the most plastic film for the middle/high school group at 45 pounds or 0.07 pounds per student. All challenge participants, including McConnellsville Elementary School, Camden Elementary School, Conkling Elementary School, Clinton Elementary School, General Herkimer Elementary School, Madison-Oneida BOCES, Jarvis Middle School, Poland Central School, Town of Webb Union Free School District and Owen D. Young Central School, received a plaque recognizing their efforts.

## GREEN HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

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In October 2024, the Authority held its sixth annual Green Halloween Costume Contest to encourage residents to be environmentally conscious on Halloween. The contest was open to all children that reside in Oneida or Herkimer County. The initiative focuses on reuse and recycling to divert waste from the Regional Landfill. Authority staff voted on first, second and third place winners, with first place receiving a \$200 Amazon gift card, second place receiving a \$100 Amazon gift card and third place receiving an Authority Swag Bag.



## AUTHORITY EVENTS

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In 2024, the Authority hosted two events at its Utica location. On Saturday April 27th, the Authority hosted a recycling event with Senator Joe Griffo for Earth Day that included confidential paper shredding through ConfiData and unused medication and pharmaceutical collection by the DEC. EcoDrop and Household Hazardous Waste items were accepted as well. A similar event was held on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. In total, these events collected 20 tons of paper for shredding, 1,200 pounds of pharmaceuticals for disposal and 22 tons of electronics for recycling.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Authority staff annually assists with recycling at local events, including the Utica Zoo Party for the Planet, 4-H Conservation Education Days, the 47<sup>th</sup> Boilermaker Road Race, the Utica Zoo's Wildlife Festival, What the Truck and the Utica Comets' Mascot Trick or Treating. In addition to tabling at these events, the Authority also has metal garbage and recycling bin frames that event organizers can loan out to ensure proper waste disposal and recycling at their events. The Authority provided these frames for events in 2024 including the Boilermaker and Great American Irish Festival.

## Other Programs

### CITY OF UTICA WASTE AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTION



Since 1996, the Authority has overseen the solid waste and recyclable collection services for the City of Utica, including the sale of "blue bags." Residents in the City of Utica utilize a city "blue bag" for all items that cannot be recycled and are not considered a bulk item. Each single-family home is allowed to set out a maximum of ten City blue bags each week, one cubic yard of trash, one bulk item, two car tires and an unlimited quantity of recyclables.

The Authority has performed these services under an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Utica since 1996. In 2022, the City and Authority agreed to extend the agreement, which was due to expire on March 31, 2023. The agreement is now set to expire on March 31, 2033. Under its contract with the City of Utica, the Authority issued an RFP for the collection of solid waste and recyclables, including bulk waste, white goods, tires, vehicle batteries and electronics, in the City of Utica on January 12, 2022. Following a competitive bidding process, the Authority awarded a five-year contract, commencing April 1, 2023, and continuing through March 31, 2028, to Controlled Waste Systems, Inc. (CWSI), Utica. The contract value is \$11,869,000 over five years.

2024 City of Utica Disposal Data	
Material	Tons
Municipal Solid Waste	17,516
Recyclables	4,082
Tires	201
Green Waste	3,277
Total: 25,075 Tons	

The Authority also provides public information and enforces the City Code requirements for solid waste. In 2024, the Authority's solid waste inspectors wrote approximately 58 Notices of Violation for solid waste and/or green waste that was illegally or improperly set out within the City of Utica.

## VILLAGES OF DOLGEVILLE, FRANKFORT, HERKIMER, ILION AND MOHAWK

In 2024, the Authority continued to assist the Villages of Dolgeville, Frankfort, Herkimer, Ilion and Mohawk with their waste collection programs. The Authority and the Villages entered into separate agreements for the coordination of solid waste, recyclables, bulk items, electronics and green waste collection programs. Collection for these five municipalities is currently subcontracted to a private hauler.

The Authority coordinates the distribution of designated garbage bags to approved retail outlets, and the distribution of garbage carts to interested homeowners of each Village. Recycling carts, provided by the contracted hauler, aid in the efficiency of recyclables collection throughout the Villages.

Each Village is managed separately, but similar to the City of Utica system, including separate accounting for each municipality.

## REGIONAL DEMOLITION PROGRAM

The Authority has worked with local governments for over 30 years, recognizing the significant cost of demolishing abandoned, dilapidated structures. In 2007, the Authority started a program to help local governments with their efforts to clean up these deteriorating structures. For the 15th year, the Authority has offered municipalities assistance through its regional demolition program. Under the program, the Authority makes available a demolition crew (including equipment) to demolish abandoned structures owned by a municipality. The demolition crew is made up of Authority employees. The program is limited to the four winter months (December through March) when waste volumes are the lowest. The Authority does not charge for the demolition crew or the equipment. Costs to the municipality are for the transportation and disposal of the demolition debris which must be landfilled.

The participating municipality is asked to assist with dust suppression as needed, securing and fencing site, disconnecting and capping utilities, and completing backfill. In deciding which structures to demolish, the Authority considers the condition, location, and coordination of the required equipment. In 2024, the Authority demolished 14 homes for the Village of Dolgeville that had been destroyed by the Halloween 2019 flood.

Since its inception, 19 municipalities have participated, and 52 structures have been demolished through this program.

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Authority staff continues to work with local and state law enforcement agencies on illegal dumping, burning, burying, scavenging of recyclables, and non-compliance with the mandatory recycling laws.

Numerous investigations were conducted with letters of enforcement and education written to hauling companies and individuals that violated County law.



## PUBLIC AUTHORITIES REPORTING

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The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority is a public benefit corporation and is subject to the provisions of the Public Authorities Accountability Act (PAAA). The Authority annually complies with the PAAA by submitting its Budget Report, Annual Report, Procurement Report, Investment Report and Certified Financial Audit to the Authority Budget Office (ABO) and Office of State Comptroller (OSC) through the Public Authority Reporting Information System (PARIS), a comprehensive on-line reporting system.

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority prides itself on accountability and transparency. In this effort, the Authority holds regular public meetings and has developed a website that is continuously updated with information about its operations and financial activities. For comprehensive information on the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority, we invite you to visit our website at: [WWW.OHSWA.ORG](http://WWW.OHSWA.ORG).

# Financial Activities

The 2024 financial audit continues to reflect the strong operating results of the Authority. The Authority has increased its net position by \$0.905 million and \$0.124 million for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, respectively. This was the result of several factors including:

- Interest revenue for 2024 was \$1,963,609.
- Overall revenues increased \$1,303,180 or 4.31% in comparison to 2023.
- The Authority's tipping fee revenues exceeded the budget by \$2,406,601. The Authority exceeded budgeted tonnage expectations for construction and demolition material, municipal solid waste, direct haul asbestos, contaminated soil and source separated organics.
- The Authority earned \$2,422,591 in recycling sales during 2024, which was \$638,020 more than 2023.
- The 2006 Revenue Bond issue is the only remaining debt, which is expected to be paid off in April 2026.
- The Authority sold landfill gas and shared in a Power Purchase Agreement, per its contract with Waste Management Renewable Energy, and generated \$313,931 in revenue.
- The Authority sold carbon credits resulting in \$919,258 of revenue during 2024.
- In 2024, the Authority processed recyclables for Fulton, Lewis and Oswego Counties. The Authority earned \$941,416 in processing fees.
- Interest expenses decreased by \$30,386 from 2023, resulting from scheduled debt principal payments.
- The Authority also funded reserves for landfill equipment in the amount of \$800,000 for 2024 and the extension of the landfill liner in the amount of \$1,600,000.
- The Authority once again fully funded its closure and post-closure funds for the Ash Landfill and Regional Landfill.

The attached financial audit gives a detailed picture of the Authority's financial position.

# Authority Offices and Staff

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

1600 GENESEE STREET, UTICA, NY 13502

TELEPHONE: (315) 733-1224

WEB SITE: WWW.OHSWA.ORG

## **EASTERN TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING CENTER**

824 SEWAGE PLANT ROAD, UTICA, NY 13502

## **REGIONAL LANDFILL**

7044 STATE ROUTE 294, BOONVILLE, NY 13309

## **WESTERN TRANSFER STATION**

575 PERIMETER RD., ROME, NY 13440

## **STAFF**

JOSHUA OLBRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EMILY ALBRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF RECYCLING

JOSEPH ARTESSA, CPA, COMPTROLLER

DANIEL BOWMAN, RECYCLING CENTER PLANT MANAGER

EILEEN BRINCK, RECYCLING COORDINATOR

JUSTIN FITCH, SUPERINTENDENT OF WASTE COLLECTION

HAILEY HUTCHINSON, ACCOUNT CLERK/HR COORDINATOR

TINA HUTCHINSON, ACCOUNT CLERK

CHRIS LINT, LANDFILL GAS TECHNICIAN

STEPHEN HOUPPERT, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

PAT LISANDRELLI, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

JAYNE MORGAN, SENIOR WEIGH SCALE OPERATOR

ANDREW OPPERMAN, PE, SOLID WASTE ENGINEER

BETH SCOONES, ACCOUNT CLERK

RACHEL STIEHL, SENIOR ACCOUNT CLERK/CITY OF UTICA COORDINATOR

JODI TUTTLE, BOARD SECRETARY





**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

Board of Directors  
Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority), a component unit of the County of Oneida, New York, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) on pages 4 to 15, the schedules of proportionate share of the net pension liability on page 43, local government pension contributions on page 44, and other postemployment benefits liability on page 45 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.



