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**ONTARIO COUNTY IS MAKING IT EASIER FOR RESIDENTS TO
NAVIGATE THE UPCOMING PLASTIC BAG BAN**

JANUARY 31, 2020, Canandaigua, NY: Starting March 1, 2020, the statewide plastic bag ban will go into effect, and some Ontario County residents may need to change their shopping behaviors. The new law includes exceptions for garbage, garment, restaurant takeout, prescription drugs, newspapers and sliced deli items, but the majority of local businesses will no longer be offering plastic bags to patrons.

To help residents prepare for the ban, Ontario County will be distributing thousands of reusable bags through 15 area food pantries. Residents who visit the pantries starting in February will receive a free Ontario County Recycles bag.

“Many residents have anticipated the change and already adapted their shopping habits.” stated Carla Jordan, Director of the Ontario County Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management. Jordan continued, “For those who haven’t, we’re trying to make the transition as pain free as possible and the distribution of reusable bags is one way the County can help.”

100 billion plastic bags get used every year in the United States. The ban is aimed to cut back on the pollution caused by bag production, and reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfills.

“Residents don’t often see the long-term effect plastic bag waste has on our environment.” stated Mary Krause, Ontario County Administrator. Krause continued, “While the bag ban may seem like a nuisance to some, it will have a tremendous impact on waste reduction efforts locally, and across the state.”

The bag distribution is just one part of the ongoing waste diversion efforts of the County. The Department of Sustainability & Solid Waste Management provides information and resources to support Ontario County residents in their recycling and waste reduction efforts throughout the year.

For more information about the ban and other recycling related questions, residents can visit ontariocountyrecycles.org or call 585-393-3090.

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