



What Does it Mean to be Green?

Solid Waste

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Three Points on Solid Waste

1. A fully integrated framework is essential.
2. Think outside the can or bin; who creates waste anyway and how does a waste agency reprioritize society.
3. This stuff costs money. Lots of it. Funds tied to disposal volume become oxymoronic.



Your Questions

Q: What makes a solid waste management program “green?”



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Q: What makes a solid waste management program “green?”

A: Hierarchy to greener pastures - reduce, recycle, recover for energy, and lastly landfill.

The greenest of the green strive to produce less waste. And then embrace Product Stewardship opportunities.



Q: How does Onondaga County's solid waste management system compare with other approaches to solid waste management across the state and nation, both in terms of how it is administered and physical components of it?

Q: Is our solid waste management program comparatively "green?"



How does OCRRA compare?

On a state and US national metric OCRRA compares very readily to the best.

high recycling recovery rate, a high recycling participation rate, and a low (actually net negative) green house gas footprint for solid waste management. Typical solid waste systems landfill predominantly all of their trash. The DEC has recently calculated state recycling levels to be in the high teens; OCRRA manages waste at about 5 times the state recycling average.



How does OCRRA compare?





Today after 14 years of continuous operation, the Onondaga County WTE Facility remains an integral part of OCRRA's "Resource Recovery System"

- One of top systems in state/nation/world?
- One of the top-performing facilities in the nation?
- 65% / 45% recycling rate
- Electricity for 32,000 homes; averaging 631 kWh/ton
- Only 10% of MSW volume is landfilled





Q: Is our solid waste management program comparatively “green?”

A: Let’s say it is green by US standards. But the United States leads the world in per capita waste generation. Northern Europe, Japan, and India generate far less waste per capita. From a net GHG standpoint we have a very progressive program, even on a world scale.



By sending non-recyclable trash to the WTE Facility greenhouse gas emissions are avoided.

Approximately 1 ton of trash processed prevents 1 ton of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

So in 2008, the WTE Facility avoided 348,263 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which compares to taking about 58,000 passenger vehicles off the road!





Q: Is our solid waste management program comparatively “green?”

A: *Back to Take Away Point #2, who creates waste anyway and how does a waste agency reprioritize society.* The greenest solid waste opportunities start long before it is in the trash.



Hair Raising Trends

Razing



Hair Raising Trends

Razing

In example - The evolution of
the razor

Evolution of the Razor



The old fashioned straight razor; really hard to use but made for reuse.

Evolution of the Razor



The old fashioned straight razor; really hard to use but made for reuse.

And we looked like this!

Evolution of the Razor



*Or looked like
this!*

**We never saw
Granny's legs
did we?**

Evolution of the Razor



Dad's "safety" razor. Only two nicks each day, but really recyclable!

Very cheap disposal of a few blades.

Evolution of the Razor



**The disposable razor!
Fewer nicks, easy to
use & toss the whole
deal.
Much more use of
natural resources,
more waste, and more
waste disposal cost.**

