

2021 ONTARIO COUNTY/CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Instructions

The Ontario County Board of Supervisors announced they would again award Casella Environmental Waste Management academic scholarships to qualified **Ontario County** (*applicants must be a resident of Ontario County*) college or college-bound students who are pursuing majors in environmental studies, agriculture or agricultural business; including waste management. Applications (to include references) must be **postmarked by February 8, 2021**.

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. has established this 20-year fund to support scholarships to encourage students to pursue college-level studies and careers in the fields of environmental studies, agriculture, and waste management.

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

Please complete the application including all the attachments, obtain the necessary references and forward all by February 8, 2021, to:

Christopher Semler
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES
131 Drumlin Court
Newark, New York 14513

Applicants may contact us for technical and administrative questions at chris.semmler@wflboces.org

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, 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, agriculture, 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 the

1. Application Checklist
2. Application Form
3. A four-page essay which addresses the essay criteria in the essay format.
4. Most current and an 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 2021.
6. Three letters of reference mailed to the application address. It is highly recommended that applicants request their references early - lack of three quality references is often a cause for not being awarded the scholarship.

Please do not submit double-sided material - it wastes paper during reproduction for reviewers.

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ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS:

Write an essay stating your interest in environmental, agriculture, agricultural-related business or waste management. Successful applicants will include their vision of their possible role in the field, how their skills and abilities can contribute to the field, and evidence they are a commitment to pursue a career in agriculture, agricultural-related business, or waste management. Also, explain how this scholarship will support your educational plans. Applicants are advised that the essay is an important scoring element and to take great care is 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, using standard 12 pitch, double spaced, and a maximum of four-pages in length. Please do not submit double-sided material.

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 when possible (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 postmarked by February 8, 2021.** We expect to announce award winners on or about May 21, 2021.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The review committee will read, discuss, and 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 mail; on or about May 21, 2021, 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 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 Letters of Recommendation	15
Total Points	100
Novice Applicants Bonus Point	2

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APPLICATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

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:

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

- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020

Application Checklist

- Application Checklist
- Application Form
- A four-page essay which addresses the essay criteria in the essay format.
- Most current and an 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 2021.
- Three letters of reference mailed to the application address. It is highly recommended that applicants request their references early - lack of three quality references 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: _____

Date: _____