**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 25, 2025, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

BST+Co.CPAs, LLP

Latham, New York  
February 25, 2025



## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

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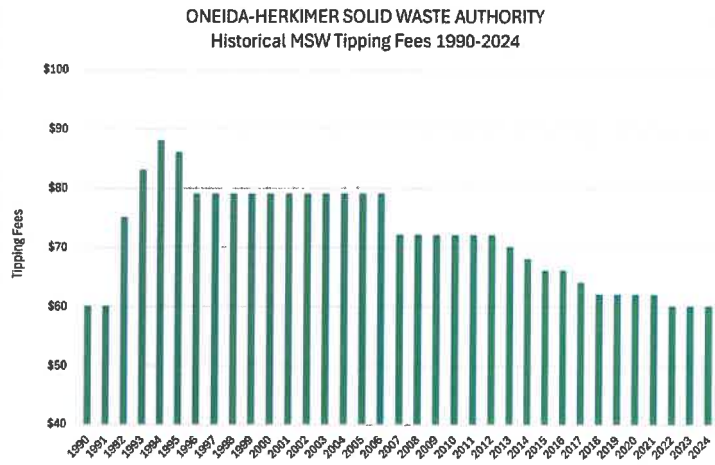
On behalf of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority), I am pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report. This year marked the 36th anniversary since the formation of the Authority.

In 2024, the Authority maintained stable solid waste tipping fees with no cost increase to the business and residents of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Having a diversified revenue stream and planning for the future has kept the Authority financially stable.

In 2024, the Authority paid down the principal on the only debt issue in the amount of \$1,780,000. The remaining principal of \$5,792,593 will be paid in full by April 1, 2026. The Authority is proud of the fact they have been able to operate with no addition to our debt.

The Authority continues to build reserves designated for future landfill expansions and capital projects. The Authority believes these reserves will assist in supporting the five-year Capital Plan and prevent any need to borrow for equipment in the future.

The Authority saw an increase in revenue from interest in investments in 2024 due to the increase and stabilization of interest rates. In 2024, the interest earned was \$1,963,609



The Authority continues to receive healthy tonnages for Municipal Solid Waste, Construction and Demolition Debris, Sludge, Source Separated Organics, and Contaminated Soil. Municipal Solid Waste saw an increase of 5,551.4 tons. These waste classes are an integral part in keeping rates stable and absorbing any increases in expenses.

The recycling markets in 2024 showed an increase in the market from 2023. For 2024 the Authority earned \$2,422,591 in recycling sales which increased by \$638,020 from 2023. The strength in the markets allows for the Authority to continue to accept Recyclables at no charge and keep fees from rising.

The Authority continues to be a leader in the region with recycling efforts. This year the Authority invested in robots to aid in the separation of valuable recyclable material. Robots can separate more material from the waste stream, provide analytics on the recycling container waste stream, and work alongside existing employees in a safe environment. The Authority is committed to continue to research and invest in best management practices and technology that will increase valuable material from being sent to the landfill.

I am proud of the accomplishments and hard work from the Authority's employees and my fellow colleagues on the Authority Board. While we continue to manage the region's waste and recyclables in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner, I invite you to review this summary of our operations, and feel free to call anytime.

Kenneth A. Long

Chairman

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Authority Profile

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority) was created by the New York State Legislature at the request of Oneida and Herkimer Counties (Counties) by passage of Article 8, Title 13-FF of the New York Public Authority Law on September 1, 1988. The Authority is authorized to provide waste management services and to develop appropriate solid waste management facilities for the benefit of the Counties.

The Authority has developed a comprehensive, integrated system of facilities to serve all of the residents, businesses, industries, and institutions of the Counties.

The Authority's 2024 budget was \$29.3 million and covered expenses for the disposal of waste, recycling, household hazardous waste, composting, public education, administration, the collection of waste, and recyclables in the City of Utica and the Villages of Ilion, Frankfort, Herkimer, Mohawk, and Dolgeville; capital purchases; operations; maintenance; and debt service. The Authority currently owns 10 operational solid waste management facilities and one closed facility. These facilities are as follows: an administration facility, a recycling center, three solid waste transfer stations, a source-separated organics processing facility, a green waste composting facility, a land clearing debris facility, a household hazardous waste facility, and a regional landfill; and a closed ash landfill.

The Authority's revenue structure is primarily a fee for service system. A system tip fee is charged for all non-recyclable waste delivered to the Authority to cover the majority of expenses in the Authority's budget. The Authority receives the remaining revenue from other sources, such as the City User fee, the sale of bags, toter rental, investments, the sale of recyclables, grants, the sale of carbon credits, and the sale of landfill gas. The Authority receives no funds from the Counties.

Name	Business Affiliation
Kenneth A. Long, Chair	Retired Business Manager of Central Valley Central School District; former Herkimer County Legislator
Vincent J. Bono, Vice Chair <i>Vice Chair, Audit Committee</i> <i>Vice Chair, Finance Committee</i>	Partner in Bono Brothers LLC, Property Management Group; Herkimer County Community Development Director; former Herkimer County Legislator
Steven R. Boucher	Assistant Professor of Business at Herkimer County Community College; Oneida County Legislator; Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Board Member
Robert Comis	Retired from local government; held the positions of Purchasing Agent, Commissioner of Public Works, Chief of Staff and City Manager; Member of City of Sherrill's Planning Board
James M. D'Onofrio <i>Chair, FOIL Appeals Committee</i>	President of Arlott Office Products; former Oneida County Legislator
James A. Franco <i>Audit Committee</i> <i>Finance Committee</i> <i>FOIL Appeals Committee</i>	Retired DPW Superintendent, Village of Herkimer



# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Authority Profile (Continued)

Name	Business Affiliation
Barbara Freeman <i>Chair, Governance Committee</i> <i>FOIL Appeals Committee</i>	Retired Teacher; Member, Village and Town of Boonville Environmental Councils
Nancy A. Novak <i>Governance Committee</i>	Retired Manager of Safety and Regulatory Compliance at Bonide Products, Inc.; Member, Mohawk Valley Environmental Information Exchange and Mohawk Valley Safety Consortium; Co-Leader, Girl Scouts of the USA
Richard G. Redmond, Treasurer <i>Chair, Audit Committee</i> <i>Chair, Finance Committee</i>	Vice President of Facility Operations for Mohawk Valley Garden at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium; decorated retired Major who served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years
James Williams <i>Governance Committee</i>	Retired from the U.S. Postal Service; Vietnam War U.S. Army veteran; Member of the Ava Town Planning Board

## Responsibility and Controls

The Authority has prepared, and is responsible for, the financial statements and related information included in this report. A system of internal accounting controls is maintained to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and the books and records reflect only authorized transactions. Limitations exist in any system of internal controls. However, based on the recognition that the cost of the system should not exceed its benefits, management believes that its system of internal accounting controls maintains an appropriate cost/benefit relationship.

The Authority's system of internal accounting controls is evaluated on an ongoing basis by the Authority's financial staff. Independent external auditors also consider certain elements of the internal control system in order to determine their auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on internal control over financial reporting.

The Finance Committee of the Authority's Board of Directors (Board) is composed of three members of the Board who are not employees and provide a broad overview of management's financial reporting and control functions. This committee meets regularly with management to discuss financial issues.

The Audit Committee of the Authority's Board is composed of three members of the Board who are not employees and have responsibilities that include the hiring of the independent auditor, the compensation to be paid to the auditing firm, and meeting with the independent auditor regarding the Authority's annual audit.

## Audit Assurance

Since the Authority has been established, we have received an unmodified opinion with each annual independent audit commonly referred to as a clean opinion. The current unmodified opinion from our auditors, BST & Co. CPAs, LLP, is included in this report.

# **Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Financial Highlights**

This section of the report presents management's discussion and analysis of the Authority's financial position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and other significant pertinent financial information.

The 2024 financial report continues to reflect the strong operating results of the Authority. The Authority has increased its net position by \$904,596 and \$124,389 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. This was the result of several factors, including:

- Overall revenues increased \$1,303,180, or 4.31%, in comparison to 2023.
- The Authority's tipping fee revenues exceeded budget by \$2,406,601. The Authority exceeded budget expectations for construction and demolition material, municipal solid waste, direct haul asbestos, contaminated soil, and source-separated organics.
- The Authority earned \$2,422,591 in recycling sales during 2024, which was \$638,020 more than 2023.
- Per its contract with Waste Management Renewable Energy to sell landfill gas and share in a Power Purchase Agreement, the Authority generated \$313,931 in revenue, which was \$21,109 less than 2023.
- The Authority sold carbon credits, resulting in \$919,258 of revenue during 2024.
- In 2024, the Authority processed recyclables for Oswego, Lewis, and Fulton Counties. The Authority earned \$941,416 in processing fees.
- In 2024 and 2023, the Authority undertook a landfill capping project that has resulted in approximately \$1.6 million and \$2.1 million in expenses, respectively.
- The Authority, once again, fully funded its closure and post-closure funds for the Ash Landfill and the Regional Landfill.

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Financial Analysis

The statements of net position and the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and other selected information, provide information to management for analysis and planning. These two statements report the Authority's net position and changes in net position.

