

February 9, 2026

To whom it may concern,

The Ontario County Board of Supervisors and Casella Waste Management are providing college scholarships to encourage students to pursue college-level studies and careers in the fields of environmental studies, agriculture, and waste management. Eight \$2,500 scholarships are provided each year to students who reside in Ontario County, have been accepted into a recognized college level program of study leading to an associate or bachelor's degree, and are US citizens or possess permanent resident visas at the time of their application. Scholarship recipients are chosen for their outstanding academic records, strong references, and a well written essay showing her or his dedication to a career that will support the environment, agriculture industry, or waste management system.

Scholarship application materials are attached. Application materials are also available through the Ontario County Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste (<https://www.ontariocountyny.gov/1700/Sustainability-Solid-Waste-Management>) and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County (<https://cceontario.org/>) websites.

Applications are due by March 27, 2026; materials should be submitted electronically to agd72@cornell.edu or mailed to:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
Casella Scholarship
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Selected scholarship recipients will be notified of their scholarship on or about May 29, 2026 and invited to attend an award reception with their family which will be held prior to a Board of Supervisors meeting in July. Scholarships will be paid directly to the recipient's college Bursar office. Ontario County has contracted with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County to administer the Ontario County/Casella Waste Management Scholarship Program. Students, school personnel, or organization/agency leaders are welcome to contact us with questions. Thank you for your assistance in promoting this opportunity to eligible students.

Sincerely,



Moira Tidball, Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ontario County

Enclosure: Scholarship Application

2026 ONTARIO COUNTY/CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Instructions

The Ontario County Board of Supervisors announced they would again award the Ontario County/Casella Environmental Waste Management academic scholarships to qualified Ontario County residents who are college or college-bound students pursuing majors in environmental studies, agriculture, or agricultural business, including waste management. Applications, including reference and an essay, must be emailed or postmarked by March 27, 2026.

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. has established this 25-year commitment to fund scholarships to encourage students to pursue college-level studies and careers in the fields of environmental studies, agriculture, agriculture business and waste management.

Each scholarship recipient will be chosen by a team of reviewers and by the established criteria. Recipients are chosen for their outstanding academic records, strong reference, and for a well-written essay showing her or his dedication to a career that will support the environment.

Email the complete application including reference and essay to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County at: agd72@cornell.edu.

If you would like to submit a hard copy application please mail to:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
Casella Scholarship
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Applicants may contact us for technical and administrative questions at agd72@cornell.edu.

PURPOSE

The Ontario County/Casella Waste Management Systems Scholarship will provide eight \$2,500 scholarships to students who reside in Ontario County and are committed to college-level study in the fields related to environmental science, environmental engineering, environmental law, environmental planning, agricultural, or waste management.

ELIGIBILITY

The scholarship is available to selected, college-bound, graduating high school seniors or undergraduate college students, who:

- have been accepted into a recognized (registered) college-level program of study,
- leading to an associate or bachelor's degree in fields related to environmental science, environmental engineering, environmental law, environmental planning, agriculture, agriculture business and/or waste management,
- are residents of Ontario County,
- are U.S. citizens or possess permanent resident visas at the time of application; and
- can demonstrate academic proficiency.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must complete:

1. Application Checklist
2. Application Form
3. An essay (two to three pages in length; do not exceed three pages) which addresses the criteria in the essay format.
4. Most current, available copy of high school and/or college transcripts.
5. For applicants, presently in college, evidence the applicant is in good standing to continue at the institution of higher education in 2026.
6. One letter of reference. It is highly recommended that applicants request their reference early. The lack of quality reference is often a cause for not being awarded the scholarship.

ONTARIO COUNTY/CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are to write an essay stating their interest in environmental, agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management. Successful applicants will include their vision of a possible role in the field, how their skills and abilities can contribute to the field, and evidence of their commitment to pursue a career in agriculture, environmental-related studies, agricultural-related business, or waste management. Also, explain how the scholarship will support their educational plans. Applicants are advised the essay is an important scoring element and to take great care in providing a well-organized and thought-out essay that addresses all criteria above and to use all the space allotted to develop their essay.

The essay will be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper, using 1" margins, using standard 12 font, Times New Roman or Arial, double spaced, and 2-3 pages in length (a maximum of three pages).

ESSAY FORMAT

1. Describe your interest in environmental, agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management (15 points).
2. Describe your vision of your possible role in the field (20 points).
3. Describe how your skills and abilities can contribute to the field, providing examples (20 points)
4. Describe evidence of your commitment to pursuing a career in agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management, providing examples when possible (10 points).
5. How this scholarship will support your educational plans (5 points).

NOVICE APPLICANTS

Novice applicants who have never won an Ontario County/Casella Waste Management Scholarship will receive two bonus points.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Scholarship Coordinator will review and pre-screen all applications to determine if the applicant meets the eligibility criteria and that the application is complete. **Applications that do not include all required materials will not be reviewed.**

Applicants that do not meet those requirements will not be considered and will receive a letter of rejection. The remaining applications will be forwarded to the Review Committee. Applications must be emailed or postmarked by March 27, 2026. We expect to announce award winners on or about May 29, 2026.

