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ohswa.org

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jamie Tuttle, Recycling Educator, (315) 733-1224 ext. 2300

**'Tis the Season to Recycle**

The holiday season is a time of giving and sharing with family and friends. While enjoying these traditions, you can also take steps to “green” your holidays. During the holiday season, Americans generate an additional 7 million pounds of waste. Fortunately, many opportunities are available for residents of Oneida and Herkimer Counties to keep holiday celebrations environmentally-friendly.

“Throughout each year, the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (Authority) offers various waste reduction and recycling programs to its residents. Due to the increased waste during the holiday season, the Authority offers reminders for proper disposal and recycling of holiday items so that residents can cut down on waste with ease, said Jamie Tuttle, Authority Recycling Educator.

“This year marks the 28<sup>th</sup> year that holiday gift wrap will be accepted for recycling in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. To recycle holiday gift wrap, fold or flatten the gift wrap and place it loosely in your recycling container. **Gift wrap cannot be placed in plastic bags for recycling.** Tissue paper and foil or metallic wrapping paper **are not** accepted for recycling. Wrapping paper will only be accepted during the two weeks following Christmas,” said Tuttle. “Cardboard tubes from gift wrap may also be placed in your recycling container. Always consider reusing wrapping paper before disposal.”

Holiday greeting cards may also be recycled. Each year, 2.65 billion holiday cards are sold in the U.S. That is enough to fill a football field ten stories high. Place greeting cards, catalogs, gift boxes and other recyclable paper in with your regular recyclables. These items can be recycled all year long. Styrofoam and packing peanuts **are not** recyclable and should be placed with your regular trash.

Holiday lights should be stored for use again next year. **Broken or unwanted holiday lights cannot be placed in your recycling bin.** The CNY Veterans Outreach Center is accepting donations of old holiday lights this holiday season. The lights will be recycled and proceeds will go towards services for Veterans and their families. The CNY Veterans Outreach Center is located at 726 Washington Street in Utica and is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM for drop offs. To schedule a large pickup of lights, call 315-765-0975. You may also deliver holiday lights to the Authority’s Utica or Rome EcoDrops for proper recycling at no charge, or dispose of them with your regular trash. Other types of electronic waste such as computers and televisions are also accepted at the Authority’s Utica and Rome EcoDrops year round, at no charge.

The Authority’s compost facility allows this region increased recycling opportunities, including Christmas tree recycling. Contact your local municipality to see what the collection schedule is for Christmas trees. If your municipality does not have a collection schedule, residents can deliver trees for composting to the Authority’s Utica EcoDrop. “Make sure all decorations and tinsel are removed. Christmas wreaths should be disposed of with your regular garbage. Real and artificial wreaths are held together with wire and plastic, so they cannot be composted. By using reusable decorations and avoiding items such as tinsel, which is hard to remove and reuse again, you can reduce waste,” said Tuttle. “Consider donating unwanted decorations to local charities.”

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Residents in Oneida and Herkimer Counties also have the capability to recycle leftover cooking oil and kitchen grease. Residents are able to drop-off cooking oil and kitchen grease at the Utica EcoDrop year-round, at no charge. Residents should transport used oils or grease in sealed, unbreakable, leak-proof containers. The material is then collected and recycled into animal feed.

“In order to close the recycling loop, we need to buy recycled products,” stated Tuttle. “While shopping for gifts, purchase items made from recycled-content. Many polar fleece and other clothing items are made from recycled plastic soda and water bottles. Purchase wrapping paper, gift boxes, gift bags, and holiday cards made from recycled paper. With a little pre-cycling, waste reduction and proper recycling of the materials we generate, we can all make our holidays a little greener,” Tuttle concluded.

If you are not sure how to properly recycle or dispose of an item, the Authority encourages residents to visit its easy-to-use tool at [www.AmIRecyclable.com](http://www.AmIRecyclable.com) to search hundreds of different items and learn all the answers. When non-acceptable items are placed in the recycling bin, they interfere with the recycling of acceptable items.

For more information on recycling and waste disposal, please contact Authority Recycling Educator Jamie Tuttle at (315) 733-1224 ext. 2300 or visit [www.ohswa.org](http://www.ohswa.org). You may also ask questions and find more information on the Authority’s Facebook page (Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority).

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***SEE QUICK GUIDE FOR HOLIDAY RECYCLING ON PAGE 3***

# QUICK GUIDE TO HOLIDAY RECYCLING

## RECYCLEONE (place in curbside bin):

- Cardboard Boxes (must be empty – Styrofoam and plastic packaging are trash items)
- Catalogs and Magazines
- Gift Boxes
- Gift Bags
- Greeting Cards and Envelopes
- Wrapping Paper (no tissue paper or metallic papers)
- Clean Aluminum Foil & Baking Tins

## Drop-Off Only Recyclables (do not place in bin):

- Cooking Oil (deliver to Authority's Utica EcoDrop)
- Electronics (deliver to Authority's Utica or Rome EcoDrops)
- Holiday Lights (deliver to Authority's Utica or Rome EcoDrops)
- Live Christmas Trees (deliver to Authority's Utica EcoDrop or contact municipality for collection schedule)
- Plastic Shopping Bags (return to grocery stores and other retailers for recycling)
- Rechargeable Batteries (deliver to Authority's Utica or Rome EcoDrops)

## Garbage Items (if you cannot reuse them):

- Metallic or Foil Wrapping Paper
- Styrofoam
- Tissue Paper
- Christmas Wreaths & Artificial Christmas Trees

### **Utica EcoDrop**

80 Leland Ave. Extension, Utica, NY

#### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Saturday: 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

### **Rome EcoDrop**

575 Perimeter Road, Rome, NY

#### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm