



Ontario's New Recycling Program--Questions and Answers

With the City of Toronto no longer responsible for recycling, Circular Materials is the company responsible for managing recycling in Ontario, with GFL Environmental providing curbside pickup in Toronto.

<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/>

Below are questions and answers taken from the Circular Materials website regarding the new recycling methods. There has been a lot of confusion, and the Green Team hopes that this will help.

What is a Circular Economy?

A circular economy where materials are collected, recycled and returned to producers for use as recycled content in new products and packaging

What's happening to Ontario's recycling program?

In 2021, the Ontario government passed a new regulation that shifts the financial and operational responsibility of blue box recycling programs to producers – those that produce and supply blue box materials to residents. In this new extended producer responsibility

(EPR) framework, producers are responsible for funding and operating the collection and recycling of packaging and paper materials. Transition to EPR will take place between 2023-2025, with the new framework fully in place by January 1, 2026.

Why is my recycling cart being stickered?

Toronto recycling carts have been stickered with information about Circular Materials, who now manage the recycling program. Here's what you need to do: **Please leave your cart(s) out until 7 p.m.** on your recycling collection day. Repeat this process until your cart(s) have been stickered. Contact the phone number on your cart for recycling inquiries starting January 1, 2026. Do not contact Toronto's 311 for recycling inquiries.

Who is Circular Materials?

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization building an efficient and effective recycling systems where materials are collected, recycled, and returned back to producers to use as recycled content in new packaging and paper. As the administrator of Ontario's common collection system, Circular Materials is responsible for operating the new system for blue box materials. Circular Materials is committed to increasing recycling rates across Ontario and ensuring more materials are looped into the circular economy, benefiting both people and the environment. *(The Circular Materials office is at 1 St. Clair Ave. West, close to the church.)*

What does extended producer responsibility (EPR) mean?

EPR is a framework in which producers – the businesses that supply paper and packaging to residents – are responsible for managing the end-of-life management of these materials. EPR enables innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels, and access to materials. It is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates.

What is the hot and cold beverage cup pilot Circular Materials is running in the City of Toronto?

As of July 3, 2024, Toronto residents are able to place their plastic-lined hot and cold beverage cups in their recycling bin as part of a pilot program. This includes hot drink cups used for coffee and tea, and cold drink cups used for fountain drinks. Toronto residents can recycle this material in single and multi-residential homes, long-term care homes, retirement homes and elementary/high schools. Learn more at

circularmaterials.ca/beveragecups

Will multi-family residential buildings (including high rises and low rises) that were serviced by the City of Toronto before the transition still receive recycling collection services going forward?

Yes, all multi-family residential buildings (including high rises and low rises) that previously received recycling collection services from the City of Toronto will continue to receive services through Circular Materials and our collection contractor GFL.

Will multi-family buildings receive weekly or every two-week collection pickup?

The recycling collection frequency that was previously in place for each specific multi-family residential building and other facilities will remain the same.

Can multi-family residential buildings (six units and above), long-term care facilities, retirement homes and schools that did not receive recycling collection prior to the transition, apply for service in the future?

Yes, in alignment with Ontario's [Blue Box regulation](#), facilities that were not serviced by the City of Toronto prior to transition become eligible to register for residential recycling collection services with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) in 2031.

I am a property manager; how can I request additional recycling bins for the multi-family residential building(s) that I manage?

Property managers of multi-family residential building(s) should contact **GFL directly at 1-888-921-2686** to discuss the potential need for additional recycling bins.

Further Questions: If you have questions about where something goes or how it should be treated before being put in recycling, composting or garbage, you can check the City of Toronto, Waste Wizard, online, which has been updated to reflect Circular Materials items for recycling.

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/waste-wizard/>

Alternatively, please let a Green Team member know your question, and we will try to find out the answer for you. If you do not have computer/printer access, we can provide a printout of the Circular Materials lists of items for recycling. We also have a 1-page summary that you can post in your kitchen.