

Published: December 19, 2008 11:00 pm, The Daily Star

OCCA offering recycling bins

The Otsego County Conservation Association is encouraging local businesses to recycle by offering two types of recycling bins at reduced prices. An outdoor bin for plastic bottles and aluminum cans features a clear plastic receptacle bag so that it will not be confused with a trash can. An indoor tandem bin is clearly marked for cans and plastic bottles on one side and for paper on the other. The retail price for both bins is \$75.

Businesses joining OCCA at the \$150 level will receive the bin of their choice, while businesses joining at the \$250 level will receive two bins, also of their choice.

"Besides the benefits of recycling, business members will receive OCCA's quarterly newsletter, reduced costs at OCCA workshops, and an invitation to OCCA's annual dinner," said Martha Clarvoe, OCCA president.

"If a business reduces its waste by recycling, it may reduce garbage hauling costs, as well," Clarvoe said.

According to Clarvoe, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has estimated that Otsego County residents recycle an average of 95 pounds per person, as compared to residents of other counties who recycle 500 to 1,000 pounds per person per year.

"A large part of our mission and our work is to encourage recycling because it decreases the use of natural resources and energy. Just think about all the materials and energy we lose when we throw away glass, plastic, paper, cardboard and the like," Clarvoe said.

An informational flier with pictures of the bins is available in the "Fliers and Brochures" section of the organization's website, www.occainfo.org. The flier also contains energy-saving tips and suggestions for waste reduction in an office setting and in a cafeteria. Information may also be obtained by calling Clarvoe at her OCCA office at 547-4020.

The Otsego County Conservation Association is a nonprofit environmental organization that promotes the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research and planning.