



Going Green in Etobicoke

ISSUE 3 – MARCH 2003



TWO (GREEN) THUMBS UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF ETOBICOKE

Congratulations, Etobicoke! You have proven yourselves to be champions of the environment. More than 95 percent of you are participating in the City's Green Bin Program, and you have helped to divert over 250 tonnes of organics every week from landfill (see list, back page). Instead, this material is being turned into good, rich compost for landscaping and agriculture.

Your participation is especially important since the City-owned Keele Valley landfill closed on December 31, 2002, and we are now trucking all our garbage to Michigan. As a result, our costs for waste disposal have increased

from \$12 per tonne to \$52 per tonne. By using your green bins effectively, seven fewer trucks are going to Michigan each week. That's a significant savings, and helps the environment, too.

Many thanks for your support of the Green Bin Program!

**"Congratulations,
Etobicoke!"**



Here's what you told us about the green bins

The City conducted a telephone survey of 700 Etobicoke residents to determine the overall satisfaction with the outdoor green bins. Here's what we found out:

96% of eligible households are participating in the Green Bin Program

90% put their green bin out for collection every week

54% say their green bin container is three quarters full or more at each collection

As for the green bin containers themselves:

90% of participants prefer the bins to have wheels for easy transportation to the curb

90% say the tension of the latching mechanism is "just right"

57% reported that the embossed pictures on the lid were useful

91% are satisfied with the durability of the bin

93% are happy with the bin's ability to fend off animals

Send us your comments and suggestions.
Call Customer Service at 416 338-2010, or email
greenbin@toronto.ca.



HOW TO USE PLASTIC TO MANAGE THE "YUCK FACTOR"

You can manage the "yuck factor" by using plastic bags to line one or both of your containers. That way, you don't have to handle the organics twice. Just remove the full plastic bag from your indoor container and toss it into your outdoor green bin—twisted or loosely tied, if possible, as it helps us separate the plastic from the organics at the processing facility. You do not have to purchase a special bag. You can reuse a plastic grocery bag. (Note: you don't have to line your bin with a plastic bag at all if you don't want to.)

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BIN?

In the unlikely event your green bin cracks or breaks, the City will replace it (same goes for your blue and grey boxes).

Please call 416 338-2010 for more information.



PLASTIC ALERT! WE NEED YOUR HELP!



ETOBICOKE PAVES THE WAY FOR SCARBOROUGH

Thanks to Etobicoke's success with the Green Bin Program, the City will be rolling it out to Scarborough—that's another 110,000 homes—in June 2003. Plans are to launch the program throughout the rest of the City of Toronto by 2005.

Plastic is not good for the final compost product.

While it's okay to line your containers with plastic bags, 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.

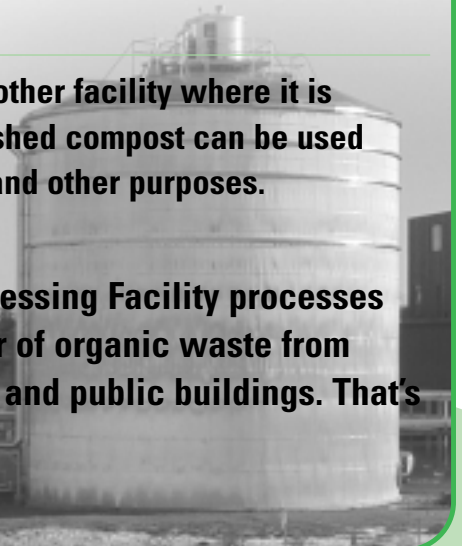
Please remove your organic materials from the plastic packaging before throwing them into the bin (e.g. take the sandwich out of the baggie). The mechanisms at our organics processing facility are designed to remove the plastic bags you use to line your containers—but not plastic packaging.

Bottom line, plastic is not good for the final product. We appreciate your help in producing clean, rich compost.

Here's how the process works

- 1** Your organic materials are picked up at the curb by collection vehicles and taken to the Dufferin Organics Processing Facility.
- 2** Operators inspect the organics and remove large, unwanted items.
- 3** A hydropulper (similar to a large blender) spins the organics into a liquid pulp.
- 4** A biological process that uses bacteria in the absence of oxygen ("anaerobic digestion") converts the pulp into organic solid material.
- 5** The material is trucked to another facility where it is turned into compost. The finished compost can be used for landscaping, agriculture and other purposes.

The Dufferin Organics Processing Facility processes up to 25,000 tonnes per year of organic waste from Toronto homes, businesses and public buildings. That's a lot of compost!



LIST OF ACCEPTABLE/ NOT ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS



Info

the green bin...

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

Please

do not

include the following items...

(They 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
- Styrofoam, meat tray liners
- Foil
- Artificial flowers
- Leather, textiles, clothing
- Rugs, carpets
- Cigarette butts, tobacco
- Corks (from wine bottles, etc.)
- Gum
- Ear cleaners, cotton balls, make-up removal pads
- Baby wipes
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum bags
- Feathers
- Hair, pet fur
- Fireplace or BBQ ashes
- Wood products, wood chips



Going Green
in Etobicoke

ANY QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the Green Bin Program, please call Customer Service at 416-338-2010 or check out our web site at www.toronto.ca/greenbin

Pour recevoir ces renseignements en français, appelez le 416 338-2010.

Per avere queste informazioni in italiano si prega di chiamare il 416-338-2010.

Aby otrzymać te informacje w języku polskim, proszę dzwonić (416) 338-2010.

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 416-338-2010.

ਇਹ ਸਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੰਗਵਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਲਈ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 416-338-2010 ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

இந்த விவரத்தை தமிழில் பெறவந்தால், அழைக்கவும்: 416 338 2010.

Щоб отримати інформацію українською мовою, просимо телефонувати 416-338-2010

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