

Petition to (1) Stop Seneca Meadows and other Mega-Landfill Expansions in NYS and Beyond, and (2) Request that Government Officials Represent the People they were Elected / Appointed to Serve

To: The Seneca Falls Town Board via Ms. Brown (town clerk):

Please share this with all the members of the Seneca Falls Town Board and enter this petition into the minutes of the next town board meeting.

CC:

- New York Governor Kathy Hochul
- US Senators from New York, Gillibrand and Schumer
- US Congressional Representative Tenney
- New York State Senator O'Mara
- New York State Assembly Member Gallahan
- New York State DEC Commissioner Mahar
- New York State DEC Regional Director Walsh

We, the undersigned, support the closure of the Seneca Meadows mega-landfill at the end of 2025 (when its current permit expires). We also believe NYS must stop extending landfill permit expiration dates insofar as prioritizing landfill expansions over reduction, reuse, and recycling.

(To be clear, **we are not endorsing the exportation of waste beyond NYS, or the even more toxic threat of incinerators, as alternatives.** Instead, we are demanding an end to all “waste material” threats to the environment and human health, globally, as well as in NYS.)

The notion of prioritizing the increase of landfill capacity in this day and age (especially with existing mega-landfills) is not only outdated, but reckless, shortsighted, and irresponsible.

We are demanding that you fulfill your sacred oath, remembering that government office is not a power you hold personally, but a privilege you are granted to serve those who trusted you to act in their best interests.

Why We Must End the Madness:

- **Environmental Catastrophe:** Landfills are a ticking time bomb for our planet, not just because of their greenhouse gases, but because of their toxic chemicals that leach into the earth, contaminating soil and groundwater. Expanding landfills is literally digging our graves deeper and polluting our land for generations to come.
- **Public Health Emergency:** The health risks associated with landfills are undeniable. From increased respiratory diseases to potential cancer-causing pollutants, the people living near landfills are subjected to constant harm. The air is thick with toxins, the groundwater is contaminated, and the very land beneath us is slowly being poisoned. Is this the future we want for our children?

We Can No Longer Wait. We Must Act Now:

By signing this petition, we are affirming that the time for passive waiting is over. We must take responsibility for our future and act where the system has failed us. The shift to a circular economy (as in the example of the Ontario County, NY landfill) is not optional—it is essential.

We cannot afford to wait for understaffed and politically compromised regulatory authorities to solve this crisis. We must lead this change ourselves, with our actions, our voices, and our commitment to sustainability.

By signing this petition, we are declaring that we will no longer stand idly by while our planet is poisoned, our health is compromised, and our future is recklessly discarded.

We will not allow our government to continue to expand landfills without apparent consideration of viable alternatives.

Our Demands (i.e., solutions that have existed for decades):

We, the undersigned, implore governments, businesses, and institutions of all kinds to commit to the following actions:

- **Implementing Circular Economy Policies:** Enact policies that support the transition from a linear to a circular economy, such as incentivizing recycling, reducing waste, and promoting eco-design practices that prioritize longevity and recyclability.
- **Investing in Recycling and Waste Management Infrastructure:** Allocate funding for the development and expansion of recycling and upcycling facilities, as well as waste management systems that foster closed-loop production cycles.
- **Encouraging Sustainable Product Design:** Encourage manufacturers to design products that are durable, reusable, repairable, and recyclable, reducing the need for raw materials and minimizing waste.
- **Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Implement EPR programs that require producers to take responsibility for the lifecycle of their products, including recycling and managing waste when products reach the end of their useful life.
- **Public Education and Awareness:** Launch campaigns to educate consumers about the importance of circular economy principles, such as reducing consumption, reusing, and recycling.

By signing this petition, we declare our commitment to a future that prioritizes people, the planet, and future generations over the bottom-line profits of distant landfill corporations.

Signatures: