

*Public Hearing
Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020
September 23, 2020*

The Public Hearing on Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020 A Local Law establishing the Tioga County Mandatory Source Separation Law commencing January 1, 2021, and repealing Local Law No. 2 of the Year 1992, enacted on August 1, 1992, entitled Tioga County Recycling and Source Separation Law was called to order by the Chair at 6:05 P.M. All nine Legislative members were present.

There were 42 people in attendance with an additional 83 people participating via Zoom.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "The presenter for this public hearing on Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020 known as Tioga County Mandatory Source Separation Law is Dr. Ellen Pratt, Tioga County Sustainability Manager."

Dr. Ellen Pratt, Tioga County Sustainability Manager spoke. "Good Evening. Thank you for coming out tonight and for all of you who are listening to us on Zoom. I will be reviewing the history of the 1992 Local Law known as Tioga County Recycling and Source Separation and why it needs to be updated. I will also review Tioga County Recycling Program including current bid results. There are two things being combined together that I am going to separate out. One is the 2020 Local Law Source Separation and the other is the countywide recycling bid results and the program going forward.

"New York State Solid Waste Act of 1988 requires all counties to adopt local laws or ordinances requiring the separation and segregation of recyclable and reusable materials from solid waste.

"In 1992, Tioga County passed the local law known as Tioga County Recycling and Source Separation. This requires recyclable and reusable materials to be separated and segregated from garbage. We need to update the 1992 local law because we need to ensure recycling continues in Tioga County and we need to remove dated information such as the Solid Waste District, which is referred to in the document.

"In 1992, Tioga County initiated the Countywide Curbside Recycling Program. Our current program is weekly countywide curbside recycling. The current contract expires at the end of this year. We went out to bid in June 2020. The lowest bid was more than double the current cost. This bid was for bi-weekly

service instead of our current weekly. The increase is \$1.26 million dollars annually. So, for perspective, the lowest bid was \$2.48 million dollars per year, which is \$12.4 million dollars over the five-year contract.

"You may still be asking what's the problem. Again, the cost of the program will more than double. New York State has a 2% property tax cap. Based on 2020 budget numbers, the new cost equates to 5.1% increase for just recycling. If the County is over the tax cap it negatively impacts the receipt of any State grants that are contingent upon staying at this tax cap such as Raise the Age.

"So, what do other counties do? From our research, only three out of the 62 counties in New York State have countywide curbside recycling funded through their county. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 7 only two. Tioga and Tompkins Counties provide countywide curbside recycling. Most counties do not provide countywide curbside recycling. They require private haulers and municipalities that provide garbage pickup to also collect recycling. Private haulers and local municipalities that collect garbage curbside must also collect recycling curbside. If you do not have curbside garbage collection, residents that bring their garbage to a transfer station or landfill will need to bring their recycling with them and place it in the appropriate location.

"The proposed recycling program, for those of you who drop your garbage off at one of the local transfer stations, you can drop your recycling off in the recycling containers there. If your garbage is collected at your curb, the hauler you choose will be providing recycling likely with a surcharge. If your municipality collects your garbage, they will provide recycling collection.

"Your recycling line item will be removed from your 2021 property tax bill.

"We can all reduce, reuse, recycle and compost. Thank you.

"For comments, submission can be submitted electronically at recyclingcomments@co.tioga.ny.us through October 1, 2020.

"A PDF of this presentation will be on the County website at www.tiogacountyny.com. Thank you."

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "Thank you, Ellen. For those who signed up to speak, I will call your name in the order of your arrival."

Esther Woods – Nichols, NY spoke. "Hi, my name is Esther Woods and I am from Nichols, NY. I am a business owner of a garbage company, so my question is if we pick up recycling, which we have never done before, where do we go with

the recycling. I know Taylor's own the recycling centers, but do they have to take recycling from us, for a fee I understand. Will Taylor Garbage take recycling from other garbage haulers and, if so, what is the cost to take recycling to their facility? I was hoping one of the Taylor's would be here this evening, but they are not. When I was talking to a gentleman here this evening, he was saying they have not come up with a cost yet. It would be advantageous to know what the cost would be because it is only three months away, so it is kind of a scramble for some of us local haulers to try to come quickly now with a way we are going to run for the recycling. I understand that we will have to pass this cost on to the customer and that is going to be another problem. I already have customers calling and asking if they have to pay for this. I kind of told them I wasn't sure because at this point I have not heard whether the small private haulers have to pay to get rid of the recycling. They are questioning how much more, if any, they will be charged per month for the recycling. I understand that it is probably going to be once a month or maybe every other week because it is probably going to be too much of a cost to run every single week to pick up the recycling. As a resident of Nichols, NY, honestly I would pay more in my taxes to have the recycling. On our road, there is probably 15 houses and I see every week at least four or five have no trash service, so I am not sure if they are taking their garbage to a transfer station or work. I do not know, but they do put out recycling. So, if they do not have trash service and not getting the free recycling, I am afraid that is all going to go in the trash. I think people are going to be dissuaded from recycling and it is going to be put in the garbage more than the Legislature is aware of. That is going to cause an issue with the landfill. They do not want recycling in the trash. These are my concerns as a business owner and resident of Tioga County. Thank you."

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "I forgot to mention that this meeting is on Zoom, therefore, your images will be captured at the podium. If you are uncomfortable with having your picture shown then you should not speak in front of the microphone. This hearing is also being recorded so all comments will be on record."

Jim Tornatore – Newark Valley, NY spoke. "Hello Legislators, it has been awhile since I have talked to you the last time. I am here not questioning the process by the County. I am here to seek assistance because I represent the Village of Newark Valley, we are a trash hauler currently, and we will continue to be. We have sought information from Taylor Garbage, Dr. Pratt, County Attorney DeWind, and guidance from Legislator Sullivan. We have some information so far and right now, we have options that I have shared with our trustees. The reason for me coming here tonight is not for any of that because we have to get moving on. We will rely on the RFP's by the County possibly and whatever we do, we hope, with attorney advice, that it be an emergency declaration to do what we do without the normal process. With that being said, what we do seek and request is additional help by Tioga County for the numbers. I am an accountant, so I

understand the numbers, but I do not know history. Taylor Garbage has picked up for years curbside in the Village of Newark Valley, but it is not separate. They have no idea what the tonnage is for the village. So, in quick conversation with them, I am possibly requesting a short-term contract to be revised later. What I am seeking though is as much information as the County can provide through Dr. Pratt as to the revenue and expense side although I guess for now we are going to ignore the revenue because I am guessing there is no revenue and maybe not for the foreseeable future either. So, that is what I am asking for. I am asking for assistance by the County and a little guidance by the County on what they know from history that we do not know. That is all I have. Thank you for listening."

Ann Mallozzi – Apalachin, NY spoke. "Yes, I am Ann Mallozzi of Long Creek Road in Apalachin. I am here on behalf of 625 residents who signed my petition. I started a petition on Change.org at 12:00 this afternoon and by 6:00 p.m. I had 625 signatures. I am going to read you the petition. The petition is to the Tioga County Legislature. The Tioga County Legislature wants to end the highly successful countywide recycling program and replace it with a system of each owner responsible to find a way to recycle at the owner's cost. We, the undersigned, want Tioga County to continue the very popular countywide curbside recycling. Without curbside recycling, it will be more expensive and inconvenient to recycle."

