



Waste Management eNews March 2020



Region of Waterloo

Keeping residents informed about our waste management programs and services

How to be a global recycling citizen



In recognition of [Global Recycling Day](#) on March 18, we're focussing on how local recycling makes a difference globally.

Every item we touch has come from the earth, and its production, packaging, and shipping have environmental impacts.

Your choices matter. By recycling, you can help the planet and be one of the #RecyclingHeroes.

Current state of waste management

State of the Region:

Watch the video of or read the speech delivered recently by Chair Karen Redman. She said that *...protecting our natural environment is an underlying consideration to every decision we make around the Council table. There is nothing more fundamental to the quality of life a community enjoys, than the environment.* She highlighted our great waste diversion efforts such as the green bin and blue box recycling programs.



Currently, staff are working on our 2019 annual report that will provide an update on our waste programs. We are expecting the trend for increased green bin tonnage to continue, similar to our [2018 report](#).

In Ontario and Canada:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs operate across Canada and will be [increasing in Ontario](#). These programs make producers or first importers, "stewards", responsible for recycling their products and packaging.

For the Blue Box program, currently stewards share costs with municipalities. Over the next few years, it's expected to [fully transition](#) to the stewards.

[Use this directory](#) to find current take-back programs for everything from computers to fertilizers.

Grasp that straw... it cannot be recycled.



Reducing and recycling plastics is and will continue to be a hot topic!

- Learn about what our federal government is doing to transition our country to zero plastic waste Here are things you can do every day to reduce plastics.
- Make a pledge to #BePlasticWise!

And check the *Swap it out* article below, too!



Markets buying blue box materials continue to be challenging with stricter requirements and lower pricing. Your efforts in properly sorting recyclables into two boxes helps us to sell quality recyclables to the markets we've secured in Canada and the USA.

Achieve Waste Whiz happy.

Download. Personalize. Be waste wise!



15 tips/hacks/tricks for amazing recycling

General

- Use our online search tool, the Waste Whiz, to find out how to recycle or dispose of an item.
- During "spring cleaning", consider donating unwanted household goods to local organizations, and good food that you no longer want to local food banks. Put all expired food into your green bin, and recycle acceptable packaging in the blue box.
- Lend a helping hand to neighbours who may struggle setting out and removing their bins on collection day.
- Using a permanent marker, write your address on each of the containers you set out to the curb for collection. This helps your neighbours return them to you on windy days.



- Make sorting and recycling a family activity. Share the work and knowledge. It's everyone's responsibility!

For the Blue Box program

- Create a cardboard tying station by putting a roll of cotton twine or jute in a container (could be a small box, plastic jar, even a plastic bag). Carefully punch a hole in the container (or use a handle of the plastic bag) and thread the twine through. Secure the container to the wall or shelf in a closet, garage, or another convenient spot. Future stacks of flattened cardboard will be easier to tie up!
- Rinse food and beverage cans and bottles with leftover dishwater to conserve water.
- Stack paper cups or nest the same types of metal food containers together to use less space.
- Post information and reminders in a handy spot and discuss recycling with your family/housemates.



- Have bins in different areas of your home (kitchen, bathrooms, garage) to make it easier to sort and collect recyclables.

For the Green Bin program

- Use natural deodorizers such as baking soda or white vinegar. Do not use harsh chemicals or pesticides
- Create your own liners out of newspaper. Or use kraft paper and cardboard that you get with home deliveries. Or ask for paper bags when you are buying groceries.
- Put a paper egg carton, sheets of newsprint, or paper beverage take-out tray in the bottom of your green bin to help it empty out.
- Bury and layer food waste with newspaper or shredded paper to soak up moisture, prevent fruit flies, and reduce odours.
- Remove stickers, strings, mesh bags, plastic wrap and all other non-compostable things before you put your food scraps in the green bin.

Share your recycling tips  @WasteWR and  @ROWWasteManagement



Did you know that recycling can save millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions globally each year?

Given the state of the climate, ensuring the products you need to purchase have 100 per cent recyclable packaging, and recycling all you can in our local programs are important actions you can take to help our climate. Check out more ways you can help under the *Learn more, do more* article near the end of this newsletter.)

Swap it out!

The item and issue(s)	Swap it out - good, better, best options
<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee pods</p>  <p>Coffee pods are not accepted in the blue box or green bin and create a lot of garbage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good: Use coffee pods that are returnable to the vendor or recyclable through Terracycle. • Better: Use a drip coffee maker or press, compost grounds through your green bin or backyard composter, and use a refillable travel mug. • Best: Give it up. Drink more tap water instead!
<p style="text-align: center;">Plastic utensils</p>  <p>Plastic utensils are not accepted in our Blue Box program. The production process creates waste and emissions. For example one pound of polystyrene forks creates over 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good: Use up what plastic utensils you have. Consider reusing them if they are washable and sturdy. • Better: Opt out of disposable version when you are getting take-out/delivery. Carry/use your own reusable utensils • Best: Order food that doesn't need utensils!

How to get geared up for the Yard Waste program

Believe it or not, curbside yard waste collection is launching soon! During the week of March 30 to April 3, residents in Cambridge and Waterloo can set out yard waste, and the following week (April 6 to 10) will be the first week in 2020 for residents in Kitchener and the Townships to set out yard waste.

1. Stock up on the [right containers](#) and [yard waste stickers](#)
2. Brush up on [what's acceptable](#).
3. Use this [calendar](#) to keep on track.



And if you have a dog, here's [how you can handle that clean-up in your yard](#). Reminder: Dog droppings are **not accepted** in yard waste.

Did you know that the yard waste we collect is either shredded into mulch, or composted?!

Learn more, do more

- Check out the [resources](#) for Global Recycling Day.
- Go to the Stewardship Ontario website to find out [why you should recycle](#).
- Check out the Recycling Council of Ontario's [Plastic Action Centre](#).
- Go to [R.E.E.P's website](#) to find programs, events and information to reduce your waste.
- Take part in [Earth Hour](#) on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:30 p.m
- Use the [United Nation's calculator](#) to determine your carbon footprint. Once you've answered questions, related to your travel, shopping, and recycling habits, you can compare your footprint with the world's average.



Spread the news!

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.