**Table A-1**  
**Condensed Statements of Net Position**

	December 31,				
	2024	2024 vs. 2023	2023	2023 vs. 2022	2022
<b>ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS</b>					
Current assets	\$ 43,507,722	-2.25%	\$ 44,507,292	-2.59%	\$ 45,691,551
Noncurrent assets	58,353,328	2.38%	56,995,113	-0.81%	57,460,406
Total assets	101,861,050		101,502,405		103,151,957
Deferred outflows	2,537,459	-7.16%	2,733,119	-8.53%	2,988,065
Total assets and deferred outflows	<u>\$ 104,398,509</u>		<u>\$ 104,235,524</u>		<u>\$ 106,140,022</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS, AND NET POSITION</b>					
Current liabilities	\$ 5,962,879	18.42%	\$ 5,035,430	17.32%	\$ 4,292,204
Long-term liabilities	12,535,881	-18.68%	15,415,660	5.70%	14,584,456
Total liabilities	18,498,760	-9.55%	20,451,090	8.34%	18,876,660
Deferred inflows	2,293,175	111.85%	1,082,456	-76.90%	4,685,773
Net investment in capital assets	46,788,033		45,269,759		42,997,453
Net position, restricted	1,437,261		1,105,625		1,079,223
Net position, unrestricted	35,381,280		36,326,594		38,500,913
Total net position	<u>83,606,574</u>	1.09%	<u>82,701,978</u>	0.15%	<u>82,577,589</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows, and net position	<u>\$ 104,398,509</u>	0.16%	<u>\$ 104,235,524</u>	-1.79%	<u>\$ 106,140,022</u>

Total assets have decreased \$1.3 million since 2022, and long-term liabilities have decreased \$2,048,575, or 16.3%, during the same period principally due to scheduled payments on the Authority's long-term bonds.

Total net position has grown \$1.03 million since the end of 2022 as a result of favorable operations of the landfill, consistent waste tonnage, the diversification of revenues, and tight control over Authority expenses.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Financial Analysis (Continued)**

**Table A-2  
Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and  
Changes in Net Position**

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2024	2024 vs. 2023	2023	2023 vs. 2022	2022
Operating revenue	\$ 29,367,108	4.30%	\$ 28,156,843	-10.02%	\$ 31,292,169
Nonoperating revenue	2,162,351	4.49%	2,069,436	1369.20%	140,855
Total revenues	31,529,459	4.31%	30,226,279	-3.84%	31,433,024
Depreciation expense	7,505,883	23.68%	6,068,997	23.65%	4,908,165
Other operating expense	23,008,054	-3.70%	23,891,581	17.69%	20,300,584
Nonoperating expense	110,926	-21.50%	141,312	-12.07%	160,705
Total expenses	30,624,863	1.74%	30,101,890	18.65%	25,369,454
Change in net position	904,596	627.23%	124,389	-97.95%	6,063,570
NET POSITION, <i>beginning of year</i>	82,701,978	0.15%	82,577,589	7.92%	76,514,019
NET POSITION, <i>end of year</i>	\$ 83,606,574		\$ 82,701,978		\$ 82,577,589

The Authority's overall revenues increased 4.31%, or \$1,303,180, from 2023. The Authority's overall expenses increased 1.74%, or \$522,973, from 2023, due to landfill capping costs as well as continued high inflation experienced across the country.

**Budgetary Highlights**

The Authority's Board adopts an annual operating budget and a five-year capital plan after thorough review by the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee and a public hearing. Management periodically reviews the budget and informs the Board and the Finance Committee if it becomes apparent that the budget as adopted is not in line with actual revenues and expenditures. Variations from the budget are dealt with through budget transfers or amendments. Transfer amounts under \$5,000 are approved by the Treasurer of the Board. Those in excess of \$5,000 are approved by resolution of the full Board.

The 2024 and 2023 budgets are compared to actual results in Table A-3.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Budgetary Highlights (Continued)**

**Table A-3  
Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses,  
and Changes in Net Position vs. Budget**

	Year Ended December 31, 2024		
	Actual	Amended Budget	\$ Change
Operating revenue	\$ 29,367,108	\$ 27,403,850	\$ 1,963,258
Nonoperating revenue	2,162,351	1,577,150	585,201
Total revenues	31,529,459	28,981,000	2,548,459
Operating expenses			
Salaries, wages and benefits	7,783,565	8,359,141	(575,576)
Contractual services	7,884,613	7,856,736	27,877
Materials and supplies	2,073,671	2,410,650	(336,979)
Utilities	345,950	358,100	(12,150)
Repairs and maintenance	320,920	270,000	50,920
Host community benefits	748,638	747,000	1,638
Leachate disposal	774,043	216,500	557,543
Insurance	304,035	339,150	(35,115)
Depreciation	7,505,883	-	7,505,883
Change in post-closure accrual estimate	1,563,705	-	1,563,705
Debt service	-	1,888,585	(1,888,585)
Capital projects	-	274,000	(274,000)
Reserves	-	2,400,000	(2,400,000)
Contingency	-	645,378	(645,378)
Bad debts	254,557	252,010	2,547
Other operating expense	954,357	605,500	348,857
Nonoperating expense - interest	110,926	-	110,926
Total expenses	30,624,863	26,622,750	4,002,113
Change in net position	\$ 904,596	\$ 2,358,250	\$ (1,453,654)

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Budgetary Highlights (Continued)**

	Year Ended December 31, 2023		
	Actual	Amended Budget	\$ Change
Operating revenue	\$ 28,156,843	\$ 28,036,950	\$ 119,893
Nonoperating revenue	2,069,436	944,050	1,125,386
Total revenues	30,226,279	28,981,000	1,245,279
Operating expenses			
Salaries, wages and benefits	8,040,542	8,285,595	(245,053)
Contractual services	7,599,778	7,800,336	(200,558)
Materials and supplies	2,414,941	2,595,950	(181,009)
Utilities	298,485	353,900	(55,415)
Repairs and maintenance	257,387	284,000	(26,613)
Host community benefits	738,417	742,000	(3,583)
Leachate disposal	794,943	149,500	645,443
Insurance	282,065	318,491	(36,426)
Depreciation	6,068,997	-	6,068,997
Change in post-closure accrual estimate	2,143,112	-	2,143,112
Debt service	-	1,876,731	(1,876,731)
Capital projects	-	456,000	(456,000)
Reserves	-	2,400,000	(2,400,000)
Contingency	-	280,712	(280,712)
Bad debts	244,605	252,010	(7,405)
Other operating expense	1,077,306	615,825	461,481
Nonoperating expense - interest	141,312	-	141,312
Total expenses	30,101,890	26,411,050	3,690,840
Change in net position	\$ 124,389	\$ 2,569,950	\$ (2,445,561)



**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Budgetary Highlights (Continued)**

To make an accurate comparison of actual expenditures to budget, the items discussed above, as well as principal payments on outstanding bonds, depreciation and amortization, and the acquisition of capital assets, need to be adjusted to allow for comparison with the 2024 and 2023 amended budgets. These adjustments are as follows:

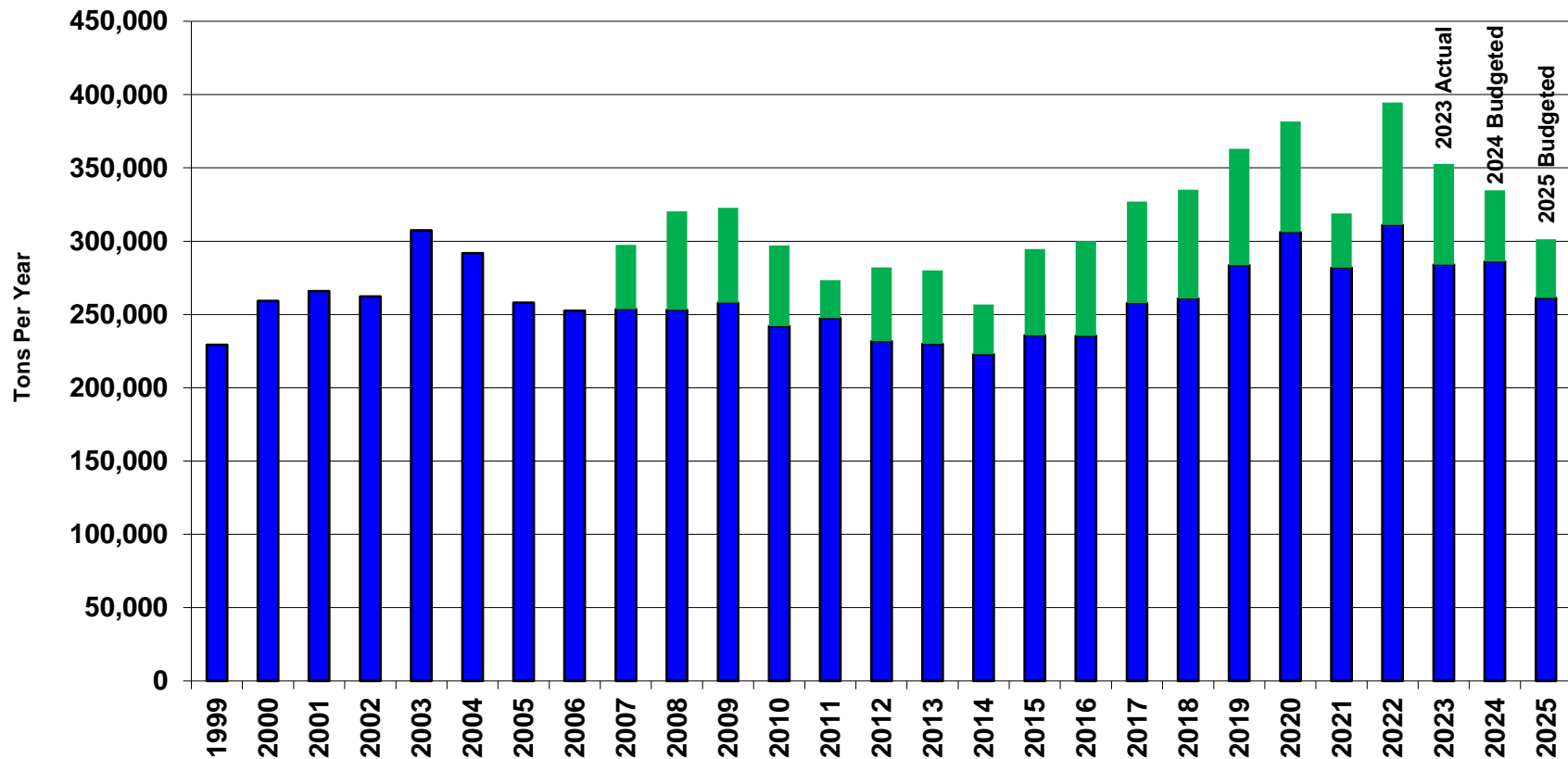
	Years Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Change in net position	\$ 904,596	\$ 124,389
Add		
Depreciation expense	7,505,883	6,068,997
Drawdown equipment reserves	6,822,000	7,269,000
Deduct		
Scheduled principal payments made on bonds	(1,780,000)	(1,735,000)
Acquisition of capital assets	(8,106,620)	(6,730,181)
Budget surplus (deficit)	\$ 5,345,859	\$ 4,997,205

