



Citizen Centric Report:

# OTSEGO COUNTY SOLID WASTE



December 2025

The **Solid Waste Department** is responsible for:

- Contract management for transfer station operations and waste disposal
- Implementation of waste diversion and hazardous waste collection programs
- Outreach and education about proper disposal practices

With no in-county landfills or materials recovery (single-stream recycling) facilities (MRFs), our department works to increase waste diversion from landfills and find local options for waste disposal to reduce trucking costs.

**How we work:**

- **2** County Transfer Stations
  - Northern Transfer Station (NTS), Cooperstown
  - Southern Transfer Station (STS), Oneonta
- **10** Municipal Drop-off Centers
- **3** Transfer Station Attendants
- **1** Recycling Coordinator
- **1** Director
- **6** Contracts for transfer station operations, waste disposal, recycling, and waste diversion



What guides our work (*click headings to view documents*):

### NYS Solid Waste Mgmt Plan

- Waste Reduction and Reuse
- Recycling and Recycling Market Development and Resiliency
- Organics (i.e. food waste) Reduction and Recycling
- Advanced Design and Operation of Solid Waste Management Facilities and Related Activities

### Local Solid Waste Mgmt Plan

- Waste Reduction and Reuse
- Recyclables and Organics Recycling
- Improving local & regional markets
- Education & Outreach
- Private sector mgmt & coordination

### Strategic Priority Outcomes

- Ensure the availability of local waste disposal options for Otsego County residents and businesses.
- Increase Otsego County's Waste Diversion rate.
- Support the responsible management of closed MOSA landfills in cooperation with Montgomery and Schoharie Counties.

### Staff:

Tammie Harris, Director

Kyle King, Waste Management & Recycling Coordinator

**32,470.27 tons**  
of MSW and C&D

**32,10.66 tons**  
of single-stream

**81.99 tons**  
of cardboard & glass

**57.09 tons**  
of mattresses recycled

**1,371 hours**  
of recycling coordination & outreach

# How we did in 2025\*

**20.24 tons**  
of hazardous waste

**15.07 tons**  
of books recycled

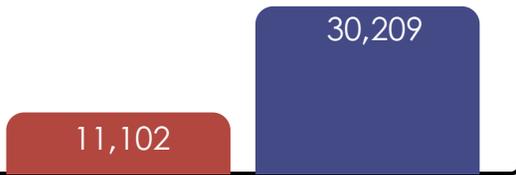
**57.8 tons**  
of electronics recycled

**213.35 tons**  
of tires & scrap recycled

**11.5%**  
overall waste diversion rate

2024 Garbage (Tons)

● NTS ● STS



## Why is there a big change from 2024 to 2025?

The Southern Transfer Station (STS) has always been the main station, but storm damage closed the STS for a month in 2025, sending more waste than usual to the Northern Transfer Station (NTS) and resulting in less waste collected overall.