Doug Barton – Owego, NY spoke. "My name is Doug Barton and I am from the Town of Owego in Tioga County and I want to thank you for this opportunity. I would like to read three quotes. The first, 'the difference recycling makes is a big deal'. The second quote, 'recycling supports local jobs and helps keep prices lower on the goods you buy every day'. The third quote, 'it conserves energy and produces less pollution protecting our environment'. These are your words. They come from your website. I agree with those words and since it is on your website, I have to believe that you also believe in what you have told the taxpayers of the County for the last several years. The plan to discontinue the current recycling program is not in the best interest of the residents of our County. It is shortsighted and may not save the taxpayers money in the long run. My understanding is that the low bid, submitted by Taylor Garbage, was commensurate with what other municipalities are paying for recycling. This was researched by your Sustainability Coordinator, so it is not a matter of this not being a fair bid. The County has a long history of successful recycling with Taylor Garbage. The bid was rejected because it was about twice as much as the previous bid. This is the result of expenses going up and the market for recycled products going down. You have told the taxpayers the good news is that your taxes are going down, but you have not done any homework on the ultimate cost to the taxpayers and what that choice will be. The average house in the Town of Owego that has a market value of \$100,000 pays less than \$1.00 per week under the current program. Double that and it will be less than \$2.00. Less than a gallon of gas that they will use to haul recycling to the drop

site. Some people may not be motivated to recycle. Some will try to mix it in with their garbage, which is by the way illegal. Haulers will not be allowed to haul this mix to landfills. Landfills will begin to refuse garbage from Tioga County haulers. Some will burn it in their backyards, not a welcome activity for their neighbors. Some will mix their garbage in with their recyclables at unmonitored drop-offs. Some will deposit their papers, bottles, and cans along our roadways. Tourism's new motto 'Welcome to the litter gateway of the Finger Lakes'. In the long run, it may not save us money and it is fraught with a multitude of potential issues. But, what I find very disappointing about this is how little information and discussion have been presented to those of us who pay the bill and are most affected by this decision. Where was the foresight or the courage to make this more public earlier in the process? 20,000 recycle stops are made that includes households and businesses. Are retail stores going to haul their many boxes to a drop-off? Are restaurants going to haul hundreds of bottles and cans to a drop-off? What will they pay for that service? The current economy of scale will not help them. I understand and respect the difficult decisions the Legislature has to make. In the past, you have had the courage to increase taxes for the many Departments and services that are important to a vibrant and sustainable community. Please have the courage to increase taxes to support this, as you put it, 'a big deal'. Sometimes it costs money to do the right thing. Thank you."

Cynthia Herrick – Richford, NY spoke. "Hello, I would like to speak in opposition to County of Tioga Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020. My name is Cynthia Herrick. I am a resident of the Town of Richford where I am also on the town board and serve as the Deputy Supervisor. I am going to respond as a resident, a town official, and a taxpayer. As a resident, I appreciate that the convenience of curbside recycling encourages recycling. This law change by making recycling less convenient encourages sending recyclables to landfills, which is environmentally backward and wasteful or the burning of recyclables, which is wasteful, releases toxins into the air, and is illegal in the form of open burning in the spring every year. In Richford, few people use a garbage service. The town provides a garbage truck for residents to bring garbage for a fee. This law would require what for us as residents, for us each to take our recyclable to a central recycling facility in Owego or Barton. Will there be a transfer station in northern Tioga County? Driving our recycling so far is unrealistic and maximizes costs to residents from far-flung towns like Richford. The Legislature is supposed to represent us too. As a town board member and Deputy Supervisor, I am concerned about the impact this law would have on our town and taxes. Will the town be required to accept recyclables since we have a garbage truck, which is a registered transfer station? We do not have the infrastructure to accept recyclables nor the manpower or fuel budget to bring them to a distant recycling facility or to hire a company to bring the materials for us. Shifting this cost to the town would require a significant increase in taxes, which is unlikely to be offset by the decrease in county taxes. We are also not being given sufficient time as a town

to plan this out to start January 1st. We would have to pass a law to exceed the tax cap, explore all the alternatives, come up with a budget, and acquire a truck or container all before January 1, 2021. As a taxpayer, I am opposed to this law because I understand the concept of economies of scale. The larger the recycling operation the more economically and necessarily can be. This law increases total costs and/or taxes by eliminating the savings of having a large scale and pushes those higher costs on to the towns or individuals. I urge the Legislature to vote against County of Tioga Local Law B. It is bad for the residents and taxpayers of Richford and is happening too quickly."

Mike Phelps – Owego, NY spoke. "He answered my questions. No comment."

Kevin Millar – Owego, NY spoke. "Thank you for this opportunity to speak. Nobody likes to raise taxes and I am sure the Legislature even more than the normal person does. I would like to say that the cost of recycling to the County is a known number. The costs to residents is an unknown number. It could turn out to be more expensive to do away with this law for residents than to keep it. The cost for a resident who lives ten miles away from a transfer station at the current operating cost of .59 cents per mile if they go every two weeks is going to cost them \$300.00 a year. The cost of recycling is minimized for residents and businesses with a one county system with operational scales that help minimize the cost for everybody. Increased recycling is probably going to end up in the waste stream, which is not good for anybody. I would just like to remind the Legislature that recycling was not started by a bunch of starry-eyed environmentalists; it was started by the Legislature making a hard-headed decision to decrease the waste stream and landfill costs were going up. Thank you."

Rich Rogers – Spencer, NY spoke. "Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I live in Spencer, I am a retired Spencer-Van Etten schoolteacher, and I am presently on the Spencer-Van Etten School Board. As an educator, as someone who has dedicated their lives to children and teaching children and the importance of what we as adults do with our children, I think there are some significant reasons why you should consider continuing recycling in this county. For one, I did not realize that Tompkins and Tioga were the only two counties in this area that do this and I am very proud of that we can actually say that we offer this service. It is significant. So, for many reasons we have been teaching children the importance of recycling and why is that. It is because we know that all the stuff we humans consume every day when we are done with it basically two things happen. Number one, it gets recycled or it goes to a landfill. We know that landfills all across the entire planet, not just in this country, are significant contributors to methane in the atmosphere. We know methane is one of the major greenhouse gases whether you are a climate change denier or whether you believe it or not, science tells us that the earth right now is in a pretty serious place. All you need to

do is look at what is happening with the fires in Washington, Oregon, and California. Look at the impact of the hurricanes in the south. We know that the climate is changing. It is determined by human behavior. So, we as a school district and throughout New York, have been working to teach children the importance of what they do with the stuff that they bring to school every day. I would like to be proud to say that in Spencer-Van Etten we have a compost program where all our food waste is collected and it is composted at the high school, which is significant. So, the importance of keeping stuff out of landfills is significant because of the consequences of that. So, by recycling in this county every single family with a child or grandchild in Tioga County may not be able to stop the fires out west, they may not be able to stop the hurricanes or the flooding in the south, but they can make a contribution at an individual family level by recycling. It is something you can do. It is a choice. So, it is very important that I feel that you as a Legislature continue to support that effort by allowing the recycling to continue. I know you have a fiscal responsibility to try and keep your budget out of the red. I would ask that most families would take a tax and pay more to continue recycling because it is so significant in what it means and I hope that you will not let this program go, but to keep the recycling in the county. Thank you."

Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "Before I close this hearing, is there anyone else that wants to speak?"

Sister Mary O'Brien – Owego, NY spoke. "I just want to say that I learned new information by coming to this meeting tonight. I listened to Esther speak about being a hauler and not having adequate time or information for a big business venture. I, as a citizen who values recycling very much, was appalled when I first learned about it. I understand the immense increase for that service, but like Mr. Rogers from Spencer-Van Etten who spoke about our youth, I thought what will we say to our youth. Our youth are our teachers when it comes to saving our planet. What will our County say about this decision? I would agree that an increase in taxes, of course I do not pay taxes so it easy for me to say an increase in taxes, but I do think that if people were given a choice whether to drop this wonderful service that we have been accustomed to or suddenly finding lots of stuff in our landfill. It will be in our landfill, I can assure you. I am limited to Owego in my walking, but I look at those recycle bins and I see them and I know exactly where they are going to be found. I think we need more time. We need more information before such an important decision is made. Thank you."

