



Ask Katherine

Send your waste related letters, questions, or comments to waste@durham.ca

Waste Management, Regional Municipality of Durham
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What new initiatives is Durham Region implementing to reach the 70 per cent diversion target?

The Region is continually looking for ways to expand our diversion efforts and reduce waste. As of June 1, two new pilot projects will help us meet our diversion goals, while providing valuable information on residential recycling habits.

White foam polystyrene pilot

Waste Management staff has implemented a six-month white foam polystyrene cushion packaging recycling pilot project at the Oshawa Waste Management Facility. The pilot will focus on polystyrene materials, including cushion packaging from items such as televisions, furniture and computers. The pilot will accept only white foam polystyrene cushion packaging. The merits of implementing a Region-wide program will be evaluated after the completion of the pilot.

Mattress and box spring recycling pilot

A six-month mattress and box spring recycling pilot project is currently underway at the Oshawa Waste Management Facility. Mattresses and box springs will be placed into covered trailers and hauled to a processing facility where almost all of the components are recycled. Resident participation will be an important factor in determining possible future implementation plans.

Additional blue box distribution

Approximately 186,000 residences in Durham Region will receive one additional, but larger 22 US gallon blue box this fall.

The purpose of this second and larger blue box is to provide more system capacity to divert recyclable containers, such as oversized plastic bottles, tetrapaks, aluminum cans and glass, from the waste stream.

Multi-residential recycling re-launch

The Region has aggressive plans to improve recycling in its multi-residential buildings. The re-launch of the recycling program this fall will address the needs for increased capacity at buildings, introduce new and convenient recycling tote bags for tenants use, and introduce new educational materials for residents.

I recently read that several recycling markets have closed. Is the material I put into my Blue Box still being recycled?

First and foremost, residents can be assured their Blue Box material is still being recycled. A softening economy and declines in manufacturing have resulted in changes to the markets of some recyclable commodities such as newsprint and glass. The Region's Blue Box program hasn't been affected. Durham's high quality recyclable material continues to be in demand by recycling end markets.

The Region's curbside program remains a reliable and efficient way to divert waste from landfill.



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