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**General Trends and Significant Events**

**ONEIDA-HERKIMER SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
All Non-Recyclable Solid Waste  
(MSW, C&D, Sludge and Other)  
1999 - 2025**



# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Flow Control

***United Haulers Assoc. Inc., et al. v. Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority, et al. - 95-CV-0516, U.S. Dist. Ct., N.D.N.Y., Mordue, J.***

In 1995, the Authority and the Counties were sued by six local waste hauling firms. They alleged, among other things, that the laws that require them to use specific facilities are in violation of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The laws are legislative acts of each of the Counties. Pursuant to certain Agreements made in May and December 1989 between the Authority and the Counties, the Authority is charged with the disposal of solid waste and recyclables in the Counties and with the administration of an integrated system of waste management in accordance with New York State law. The Local Laws operate to ensure the continuity of the integrated system.

During 2007, the case was finally and definitively decided.

The Oneida and Herkimer Counties Solid Waste Management Laws were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in a Decision issued April 30, 2007. The Decision written by Chief Justice John Roberts validates the integrated solid waste management system owned and operated by the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority.

The Court recognized that local communities are entitled to develop the kinds of facilities and programs that meet their unique needs, and those local communities can set up a fee structure that encourages waste reduction, recycling, and detoxification.

## Capital Assets

At the end of 2024 and 2023, the Authority had \$49.2 million and \$48.3 million, respectively, invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, as indicated in Table A-4.

**Table A-4  
Capital Assets**

	December 31,				
	2024	2024 vs. 2023	2023	2023 vs. 2022	2022
Land	\$ 3,393,829	0.00%	\$ 3,393,829	0.02%	\$ 3,393,056
Land improvements	56,891,911	0.44%	56,641,688	12.83%	50,203,026
Buildings and improvements	29,137,486	0.04%	29,125,265	1.59%	28,670,288
Machinery and equipment	13,819,226	5.06%	13,153,455	0.10%	13,140,545
Vehicles	15,757,224	10.70%	14,234,600	21.36%	11,729,031
Office equipment	261,073	4.12%	250,733	-32.97%	374,070
Right-of-use lease asset	361,661	100.00%	-	0.00%	-
	<u>119,622,410</u>	<u>2.42%</u>	<u>116,799,570</u>	<u>8.64%</u>	<u>107,510,016</u>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	75,334,330	9.71%	68,668,619	3.85%	66,124,848
Capital assets in service, net	<u>44,288,080</u>	<u>-7.98%</u>	<u>48,130,951</u>	<u>16.30%</u>	<u>41,385,168</u>
Construction in progress	<u>4,951,923</u>		<u>165,209</u>		<u>6,309,685</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 49,240,003</u>	<u>1.95%</u>	<u>\$ 48,296,160</u>	<u>1.26%</u>	<u>\$ 47,694,853</u>

The Authority adopted a five-year capital plan with the passage of its annual budget. The five-year plan forecasts spending on capital projects between \$5,872,000 and \$6,575,000 per year. The funds for capital projects are covered by the system tipping fees and reserves.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Debt Administration**

The Authority had \$5,792,593 and \$7,572,593 in outstanding revenue bonds at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Although the Counties guarantee debt service payments in the event that the Authority defaults, the Authority is contractually obligated to set its rates to cover 100% of debt service and operating expenses. Since its inception, the Authority has always raised sufficient revenue to cover operating expenditures, capital purchases, and debt service payments. Because the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the laws of the Counties and validated the Authority's system, the Authority has fostered an extensive working relationship with generators and haulers, and the Authority has significantly diversified its operations, management is confident that revenues will continue to be sufficient to maintain the integrated solid waste system without assistance from either county. The Authority has never requested a subsidy from the Counties.

**Final Comments**

The preceding report summarizes the financial activity for the Authority during 2024 and 2023. The management and staff of the Authority are happy to answer any other questions that may arise after reviewing this report. We can be reached as follows:

Phone: (315) 733-1224  
7:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Website: [www.ohswa.org](http://www.ohswa.org)

***Management Staff***

Joshua J. Olbrys, Executive Director  
Joseph M. Artessa, Comptroller

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Statements of Net Position

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,109,478	\$ 6,928,888
Investments	30,757,709	32,975,857
Receivables		
Trade, net	3,944,413	3,790,910
Accrued interest	267,087	258,826
Prepaid expenses	429,035	552,811
Total current assets	<u>43,507,722</u>	<u>44,507,292</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Restricted assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,861,434	1,729,750
Investments	7,216,273	6,945,385
Accrued interest receivable	35,618	23,818
Capital assets, net	49,240,003	48,296,160
Total non-current assets	<u>58,353,328</u>	<u>56,995,113</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<u>2,537,459</u>	<u>2,733,119</u>
	<u><b>\$ 104,398,509</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 104,235,524</b></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Statements of Net Position

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current installments of revenue bonds	\$ 1,830,000	\$ 1,780,000
Current installments of lease liability	112,146	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,072,485	2,315,616
Accrued interest payable	27,203	28,754
Unearned revenue	921,045	911,060
Total current liabilities	<u>5,962,879</u>	<u>5,035,430</u>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Revenue bonds, less current installments	3,962,593	5,792,593
Lease liability	205,066	-
Accrued closure and post-closure costs	4,018,379	4,008,024
Net pension liability	2,299,955	3,125,305
Accrued postemployment benefits	2,049,888	2,489,738
Total long-term liabilities	<u>12,535,881</u>	<u>15,415,660</u>
Total liabilities	<u>18,498,760</u>	<u>20,451,090</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<u>2,293,175</u>	<u>1,082,456</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	46,788,033	45,269,759
Restricted	1,437,261	1,105,625
Unrestricted	35,381,280	36,326,594
Total net position	<u>83,606,574</u>	<u>82,701,978</u>
	<u><b>\$ 104,398,509</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 104,235,524</b></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>		
Tipping fees, net	\$ 18,069,595	\$ 17,835,187
Solid waste service charge, City of Utica	2,633,926	2,551,491
Refuse bag sales	2,688,930	2,673,719
Toter revenues	1,131,938	1,094,425
Recyclable sales	2,422,591	1,784,571
Carbon credit sales	919,258	821,349
Landfill gas sales	313,931	335,040
Miscellaneous	1,186,939	1,061,061
	<u>29,367,108</u>	<u>28,156,843</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	7,783,565	8,040,542
Contractual services	7,884,613	7,599,778
Materials and supplies	2,073,671	2,414,941
Utilities	345,950	298,485
Repairs and maintenance	320,920	257,387
Host community benefits	748,638	738,417
Leachate disposal	774,043	794,943
Insurance	304,035	282,065
Depreciation and amortization	7,505,883	6,068,997
Change in post-closure accrual estimate	1,563,705	2,143,112
Other	1,208,914	1,321,911
	<u>30,513,937</u>	<u>29,960,578</u>
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b><u>(1,146,829)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,803,735)</u></b>
<b>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>		
Investment income	1,963,609	1,679,750
Interest expense	(110,926)	(141,312)
Operating grants	198,742	389,686
	<u>2,051,425</u>	<u>1,928,124</u>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>904,596</b>	<b>124,389</b>
<b>NET POSITION, <i>beginning of year</i></b>	<u>82,701,978</u>	<u>82,577,589</u>
<b>NET POSITION, <i>end of year</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 83,606,574</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 82,701,978</u></b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Statements of Cash Flows

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Received from customers	\$ 29,223,590	\$ 28,832,058
Paid to suppliers and vendors	(14,690,673)	(15,332,620)
Paid to employees, including benefits	(7,642,386)	(7,606,060)
	<u>6,890,531</u>	<u>5,893,378</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED (USED) BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments of revenue bond principal	(1,780,000)	(1,735,000)
Interest paid	(112,477)	(142,982)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	378,257	351,658
Payments on lease liability	(46,967)	-
Acquisition of capital assets	(8,106,620)	(6,730,181)
Operating grants and other revenues	198,742	389,686
	<u>(9,469,065)</u>	<u>(7,866,819)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest received	1,943,548	1,619,721
Proceeds from investment maturities	30,430,257	16,019,129
Purchase of investments	(28,482,997)	(17,639,461)
	<u>3,890,808</u>	<u>(611)</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,312,274</b>	<b>(1,974,052)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, <i>beginning of year</i></b>	<u>8,658,638</u>	<u>10,632,690</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, <i>end of year</i></b>	<u><b>\$ 9,970,912</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 8,658,638</b></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Statements of Cash Flows

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Operating loss	\$ (1,146,829)	\$ (1,803,735)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	7,505,883	6,068,997
Accretion of lease liability	2,518	-
Provision for bad debts	254,557	244,605
Gain on disposal of capital assets	(359,702)	(291,781)
Change in assets and liabilities		
Receivables	(408,060)	325,854
Prepaid expenses	123,776	200,178
Deferred outflows	195,660	254,946
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	756,869	595,140
Unearned revenues	9,985	104,756
Deferred inflows	1,210,719	(3,603,317)
Accrued closure and post-closure costs	10,355	14,882
Net pension asset/liability	(825,350)	4,311,836
Accrued postemployment benefits	(439,850)	(528,983)
	<b>\$ 6,890,531</b>	<b>\$ 5,893,378</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### *a. Nature of Business*

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority, a component unit of Oneida County, New York (Authority), was created on September 1, 1988 as a public benefit corporation under New York State Public Authorities Law §2049, by the New York State Legislature with powers to construct, operate, and maintain solid waste management facilities for the benefit of Oneida and Herkimer Counties (Counties).