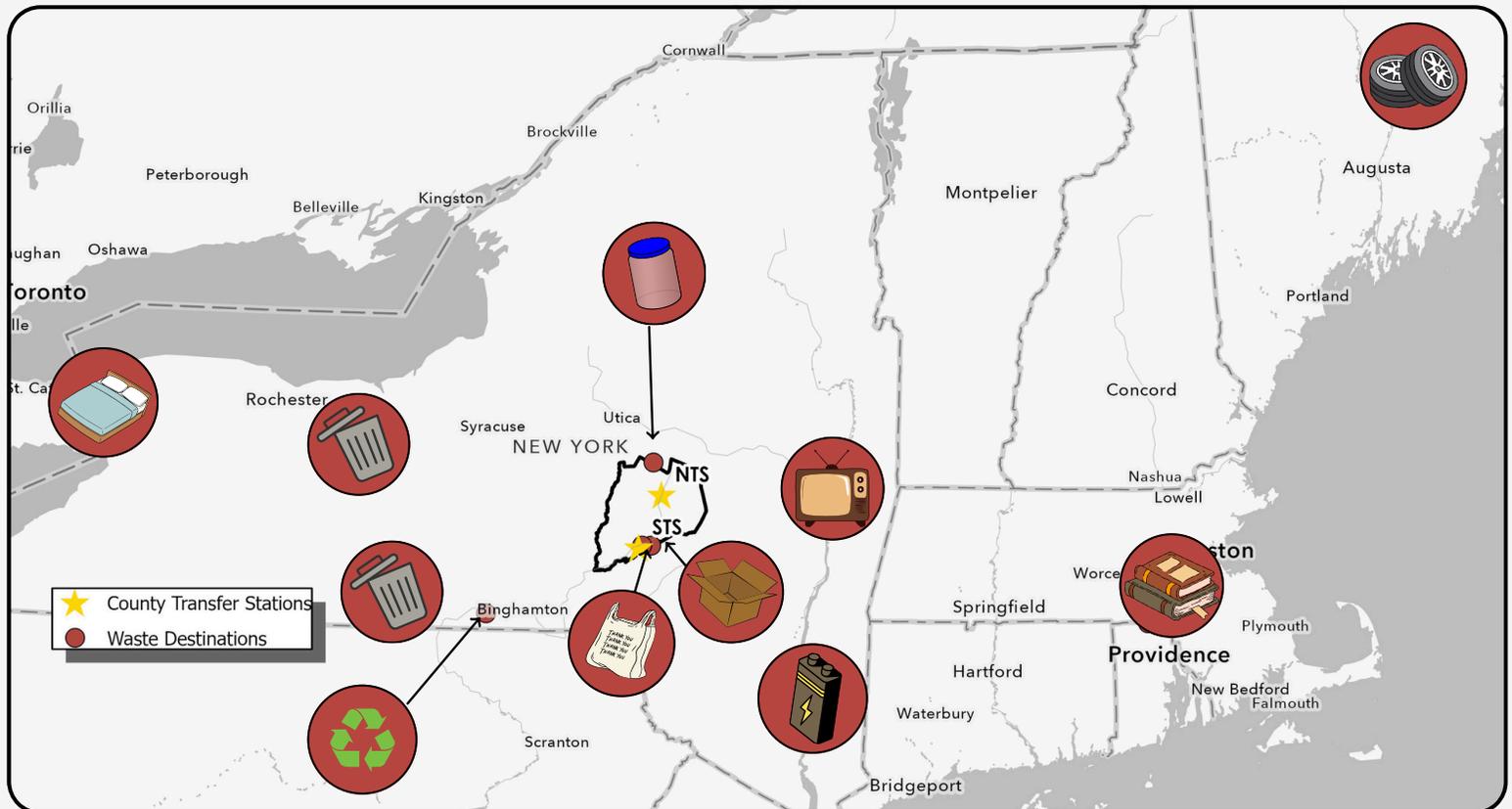
2025\* Garbage (Tons)

● NTS ● STS



\*As of October 2025

## Where our waste goes:



# How is the Solid Waste Program funded?



**User Fee:** Units assigned by the local tax assessor based on property use and estimated annual waste generated. 1 User Fee Unit = 0.75 tons of waste. The County Board sets the User Fee Rate annually. The User Fee is paid by property owners each year as a line item on their tax bill.  
**The User Fee funds salaries, recycling & waste diversion programs, outreach & education, transfer station repairs, and the annual Household Hazardous Waste event.**

**Tip Fees:** Haulers, residents, and businesses can bring waste to the County Transfer Stations. They are weighed on a scale when they enter and leave. Then, they pay a fee based on the weight of the items they bring and/or the type of item. These fees are set by the County Board annually.  
**The Tip Fee funds MSW/C&D transportation to landfills, transfer station operations, commercial recycling, and portions of some waste diversion programs.**