With no additional comments, the public hearing adjourned at 6.37 p.m.

The following are written comments (unedited) received through recyclingcomments@co.tioga.ny.us following tonight's Zoom presentation through October 1, 2020:

1. We will be attending your public hearing via Zoom this evening. We urge you to **not** destroy the curbside recycling program that Tioga County has already in place. It is absolutely insane to get rid of a program which helps the environment and which county residents participate in. We encourage the county to think outside the box and work with bidders to find a solution.

If Taylor Garbage is the only bid at the moment, let's work with them to find solutions to the problems they are facing as recyclers. We all know the market is changing and that we as a nation must work together to find markets for recyclables and or figure out other methods of not filling our landfills or the oceans with this garbage. Simply shipping our recyclables to other poorer countries is not the solution.

We started to do some research on what other counties and states were doing but just did not have the time to explore options. However, the county has an economic development department staff or other resources that could do the research. Ending the program and expecting people to pay their haulers to handle the recycling or bring it to the recycling center isn't saving dollars, it is only pushing the increased costs on your taxpayers in another way. Of course, we all know that most people will not pay the extra costs and the recyclables will just end up in the garbage.

Taking care of our planet does cost money. We do have a program that works in place. Taylor Garbage or other haulers do face increased costs. They are also recovering from a disastrous fire. However, they are a business that provides jobs and is from the local area, let's support them.

Please think outside the box. Please be creative and do not get rid of this important service. We already lost a bus service in Tioga County because no one seemed able to think outside the box and come up with a creative solution. Meanwhile, neighboring counties continue the service.

Sincerely,
Robert and Cheryll Berg
Candor, New York

2. I do not want to attend a meeting where there will probably be a lot of angry people, but do want to voice my concerns about this new recycling law. I live in Richford where I have to take my garbage down to the town barn. I am 70 and cannot be carrying down a tote full of recyclables. Nor can I afford to pay a trash hauler \$65 every 3 mos. just to get rid of recyclables (if anyone even picks up where I live). We the people, have been having to change our entire way of living, and now you want to institute yet another change that, it appears, will not be financially or physically beneficial. When will "we the people" become a true concern for government instead of treating us like a herd of cattle to do with as you wish. I do hope this email will be read tonight at the meeting. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Sikorski

3. I am firmly against having the county drop their recycling contract. I am afraid the some residents in the county will not recycle and will put recycle materials in with their garbage. This will increase the county waste stream and lead to additional cost for disposal. I recommend the county continue to contract for recycling even if it means a tax increase.

James Fields
Apalachin, NY

4. So, the county won't contract for recycling due to cost but residents must contract for it themselves. Either way it will cost residents more. This makes no sense. And, to limit a meeting that was not well publicized to 35 people is outrageous! There are larger venues for a public meeting. How about Hickories Park or the town hall parking lot? The legislature is not working for its constituents!

N. Vasicek

5. The new local law regarding mandatory source separation refers only to the requirements and fines:

- The residents have been given no information as to the costs for private hauling of their recyclable materials.
- If residents opt to take their recycling to the transfer station themselves, there will be additional costs incurred with regard to gasoline, as well as air pollution.
- Many residents will not make arrangements with private haulers. It will be difficult to enforce penalties for those who do not comply and the waste will just end up in the landfill.

- If weekly or biweekly pickup is too expensive, what about going to a monthly pickup service?

The Tioga County recycling program is one that we can be proud of. Please keep it that way.

Thank you.
Andrea DelNero
Owego, NY

6. Leslie Anne King, voting citizen of Tioga County. I am OK with the rules on separation of recyclables, but am opposed to shifting the cost burden to individuals. The total cost to individuals will very likely be higher than the \$114 per household that is projected in the County documents, as we will not have the economies of scale or the bargaining power that the County does. Therefore, I do not see how the Legislature is acting in the best interests of those that they represent. County taxes are spread over the entire community where the benefit resides.

Tioga County Rural Ministry sees transportation for work, school, and medical services as a very large problem for the poor in Tioga County. The poor certainly cannot afford to hire a service to haul their recyclables. In addition, in many cases they do not have the transportation to haul it themselves.

The environment is critical to my grandchildren's quality of life. The shifting of recyclables to the oversubscribed trash system is a large step backwards. As an environmentalist, I think it is wrong for Tioga County to discourage residents from recycling. Putting the cost of recycling on individual households will discourage many residents from recycling their waste. I did notice that the haulers are required to refuse to pick up trash with recycling in it, I can't see where or how or by whom that will be enforced

Regarding the 2% cap on tax increase. The Legislature could call a referendum and get permission. It would take a sales job but would surely be worth the effort.

With thanks for your work and for reading the comments.

Leslie Anne King
Owego, NY

7. See attached files, which contain my comments regarding the proposed Mandatory Source Separation Law for which a public hearing was held this evening, 23 September 2020, and the comment period is through 01 October 2020.

Comments Regarding Proposed Tioga
County Mandatory Source Separation Law
Public Hearing 23 September 2020

Summary

As written, the proposed law is flawed, unenforceable, and costly. It will have consequences (intended or otherwise) which are undesirable. There is a better alternative, which is to form a municipal (i.e. county wide) special district for solid waste management, which is funded by a benefit assessment tax (as opposed to an *ad velorem* property assessment tax).

Flaws

Definition of Solid Waste

Proposed local law Section 4.A references "Title 6 Part 360 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Solid Waste Management Facilities, as amended" for definition of terms. Section 4.B contains a definition of "Solid Waste" which is inconsistent with 6 CRR-NY 360. Moreover, "Waste" (as opposed to "Solid Waste") is used in the local law. The definition of "Waste" would therefore default to the definition in 6 CRR-NY 360.2(a)(1) which states:

Solid waste or waste means, except as described in paragraph (3) of this subdivision, discarded materials including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material, resulting from industrial, municipal, commercial, institutional, mining or agricultural operations or from residential activities including materials that are recycled or that may have value.

Note that recyclable materials are specifically included, not excluded, in this 6 CRR-NY 360 definition.

Ambiguities and Confusions

In addition to the ambiguity in definition of Solid Waste

- It is unclear as to the difference between "Waste Generator" and "Generator", which is defined in 6 CRR-NY 360.2(b)(122).
- In Section 6.A it is unclear who keeps records.

- Document alpha-numeric references break down for “Multifamily buildings and complexes”, “Residential/commercial (institutional) and industrial waste and recyclables”, and “Penalties for Waste Haulers”.
- In Section 6 and Section 7, the word “article” is used repeatedly. Does “article” refer only to the subject section, or to Section 8.D and E or to some other specific section or sections? See also Section 8.G.Mandatory Source Separation Section 5.A contains the word “placement”, which is not a verb. It is unclear as to the implied second imperative after the word “and”.
- Section 5.B contains the word “published” without specifying how.
- Section 5.C is a definition. It belongs in Section 4.B.
- [others]

Unintended Consequences

Validity Suspect

This proposed local law mandates actions and monetary expense on persons (and perhaps entities) who are not capable of compliance. The validity of such law is suspect.