The Authority owns and operates 10 facilities: the Western Transfer Station (WTS), the Eastern Transfer Station (ETS), the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility (SSO), the Green Waste Compost Site (GWC), the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW), the Webb Transfer Station, the Regional Landfill Facility (RLF), the Land Clearing Debris Facility, and the Administration Building. It also owns one closed facility, the Ash Landfill (ALF) (closed during 1998).

### *b. Basis of Accounting and Presentation of Financial Statements*

The Authority's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

All activities of the Authority are accounted for within a single proprietary (enterprise) fund. Proprietary funds are used to account for operations that are: (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Authority is determined by its measurement focus. The transactions of the Authority are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows associated with the operations are included on the statements of net position.

Net position is classified as follows:

- Net investment in capital assets: Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation reduced by the net outstanding debt balances.
- Restricted net position: Restricted net position has externally placed constraints on use.
- Unrestricted net position: Unrestricted net position consists of assets, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows that do not meet the definition of "restricted net position" or "net investment in capital assets."

# **Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

### *b. Basis of Accounting and Presentation of Financial Statements (Continued)*

Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when incurred. The Authority distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the disposal of solid waste. The principal operating revenues of the Authority are charges to customers for user services. Tipping fees are presented net of disposal fees incurred by the Authority in relation to the waste brought to the Authority's facilities from the City of Utica (City) and the Villages of Ilion, Frankfort, Herkimer, Mohawk, and Dolgeville (Villages) (see Notes 9a and b). Disposal fees totaled \$1,504,722 and \$1,512,757 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Operating expenses include the cost of personnel and contractual services, materials and supplies, utilities, change in post-closure accrual estimate, administrative expenses, depreciation on capital assets, and other costs related to solid waste administration. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

### *c. Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows, and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### *d. Fair Value Measurement*

The Authority reports certain assets at fair value, which is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

### *e. Cash and Cash Equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash deposits in banks and other short-term investments, whether unrestricted or restricted, with a maturity of three months or less from the date of purchase. Short-term investments consist of money market funds with underlying investments in obligations of the U.S. government and repurchase agreements.

New York State statutes authorize the Authority to maintain deposits with financial institutions and to invest in certificates of deposit; obligations of New York State, the U.S. government and its agencies; and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. obligations.

Cash deposits with financial institutions are either covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or collateralized by securities held by the pledging bank's trust department in the Authority's name, or U.S. government and/or federal agency securities held by the Trustee. Cash equivalents in money market funds and investments are held in the Authority's name by their custodian and, therefore, not subject to custodial risk.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

*f. Receivables, Net*

Trade receivables are carried at the original invoice amount less an estimate made for doubtful receivables based on a review of all outstanding amounts on a periodic basis. Management determines the allowance for doubtful accounts by identifying troubled accounts and using historical experience applied to an aging of accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$291,145 and \$290,238 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Trade receivables are written off when deemed uncollectible. During 2024 and 2023, the Authority wrote off \$254,557 and \$244,605, respectively, of City user fees. Recoveries of trade receivables previously written off are recorded as a recovery of bad debt when received.

A trade receivable is considered to be past due if any portion of the receivable balance is outstanding for more than 30 days. Interest is charged on trade receivables that are outstanding for more than 30 days and is recognized as it is charged. After the receivable becomes past due, the accrual of interest continues until the receivable is written off or a payment agreement is reached with the customer.

*g. Capital Assets, Net*

Capital assets, net, are recorded at cost, except for contributed property and equipment, which are recorded at fair value. Expenditures for acquisitions, renewals, and betterments are capitalized, whereas maintenance and repair costs are expensed as incurred. The Authority uses a capitalization threshold of \$5,000 to analyze expenditures for capitalization. When equipment is retired or otherwise disposed of, the appropriate accounts are relieved of costs and accumulated depreciation, and any resultant gain or loss is credited or charged to income.

Depreciation is provided for in amounts sufficient to relate the cost of depreciable assets to operations over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives used in determining depreciation are as follows:

Plant	20 years
Machinery and equipment	3-20 years
Vehicles	5 years
Land improvements	15 years
RLF	10-50 years

Long-lived assets to be held and used are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the related carrying amount may not be recoverable. When required, impairment losses on assets to be held and used are recognized based on the excess of the asset's carrying amount over its fair value.

Constructed assets financed with the proceeds of tax-exempt debt (if those funds are externally restricted to finance the acquisitions of the asset or used to service the related debt) include capitalized interest to the extent that interest cost (including any related financing costs) over the asset construction period exceeds interest earned on related interest-bearing investments acquired with proceeds of the related tax-exempt borrowing.

*h. Bond Issuance Costs, Deferred Inflows, and Deferred Outflows*

Bond issuance costs, other than prepaid insurance costs, are expensed as incurred in the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.



# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

### *h. Bond Issuance Costs, Deferred Inflows, and Deferred Outflows (Continued)*

Deferred outflows of resources are defined as a consumption of assets by the Authority that is applicable to a future reporting period. Deferred inflows of resources are defined as an acquisition of assets by the Authority that is applicable to a future reporting period. Deferred outflows of resources increase net position, similar to assets, and deferred inflows of resources decrease net position, similar to liabilities.

Deferred outflows and inflows include changes in assumptions related to the net pension asset/liability (see Note 7) and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) (see Note 8).

The components of deferred outflows and inflows are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Deferred outflows of resources		
Net pension asset/liability-related	\$ 2,264,177	\$ 2,375,902
OPEB-related	273,282	357,217
	\$ 2,537,459	\$ 2,733,119
Deferred inflows of resources		
Net pension asset/liability-related	\$ 1,186,230	\$ 125,010
OPEB-related	1,106,945	957,446
	\$ 2,293,175	\$ 1,082,456

### *i. Unearned Revenues*

Unearned revenues include billings in advance under contracts with the City and the Villages (see Note 9). Revenues are recognized as income in the period the related services are rendered.

### *j. Accrued Closure and Post-Closure Monitoring Costs*

The Authority maintains the ALF, which reached full capacity at December 31, 1996, and the RLF, which began operating in late 2006. Based upon engineering estimates and actual usage, the RLF has a useful life of over 70 years. The Authority complies with the landfill closure and post-closure regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority accrued \$4,018,379 and \$4,008,024, respectively, for estimated closure and post-closure costs. The costs include equipment, final cover and post-closure monitoring and maintenance incurred near or after the date the Authority stops accepting waste. Due to changes in technology or changes in regulations, actual costs may be different from the current accrual.

In compliance with NYSDEC requirements, \$4,285,022 and \$4,129,109 in certificates of deposit and U.S. agency securities have been restricted by the Authority for this purpose at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

### *k. Tax Status*

The Authority is exempt from federal, state, and local income taxes.

### *l. Subsequent Events*

The Authority has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition or disclosure through February 25, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

## **Note 2. Restricted Assets**

In accordance with the terms of the Authority's bond indentures and requirements set by the NYSDEC, the use of certain Authority assets is restricted for specific purposes as summarized below:

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Debt Service Reserve Fund		
Contingency fund to be utilized in case of default	\$ 2,027,260	\$ 2,027,260
Construction Projects Fund and Bond Redemption and Improvement Fund		
Additional capital expenditures that may be incurred by the Authority	1,135,000	-
Other Funds		
Restricted - debt service	1,630,425	1,570,358
Restricted - closure and post-closure monitoring costs	4,285,022	4,129,109
Accrued interest on restricted assets	35,618	23,818
	\$ 9,113,325	\$ 7,750,545

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 3. Investments**

Fair value of the Authority's investments and related maturities is as follows:

December 31, 2024				
Fair Value	Investment Maturities (by Years)			
	2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	
Restricted investments				
U.S. Treasury bond state and local government series	\$ 2,676,155	\$ 648,895	\$ 2,027,260	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	1,377,576	1,377,576	-	-
Federal agency securities	3,162,542	793,986	1,766,090	602,466
	<u>\$ 7,216,273</u>	<u>\$ 2,820,457</u>	<u>\$ 3,793,350</u>	<u>\$ 602,466</u>
Unrestricted investments				
Certificates of deposit	\$ 10,988,871	\$ 3,209,048	\$ 7,779,823	\$ -
U.S. Treasury notes	19,768,838	9,962,832	9,806,006	-
	<u>\$ 30,757,709</u>	<u>\$ 13,171,880</u>	<u>\$ 17,585,829</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
December 31, 2023				
Fair Value	Investment Maturities (by Years)			
	2024	2025-2029	2030-2034	
Restricted investments				
U.S. Treasury bond state and local government series	\$ 2,027,259	\$ -	\$ 2,027,259	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	4,518,497	1,864,022	2,384,264	270,211
Federal agency securities	399,629	73,249	252,700	73,680
	<u>\$ 6,945,385</u>	<u>\$ 1,937,271</u>	<u>\$ 4,664,223</u>	<u>\$ 343,891</u>
Unrestricted investments				
Certificates of deposit	\$ 11,166,690	\$ 4,262,390	\$ 6,904,300	\$ -
U.S. Treasury notes	21,809,167	14,131,117	7,678,050	-
	<u>\$ 32,975,857</u>	<u>\$ 18,393,507</u>	<u>\$ 14,582,350</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**a. Credit Risk**

All of the Authority's investment-related deposits with financial institutions were either covered by FDIC insurance or fully collateralized by authorized investments of the pledging financial institution.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 3. Investments (Continued)**

*a. Credit Risk (Continued)*

The Authority's investment policy limits investments to time deposit accounts, certificates of deposit, obligations of the United States of America, obligations guaranteed by the United States of America, obligations of the State of New York, obligations of certain municipalities, schools districts, or other district corporations, obligations of public authorities, public housing authorities, urban renewal agencies and industrial development agencies that are authorized by New York State statutes, certifications of participation, and investments with agencies of the federal government. All of the Authority's investments had a credit rating of AA or higher by major rating agencies.

