



Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

New Year, New You! Wasting Less in 2018

From the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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As we start the New Year, we welcome our New Year's resolutions ranging from eating healthier to saving money to learning a new skill or hobby. This year, why not make a resolution to support waste reduction?

Reducing your waste doesn't have to be an all or nothing goal. Try just one or two of these simple ideas to make changes that can help you keep a waste reduction lifestyle.

Think Reuseables

- Pack environmentally friendly, **zero waste lunches**. Use reusable containers for sandwiches and snacks, bring reusable cutlery and carry it all in a reusable lunch box rather than a single use plastic bag or container.
- Carry a **reusable water bottle**. Not only will you reduce your waste, but you'll save money.
- Invest in **rechargeable batteries** and recycle them when they've reached the end of their useful life.
- Use a **reusable coffee mug**. Some stores give a discount for bringing your own mug.

Purchases

- Sharing is caring. Ask to borrow an item from family and friends before purchasing something new. Is there a **local tool lending library** in your area?
 - Try to **repair** items before you replace them with newly purchased items. Explore repair cafes in your surrounding area.
- **Reduce packaging waste**. Buy in bulk, look for items packaged in recyclable materials and avoid individually packaged and over-packaged goods.



- Buy items made with **post-consumer recycled content material**. This helps to make sure what we put in our recycling bins gets turned into something new.

Go Paperless

- Convert to online billing and save payment confirmations electronically.
- Refrain from printing emails or online material. Recycling paper is great, but it takes energy to recycle and produce new paper.
- Cancel subscriptions you no longer read, or subscribe to the electronic version of your favorite news source.
- Remove your name from junk mail and catalog mailing lists.
- Opt Out of a receiving a phone book.

Food Waste

- **Reduce food waste**. Plan your meals,

serve leftovers or incorporate them in a new recipe.

- Learn more about **product dating** and common misconceptions. What is the difference between "best if used by" vs. "sell by" vs. "use by"?
- Learn how to **store** your food for prolonged freshness and a longer shelf life.
- Bring a **reusable container** for your restaurant leftovers.
- Start **composting** your food scraps in your backyard compost pile or contact your local hauler to see what services are available.



Along with making a waste reduction resolution, why not try setting a goal to be a better recycler too! We wish you all a less wasteful, healthy, and happy new year!

Waste Diversion and Recycling Become Ontario County Priorities

This is the first in a series of articles from the Environmental Conservation Board and related organizations on waste diversion and recycling, which have become priorities. In 2014, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors adopted the Local Solid Waste Management Plan with the goal of reducing the amount of solid waste generated in the county by 60 percent by 2024 in preparation of the closing of the Ontario County Landfill in 2028. Municipalities are now implementing initiatives to inform the public and encourage recycling. Please join this effort and watch for future articles.