Consider the indigent—a poor or destitute—person, of which there are many in Tioga County. An indigent person cannot afford a Waste Hauler and cannot afford personal transportation of recyclables. Recyclables are usually more than half of the household solid waste stream. Because recyclables are part of the household waste stream, they will be disposed with the rest. The recyclables (and other trash) will either be burned or dumped. In either case, the environmental consequence is the antithesis of recycling’s purpose. Is Tioga County prepared to increase its subsidies to the poor to include increased Waste Hauler fees?

Consideration of Duplex Homes

The proposed local law does not consider the distinction of an owner occupied multifamily building (two families) from a larger apartment building. It imposes an unnecessary requirement for a “recycling drop off”.

Cost to Residents Increases

Removing curbside recycling fees from the Tioga County budget does not remove the cost to the taxpayer. On the contrary, because the average taxpayer does not have the bargaining power of the County, it is likely that the sum of costs of recycling to the taxpayer will be higher than the taxes paid for the same service.

While the cost of recycling under the proposed law for householders would be difficult (but not impossible) to estimate, it is easy to see that it would be higher than the estimated County run program at \$114 per year per household. Taylor’s

costs will be passed on Waste Haulers who will take a profit and pass the cost on to householders. The more hands that costs pass through, the higher the price to the consumer.

A simple low-ball model for me, a householder who chooses to "do it yourself", is:

Page **2** of **4**

Mandatory Source Separation

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$5.75 | 10 mile round trip; Federal mileage expense rate |
| \$0.25 | 25 lbs at \$0.1/lb (St. Lawrence Co. recyclables rate) |
| 26 | Trips (i.e. biweekly) |
| \$156.00 | Annual Cost |

Using a Waste Hauler will no doubt cost more.

Alternative to Proposed Local Law

The proposed local law is presumed to be driven by an increase in the price of contracted service for the curbside pickup and disposal of recyclables. Until now the contracted services have been paid from the General Fund and Recycle Fund which are funded by *ad velorem* real estate taxes. It is presumed that the County legislature is averse to increasing real estate taxes, and thus wishes to shift the cost to the users. Overall, the prosed local law would cost the residents of the County more than what the County could pay for the service. There is an alternative, which shifts the cost of recycling to the users of the service but maintains the bargaining power of the County's large volume.

That alternative is in New York State municipal law, which permits the creation of a special districts for specific services. Such districts may be funded by a "benefit assessment tax" instead of an *ad velorem* tax. For example, a benefit assessment might by in "units", with a number of units assigned based on a dwelling's or business's characteristics.

Another alternative is in County Law, CNT § 250, which permits:

The board of supervisors of each county may establish, consolidate, or extend county water, water quality treatment, sewer, wastewater disposal, drainage or refuse districts (hereinafter referred to in this article as the "district") in the manner hereinafter provided:

...

5. For the purpose of the collection and disposition of garbage, ashes, rubbish and other waste matter within the county.

It is of note that many “special district” taxes or fees are not exempted, which potentially spreads the special district tax over a larger base.

Philosophy of Governance

I elect representatives to government office to solve community problems. I feel betrayed when legislators or executives abdicate this responsibility. The recycling expense issue addressed by this proposed local law is “passing the buck”.

Mandatory Source Separation

The increased costs of recycling will be paid, or recycling will not happen. Recycling is acknowledged as a common community good and is State law mandated. Recycling must happen and therefore must be paid for. Efficient recycling at the lowest total cost seems best managed at the County level.

The “tax cap” is politically sensitive, but is not so sacred that it cannot be exceeded.

Author Contact Information

James King
Owego, NY

8. What will be the cost of recycling directly with Taylor's? I'm assuming recycling will not be free.

Cherie Barnes

9. Hello County Legislature,

Recycling is required by the state - and the most efficient way to do it is to have a contractor or the county do curbside or community pick-ups.

Reasons:

1. if everyone drives to the Taylor site that is a lot of carbon going into the atmosphere.
2. Without an easy way to recycle, people will throw stuff away - and if they can't toss it, they will burn it.
3. Recycling reduces litter and garbage along roads, on land, etc.

Some solutions:

1. pick-ups every 2 weeks
2. local recycling centers at town garages or somewhere & then transferred?

Thank you,
Sue Heavenrich
Candor

10. I agree 100%..Curbside is and should be off the table.

Option 1: Having regional county areas to unload recyclables

Option 2: Incorporate the towns to provide space for a roll off for unloading into

Option 3: Selling bag tags to offset the costs to towns supporting Option 2.

Option 4: Adapt or Adopt a hybrid plan similar to other counties which has minimum impact to cost for the customer.

Offer nothing and see recyclables being burned in rural areas or dumped where ever. It took a while to get everyone on board to recycle. It will be a shorter time before it resorts to what was.

Florence Alpert

Candor, NY

11. I attended the public hearing last evening via Zoom (thanks for providing that option). I strongly support continuation of curbside recycling service by the county, even if it means a tax increase. This service is an excellent use of our tax dollars.

One of the speakers mentioned that Taylor Garbage was the low bidder. I'm wondering if the county has been in discussions with them about possible adjustments to the service that would reduce the price. For example, just do pickup every other week.

I have heard that the price offered for plastic is so low because of contamination issues. If that is the main problem, maybe the solution is to reduce contamination by educating the public on this. If contamination is not the main problem and the recycle value of plastic is just too low, maybe drop plastic from the curbside recycle list for now. It is a waste of time and money to ask people to recycle their plastic items only to have them end up in the landfill anyway.

Thanks for considering these thoughts.

Wes Ernsberger

Owego, NY

12. Hi all. I just read the penny saver article and I support the decision to end curbside recycling pickup (other than what may be done by trash haulers)
Keep up the good work!

David MacFadden

Apalachin, NY

13. Tioga County Legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts after viewing the Public Hearing on Zoom.

As was evident from the hearing, there is great support for Tioga County's countywide recycling program. I have the same concern as others that if this countywide program is discontinued there will be less recycling, more recyclables going into the garbage and more litter alongside the roadways. There is also the problem of what someone will do if they don't have curbside garbage collection. I have a neighbor here in Tioga Terrace that doesn't have garbage collection, just relies on recycling.

I know your main concern is the 2% property tax cap. Is there any way to form a separate countywide recycling district that would be separate from the Tioga County budget and would not impact Tioga County's tax cap? I personally think that every avenue should be explored to try to keep countywide recycling going: it is the right thing to do. I say this knowing that the countywide recycling will cost me more money than the proposed individual contracting with your garbage hauler since my assessment is much higher than the average.

I also would encourage, in the future, that when some change of this magnitude is proposed that the County get the Council of Governments on board as soon as possible to share their concerns and input. From the comments and questions at the public hearing it appeared that this did not happen.

Thank you for your service,

Carol Sweeney
Apalachin, NY

14. In response to "However, the overall costs of maintaining the program outweigh the convenience of the program." "Convenience"? Seriously? "Convenience" is not the issue!

Recycling is a process to improve our environment...an issue of ecological conservation. Thousands of Tioga County residents driving, individually, multiple times every month, defeats the goal of ecological conservation. (the purpose of a curbside recycling pick-up program) Short-term financial "relief" will cost us all, in the long-term, much, much, more! Again, "convenience" is not the issue!

And btw, illegal or not, there is the certainty that if Tioga County's Recycling Program is "nixed", recyclables will be dumped together with non-recyclables.

Just in term of costs, that will add to our future expenses (taxes, clean-up, etc.) So clearly, I am strongly against "dumping" our Tioga County's Recycling Program!

Respectfully,
Jesse Bennett (resident of Waverly, NY)

15. Hello,

I attended your Zoom session for the public hearing on removing curbside recycling as one of the benefits of living in Tioga County. I want to say with all necessary urgency that 2020 is not the year to take Tioga County several steps backwards in environmentally progressive policy. My partner and I are young homeowners, taxpayers, and people who grew up here, who graduated from OFA, lived elsewhere in the country, and moved back to Tioga County to stay. We can confidently say that policies like this are NOT going to attract more people like us.

