



MEDIA RELEASE

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ONONDAGA AND CORTLAND COUNTY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" TO EXPLORE LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH OCRRA

**POTENTIAL INTER-MUNICIPAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN COUNTIES OFFERS TAXPAYERS
MUTUAL FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (August 14, 2013) — Working toward a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial regional partnership, representatives from Cortland County, Onondaga County and the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) announced today an "Agreement in Principle," to consolidate solid waste management services and partner over the next twenty-years to manage residential trash in both communities.

The agreement signed today establishes a framework for Onondaga County and Cortland County to commence formal negotiations on a long-term, Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA), which would permit the disposal of residential trash from Cortland County, at the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency's Waste-to-Energy Facility located off of Rock Cut Road in the Town of Onondaga.

"I'm pleased to join local officials from Cortland County for today's announcement. We have before us a tremendous opportunity to partner with our neighbors on a win-win solution that will consolidate waste management operations, enhance the performance of OCRRA's Waste to Energy facility and significantly reduce the costs of disposal of ash generated through the production of renewable energy," said County Executive Mahoney. "OCRRA is a national leader in solid waste management and recycling and I can think of no better organization for Onondaga County and Cortland County to entrust with our waste management needs over the next twenty years, I look forward to participating in the next steps of advancing this important partnership," Mahoney continued.

"Cortland County has been evaluating multiple avenues to reduce the red ink in our Solid Waste program for years," said Michael Park, Chairman of the Cortland County Legislature. "While we still need to negotiate the details, this appears to be a mutually beneficial agreement that fills a desperate need for all agencies. This is the type of partnership Albany has been encouraging."

"Today's announcement is an important first step in an even more important process that we believe will result in a long-term and mutually beneficial solid waste management arrangement

for both counties. I welcome the start of formal negotiations between our two Counties and OCRRA and I look forward to participating in a robust and open discussion about the potential benefits of this proposed inter-municipal partnership," said Ryan McMahon, Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature.

Onondaga County residents would benefit from the arrangement through increased energy production and the disposal of ash generated from the Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE) at Cortland County's double-lined, municipal landfill located in the Towns of Cortlandville, Homer and Solon. Those same trucks, owned and operated by OCRRA, that ship the ash from Onondaga County to Cortland County, would then return full with residential trash from Cortland County.

Negotiations with the three counter-parties will commence immediately and likely conclude in sixty to ninety days. Upon completing negotiations, a Draft Inter-Municipal Agreement will be transmitted to and require formal approval from the Cortland County Legislature, the Onondaga County Legislature, as well as the OCRRA Board of Directors.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will also have to approve amendments to both community's Solid Waste Management Plans as well as solid waste management permit amendments for the Cortland County landfill to accept ash from OCRRA's Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Currently, Cortland County disposes of residential trash at their municipally owned, in-county landfill. Onondaga County processes residential trash from Onondaga County residents at the OCRRA owned and Covanta Energy operated, WTE Facility, where it is turned into electricity. The byproduct of the WTE process is non-hazardous ash that is currently transported by OCRRA to the privately owned High Acres Landfill in Fairport, NY.

Potential benefits from this cooperative effort include:

- Increasing consistency with the waste management solutions recommended by the NYSDEC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which prioritize WTE over landfill use;
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled to transport ash — which reduces transport costs, vehicle maintenance costs and greenhouse gas emissions. *Annual fuel savings could equal about \$230,000. More than 2 million pounds of greenhouse gasses would be eliminated each year;*
- Ensuring that OCRRA's WTE Facility maximizes energy production through full utilization of existing capacity;
- Increasing electricity revenue at the WTE Facility — which funds OCRRA's green programs, including Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Offs, blue bin distributions, compost operations, recycling education, outreach and much more;
- Increasing Cortland County disposal revenue as well as minimizing future capital investments in landfill development;
- Maximizing Cortland County's landfill utilization and operational efficiency;
- Encouraging both counties to explore future opportunities for further collaboration.

"This is a great opportunity for OCRRA, Onondaga County, Cortland County — and our stakeholder communities, which have made OCRRA a world leader in solid waste reuse and disposal. All parties will work toward an end-goal which will be both environmentally and fiscally sound," said OCRRA Board Chairman Ravi Raman. "I look forward to working with my fellow board members and the administration at OCRRA, to fashion an agreement which will gain the solid support of both our counties and the respective communities that we serve."

"We have been working for a long time to develop strategies to increase tonnage and revenue at our facility," said Cortland County Solid Waste Committee Chair John Troy. "This long-term commitment will help Cortland County deal with new regulations and mandates coming from Albany, without saddling our taxpayers with additional costs."

"In today's economy inter-municipal cooperation is becoming an essential part of doing business," said Cortland County Administrator Martin Murphy. "This is an outstanding example of regional agencies working together to provide services to residents at an affordable cost."

OCRRA Executive Director, Mark Donnelly says, "Inter-municipal partnerships like this one create symbiotic relationships that are the wave of the future. This is clearly advantageous for NYSDEC Region 7's solid waste management and green programs. We must lead rather than follow."

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