



Keeping residents informed about our waste management programs and services

## 2020 Vision: Focus on maximizing waste diversion



### Happy New Year!

With the year 2020 we are concentrating on waste diversion. We'll be providing tips all year long on how to recycle more, and even prevent/avoid creating waste in the first place.

This has many benefits: it could save you time and money, add years to our one-and-only landfill (so it can serve your children and children's children!), and help with climate action. It's time.

## What's new?

1. **2020 Waste Collection Calendar!** Expect to find the new calendar in your mailbox by the end of January. It's a handy reference to help you sort and set out your waste for collection. If you don't receive it and want a copy, please pick one up in February at [locations that sell garbage tags](#). (Note: The 2019 calendar has the collection schedule for January.)
2. **Waste Waste app!** We've switched to a different app to serve you better. The Waste Whiz item search box has been improved, you'll be able to print your collection calendar for a full year, and we will be able to send out alerts when there are concerns in certain collection areas. One of the other new features of this app is [a fun waste sorting game!](#)



**Download our new Waste Whiz app today, and don't forget to delete the Recycle Coach/My Waste app.**



Or use our [online version](#).



## Out with the old, in with the new

### Bill and Receipts

Are you cleaning out your home office? According to the [Government of Canada's website](#), you should keep supporting documents for your income tax for six years. (Check with other sources for other types of documentation.)

Receipts are recyclable:



- Place in a plastic shopping bag and put in your [Paper products and plastic bags blue box](#).
- If you are shredding paper: Use as an absorbent layer in your green bin. Or you can stuff shredded paper in a plastic shopping bag, tie the handles of the bag, and place in your Paper Products and Plastic Bags blue box.
- Or *reduce the waste!* Consider switching to electronic billing.



### Furniture and Appliances

Items that don't fit in a regular garbage bag/can are considered [bulky items](#). Up to three bulky items can be collected curbside every other week (the same week as garbage collection). Disposal tips:



- Search the item on [Waste Whiz](#) to find out if the item is accepted for collection and how to prepare it.
- Or *reduce the waste!* If the item is in good condition, consider donating or selling it.



### Batteries

Do you have a pile of spent batteries from the holidays? Batteries are hazardous waste but are recyclable when you return them to various vendors:

- Prepare them correctly
- Take them back to local businesses or drop them off at the Region's Household Hazardous Waste depots.
- Or *reduce the waste!* Consider using rechargeable batteries

rethink  
waste  
think outside the bag

## Ways to reduce your waste all year long

Change is never easy, but these tips and tricks listed below can help launch a greener lifestyle.

Consider starting with one or two of these ideas and then introduce others each month.

### Resolution #1: Skip single use items

- Swap plastic bags for reusable ones
- Bring your own water bottle and travel mug to avoid purchasing disposable ones. Carry your own reusable cutlery and straw
- Make your own food at home or eat in a restaurant. Minimize getting food delivered or take-out

### Resolution #2: Rethink purchases

- Consider buying used at local stores, getting stuff at auctions, or borrowing (from friends, family or the Library of Things)
- Buy locally-produced items (reduces your carbon footprint!)
- Repair instead of purchasing new
- Do your research to help determine if the item has recycled content, if the company has environmental practices or accreditations, etc.
- Plan menus and take stock of what you already have onhand before you go grocery shopping
- Rethink your gifts. Consider making them (perhaps even learning a new skill!)

### Resolution #3: Reduce packaging and clutter

- Bring your own container
- Buy in bulk
- Ensure all packaging is 100 per cent recyclable
- Shop at local farmers' markets
- Donate unwanted clothes and other household goods, and drop-off electronics (such as cell phones, printers, laptops) Not only does this divert waste from the landfill but provides items an opportunity for a second life.

Share your success in reducing your waste!  and 



Before you drop off your electronic waste, **wipe your devices.**

Find out **what kind of impact you make** when you drop off your devices.

## Learn more, do more



**The Region's new Strategic Plan (2019-2023):** The Environment and Climate Action is a key focus in the plan. Read through [the highlights](#) or click on the link for the [detailed report](#) approved by Council on November 5, 2019.



## Share the vision!

Keep your circle of friends in the know! Please forward this electronic newsletter to them using the link at the end, or even better, send them the link to the Region's [subscription page](#). There they can quickly sign up for Waste Management eNews and any other topic that they are keen on.