

# 2024 DEPARTMENT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

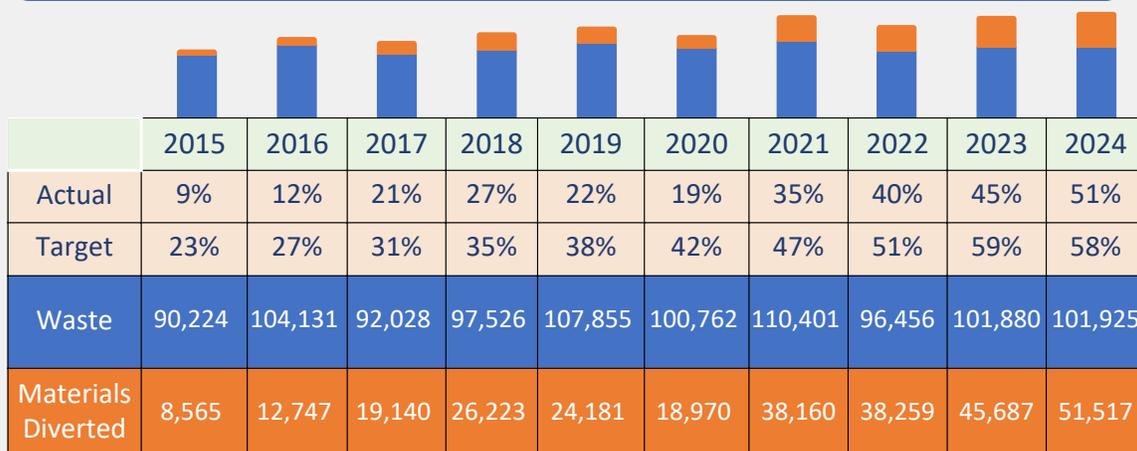
EVENTS      HOUSEHOLDS      POUNDS

Collection Events Totals	20	2,801	288,725
Household Hazardous Waste	2	909	100,292
Electronic Waste	2	654	62,521
Pumpkin (and more)	6	132	7,042
Paper Shredding	4	584	27,970
Residential Tire	3	311	55,420
Mattress	2	113	30,480
Rigid Plastics	1	98	5,000

## MUNICIPALITY PARTICIPATION



## Annual Waste and Diversion Rate in Tons



Waste diversion percentage is calculated by taking the total tons of material recycled divided by the total tons of waste generated within the county.

## What's new with plastics recycling?

- Thermoform plastics and plastic cups were added to the list of accepted materials for recycling. As a result, the Department updated signage, website content, and outreach to inform residents and businesses of the program change.
- A new pilot event to collect rigid and bulky plastics for recycling was held. These materials are too large to be recycled with your household recycling. Over 5,000 pounds of plastics were recycled at the event.



Ontario County  
Bulky and Rigid  
Plastics Recycling



# Program Development

In 2024 the Ontario County Can Carrier Collection Program, the first of its kind in the Finger Lakes region, was developed and launched. The program aims to make collection of plastic can carriers, which are frequently used to package aluminum cans, as convenient as possible for residents and businesses that use them. In the first 9 months of the program over 30,000 can carriers were collected for reuse.



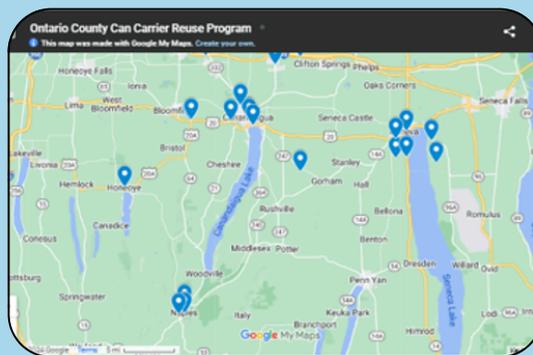
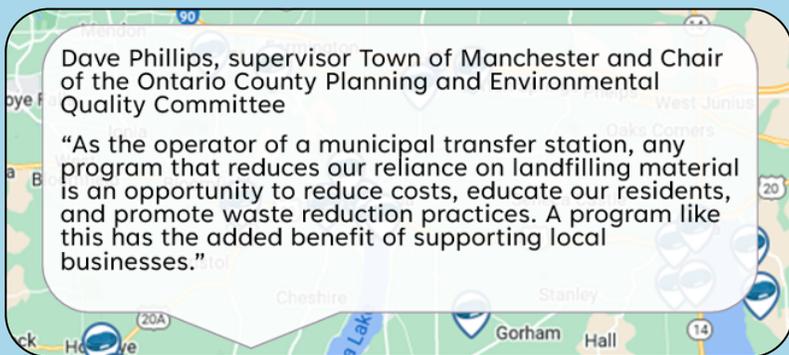
Despite the labeling, plastic can carrier handles can't be recycled with your household recycling. You can do your part to keep these handles out of the landfill or from clogging up the recycling stream by dropping them off at local collection point to be reused or recycled through a special program. Visit our [website](#) to find a collection location near you.

