

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No Plastic Bags Allowed In Single Stream Recycling

“Making recycling more convenient in Oneida and Herkimer Counties has always been an important goal of the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. With this in mind, the Authority made a \$10 million commitment in 2011 to convert its 20-year old dual stream recycling system to a state-of-the-art single stream recycling system to better serve the region’s residents and businesses,” said Authority Director of Recycling, David Lupinski.

The Authority’s single stream recycling program, *RecycleOne, One and Done*, has made recycling more convenient by allowing residents and businesses to mix all recyclables—paper, plastic, metal and glass—in one bin for collection. All recyclable items must be mixed together loosely in one container, **with no plastic bags, string or twine**. The Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center utilizes mechanical screens and separators to sort recyclables. Paper and cardboard separator screens, magnets, computerized optical sorters, aluminum removal systems, and glass breaking screens are all utilized to efficiently separate the various recyclable items into marketable materials.

The mechanical single stream recycling sorting system **does not allow recyclables to be placed in plastic bags or bundled with string for collection. Plastic grocery bags and other film plastics cannot be placed in recycling containers.** Plastic bags can be delivered to most local grocery stores for proper recycling. Plastic bags and string wrap around conveyors, shafts and mechanical sorting equipment causing jams, breakdowns and other issues with the recycling system. There is one exception to the no bag rule; shredded paper must be placed in a large clear plastic bag for recycling. Bags of shredded paper are manually removed before the material begins the mechanical single stream sorting process.

“What makes the Single Stream Recycling system so effective is that it makes use of automated sorting equipment to increase the volume and quality of recyclables that are processed and marketed. Processed recyclables are compacted, baled and then placed into trucks to be shipped to markets to be made into new items,” Lupinski concluded.

For more recycling information visit the Authority’s website at www.ohswa.org or contact the Authority Director of Recycling David Lupinski at 733-1224, Ext. 1600 or by e-mail at davel@ohswa.org.

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