As speakers stated during the meeting, we are one of merely two counties who offer this service regionally. We teach our children to make a difference, and right now in a world where they can offer little in terms of fighting climate change, recycling is something they can do to make a difference. Aside from appealing to morals here, as other speakers mentioned, there has not been enough information or transparency to prepare local haulers for this shift.

Your slide show said the lowest bid for keeping recycling was 1.26 million, an increase that would be double the cost to taxpayers. What your slideshow did not say was that when you take that 1.26 million, and divide it by the number of people in Tioga County made available by the 2019 census data, or by the number of households, that that amount in actuality results in about \$2.25 - \$5.25 a month for taxpayers for recycling. While that IS double from \$1.12 - \$2.62 a month, it is grossly disingenuous to present a number in the millions and scare people into thinking their taxes are going to be "double" if we keep recycling when the amount is so small.

It is further deceitful to frame the expense of the service this way when, as expressed at the Zoom meeting so passionately by several speakers spanning multiple generation demographics, people have said that they think keeping recycling as part of the service the county provides constituents is a cost worth keeping, even with an increase in cost.

If you take the time to sift through the comments on social media, people who cannot afford to recycle independently intend to burn their recycling, or hide it in their trash. People who are elderly or without transportation will not be able to manage this on their own without curbside pickup. Some people think it won't matter, and don't care, but we know better.

These inevitable (and entirely preventable) consequences of this policy change will make Tioga County a smelly, unsafe place to live. It is a bad look for attracting new people to the area, especially as nearby Endicott fights against the installation of a toxic battery incinerator a mere 10 minutes of breathable air away.

The petition that agrees with these above sentiments has over 1,650 signatures and rising as I write this email. So, I implore, please do not take this option away from our residents. Please reconsider this approach and its effect on our community. Please do not make 2020 an even worse year for us all by adding the milestone of it being the year Tioga County stopped recycling.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Irena Horvatt & Peter Raia
Tioga County, NY

16. Thank you for providing the Zoom option for the public hearing, which I attended. There were many good points raised by members of the public at that meeting about why the program shouldn't be stopped and I agree with all those. I strongly support continuation of curbside recycling service by the county, even if it means a tax increase and/or if the program is reduced to one pick-up per 2 weeks. If the price offered for recycled items is low because of contamination, maybe it would be worth sending one hardcopy letter to all residents with clear instructions, a link to the website and a telephone number.

If the program is stopped, many residents will not bother to take their recyclables to the recycle center; those who don't have cars would be unable to.

Liz and Joe Rowland
Owego, NY

17. September 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

To find out the cost of maintaining the health of the environment and the futures of our children and grandchildren is too high for Tioga County legislatures and residents is quite frankly, backwards thinking and disheartening.

Officials were quoted at the public hearing regarding the county's recycling program saying, "...the overall costs of maintaining the program outweigh the convenience of the program" (Post, 2020). You have touched on a very important factor with this statement-convenience. In the age of two-day Amazon Prime shipping convenience is key. Research from Wagner (2013) notes "Convenience of a waste collection and recycling program is one of the most important non-socioeconomic determinants in whether an individual will recycle." Transfer stations and subscription hauler services are available options but are not convenient.

Assuming people have good health, a vehicle, time, and money it would be a 41-mile round trip for someone coming from center Richford, NY to take their recycling to the transfer station on Glen Mary Drive. Of course, they could contract out to a private hauler, but we currently have no information on who that is, what materials they will take, how often they will pick up, or associated costs. Many residents have commented on online platforms and in general conversation that it would just be easier to put their recyclable materials in the garbage, or even litter, because while both are illegal, enforcement of these laws is lackluster.

This idea of convenience is further supported beyond Tioga County New York as noted in the 2020 State of Curbside Recycling Report, "Requiring households to opt-in is a detriment to material capture" (Mouw et al., 2020). Studies show that automatically provided recycling services collect on average, 27% more than programs requiring subscription or opt-in (Mouw et al., 2020). Additional research has supported that "curbside collection is the most convenient collection system for households" (Wagner, 2013).

Now that we've established that the convenience of recycling programs is important, we can review why recycling as a whole is important. Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, reduces animal deaths caused by consuming waste, conserves natural resources, saves energy needed to collect raw materials, etc. For example, studies show that 4.8 to 12.7 metric tons of plastic enter the oceans every year and "Without waste management infrastructure improvements the cumulative quantity of plastic waste available to enter the ocean from land is predicted to increase by an order of magnitude by 2025" (Jambeck et al., 2015). While the ocean is not in our immediate back yard, the Susquehanna River is, which is a well-known tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. We may be a rural county, but the local wildlife and farms are equally affected by

waste pollution. Indiscriminate feeding habits of ruminants such as our dairy cows make it so they cannot pick and choose what they eat out of a pile. After ingesting foreign objects such as plastic bags, aluminum foil, food wrappers, these objects get brought back up from the stomach to get chewed and swallowed again and again. These objects never break down in the stomach and therefore accumulates in the animal until it eventually causes death and loss to our farmers. We need to increase waste management and we need to educate the public, not go backwards and stop the curbside recycling program.

Due to the concern of raising the cost of curbside recycling and property tax cap, I would like to mention other funding avenues such as grants. Some resources I have been able to quickly locate are those available through NYSDEC for waste reduction projects, recycling capital projects, and recycling education. Additionally, The Keep America Beautiful/Coca-Cola Public Spaces Recycling Bin Grant program provides recycling bins to numerous organizations. The Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program supports educational programs to increase public participation in recycling as well as funding for expanding local recycling programs. Furthermore, the Recycling Partnership also provides numerous grant options. I have no doubt this is not an exhaustive list and would encourage you to research more programs that are available to help fund this vital curbside recycling program in our county.

Thank you for your time,
April Taylor
Candor, NY 13743

WORKS CITED

Jambeck, J. R., Geyer, R., Wilcox, C., Siegler, T. R., Perryman, M., Andrady, A., . . . Law, K. L. (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean. *Science*, 347(6223), 768-771. doi:10.1126/science.1260352

Mouw, S., Varma, A., Thompson, L., Taylor, R., Tanimoto, A., Marshall, C., . . . Biser, E. (2020, February 13). Announcing The 2020 State of Curbside Recycling Report: Download The Report. Retrieved September 28, 2020, from <https://recyclingpartnership.org/stateofcurbside/>

Post, W. (2020, September 28). Recycling is topic of recent public hearing. Owego Pennysaver. Retrieved September 28, 2020, from <http://www.owegopennysaver.com/PS/2020/09/28/recycling-is-topic-of-recent-public-hearing/>

Wagner, T. P. (2013). Examining the concept of convenient collection: An application to extended producer responsibility and product stewardship frameworks. *Waste Management*, 33(3), 499-507. doi:10.1016/j.wasman.2012.06.015

18. During this Pandemic this would create more of a burden on taxpayers to pay alot more in property taxes which are extremely high already. This recycling program should end at this time, with just a thought is there a way to put dumpsters at different locations in the county so the taxpayer's would have easy access to putting recyclables.

Unknown – No name

19. Hi there, I just wanted to weigh in on the proposed changes to the curbside recycling in Tioga County. I have been a resident of Tioga County for the past 26 years. Curbside recycling has been available in our community. I would very much like the service to continue. I feel our environment has enough challenges, and adding recyclable materials to our landfills seems counterproductive and in fact detrimental to our environment. Please do everything you can to make sure that recycling curbside stays a service in Tioga County. We owe it to the next generation to do all we can to preserve the environment. Thank you.