*b. Custodial Credit Risk*

Investments are exposed to custodial credit risk if the securities are uninsured, are not registered in the name of the government, and are held either by (a) the counterparty or (b) the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the government's name. All of the Authority's investments are held under its name with the custodian.

*c. Interest Rate Risk*

The fair value of the Authority's fixed maturity investments fluctuates in response to changes in market interest rates. Fair values of interest rate-sensitive instruments may be affected by the creditworthiness of the issuer, prepayment options, the liquidity of the instrument, and other general market conditions. The Authority plans to hold its restricted investments to maturity, which minimizes the occurrence of loss on investments.

*d. Concentration of Credit Risk*

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the Authority's investment in single issues. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, certificates of deposit held at four financial institutions accounted for approximately 32% and 39% of investments, respectively. All certificates of deposit are fully collateralized. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, U.S. Treasury notes held at two financial institutions accounted for approximately 52% and 54% of investments, respectively. No other issuer makes up more than 10% of the Authority's investment portfolio. Management of the Authority monitors the credit ratings associated with its underlying investments.

*e. Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The framework for measuring fair value includes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in active markets that the Authority has the ability to access.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 3. Investments (Continued)**

*e. Fair Value of Financial Instruments (Continued)*

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset; and
- Inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable inputs and significant to the fair value measurement.

The fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following are descriptions of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

- U.S. Treasury bond state and local government series: The fair value is determined by the bond trustee and cost approximates fair value.
- Certificates of deposits: Valued under a discounted cash flows approach that maximizes observable inputs, such as current yields of similar instruments, but includes adjustments for certain risks that may not be observable, such as credit and liquidity risks.
- Federal agency securities: Valued based on observable prices for the particular security, or when prices are not observable, the valuation is based on prices of comparable securities or the present value of expected future cash flows.
- U.S. Treasury notes: Valued at the quoted closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Authority believes that its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

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Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 3. Investments (Continued)**

*e. Fair Value of Financial Instruments (Continued)*

A summary of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis is as follows:

December 31, 2024				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
U.S. Treasury bond state and local government series	\$ -	\$ 2,676,155	\$ -	\$ 2,676,155
Certificates of deposit	-	12,366,447	-	12,366,447
Federal agency securities	-	3,162,542	-	3,162,542
U.S. Treasury notes	19,768,838	-	-	19,768,838
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>\$ 19,768,838</b>	<b>\$ 18,205,144</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 37,973,982</b>

December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
U.S. Treasury bond state and local government series	\$ -	\$ 2,027,259	\$ -	\$ 2,027,259
Certificates of deposit	-	15,685,187	-	15,685,187
Federal agency securities	-	399,629	-	399,629
U.S. Treasury notes	21,809,167	-	-	21,809,167
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>\$ 21,809,167</b>	<b>\$ 18,112,075</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 39,921,242</b>

**Note 4. Capital Assets, Net**

Capital assets, net, summarized by facility are as follows:

December 31, 2024					
	MRF, GWC, and HHW	ETS and WTS	RLF	Other	Total
Capital assets not being depreciated					
Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,996,859	\$ 396,970	\$ 3,393,829
Construction in progress	1,090,079	-	3,861,844	-	4,951,923
<b>Total capital assets not being depreciated</b>	<b>1,090,079</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,858,703</b>	<b>396,970</b>	<b>8,345,752</b>
Capital assets being depreciated					
Land improvements	738,383	720,441	55,385,513	47,574	56,891,911
Buildings and improvements	8,304,910	13,460,891	6,978,745	392,940	29,137,486
Machinery and equipment	10,660,576	1,699,049	1,342,353	117,248	13,819,226
Vehicles	2,456,039	3,683,487	9,112,906	504,792	15,757,224
Office equipment	14,734	7,780	29,105	209,454	261,073
Right-of-use lease asset	361,661	-	-	-	361,661
	22,536,303	19,571,648	72,848,622	1,272,008	116,228,581
Less accumulated depreciation	14,999,439	12,473,323	46,836,993	1,024,575	75,334,330
<b>Total capital assets being depreciated</b>	<b>7,536,864</b>	<b>7,098,325</b>	<b>26,011,629</b>	<b>247,433</b>	<b>40,894,251</b>
<b>Total capital assets, net</b>	<b>\$ 8,626,943</b>	<b>\$ 7,098,325</b>	<b>\$ 32,870,332</b>	<b>\$ 644,403</b>	<b>\$ 49,240,003</b>

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 4. Capital Assets, Net (Continued)**

	December 31, 2023				
	MRF, GWC, and HHW	ETS and WTS	RLF	Other	Total
Capital assets not being depreciated					
Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,996,859	\$ 396,970	\$ 3,393,829
Construction in progress	115,386	-	49,823	-	165,209
Total capital assets not being depreciated	115,386	-	3,046,682	396,970	3,559,038
Capital assets being depreciated					
Land improvements	689,266	664,185	55,240,663	47,574	56,641,688
Buildings and improvements	8,299,561	13,460,891	6,971,873	392,940	29,125,265
Machinery and equipment	10,031,092	1,696,287	1,326,818	99,258	13,153,455
Vehicles	2,432,492	3,055,083	8,215,801	531,224	14,234,600
Office equipment	14,734	7,780	23,782	204,437	250,733
	21,467,145	18,884,226	71,778,937	1,275,433	113,405,741
Less accumulated depreciation	14,033,676	11,471,287	42,191,068	972,588	68,668,619
Total capital assets being depreciated	7,433,469	7,412,939	29,587,869	302,845	44,737,122
Total capital assets, net	\$ 7,548,855	\$ 7,412,939	\$ 32,634,551	\$ 699,815	\$ 48,296,160

A summary of changes in the Authority's capital assets is as follows:

	Balance December 31, 2023	Additions	Retirements/ Disposals	Balance December 31, 2024
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 3,393,829	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,393,829
Construction in progress	165,209	4,786,714	-	4,951,923
Total capital assets not being depreciated	3,559,038	4,786,714	-	8,345,752
Capital assets being depreciated				
Land improvements	56,641,688	250,223	-	56,891,911
Buildings and improvements	29,125,265	12,221	-	29,137,486
Machinery and equipment	13,153,455	1,008,992	(343,221)	13,819,226
Vehicles	14,234,600	2,038,130	(515,506)	15,757,224
Office equipment	250,733	10,340	-	261,073
Right-of-use lease asset	-	361,661	-	361,661
	113,405,741	3,681,567	(858,727)	116,228,581
Less accumulated depreciation	68,668,619	7,505,883	(840,172)	75,334,330
Total capital assets being depreciated	44,737,122	(3,824,316)	(18,555)	40,894,251
Total capital assets, net	\$ 48,296,160	\$ 962,398	\$ (18,555)	\$ 49,240,003



**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 4. Capital Assets, Net (Continued)**

	Balance December 31, 2022	Additions	Retirements/ Disposals	Balance December 31, 2023
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 3,393,056	\$ 773	\$ -	\$ 3,393,829
Construction in progress	6,309,685	588,148	(6,732,624)	165,209
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>9,702,741</u>	<u>588,921</u>	<u>(6,732,624)</u>	<u>3,559,038</u>
Capital assets being depreciated				
Land improvements	50,203,026	6,850,290	(411,628)	56,641,688
Buildings and improvements	28,670,288	850,076	(395,099)	29,125,265
Machinery and equipment	13,140,545	903,420	(890,510)	13,153,455
Vehicles	11,729,031	4,235,793	(1,730,224)	14,234,600
Office equipment	374,070	34,305	(157,642)	250,733
	<u>104,116,960</u>	<u>12,873,884</u>	<u>(3,585,103)</u>	<u>113,405,741</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	66,124,848	6,068,996	(3,525,225)	68,668,619
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>37,992,112</u>	<u>6,804,888</u>	<u>(59,878)</u>	<u>44,737,122</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 47,694,853</u>	<u>\$ 7,393,809</u>	<u>\$ (6,792,502)</u>	<u>\$ 48,296,160</u>

Construction in progress principally relates to costs incurred to construct cells at the Authority's RLF, which remains in progress.

**Note 5. Revenue Bonds**

A summary of changes in the Authority's Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) revenue bonds is as follows:

	2015 EFC Revenue Bonds
Balance, December 31, 2022	\$ 9,307,593
Additions	-
Reductions	<u>(1,735,000)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2023	7,572,593
Additions	-
Reductions	<u>(1,780,000)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 5,792,593</u>

The New York State EFC State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds Revenue Bonds were originally issued in 2006 at \$33,396,675 to finance certain improvements to the Authority's landfill located in the Town of Ava, New York and to refinance certain outstanding indebtedness of the Authority. The bonds were refunded in 2015.

