



Going Green

ISSUE NO. 1

INTRODUCING... THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM

By participating in the Green Bin Program you will be keeping organic material – such as food waste and soiled paper food products – out of the garbage and turning it into compost. This will help us reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and move us closer to achieving our goal of 70% diversion.

What do I need to do?

You will receive an indoor kitchen container with a special hanging bracket that can fit under your kitchen sink or in another convenient location. All you have to do is put your household organic waste, such as food scraps and soiled paper food products (see page 3 for details), in your organics container.

You can line the kitchen container using plastic bags (used grocery bags are fine). Once full, just remove the plastic bag and toss it in one of the large Green Bins stored in your central waste/recycling collection site. Please only twist or loosely tie the plastic bag (no twist ties) because it helps us separate the plastic from the organics at the processing facility.

You can continue to recycle the same materials you did before – your recycling collection will not be affected by the Green Bin Program. The recycle bins should be clearly marked in your central waste/recycling drop-off area. You can also continue to throw out your garbage in the same location you are using now (possibly a garbage chute or in your central waste/recycling collection site).

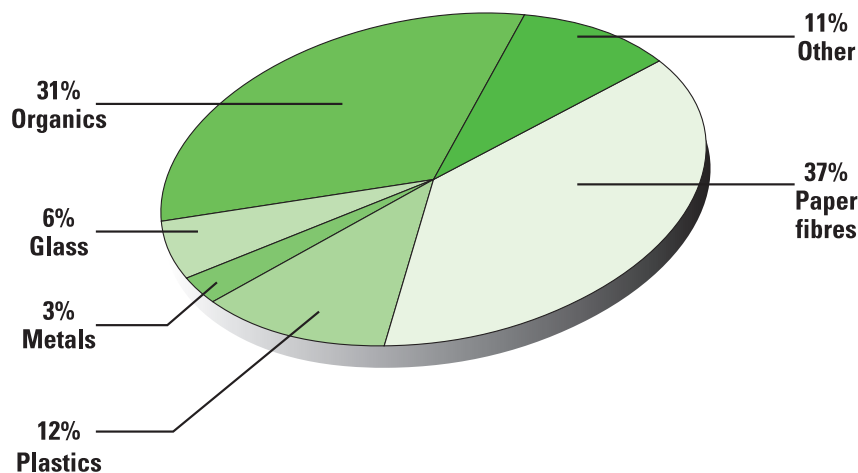


What's the purpose of the Green Bin Program?

Organic materials make up approximately 30% of the garbage going to landfill. By collecting your organic materials – such as food waste and soiled paper food packaging (see Page 3 for details) – the Green Bin Program will help us to reduce the amount of material that Toronto sends to landfill.

More than 90% of residents in single-family homes are successfully participating in the Green Bin Program and residents living in 30 apartment/condominium buildings across the city participated in a two-year pilot to help the City plan the roll-out to buildings like yours.

Total waste stream composition from sample apartment building in Toronto



WHAT IS IN YOUR WASTE...

The graph (see left) shows the breakdown of what the average apartment/condominium sets out for collection. The Green Bin Program is designed to target the approximately 30% of organic materials currently going to landfill.

Paper products (e.g. newspapers and egg cartons), plastics and metals still make up a large portion of what is going to landfill. You can take advantage of the recycling program offered at your building to keep recyclables out of landfill. Check out the Toronto Recycles information card available at your building for more information. You can also visit toronto.ca/recycle for more information.



What happens to your organic material?

Your Green Bin organic materials will be picked up by collection vehicles and taken to the City's organics processing facility. Operators inspect the organics and remove large, unwanted items. A biological process called "anaerobic digestion" converts the material into solids, which is then turned into clean, rich compost. Green Bin and yard waste materials that residents sort and place out for collection comes back as free compost offered to residents at Community Environment Days and at Councillor-sponsored compost giveaways – the program comes full circle.

Anaerobic digestion is a biological process that uses bacteria to break down solids in the absence of oxygen.



What to put (and not put) in your Green Bin

Into the Green Bin...

- Fruit, vegetable scraps
- Meat, shellfish, fish products
- Pasta, bread, cereal
- Dairy products, egg shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Soiled paper towels, tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging: fast food paper packaging, ice cream boxes, muffin papers, flour and sugar bags
- Paper plates
- Candies, cookies, cake
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Household plants, including soil
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Animal waste, bedding (e.g. from bird/hamster cages), kitty litter
- Pet food

Not into the Green Bin...