Bonnie Coy

20. Tioga County Legislature,

I would also like to add to my previous comments to ask if someone from Tioga County government has contacted Tompkins County to see what they pay for their recycling and to get any ideas if there is any way for Tioga County to lower this cost but continue countywide recycling.

I attended the public hearing last evening via Zoom. I strongly support continuation of curbside recycling service by the county, even if it means a tax increase. This service is an excellent use of our tax dollars, and assures that the greatest percentage of material will be recycled.

I wonder if additional bidders could be considered to bring the price down? Has the county considered hiring personnel directly and purchasing or repurposing a truck for this purpose?

Thanks for considering these suggestions.

Bob Dannecker
Owego, NY

21. September 30, 2020

Re: Proposed Recycling Change Comment Period

We are extremely concerned regarding the proposed change in recycling in Tioga County. We believe that this is huge step backwards for our county and the future of our planet.

It is our belief that proposal is flawed for the following reasons:

1. There is no real cost avoidance for the residents who recycle. The stated reason for the increase in costs has been held that there is currently not the lucrative market for recyclables that there has been in previous years. Thus it can reasonably be concluded that a typical household will pay the same or more inflated costs as would be charged by the county through the continuation of the county-wide curbside pick-up. The costs are the costs and if everyone continues to recycle, the increase costs will need to be paid.
2. It seems logical to us that indeed the costs will increase beyond those that might be incurred if the county-wide system were to be maintained. The rationale is that not everyone will participate. There typically are economies of scale when all participate that will not be present with a decentralized, privatized carrier model being proposed as an alternative. For one, centralized annual billing though a tax bill must be more efficient than various service providers sending monthly or quarterly billings to customers. Beyond the billing issues, some providers who currently haul garbage are not equipped to handle recycling....thus increased costs for equipment.
3. The alternative of taking your recycling to one of the centers does not seem practical to us. For many residents, this would be a lengthy trip to and from the recycle centers, thus incurring additional costs. For others who do not have reliable transportation, this is simply not an option.

Without convenient, curbside pick-up in which all share the costs, many will we fear either:

- a. Place recycling in the garbage, thus decreasing the useful life of our already stressed landfills,
- b. Dispose of the recyclables by burning them, thus adding to a reduction in our air quality, or
- c. Just dump it in their own un-regulated “landfill”, dump it on other vacant properties or just simply dump it by the roadside. The result will, in our opinion, diminish both the quality of life for our residents but also greatly reduce the impact of tourism efforts in the county as our countryside and villages will become less attractive.
4. The root cause of this issue really does go back to a global glut of recyclables at the current time. Technology is evolving every day. We have faith that global businesses are seeking ways to utilize these resources in a cost effective manner. Until then, we should continue to recycle in the most cost effective manner that benefits all of our residents.
5. A secondary cause that has placed you in a very difficult position is the current “tax cap” in New York State. We appreciate your desire not to exceed the tax cap and we also recognize that during the Covid pandemic, County revenues have been stretched to the limit.

We are pleased that through your planning, you have enough fund balance to carry the County through the next few years to make up for this loss of revenues without exceeding the tax cap, but with shifting the costs of recycling out of your budget and onto individuals who will pay the same if not more for that service.

It is our understanding that the legislative body of the County can, with a 2/3 majority vote, vote to exceed the tax cap. We urge you to do so and to continue curbside recycling. Do this for the efficiency it affords your constituents, do it for the environment, and do it for future generations. Please be the leaders you were elected to be.

If our last paragraph seems dramatic or desperate, it is with good cause as we fear your minds are already made up and are not open to persuasion. Why would anyone feel this way? A recent advertisement paid for by Tioga County Recycling stated in a headline next to checkmark on a green circle "GOOD NEWS! Your recycling tax is going away". Really, without final legislative approval? The advertisement seems to be premature at best. But that also may be predetermined as we quote from a recent "Penny Saver" article in which County officials are quoted in a release as saying "No one really likes change, and we certainly would like to keep the weekly curbside recycling program; however, the overall costs maintaining the program outweigh the convenience of the program". We read this as though your minds are made up and cannot be changed. We urge you to reconsider. This is not a simple choice between cost and convenience!

It is very shortsighted to eliminate curbside recycling. It is the one outstanding thing about this very backward county. I KNOW that I will be breathing in toxic fumes from all the lazy people who will just burn everything. I deal with it already and it will get much worse. I hope the people who make these decisions are ok carrying the weight of people's health with them.

THIS DECISION NEEDS TO BE REVERSED!

Ronald and Cheryl Finch
Newark Valley, New York 13811

22. Dear Tioga County Legislators,

I would like to join the many others who believe it is essential to maintain curbside pickup of recycling. It is the best use of my tax dollars, aside of library funding that the county provides. In our household we produce very little garbage due to recycling, and composting. We currently visit the landfill only two or three times of year with our garbage. This will end up costing most households more money than your projected tax increase as well as likely reduce recycling efforts and increase auto emissions due to many households driving to the landfill,

assuming that option is even still available. Please reconsider your position on this matter.

Thank you,

Marcia and Robert Enright
Candor, NY 13743

-
23. Submitted by Ann Mallozzi, Apalachn, NY via recyclingcomments@co.tioga.ny.us.
September 30, 2020

The following comments are part of the Change.org Facebook Petition.

Melissa Chiusano

I am willing to pay a little extra for the convenience of curbside pickup. Additionally, recycling is the right thing to do to ensure we are all doing our part to lower our carbon footprint. Without this service, many folks will not have the means for separate recycling services therefore the only option they would have is to throw it in the trash.

Connie Mosher

I like putting my recycles out every week

Lawrence Milligan

Garbage is taking care at my household everyday.

June Breese

Depending on individuals will not work. People will dump litter everywhere or just throw it in with the regular trash. (I'm a former Tioga County resident and I still care about Tioga County.)

Wendy Amaro Santiago

For the EARTH.

Tristyn Ahart

I don't want to lose our curbside recycling.

Nancy Vollmer

I think it is a good program. I think it needs to be left alone.

Mary France

Absolutely stupid idea...everything will go in the trash. I wouldn't pay extra for private recycling, EVERYTHING will go to the trash can!

Marie Ledwith

Recycling is important

Stephanie Holmes

This is ridiculous to make already hard paying people spend more money for things that should be covered

Andre Fraissinet

We all need to recycle instead of trashing thwarts

Audrey Fields

Please don't do this. It's truly needed.

Sue Hall

I would pay an extra \$ 60 a year for recycling to continue.

Amy Wood

Amy wood

Nancy Hughes

We need recycling to continue. Most people will just throw their recycling in the garbage.

Luanne Newman

Silly to think people are loading up and taking their recycling some where. It'll go in their garbage instead.

Jennifer Madison

Why would we go backwards??? Stopping the program is only going to cause bigger problems down the road. We need to work together to find a solution that works for everyone, including our ecosystem. Expecting homeowners to figure it out themselves is irresponsible and a total cop out.

Carrie Bostwick

She is my friend

Ellen Williams

I'm disabled, I need pick up!

Betty Whitmarsh

If they are not picked up, recycling will suffer some are not able to transport

Gina Morse

I want my recycling picked up either every week or every other week

Cathy Roberts

I have no way of getting anywhere as I'm physically unable

Scott Babcock

I have curb side recycling pair for with taxes each year this is about Taylor garbage having a monopoly on the whole trash thing so they can charge whatever they want I'm sure insurance paid them for the fire they had so that's not it

Jamie Dal Cero

Tioga County needs to keep this program. To many other rural counties don't offer this and it shows.