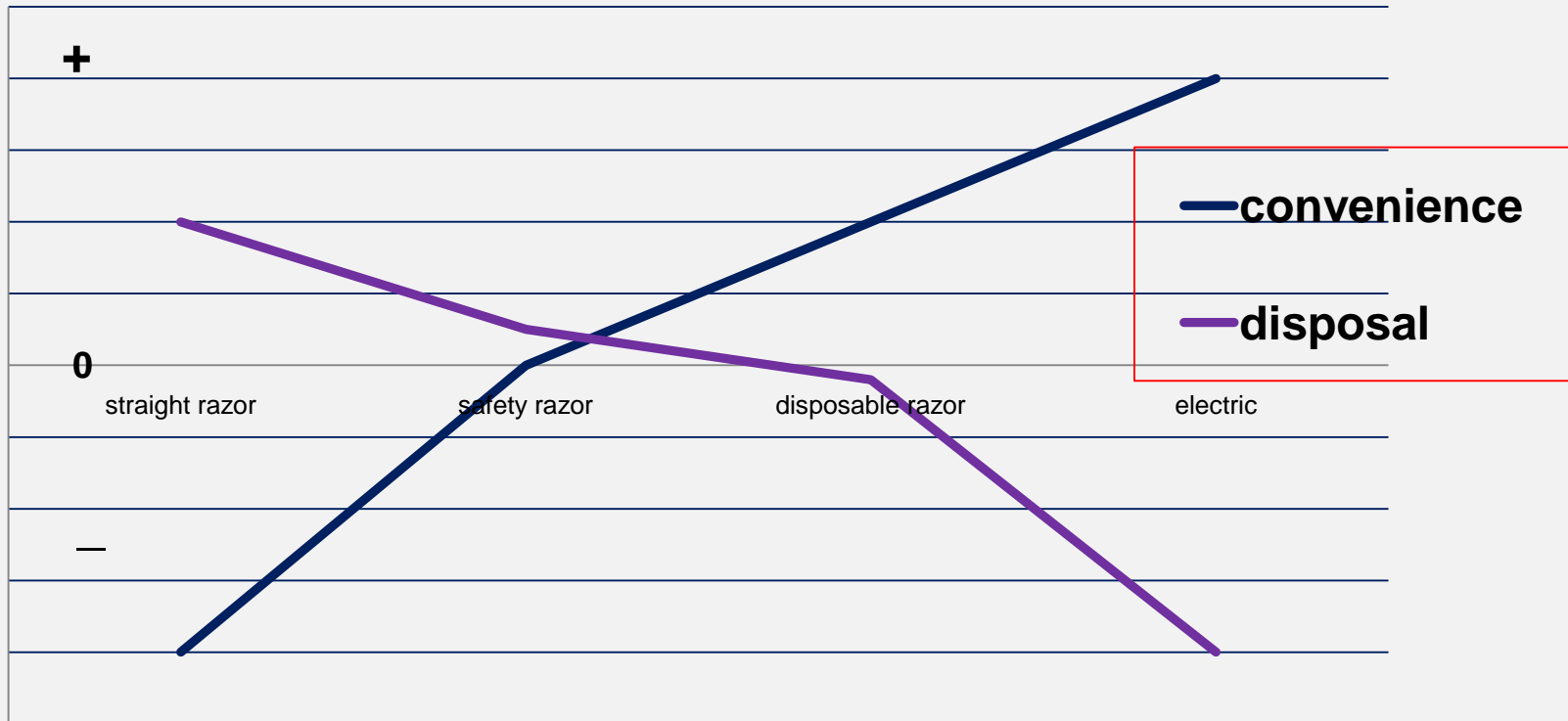
Evolution of the Razor



Convenient – shave and drive! Never a nick; lasts a few years... And then even more waste, plus some heavy metals in the battery.

Toxic trash that cannot be recycled.

Design Evolves to Embrace Commercial Attributes but Not End of Life





Q: Is our solid waste management program comparatively “green?”

A: The world’s greenest are well beyond New York, or the US, on Product Stewardship.



Q: How do local solid waste management costs and revenue streams compare with other areas across the state, and are they sustainable?



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A: OCRRA's costs compare well to other programs in the adjoining counties on a disposal cost per ton and cost per household basis.



Q: and are they (the costs) sustainable?

A: Back to my Take Away Points - #3.
**This stuff costs money. Lots of it.
Funds tied to disposal volume
become oxymoronic.**



Q: How does the make up and volume of the solid waste stream generated within Onondaga County compare with other municipal waste streams, and how does that makeup and volume impact management options?



A: OCRRA is one of a very few waste management agencies that sample and evaluate the waste stream. Nothing of special note here except that we have a high rate of recycling. All the low hanging fruit was long ago identified. We test for new markets and opportunities every three years.



Q: What roles, if any, do we as consumers and waste generators play in determining how locally generated solid waste can or must be managed?

A: Take away point #2 - *who creates waste anyway and how does a waste agency reprioritize society.* Let's work together to make Product Stewardship a reality.



Q: What additional steps can/should be taken to further reduce the amount of waste that must be managed within the county?

A: Let's work together to educate the public on choices! (BTW, Public Education costs money. See take away point #3.) Community Based Social Marketing is a desired methodology.



Q: What role do State environmental regulations play in dictating the way in which solid waste is managed locally, and are the regulations compatible with the concepts, goals and objectives of sustainability?

A: I will defer to the DEC on this question.



Q: What alternative types of facilities would be needed to enhance the community's efforts to manage solid waste in a more sustainable/green manner?

A: Local assets in waste to energy, materials recovery, and food waste composting currently exist here. In addition private initiatives here are considerable.



Q: 10/29/2009 Presentation

7 pm - 9 pm. 146 Baker Laboratory. ESF . Peter Moon of O2 Compost and Greg Gelewski of OCRRA, will give a presentation about OCRRA's food waste pilot project. This presentation will provide a project summary explaining the innovative food waste composting process at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site in Camillus. It will also cover environmental policy goals, technical elements and financial models for a full-scale operation.



Q: What more can/should be done within Onondaga County to enhance a sustainable and/or green solid waste management program?

1. Support Product Stewardship and Public Education.
2. Support Revenue Diverse funding disassociated from the receipt of trash.
3. Enhance all aspects of a fully integrated system.



Thank you!

Questions? trhoads@ocrra.org