These items do not break down and, therefore, cannot be turned into compost.

- Plastic wrap, baggies, sandwich bags
- Plastic items such as food containers (e.g. yogurt or margarine tubs), cutlery
- Plastic milk bags
- Foam polystyrene meat tray liners
- Foil
- Wax paper
- Leather, textiles, clothing
- Cigarette butts, tobacco
- Corks (from wine bottles, etc.)
- Paper coffee cups and lids
- Gum
- Cotton swabs/balls
- Baby wipes
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Hair, pet fur, feathers
- Fireplace or BBQ ashes
- Wood products, wood chips
- Candles
- All recyclable items



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: What are organics?

A: Organics are materials that break down naturally and can be turned into compost. This saves them from going to landfill – landfill space is costly and hard to find.

Q: The program sounds disgusting. I don't want to touch all of that yucky stuff. Won't the bins smell awful and attract pests? What can I do?

A: You can use a plastic bag to line your kitchen container. Instead of throwing your food waste, etc. in your garbage container, throw it into your kitchen container. You are already handling and storing this material. The Green Bin Program only changes how you sort waste. Continue to regularly remove waste from your home by taking it to the centrally located Green Bins stored in your central waste/recycling collection site.

Q: If I can use a plastic bag to line my kitchen container, why can't I put plastic items such as yogurt containers or plastic wrap in the container?

A: While it's okay to line your kitchen container with a plastic bag, it is not okay to include your plastic baggies, bread bags, and other plastic packaging. Too much plastic causes serious quality problems at the processing facility. The mechanisms at our organics processing facility are designed to remove the plastic bags you use to line your containers, but not plastic packaging. Bottom line, plastic is not good for the final product. We appreciate your help in producing clean, rich compost.

Q: What will finished compost be used for?

A: It will be used as a soil amendment for farmland and parkland and can be used on lawns and gardens.



www.toronto.ca/greenbin



Any questions? Need more information?

If you have any questions about the Green Bin Program, please contact your building superintendent, or property manager.

To receive this information in Chinese, Tamil, Vietnamese, French, Italian, Portuguese, Korean, Spanish, Russian or Farsi, please contact your building superintendent who will in turn contact a representative of the City to arrange for translated information.

如果想取得本文的中文譯本，可以向你的大廈管理處提出請求；大廈管理處便會聯絡市政府職員，安排派發中文譯本事宜。

இவ்விரத்தை தமிழில் பெற்றுக் கொள்வதற்கு உங்கள் கட்டட கண்காணிப்பாளருடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும். அவர் மாநகரத்தின் பிரதிநிதி ஒருவருடன் தொடர்பு கொள்வார். இவ்விரத்தின் மொழிபெயர்ப்பு கிடைப்பதற்கு அப்பிரதிநிதி ஒருங்கு செய்வார்.

Muốn nhận được thông tin này bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc với quản trị chung cư của quý vị, người này sẽ tiếp xúc với một đại diện của Thành phố để sắp xếp việc dịch thuật.

Pour recevoir ces renseignements en français, veuillez contacter le concierge de votre immeuble qui communiquera avec un représentant de la Ville pour obtenir la traduction de ces renseignements.

Per ricevere queste informazioni in italiano potete contattare il soprintendente del vostro stabile, il quale a sua volta si metterà in contatto con un addetto municipale per ottenere una traduzione delle informazioni stesse.

한국어로 관련 정보를 받으시려면 건물 관리인에게 요청하십시오. 건물 관리인이 시청의 소관 업무 담당자에게 연락하여 한국어로 번역된 안내물을 보내드리도록 하겠습니다.

Para recibir esta información en español, por favor, póngase en contacto con el portero de su edificio, quien a su vez, se comunicará con un representante del Ayuntamiento para conseguir una traducción.

Se desejar receber esta informação em português, queira contactar com o encarregado ou a encarregada do seu prédio que, por sua vez, comunicará com a Câmara para obter a tradução.

Чтобы получить эту информацию на русском языке, свяжитесь с суперинтендантом Вашего жилого комплекса, который, в свою очередь, обратится к представителю мэрии за информацией в русском переводе.

برای دریافت این اطلاعات بزبان فارسی، لطفاً با مسئول ساختمان خود تماس بگیرید. او از طرف شما با نماینده شهرداری تماس می گیرد و نسخه ترجمه شده این اطلاعات را برای شما درخواست می کند.