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## News Release

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### **Ontario County Board of Supervisors Share Draft Report on Future Landfill Operations**

ONTARIO COUNTY, New York – August 23, 2024

During its August 22 meeting, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors (BOS) announced that it will share the draft findings of a comprehensive report commissioned in 2023 to evaluate county landfill operations and explore options for solid waste management after 2028. This is when the landfill's current operations and management lease agreement is set to expire, and the permitted capacity is expected to be reached.

The 300-page **Landfill Alternatives Analysis** report, prepared by national solid waste and landfill management specialists MSW Consultants, presents the results of an 18-month examination of the county's solid waste and landfill practices. The report outlines alternative scenarios for refuse management, including expansion of the current landfill, siting a new landfill, incineration, landfill closure, and development of a transfer station for hauling waste to landfill sites outside Ontario County.

“Solid waste management is as essential to a community as water, gas, or electric utilities, and the Board of Supervisors is reviewing all options for the continued, reliable, and environmentally responsible management of solid waste for Ontario County residents,” said Ontario County Board of Supervisors Chairman Todd Campbell. “This study provides a comprehensive assessment of our waste management practices, best industry standards, and practical options for the Board's consideration.”

Ontario County's landfill, located along Routes 5 and 20 in the Town of Seneca, has been in operation since 1974. In 2003, a landfill operations and management lease agreement was extended to Casella Waste Systems for a 25-year period starting on January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2028. The county's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has also operated at the landfill site under Casella's management since 2005.

For consideration, the report introduces the use of the current landfill site to construct an anaerobic digester for food waste. The report also presents concepts for renewable energy alternatives such as solar, wind, and battery storage opportunities at the landfill site should it be permanently closed.

### **Community Impact and Input**

Changes to the county's waste management programs after 2028 will likely alter residential garbage and recycling practices and service rates. To address these topics and share the landfill study's findings, the BOS launched a website dedicated to the landfill at [oclangfillfuture.org](http://oclangfillfuture.org). In addition to providing access to the full draft landfill report, the website summarizes key report findings on a variety of topic areas and offers an option for residents to submit their questions. The website is an evolving resource, with more materials to be added in the coming weeks. Additionally, the BOS will host community meetings, which will be announced in the coming weeks.

"My colleagues and I are encouraging residents to become informed and to ask questions about the landfill and the future of waste management in our County," said Chairman Campbell. "This decision will affect every town, city, and village, and we hope residents will engage in learning more."

The Board of Supervisors is expected to decide on the landfill's future before the end of 2024.

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