REVIEW PROCESS

The review committee will consider all applications received by the deadline date. The committee will select the winners who appear to be best qualified and most promising based on the application and accompanying submissions. Consideration will be given to the applicant's statement of interest and commitment to a career in environmental studies, agriculture, agricultural business, or waste management, his or her environmental vision, academic record, and any experience in environmental or agricultural management projects. The judges will be the sole decision-makers on the granting of scholarships and are authorized to withhold scholarships if there are no qualified applicants.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Ontario County will notify each scholarship winner by email and mail; on or about May 29, 2026, with return receipt requested to the address given in the application. If a scholarship winner fails to acknowledge and accept the award in writing to the scholarship coordinator by the given date; his/her award will be forfeited, and the scholarship will be awarded to the next highest scoring applicant. Upon verification of the scholarship and the winner's matriculation in college, the scholarship grant will be paid to the college for the student's account.

SCORING CRITERIA RUBRIC

Criteria	Points
Based on a review of the essay the strength of the applicant's interest in environmental, agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management.	15
Based on a review of the essay the strength of the applicant's vision of their possible role in the field.	20
Based on a review of the essay the strength of the applicant's skills and abilities can contribute to the field.	20
Based on a review of the essay the strength of the applicant's commitment to pursue a career in environmental, agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management.	10
Based on a review of the essay the strength of the how a scholarship will support their educational plans	5
The strength of applicant's transcribed course of study and grades	15
The strength of Letter of Recommendation	15
Total Points	100
Novice Applicant Bonus Point	2

2026 ONTARIO COUNTY/CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

Full Name:

Address:

Town:

State:

Zip Code:

Parent/Guardian:

Telephone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Overall Grade Average/GPA:

Class Rank/Size:

High School attended:

Name of College you attend or plan to attend:

Address of College:

Chosen Field of Study:

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Awards Received:

(Add additional pages if necessary.)

2025 ONTARIO COUNTY/CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a previous Casella Scholarship Winner? If so, what years have you previously been awarded:

- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

Application Checklist

- Application Checklist
- Application Form
- An essay (maximum length of three pages) which addresses the essay criteria in the essay format.
- Most current, available copy of high school and/or college transcripts.
- For applicants, presently in college, evidence the applicant is in good standing to continue at the institution of higher education in 2026.
- One letter of reference. It is highly recommended that applicants request their reference early as the lack of quality reference is often a cause for not being awarded the scholarship.

Certification:

I certify that all information contained in and attached to this application is true and is my own work.

Signature:

Ontario County/Casella Waste Management Scholarship Program

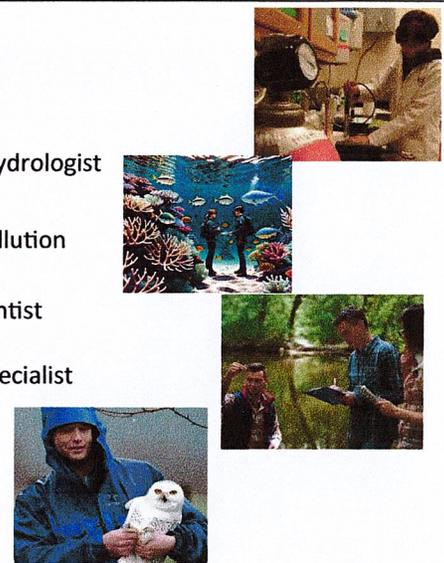
Examples of Scholarship Eligible College Majors/Careers

Environmental Science Careers

Aquatic Biologist
 Chemist
 Climatologist/Meteorologist
 Ecologist
 Biologist
 Engineer
 Environmental compliance inspector
 Environmental lawyer
 Fisheries scientist
 Forester
 Forest and conservation technician
 Game warden



Geologist
 Geographer
 Marine biologist
 Microbiologist
 Oceanographer/Hydrologist
 Park Ranger
 Scientist; study pollution
 Wildlife biologist
 Water quality scientist
 Science teacher
 Water resource specialist
 Wildlife biologist



Agriculture Careers

Agriculture engineer
 Agriculture loan officer
 Agriculture inspector
 Agriculture teacher
 Agricultural technician
 Agronomist
 Animal nutritionist
 Appraiser and assessor
 Agriculture lawyer
 Crop manager
 Economist
 Entomologist
 Farm equipment mechanic



Food Science scientist/technician
 Geneticist
 Horticulturist
 Landscape architect
 Landscaper
 Marketer
 Mechanical engineer
 Plant pathologist
 Precision agriculture technician
 Veterinarian
 Veterinarian technician
 Viticulturist



Waste Management Careers

Recycling specialist
 Equipment operator
 Customer service rep
 Diesel mechanic



Gas technician
 Facilities manager
 Business development manager
 Chemist