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Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 5. Revenue Bonds (Continued)**

Principal installments are payable annually on April 1 through 2026. Interest is payable semiannually at interest rates ranging from 4.54% to 4.77%, gross of the subsidy credit and the refunding benefit. The Authority receives a subsidy credit and a refunding benefit toward its annual debt service cost and is charged an annual administrative fee by the EFC. The Authority received a subsidy credit of \$103,960 and \$143,680 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and a refunding benefit of \$119,836 and \$134,183, respectively.

Certain assets and all revenues of the Authority are pledged as collateral for the bonds. In addition, the Counties guarantee debt service payments by means of the Solid Waste Management Agreement between the Authority and the Counties.

Future debt service payments required on revenue bonds are as follows:

	Principal	Interest *	Total
Year ending December 31,			
2025	\$ 1,830,000	\$ 232,429	\$ 2,062,429
2026	3,962,593	94,488	4,057,081
	5,792,593	<u>\$ 326,917</u>	<u>\$ 6,119,510</u>
Less current installments	<u>1,830,000</u>		
Revenue bonds, less current installments	<u>\$ 3,962,593</u>		

\* EFC interest is reported gross of the subsidy credit and the refunding benefit, which will be \$296,261 over the remaining life of the bonds.

**Note 6. Leases**

In May 2024, the Authority entered into a three-year lease for equipment and related software at the MRF, commencing in November 2024. The initial lease liability and the intangible lease asset were \$344,694 and \$361,661, respectively. The Authority is required to make annual payments of \$120,000 in equal quarterly installments. The useful life of the equipment and related software exceeds the life of this lease. The intangible lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Future maturities of the lease are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
Year ending December 31,			
2025	\$ 112,146	\$ 7,854	\$ 120,000
2026	115,778	4,222	120,000
2027	89,288	712	90,000
	<u>\$ 317,212</u>	<u>\$ 12,788</u>	<u>\$ 330,000</u>

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 7. New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System**

*a. Plan Description and Benefits Provided*

The Authority participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement system. The System provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (Fund), which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System. The Comptroller of the State of New York (Comptroller) serves as the trustee of the Fund and is the administrative head of the System. System benefits are established under the provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law. Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship, and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a New York State statute.

The System is included in the State of New York's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to benefits provided, may be found at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php> or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244.

*b. Contributions*

The System is noncontributory, except for employees who joined after July 27, 1976 and contribute 3% of their salary for the first 10 years of membership and employees who joined on or after January 1, 2010 and generally contribute 3% of their salary for their entire length of service.

Under the authority of the System, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the System's fiscal year ending March 31. The Authority's contributions for the current year and two preceding years were equal to 100% of the required contributions and were as follows:

Year ended December 31,	
2024	\$ 616,355
2023	505,054
2022	694,977

*c. Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions*

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority reported a liability of \$2,299,955 and \$3,125,305, respectively, for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of March 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Authority's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined.

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority's proportion was 0.0156204% and 0.0145742%, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority recognized pension expense of \$1,030,590 and \$1,115,613, respectively.

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Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 7. New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (Continued)**

*c. Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)*

The Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	December 31, 2024		December 31, 2023	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 740,814	\$ 62,714	\$ 332,869	\$ 87,770
Changes in assumptions	869,561	-	1,517,850	16,775
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	-	1,123,516	-	18,361
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	124,444	-	62,916	2,104
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	529,358	-	462,267	-
Total	<u>\$ 2,264,177</u>	<u>\$ 1,186,230</u>	<u>\$ 2,375,902</u>	<u>\$ 125,010</u>

Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date are recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ending December 31,	
2025	\$ (386,212)
2026	471,787
2027	689,864
2028	(226,850)
	<u>\$ 548,589</u>

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Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 7. New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (Continued)**

*d. Actuarial Assumptions*

The total pension liability at March 31, 2024 and 2023 was determined by using actuarial valuations as of April 1, 2023 and 2022, respectively, with updated procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The actuarial valuations used the following actuarial assumptions, which are consistent from year to year, except as noted:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry age normal
Inflation Rate	2.9%
Salary Scale	4.4%, indexed by service
Investment Rate of Return	5.9% compounded annually, net of expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustment	1.5% annually
Decrement	Based on FY 2015-2020 experience
Mortality Improvement	Society of Actuaries' Scale MP-2021

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of March 31, 2024 are summarized below:

Asset Type	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate
Domestic equity	32.0%	4.00%
International equity	15.0%	6.65%
Private equity	10.0%	7.25%
Real estate	9.0%	4.60%
Opportunistic/absolute return strategies	3.0%	5.25%
Credit	4.0%	5.40%
Real assets	3.0%	5.79%
Fixed income	23.0%	1.50%
Cash	1.0%	0.25%
	<u>100.0%</u>	

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 7. New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (Continued)**

*e. Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension liability was 5.9% at December 31, 2024 and 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based upon the assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

*f. Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to the Discount Rate Assumption*

The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability at December 31, 2024, calculated using the discount rate of 5.9%, as well as what the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (4.9%) or one percentage point higher (6.9%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.9%)	Current Discount (5.9%)	1% Increase (6.9%)
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 7,231,293	\$ 2,299,955	\$ (1,818,735)

*g. Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position*

The components of the current-year net pension liability of the System were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	March 31,	
	2024	2023
Employers' total pension liability	\$ 240,696,851	\$ 232,627,259
Plan net position	(225,972,801)	(211,183,223)
Employers' net pension liability	<u>\$ 14,724,050</u>	<u>\$ 21,444,036</u>
Ratio of plan net position to the employers' total pension liability	93.88%	90.78%

**Note 8. Other Postemployment Benefits**

The Authority provides health care benefits for eligible retired employees comprising a 50% monthly premium contribution toward their health insurance costs. Eligible retirees may also have a spouse and dependents covered at the retired employees' expense. Health care benefits are provided through insurance companies whose premiums are based on the benefits provided.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 8. Other Postemployment Benefits (Continued)**

The benefit plan is administered and accounted for as a single-employer defined benefit plan. A summary of active employees and retired employees covered under this benefit plan is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Actives	14	16
Retirees and survivors	10	8
Total	24	24

The contribution requirements of benefit plan members and the Authority are established pursuant to applicable collective bargaining and employment agreements. The required rates of the employer and the members may vary depending on the applicable agreement. The Authority is not required to fund the benefit plan other than the pay-as-you-go amount necessary to provide current benefits to retirees. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority paid \$93,623 and \$72,435, respectively, on behalf of the plan members. The benefit plan does not issue a stand-alone financial report since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purpose of paying benefits under the benefit plan.

*a. OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB*

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority reported a liability of \$2,049,888 and \$2,489,738, respectively, for its OPEB liability. The OPEB liability was measured as of January 1, 2024 by an actuarial valuation as of that date. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority recognized OPEB (gain) expense of (\$81,830) and \$1,206, respectively. The Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	December 31, 2024		December 31, 2023	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 449,314	\$ -	\$ 284,913
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	148,696	657,631	263,594	672,533
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	124,586	-	93,623	-
	<u>\$ 273,282</u>	<u>\$ 1,106,945</u>	<u>\$ 357,217</u>	<u>\$ 957,446</u>



# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 8. Other Postemployment Benefits (Continued)**

### *a. OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)*

Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date are recognized as a reduction of the OPEB liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ending December 31,		
2025	\$	(206,743)
2026		(179,747)
2027		(204,805)
2028		(163,218)
2029		(132,777)
2030 and thereafter		(70,959)
		<hr/>
Total	\$	<u>(958,249)</u>

### *b. Actuarial Assumptions*

The total OPEB liability was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, which are consistent from year to year, except as noted:

Valuation Date	January 1, 2024
Measurement Date	January 1, 2024
Reporting Date	December 31, 2024
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal - Level Percent of Pay
Discount Rate	
2024	3.26%
2023	3.72%
Health Care Cost Trend Rates	Society of Actuaries' Long-Run Medical Cost Trend Model
Salary Scale	3.50%
Inflation	2.70%
Mortality	PUB-2010 Mortality Table for healthy retirees: sex-distinct, job category-specific, headcount-weighted, and adjusted for mortality improvements with Scale MP-2021 mortality improvement scale on a generational basis

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 8. Other Postemployment Benefits (Continued)**

*c. Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability*

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Beginning of year	\$ 2,489,738	\$ 3,018,721
Charges for the year		
Service cost	57,494	95,391
Interest	93,016	63,405
Differences between expected and actual experience	(331,204)	-
Changes in assumptions and other inputs	(165,533)	(615,344)
Benefit payments	(93,623)	(72,435)
Net changes	(439,850)	(528,983)
End of year	\$ 2,049,888	\$ 2,489,738

*d. Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Trend Rate and Discount Rate*

The following presents the OPEB liability of the plan as of December 31, 2024, calculated using the current health care cost trend rate, as well as what the OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Authority's proportionate share of the OPEB liability	\$ 1,786,253	\$ 2,049,888	\$ 2,386,062

The following presents the OPEB liability of the plan as of December 31, 2024, calculated using the discount rate of 3.26%, as well as what the OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (2.26%) or one percentage point higher (4.26%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.26%)	Current Discount Rate (3.26%)	1% Increase (4.26%)
Authority's proportionate share of the OPEB liability	\$ 2,345,556	\$ 2,049,888	\$ 1,809,831

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 9. Commitments, Contingencies, Risks, and Uncertainties**

*a. City Contract*

The Authority maintains a contract with the City through March 31, 2033 to provide for the collection of waste and recyclables and associated billing throughout the City. In accordance with the contract, and in recognition of the City being host to the Recycling Center, the ETS, and the GWC, the Authority pays the City Host Community Benefits of \$1 per ton for all materials delivered to those facilities as long as the Authority uses the ETS for the transport of waste out of the region, with a guaranteed minimum of \$100,000 per year. The Authority made Host Community Benefit payments in the amount of \$213,323 and \$210,230 during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. There was \$51,848 and \$53,891 due to the City at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, which is included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Under the agreement, the Authority receives the City's solid waste service charge revenue to cover the costs of waste removal and the revenues generated from the sale of refuse bags to residents used to dispose of residential waste. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the cost of waste removal was \$4,623,393 and \$4,557,857, respectively, offset by solid waste service charge revenues of \$2,633,926 and \$2,551,491, respectively, and refuse bag sales of \$2,116,917 and \$2,097,396, respectively.

