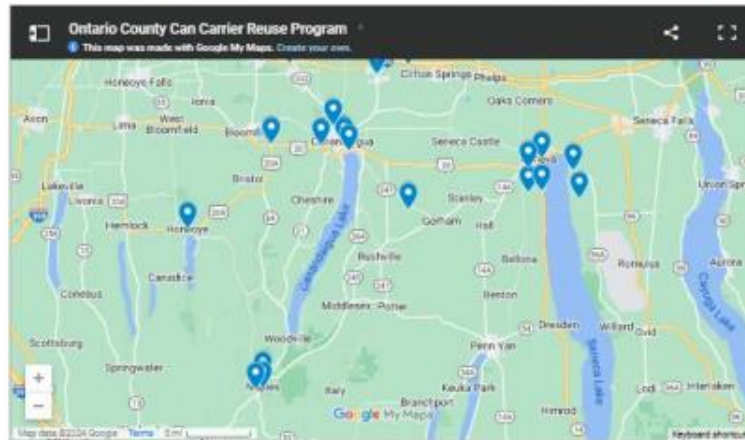


Sustainability & Solid Waste Management



The Ontario County Can Carrier Collection Program is the first of its kind in the Finger Lakes region, which boasts a robust craft beverage industry. Many aluminum cans are now packaged with plastic can carrier handles at purchase. Unfortunately, the handles are not able to be recycled with single stream recycling as they pose a challenge for recycling facilities. Due to the light weight and flat shape of these materials, the equipment utilized by recycling facilities cannot efficiently separate the can carriers out for reuse. This presents an issue as the labeling on the can carrier products instructs consumers to “please recycle.”

The program aims to make collection of the plastic can carriers as convenient as possible for residents and business that use them. To do this, Ontario County Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management is recruiting business and municipal partners to serve as collection points. The goal of the program is to collect used can carrier handles so that they may be sanitized and reused by local breweries. Can carriers that are broken or otherwise unusable will also be accepted at participating collection points and will be separated out to be baled and recycled.

There are currently 23 participating collection locations, with a number of them also committing to reusing the collected carriers. Participating locations include breweries, retail locations, and some municipal transfer stations.

