



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover: Managing our waste

The Regional Municipality of York Solid Waste Management Branch plans, finances and delivers environmentally-sound solid waste diversion and disposal programs that ensure a healthy, safe and sustainable future for York Region. The Region is responsible for the development of waste diversion programs and for all other facets of solid waste management, except curb-side collection and the provision of collection containers. This includes:

- Planning, processing and marketing of Blue Box, Green Bin and yard waste programs
- Management of public drop-off depots for Household Hazardous Waste, electronics and scrap metal
- Transportation and disposal of municipally-collected garbage

Each of the nine local municipalities in York Region are responsible for curb-side collection of residual waste, Blue Box recyclables, Green Bin organics and yard waste. They are also responsible for the provision of residential Blue Boxes and Green Bins.

York Regional Council is dedicated to achieving a minimum of 65 per cent waste diversion by 2010, up from 46 per cent achieved in 2007.

Blue Box Recycling

York Region's recycling program is a co-mingled system allowing residents to place all recyclable items in the same Blue Box – no sorting needed! Items accepted in the Blue Box include rigid plastic household containers, aluminum foil, cans and trays, steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, milk and juice cartons, cardboard and boxboard and paper. Blue Box recyclables collected by the local municipalities are delivered to York Region's Waste Management Centre in the Town of East Gwillimbury where they are sorted, baled and sent out to the recycling market.

Green Bin Organics

The Green Bin program can divert over 30 per cent of residential waste from landfill. The Green Bin can be used for food waste, pet waste, diapers, household plants and soiled paper products such as paper towels, facial tissue, pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags. Once collected by the local municipality, Green Bin organics are delivered to York Region's transfer station. The material is then transported to one of several licensed processing facilities under contract to York Region.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

York Region manages four HHW depots where residents can properly dispose of hazardous materials found at home, free of charge, including compact fluorescent light bulbs, paints, pesticides, batteries, medicine, household cleaners, nail polish, nail polish remover, needles and syringes. For depot locations and hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-877-464-9675.

Electronic Waste

Residents are reminded that electronic waste (e-waste) must be delivered to one of York Region's e-waste drop-off depots for recycling and proper disposal. Items accepted include computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, electronic games, stereos, VCRs and DVD players. For drop-off locations and hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-877-464-9675.



For more information please contact:
York Region Corporate Communications
tel: 905 830-4444 / toll free: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 1234

Visit us online:

www.york.ca



York Region Waste Facts

In 2008, York Region processed approximately:

- 89,000 tonnes of Blue Box materials
- 86,000 tonnes of Green Bin organic waste
- 36,000 tonnes of yard waste materials
- 3,500 tonnes of Household Hazardous Waste/electronics/scrap metal/tires
- 115,000 tonnes of residual waste

What else is happening in 2009?

Dongara

The Regional Municipality of York has a long-term contract with the new Dongara facility in the City of Vaughan. As a customer of the new plant, York Region will be sending 100,000 tonnes of residual waste to Dongara annually.

Dongara manufactures an engineered fuel product from residual waste. This fuel product can be used as an industrial energy source, such as an alternative to coal. This local solution will be used to manage waste remaining after our continued diversion efforts and will reduce our need for landfills.

Community Environmental Centres

York Region is currently building the first of several planned Community Environmental Centres (CECs) in the industrial area of Highway 7 and Creditstone Road in the City of Vaughan.

CECs will provide residents with a convenient location for reuse, recycling and disposal. Materials accepted will include styrofoam, shredded paper, furniture, building supplies and bulky recyclables such as wood, drywall and scrap metal.

With the help of residents, York Region CECs will divert even more material from landfill each year. The anticipated opening date for the Vaughan CEC is spring 2009.

Durham/York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study

York Region has partnered with Durham Region on the Durham/York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study to find a safe, long-term solution for managing the residual waste remaining after our diversion efforts. The site selection process identified a preferred site in the municipality of Clarington, located in Durham Region. Environmental testing of the site is currently underway and a final project submission should be made to the Ministry of the Environment in 2009. The proposed energy-from-waste facility in Clarington could potentially manage 400,000 tonnes of residual waste per year. For more information, please visit www.durhamyorkwaste.ca

For more information on York Region Solid Waste Management initiatives, please visit www.york.ca/waste



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