



## Residential Bulky Rigids Case Study – Oneida-Herkimer, NY

**SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY:** Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA), NY

**WEBSITE:** [HTTP://WWW.OHSWA.ORG/RECYCLE](http://www.ohswa.org/recycle)

**POPULATION:** 298,000

**HOUSEHOLDS SERVED:** 137,000

**TYPE OF PROGRAM:** Drop-off Convenience Stations

**Recycling Materials Currently Accepted at Drop-off Stations:**

- Recyclables (single stream mix)
  - Household Garbage
  - Trash/Bulk Items
  - Appliances
  - Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)
  - Tires
  - Yard/Green Waste
  - Automobile & Household Batteries
  - Used Motor Oil
  - Antifreeze
  - Propane Cylinders
  - Electronics/Computer Equipment (Monitors, CPUs, Printers, Toner Cartridges) \*
- \*at select locations only

**EXPANDED TO BULKY RIGIDS COLLECTION: 2013**

Bulky rigid plastics are accepted at OHSWA's two residential convenience stations. The authority also accepts bulk loads by appointment from all municipalities in these two county locations as well.

**BULKY RIGIDS ACCEPTED LIST:**

- Plastic beverage crates (i.e. milk/soda/beverage crates)
- Clean plastic drums, totes and empty garbage cans

- Clean plastic buckets/pails
- Plastic toys (i.e. playhouses)
- Plastic tool and gun cases
- Plastic plant/propagation trays and flower pots
- Plastic pallets and shelving
- Plastic laundry baskets
- Plastic lawn furniture
- Plastic pet carriers, cat litter containers
- Plastic recycling bins & carts
- Large plastic water jugs (1-5 gallon)

#### **REASONS FOR EXPANDING:**

- OHSWA owns and operates their landfill and is constantly looking for new ways to reduce disposal and increase diversion from the landfill.
- Conducted research on bulky rigids plastics and found that there was a market demand for these commodities. Determined that implementing a program to accept these materials was feasible for them.
- OHSWA's program did not require major upgrades since the baler they already owned was capable of baling these collected bulky rigids.

#### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:**

- OHSWA has a phone app and website look up tool (Am I Recyclable?) that promotes their program, as well as a Recycling Educator position that helps promote all of their programs through events and [educational videos](#).
- Brochures are used to inform customers where they can recycle bulky rigids, however, they have not conducted a specific outreach program specific to bulky rigid plastics.

#### **PLASTIC RECOVERY VOLUMES:**

**TOTAL TONS RECYCLED (ALL MATERIALS): 36,800 Tons**

**TOTAL TONS OF RIGIDS PLASTICS RECYCLED: 165 Tons**

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- The program has had no major issues related to bulky rigids. The market has been strong and they have had no problems selling this commodity.
- The drop-off stations have had some contamination issues related to all materials, not specifically bulky rigid plastics, however, this has not made it difficult to market their bales.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- OHSWA has seen a lot of benefits to adding bulky rigid plastics, including increased diversion in the region, a noticeable decrease in the amount of bulky rigid plastics in the landfill, and increased overall customer satisfaction.
- It is possible for any community that wants to accept bulky rigids to set up a program. OHSWA staff did not find it to be a difficult process and is available to provide advice to other communities considering similar programs.

## EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

Information on Website:

### EXAMPLES OF BULKY RIGID PLASTICS ACCEPTED

- Plastic beverage crates (i.e. milk/soda/beverage crates)
- Clean plastic drums, totes and empty garbage cans (all sizes)
- Clean plastic buckets/pails (all sizes - metal handle acceptable)
- Plastic toys (i.e. playhouses)
- Plastic tool and gun cases
- Plastic plant/propagation trays and flower pots
- Plastic pallets and shelving
- Plastic laundry baskets
- Plastic lawn furniture
- Plastic pet carriers
- Plastic cat litter containers
- Plastic recycling bins & carts
- Large plastic water jugs (1-5 gallon)



BULKY RIGID PLASTICS CANNOT BE MIXED WITH OTHER PLASTIC RECYCLABLES.

DO NOT PLACE BULKY RIGID PLASTICS WITH YOUR CURBSIDE SET-OUT RECYCLABLES.

## [BULKY RIGID PLASTIC INFORMATIONAL VIDEO](#)

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Emily Albright**

Director of Recycling

Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority

[emilya@ohswa.org](mailto:emilya@ohswa.org)