Responsible waste management, including recycling systems, are not a one size fits all solution. There continues to be a growing interest and need for special collection programs for hard to dispose of materials.



**Good for the Planet** - Reduce the number of new can carriers needed by reusing existing stock. This is the best use for the material because it does not need to be reprocessed. It has a significant environmental benefit by reducing the carbon emissions associated with the manufacture and transportation of new can carriers as well as reducing the reliance on landfills.

**Good for Breweries and Business** - Opportunity to reduce costs by reusing material instead of purchasing new as well as a reduction in disposal costs. Sustainability practices promote commitment to creating a better community locally and attract customers to businesses.



The Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management was selected to present about the program development and implementation at the 2024 New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3) Annual Conference. NYSAR3 provides statewide leadership on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices.

# Landfill Alternatives Analysis Study

At its December 5, 2024 meeting, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved two resolutions that will shape the future of solid waste management in Ontario County.

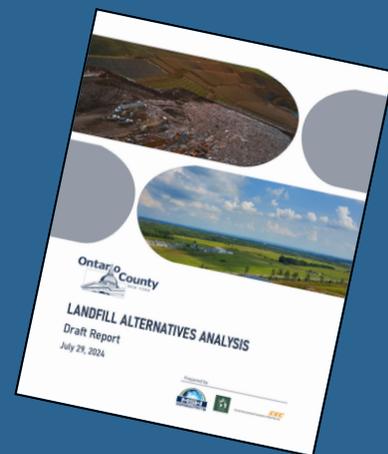


The first resolution memorializes the policy decision to close the Ontario County landfill by December 31, 2028, when the current operations and management lease agreement expires. The second resolution instructs the County's Department of Sustainability and Solid Waste Management to continue and advance efforts to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste within Ontario County and increase waste diversion efforts.

In order to make this decision the BOS commissioned a comprehensive analysis to provide the BOS with data and factual information aimed at helping them to make informed decisions about the landfill's future.

This detailed report included:

- Historic and current landfill operational data,
- Waste management processes and potential costs if the landfill is closed, and
- Potential alternative landfill site uses, whether the landfill is closed or remains open.



As part of the outreach for the study and for decision making purposes, a website was developed, 3 public meetings were held, informational videos and podcasts were recorded, and opportunities for public comment were provided. To view the full study and additional resources visit

[OCLandfillFuture.org](http://OCLandfillFuture.org)

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2024



The County collected 1,035 solar eclipse glasses from the Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management, the Emergency Management Office, and Finger Lakes Visitors Connect to be donated for reuse.

The Department added 1309 new email subscribers. This helps to drive participation in programs, keeps residents informed, and supports diversion efforts.

**SIGN UP**



The Department held a record number of special collection events (20) and had record participation (2,801 households) again in 2024.

The Department also participated in 26 tabling events, presentations, and community events.



Kaitlynn McCumiskey, Department Educator, teaching Ontario County 6th graders at Conservation Field Days at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills about recycling, composting, reuse, waste disposal, and more!

### Organics

**Backyard Composting program:** Ontario County sold 416 backyard composting kits during its 2024 sales. To date over 2,200 backyard composting kits have been distributed through County funded programs. It's estimated that 30% of household waste is compostable, the utilization of backyard composting systems has the potential to divert millions of pounds of waste from the landfill every year.

**School Programs:** In 2024 Department funding provided the following opportunities:

- Midlakes Middle School and High School started the diversion of food waste and organics collection in March.
- Both Red Jacket and Geneva school districts had waste assessments conducted.

\$15,589.48 in funding has been provided to school districts since 2019, much of this has been used toward the creation and support of organics collection programs and waste assessments. Eight out of the nine school districts have completed a waste assessment and 3 have active organics diversion programs. To date schools have diverted over 30,000 pounds of food waste for composting.

School Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 *to date	Total Pounds
Marcus Whitman CSD	4,428	498	3,444	2,995	6,655	3,462	21,482
Midlakes CSD					5,656	3,925	9,581
Naples Central School	Has a program, but data is not available.						

To see what else we've been up to, visit [OntarioCountyRecycles.org](https://OntarioCountyRecycles.org) or scan the QR Code

