



Going Green in Scarborough

ISSUE 3 – MARCH 2004



HOW TO USE PLASTIC TO MANAGE THE “YUCK FACTOR”

You can manage the “yuck factor” by using plastic bags to line either your indoor kitchen container (no need to buy special bags...your used grocery bags will do just fine) or your green bin. There is no need to line both bins. By lining your kitchen container, 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.

Another advantage to using plastic bags to line either your kitchen container or your green bin is that it prevents loose organics from freezing to the side of the bin in the winter, which in turn prevents collectors from dumping the organics into the truck.

TWO (GREEN) THUMBS UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF SCARBOROUGH

Congratulations, Scarborough! You have proven yourselves to be champions of the environment. More than 90 percent of you are participating in the City's Green Bin Program, and you have helped to divert over 2,200 tonnes of organics every month from landfill. 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, 65 fewer trucks are going to Michigan each month. That's good news for the environment.

*Many thanks for your
support of the Green
Bin Program!*





PLASTIC ALERT!

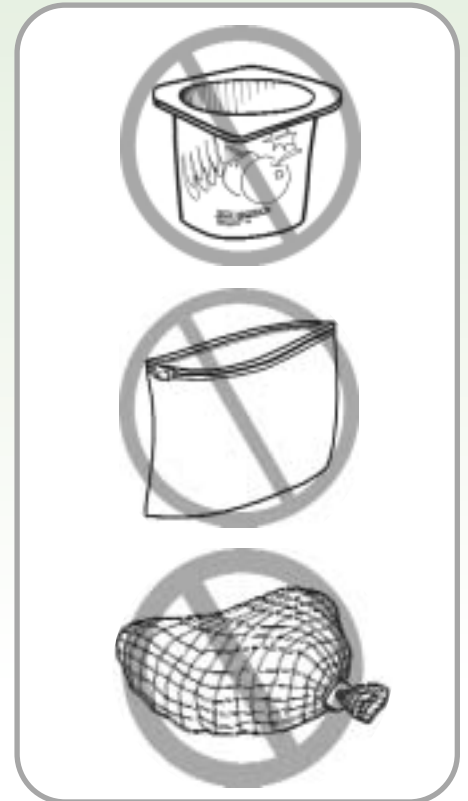
We need your help!

While it's okay to line one of 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 crust 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.

Plastic is not good for the final compost product.



Scarborough and Etobicoke pave the way for the rest of Toronto

Based on Scarborough and Etobicoke's success with the Green Bin Program, the City will be rolling it out to Toronto, York and East York in October 2004—that's another 210,000 homes. North York climbs on board in the fall of 2005.

No back-breakers, please

A bin or bag that weighs more than 20 kg (44 lbs) will not be picked up, so use a clear plastic bag for your overflow material—one big bag please, not several small ones—and set it out beside your green bin. We recommend that you use the overflow bag for non-food items (e.g. diapers, animal waste) because they don't attract animals. You could also purchase a new outdoor green bin for \$15 (indoor kitchen container \$4). See "How to replace your bin" for details.



Here's how the process works

HOW TO REPLACE YOUR BIN

If your green bin cracks or breaks, bring it with you to the transfer station and the City will replace it at no charge (same goes for your recycling boxes). Please call 416 338-2010 for more information. For a replacement bin, or if you want to purchase a new or second bin, go to:

Scarborough Transfer Station

1 Transfer Place
(north on Markham Road, left on Nugget Avenue)

Tuesday to Friday:

6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday:

6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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 mixer) 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.