*b. Village Contracts*

The Authority and the Villages entered into separate agreements for the coordination of waste and recyclables collection, which expire at various times between September 2025 and January 2030. The Authority provides the coordination services for annual fees of between \$4,000 and \$8,000.

The Authority receives revenue from the sale of refuse bags to residents used to dispose of residential waste and from the rental of toters to village residences. These revenues are then applied to the fees for delivery of waste to the Authority's transfer stations, waste collection, and the purchase of refuse bags.

In the event that revenues do not cover expenses related to this contract, the Villages will increase fees for refuse bags and toter rentals to cover future losses. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the cost of waste removal was \$1,699,795 and \$1,682,730, respectively, offset by refuse bag sales of \$572,013 and \$576,323, respectively, and toter rental fees of \$1,131,938 and \$1,094,425, respectively.

*c. Sale of Climate Reserve Tonnes*

The Authority has entered into an agreement with a third party for the sale of Climate Reserve Tonnes (carbon credits). The agreement was in effect through July 2024. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, \$919,258 and \$821,349, respectively, was earned related to the sale of carbon credits. The Authority is in the process of renegotiating this agreement.

*d. Landfill Gas and Facilities Site Lease and Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement*

The Authority has entered into an agreement with a third party (Lessee) that provides for the Lessee to construct, own, and operate an electric generation facility on property adjacent to the Authority's landfill and gas extraction facilities. All landfill gas generated at the landfill is purchased by the Lessee, which makes payments to the Authority based on the electricity generated and the electricity sold. The agreement continues for 10 years after the commercial operation date (May 2012), at which point there is an option for two additional five-year renewals. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, \$313,931 and \$335,040, respectively, was earned related to the sale of landfill gas.

# **Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

## **Note 9. Commitments, Contingencies, Risks, and Uncertainties (Continued)**

### *d. Landfill Gas and Facilities Site Lease and Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement (Continued)*

In 2024, the Authority entered into a Gas Rights and Development Agreement with a third party whereby the Authority will receive minimum royalty payments each year for the collection and sale of landfill gas. The agreement, which is expected to commence in 2026, will grant a lease of land owned by the Authority at its landfill to the third party.

### *e. Host Community Benefit Agreements*

In connection with the operation of the RLF, the Authority has entered into various long-term agreements with certain municipalities impacted by the RLF. The agreements generally provide for minimum payments to the municipalities for a period of 25 years and contain provisions for additional or reduced payments in the event that accepted tonnage varies from contractually stated amounts. Host Community Benefit expense was \$465,000 and \$460,000 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

### *f. Intergovernmental Recycling Agreements*

The Authority entered into an intergovernmental agreement with three counties whereby the Authority accepts, processes, and markets residential recyclable materials from the various counties. The agreements provide for fixed, per-ton payments to the Authority through December 31, 2028 for Oswego County, December 31, 2026 for Fulton County and December 31, 2027 for Lewis County. Amounts received by the Authority from the sale of the recycled material are credited back to the counties using monthly averages received by the Authority from the sale of all recyclable commodities. Recyclable sales are reported net of amounts credited to the counties under these agreements. Processing fees for 2024 and 2023 were \$941,416 and \$885,975, respectively.

### *g. Litigation*

The Authority is involved in certain suits and claims arising from a variety of sources. It is the opinion of management and counsel that the liabilities that may arise from such actions would not result in losses that would materially affect the financial position of the Authority or the results of its operations.

### *h. Environmental Risks*

Certain facilities are subject to federal, state, and local regulations relating to the discharge of materials into the environment. Compliance with these provisions has not had, nor does the Authority expect such compliance to have, any material effect upon the capital expenditures or financial condition of the Authority. The Authority believes that its current practices and procedures for control and disposition of regulated waste comply with applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

## **Note 10. Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Implemented**

GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*. This statement improves key components of the financial reporting model, including a reiteration of the Management Discussion and Analysis requirements, description and presentation requirements for unusual or infrequent items, definitions of nonoperating revenues and expenses, major component unit presentation requirements, and the requirement that budgetary comparison information be presented as required supplementary information versus a statement. The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025.

**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

**Note 10. Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Implemented (Continued)**

GASB Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*. This statement establishes requirements for certain types of capital assets to be disclosed separately in the capital assets note disclosures required by GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*. It also establishes disclosure requirements for capital assets held for sale, including disclosures relating to debt for which the capital assets held for sale are pledged as collateral. The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025.

Management has not estimated the extent of the potential impact of these statements on the Authority's financial statements.

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

## Required Supplementary Information Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Authority's proportion of the net pension (asset) liability	0.0156204%	0.0145742%	0.0145149%	0.0144157%	0.0143403%	0.0145098%	0.0143100%	0.0141556%	0.0148470%	0.0142362%
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension (asset) liability	\$ 2,299,955	\$ 3,125,305	\$ (1,186,531)	\$ 14,354	\$ 3,797,385	\$ 1,028,066	\$ 461,847	\$ 1,330,098	\$ 2,276,668	\$ 480,933
Authority's covered-employee payroll	\$ 4,873,481	\$ 4,990,165	\$ 4,575,207	\$ 4,458,927	\$ 4,267,962	\$ 4,100,777	\$ 4,064,975	\$ 3,836,397	\$ 3,695,136	\$ 3,419,002
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension (asset) liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	47.19%	62.63%	25.93%	0.32%	88.97%	25.07%	11.36%	34.67%	61.61%	14.07%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	93.88%	90.78%	103.65%	99.95%	86.39%	96.30%	98.20%	94.70%	97.90%	97.90%
The following is a summary of changes in assumptions:										
Inflation	2.90%	2.90%	2.70%	2.70%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.70%
Salary increases	4.40%	4.40%	4.40%	4.40%	4.20%	4.20%	3.80%	3.80%	3.80%	4.90%
Cost-of-living adjustments	1.50%	1.50%	1.40%	1.40%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%
Investment rate of return	5.90%	5.90%	5.90%	5.90%	6.80%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.50%
Discount rate	5.90%	5.90%	5.90%	5.90%	6.80%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.50%
Society of Actuaries' mortality scale	MP-2021	MP-2021	MP-2020	MP-2020	MP-2018	MP-2018	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014

See Independent Auditor's Report.

# Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

## Required Supplementary Information Schedule of Local Government Pension Contributions

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 616,355	\$ 505,054	\$ 694,977	\$ 598,541	\$ 567,018	\$ 571,218	\$ 549,859	\$ 540,463	\$ 558,657	\$ 699,094
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	\$ 616,355	\$ 505,054	\$ 694,977	\$ 598,541	\$ 567,018	\$ 571,218	\$ 549,859	\$ 540,463	\$ 558,657	\$ 699,094
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Authority's covered-employee payroll	\$ 4,873,481	\$ 4,990,165	\$ 4,575,207	\$ 4,458,927	\$ 4,267,962	\$ 4,100,777	\$ 4,064,975	\$ 3,836,397	\$ 3,695,136	\$ 3,419,002
Contribution as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	12.65%	10.12%	15.19%	13.42%	13.29%	13.93%	13.53%	14.09%	15.12%	20.45%

*See Independent Auditor's Report.*



**Oneida-Herkimer  
Solid Waste Management Authority**

Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Other Postemployment Benefits Liability

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Beginning of year	\$ 2,489,738	\$ 3,018,721	\$ 3,192,658	\$ 2,378,044	\$ 2,387,667	\$ 2,537,410	\$ 2,365,128
Charges for the year							
Service cost	57,494	95,391	110,652	73,448	57,809	72,019	67,811
Interest	93,016	63,405	69,437	66,627	98,953	88,718	91,554
Changes to benefit terms	-	-	-	494,303	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(331,204)	-	(150,562)	-	(498,831)	-	(254,514)
Changes in assumptions and other inputs	(165,533)	(615,344)	(147,541)	219,837	396,388	(249,668)	289,164
Benefit payments	(93,623)	(72,435)	(55,923)	(39,601)	(63,942)	(60,812)	(21,733)
Net changes	(439,850)	(528,983)	(173,937)	814,614	(9,623)	(149,743)	172,282
End of year	<u>\$ 2,049,888</u>	<u>\$ 2,489,738</u>	<u>\$ 3,018,721</u>	<u>\$ 3,192,658</u>	<u>\$ 2,378,044</u>	<u>\$ 2,387,667</u>	<u>\$ 2,537,410</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 1,124,061	\$ 1,231,940	\$ 1,262,913	\$ 1,463,987	\$ 1,451,516	\$ 1,407,237	\$ 1,299,431
OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	182.36%	202.10%	239.03%	218.08%	163.83%	169.67%	195.27%
The following is a summary of changes in assumptions:							
Health care cost trend rates	Society of Actuaries' Long-Run Medical Cost Trend Model						
Salary increases	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
Inflation rate	2.70%	2.70%	2.50%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%
Discount rate	3.26%	3.72%	2.06%	2.12%	2.74%	4.10%	3.44%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*



**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of  
Financial Statements Performed in Accordance  
With Government Auditing Standards**

**Independent Auditor's Report**

Board of Directors  
Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority (Authority), a component unit of the County of Oneida, New York, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 25, 2025.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of This Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

BST+Co.CPAs, LLP

Latham, New York  
February 25, 2025