Shelly Bogart

Too many people will not be willing to pay for recycling and we will have a big mess on our hands when this stuff ends up in places it shouldn't

Amy Henderson

It's the right thing to do. Taking it away would mean less people recycling, and more plastics in our landfills that take years upon years to break down.

Katherine Larson

I believe if residents are no longer offered recycling pickup they will be much less inclined to recycle

Rob Harris

Robert Harris

Patty Nichols

My husband does dialysis at home. We have several cardboard boxes every week. I don't have time to take this to a recycling center every week. All of these are going to end up in the landfill.

Red Callistemon

Recycling should be fully carried out, from bin to shelf, entirely in the USA!

Shelly Forrest

Recycling is important and people will fill the landfills without it

Ceal Cimilluca-Wenn

It's helpful when you live on a fixed income and can't afford to pay for recycles too plus ppl will just put it in the garbage and that would be bad for our landfills don't take it away

Tim Labosky

I want to do what's best for our environment and recycle. Otherwise folks will throw their recyclables in the trash!!

Michelle Morgan

I live in Bradford Country and wish they had curbside recycling here. Makes things easier and keeps a lot out of our landfills. Please keep it in Tioga Co as well as possibly bring it to Bradford Co.

Tatia Wing

Continuing recycling is just the right thing to do for the earth and the environment. Stopping curbside pickup will cause some to put it all in the landfill. We all pay taxes, keep the services.

Reathea Woodburn

We need to continue recycling. Our landfills are too full.

Sherry Morris

People will start putting recycles in the garbage!!

Janet Warner

Keep costs down

Sara Hall

Recycling is important

Alisha Hill

Taking away this program is a huge step backwards in an effort to be more environmentally conscious. Many people would pay more to see curbside recycling continue.

Rhodalee Henson

Keeps our country clean

Gary Dobrzensky

Gary Dobrzensky

Gail Belokur

The environment and all humans living on Earth need us to recycle and it should be accessible (free) to all.

Shannon Lindridge

Recycling and reducing waste in landfill is important to the future of our world!

Renee Heaney

Its going to result in litter being thrown everywhere if they end this program. We don't need our streets or the river dirty because of garbage.

Cathy Shultz

Cathy Shultz

Colleen Eustice

Recycling is important for the environment.

Rachel Johnson

This is important to recycle... If this stops there will be so much more garbage because people won't do it anymore.

Donald Snyder

Donald Snyder

Celia Morgan

It's ridiculous they mentioned every other week picking up recycle I think we can all manage this. Otherwise people are going to start throwing away recycle again instead of taking it to the recycle. We people that live outside of town don't have any benefits from paying taxes except recycle!! You don't take out leaves away you don't take any yard clean up!! We get recycle 

Gayle Pado

Recycling saves our landfills. The service is incentive to be responsible in our community. Tioga County already struggles to attract new business and residents. Keep taking everything away and the community will crumble; we already have high taxes, no public transportation, and limited job opportunities. Please maintain this important service.

Jennifer Zepkowski

People are not gonna recycle if they have to pay for it separate it will just go right in the trash

Kimberly Sherwood

It is more convenient for me to have curbside pickup. I love to recycle to save the earth from pollution for our children. People will be burning more plastics and such. They also will not be recycling, just throwing it in their trash. A lot more trash in the landfills!

Michael Dawson

Recycling is imperative. If some were required to pay more to recycle they wouldn't. Garbage and waste is already a big problem in our country, we don't need to add to it! Thank you, Holly and Mike Dawson

Crystal Baker

It is necessary to have recycling to save our environment and no one should have to pay for it. Our taxes should cover any cost to our recycling

Jennifer Purtell

Recycling is important to our environment and i don't think people will do it if they have to pay for it

Pamela Parish

Doing this will only INCREASE the amount of garbage going into the landfills. STOP going backwards, Tioga County!!

Jessica Bebel

We do not have our garbage and recycling on the same day, but we use it weekly for cardboard, papers and plastics. Taking it away would be an extreme inconvenience not to mention the fact that larger counties have recycling bins located publically, why don't we?

Marcia Pass

Marcia Pass

Nicole Ellis

I always recycle everything I can. I would rather pay extra at tax time than deal with a monthly fee.

Mark Taylor

My mom uses this service. It greatly reduces her trash amount each week!! We do not have it where we live, it's great for the environment

James Little

The environment is important so please don't stop recycling. People will just put items in the regular garbage and landfills will be overburdened. Be responsible as our representatives.

Deborah Crawford

This is a good program for our residents and to take it away means more recyclables going to the garbage dump. Please keep our recycling program going.

Holly Hildebrant

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. If you take away the curb side recycling program a majority of the recycling is going to end up in the dump. Not everyone has the means to drive their recycling to Glenmary drive!

Sarah Titus

If people have to pay for recycling, most will not and it'll all end up in the landfill.

Kori Lloyd

Recycling helps the environment, we dont need to defund this to increase the cash in the legislators pockets. I recycle more than I throw out for garbage

Christina Docenko

Recycling is super important!

Cassie Watkins

Seriously we are destroying our planet! Some many not care about that but they do care about saving money & if they don't have to pay for things that can be can be recycled & save money it's better than nothing.

Laura Miller

I'm signing because I believe it's very important to recycle. It's a shame for Candor to stop providing this for its people. If anything it at least should stay for the Village, the village taxes sure seem high enough to take care of recycling.

Amanda Bartlett

I live in Tioga county and there is not way I could always get to the dump to take care of it.

Leo Macdonald

Recycling is better than trashing the planet!

Chanelle Corder

Why is this even a thing? What reasons do they have for taking recycling away?

Yurgen Wemmer

They need to keep curbside recycling if they don't mine will go in dumpster with regular garbage

Jon Davis

I'm signing because curbside recycling is efficient and good for the environment.

Karry Williams

We need less waste in the dumps and more being recycled.

Melissa Winans

We need to recycle, period. The raise of prices is minimal and doable. People don't want to recycle through the company that's fine they can do it on their own but don't get rid of it for the many families that recycle religiously.

Lisa Boehme

We need a place to recycle! This saddens me that they would get rid of it.

Heather Talada

People are less likely to recycle if there isn't curbside pickup.

Megan Collins

It's irresponsible to end recycling in the county. This is a step backwards. Every single Wednesday I see red bins outside every person's home on my road. Clearly cutting a much used, much needed service makes no sense. If you need to raise taxes, so be it.

Andrea Seeley

Please reconsider stopping the county recycling. People will go back to putting everything into the garbage. The landfills are not going to be able to take on more garbage. We pay taxes for this service. Find a way to make it work, please.

Gary Swansbrough

If you don't pick it up. It will just go into the trash can. Pretty simple

Jessica Mullineaux

Jessica House

Victor Tiffany

Privatization is neo-liberalism, part of the problem.

Brita Terry

I agree they should continue the curbside recycling!

Marie Chianese

The closest transfer station to me closes at noon. It's already crazy there on Saturdays. I only take my garbage maybe once a month.... I recycle more than I throw away so it would mean more trips. I can also see people just throwing the recyclables away. With taxes, the fee is included. Given the option of paying or not, I don't see paying happening.

Hannah Natale

This is very important to our environment and our world! Please do not remove recycling from Owego!

Jolane Ricardo

The harder you make it to recycle the fewer people will. Our world needs recycling.

Heidi Nichol-Woodmansee

If we want people to recycle, it is worth making it easy. Otherwise it will end up in the dump or burn pit.

David Weasner

Why would you wanna end curbside recycling, please a good answer. I'll wait.