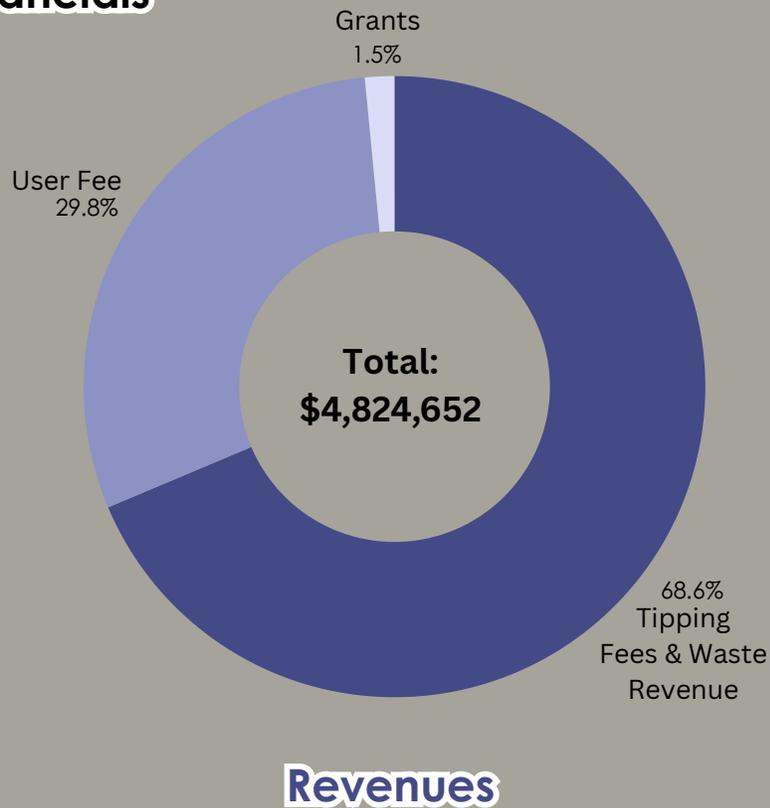
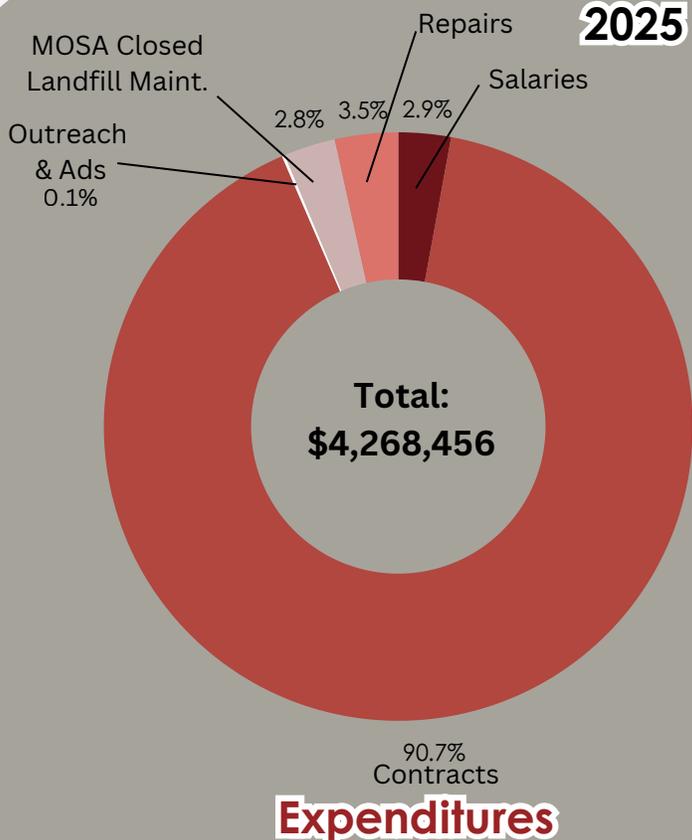


**Grant Funding:** The department applies for grant funding to implement solid waste and recycling programs. These are almost always State grants through NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.  
**The Solid Waste Department uses grant funding to fund salaries, outreach & education, and the annual Household Hazardous Waste event.**

**Solid Waste Reserve:** In 2022, the County established a Solid Waste Reserve account.  
**The Solid Waste Reserve helps to offset the costs of major construction, site rehabilitation, and repairs.**



## 2025 Financials\*\*

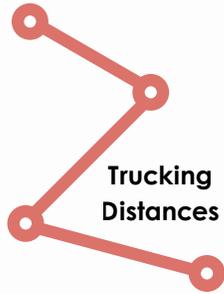


\*\*As of December 2025

View the Solid Waste Budget: [2025](#) [2026 \(tentative\)](#)

# What's Next for Solid Waste?

## Considerations



## Solutions



## Improvements to the Southern Transfer Station

### Current Challenges with Site:

- Space limitations of current buildings for existing programs and program expansion
- Thin pavement in areas
- Need to limit interaction between residential and commercial users of facility
- March 2025: substantial storm damage to MSW building with limited lifespan on repairs



Storm-damaged MSW building, Currently temporarily repaired

### Planned Improvements:

- New MSW building and repairs to existing buildings
  - Additional space will allow for future program expansion and improved alignment with State and Local plans
- Pavement improvements
- Improved residential drop-off area



2024

Preliminary Site Plan Design



2025

Final Design & Bidding



2026

Construction & Site Work

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