Residential Bulky Rigs 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 mount 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

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