Tristan Russell

I was raised to recycle- every little bit helps.... and now that we can reuse things that we recycle why wouldn't you want to keep recycling

Colleen McFall

Ee need to recycle for pur future.

Heather Skovira

Recycling is very important and cuts down on a lot of trash!!

Brittany Wright

We need to have our roadside recycling!

Deborah Morais

Can you imagine the amount of burning that will occur — of garbage; plastic and other chemicals. Please do not take this away...

Doria Wosk

SAVE OUR PLANET: RECYCLE

Tania Penafort

Recycling is a collective good for the County and I believe in this as a shared responsibility .

Sam Dye

I live in tioga County

Julie Schanbacher

We pay one place or another. So if they do away with recycling, our trash rates increase as we will have more cans to put out. Keep recycling in Tioga County.

Duane Tarbox

I have friends in tioga county, and doing away with curbside recycling will lead to more waste found along roadsides and propagate midnight dumping in fields, etc.

Kim Niznik

The amount of litter will be ridiculous if recycling is ended!

Karen Davison

Life is complicated enough...and this was one very obvious ways to show citizens our tax money is being spent to help us directly. Very worried this will not only be bad for our environment as people will just put recycling in trash but people will also start dumping on rural roads. Please do not take away curbside recycling.

Angela Malone

I am concerned for handicapped and lower income families

Karen Hinckley

Karen Hinckley

Jessica Weeks

We teach our kids at school to recycle.

Annette Updyke

Keep curbside pickup, please.

Sam Cornwell

It's important!

Jared Martin

This is bullshit

Michael Benjamin

I recycle every week I want this to stay

Even if it's a little bit more a week or so I'm willing to pay for it

Betsy Degregorio

I pay \$60 for 3 months of garbage collection which is for just 1 can a week. I'm not going to pay more for my recycles.

Jennifer Wright

This would be a huge disservice to the future of our environment and local residents!

Mike Medovich

The current version works just fine. Making it the responsibility of individuals will result in much more litter

Torri Titus

We don't get garbage pick up so having recycle pick up is super helpful. Please don't take it away!

Rose Mumbulo

Recycling is important, but it will end for all intents and purposes if this service goes away.

Kathy Medovich

This is disturbing.....we desperately need recycling....we need to save our planet..

James Strolin

We already pay for private trash pickup, this should definitely come out of our already high taxes.

Allyah Simmons

I'm signing because it's convenient to have recycling picked up for me, I work 40 hours a week and don't have time to take it myself, they aren't open by the time I get out of work and go home.

Bruce Gillette

Pastor Bruce Gillette. The Bible teaches us that "The earth if the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24). Recycling is needed now more than ever. Our failure to better care for God's creation (using fossil fuels) has led to the Climate Change resulting the mega fires on the West Coast and supersized hurricanes' flooding. The more we do recycling the better world now and for future generations.

Brian Eldridge

Brian Eldridge...because this is just going backwards...just like losing our Ride Tloga.

Michelle Matolka

Please continue! Recycling is so important for our environment. If people have to transport their own recycling most likely it will just end up in the garbage.

Raymond Parmarter

As a senior citizen living in the country, I've found curbside recycling to an effective and convenient way to meet the community's recycling needs.

Jeanne Thomas

I am disabled and am unable to go out many days. The proposed policy places an undue burden on elderly and disabled people and is a discriminatory policy, especially since many of them are low to moderate income households already struggling with increased costs this year, as well as social security colas that have not kept up with their actual expenses.

Wendy Colangelo-Hebel

Tioga County needs to continue its recycling curbside pick up to spare our water ways, roads and natural spaces the added burden of trash. This type of pollution is a serious threat to both humans and wildlife and is a blight on our county.

Suzette Fahey

Recycling is an important part of helping the environment.

Irena Horvatt

This is a dishonest and abhorrent decision. There is zero way that what taxpayers pay in taxes for recycling is more than what they'd pay on an individual basis under this new legislation. Most will choose to just throw their garbage out. In the year where we are experiencing the most climate disasters ever seen as a nation, Tioga County decides to ends its recycling program, seriously? How will our neighborhoods look littered with trash?

Anne Osborne

Easy and accessible recycling is so important for communities.

Diane Szlucha

We will end up using or buying county trucks to pick up and still take it to Taylor's after. We will pay more than the higher bid!

Wes Ernsberger

The community cares about this issue because we care about our future.

Karla Harding

This will only work if you want recyclables ending up in a landfill. Not everyone has the means to take recycling to a specified location or the means to pay a fee each time. Please rethink this.

Dale Corbin

Recycling instead of putting everything in the garbage is an important issue for the world and for our children. We have done so much negative to mother earth, we need to be more proactive. Also, many people will not sort through and make sure they have recycling on their own and may be an extra expense to pay privately.

Orysia Tunick

We need curbside recycling!! I truly cannot believe that in 2020, this is under debate. Shameful! DO NOT remove our recycling program!!

Tina Blake

I am 100% for recycling, but I am also a human who sometimes takes the easier route. Curbside recycling makes it so much more likely that recycling WILL actually happen.

Liz Rowland

There's no way many people will take their recyclables to a recycling location.. and maybe there won't even be one. This planet is a finite resource and we've already consumed more than we should have. It's immoral to throw recyclable items into the trash.

Michael Wandell

First the county privatized the garbage disposal station. Hours were cut and prices went up. Recycling fees were raised then by the company that ended up buying the disposal stations with that fee hike. Why are the bids doubling? What has changed to account for the bid hike.

Natalie Wickman

Natalie J Wickman

Jesse Bennett

Curbside pick-up is an absolute necessity, for some many people/families who do not have the available vehicles to drive to a drop-off site. This will only lead to more and more recyclables NOT being recycled, not to mention an increase in piles of garbage in our areas...and trash fires!

Holly Coleman

If people have to pay for recycling, some won't. It will be tossed into the garbage and into our landfill.

24. October 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Tioga County Board of Legislators,

I am writing, for the following reasons, to express my opposition to the ending of curbside recycling in Tioga County:

1. I am first and foremost concerned that by making the collection of recyclable materials more difficult, and the expense to individual taxpayers more direct and significant, many residents simply won't bother to separate these materials from the waste stream destined for landfills. At a time when the health and very livability of our planet is under siege on so many fronts, ending this relatively simple opportunity to protect our environment strikes me as extremely shortsighted.
2. While I understand and truly appreciate your commitment to keeping taxes under the tax cap, particularly given the fiscal crises we face as a result of the pandemic, it is not at all clear from the presentation at the September 23rd public hearing, that costs to Tioga County residents will ultimately be cheaper, only that they will be leveraged in a different way. I suspect that for many residents, costs will, in fact, be significantly greater.
3. I also find it rather discouraging that a justification for not offering recycling is that Tioga County is only one of a few counties across the state that offer it. There is something to be said for being innovative and ahead of the pack. That's what Tioga County was when curbside recycling was launched in 1992. Separating oneself from the crowd can be a good thing – it is often what separates leaders from followers, early adapters from those who struggle to catch up. At a time when cutting edge businesses are led by social entrepreneurs eager to make a profit while ensuring the social, economic, and ecological well-being of communities, showcasing Tioga County's leadership in sustainability is more important than ever.

It is with these points in mind that I urge the Legislature to reconsider the proposed law and take more time to consider alternatives. A significant number of citizens expressed opposition – you have our names. Call on us to step up and offer alternatives – form a committee, ask us to be creative, innovative, and resourceful. Rather than shirk from this challenge and our collective responsibility, let's step up and show leadership by figuring out a way to maintain curbside recycling.

Sincerely,

Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman
Spencer, NY
