

Authority: Infrastructure and Environment Committee Item IE25.2, adopted as amended by City of Toronto Council on November 12 and 13, 2025
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on December 17, 2025
Written approval of this by-law was given by Mayoral Decision 16-2025 dated December 17, 2025

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 1526-2025

To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 841, Waste Collection, Commercial Properties; Chapter 844, Waste Collection, Residential Properties; and Chapter 846, Waste Management Facility to align with Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box) in preparation for Extended Producer Responsibility: Post-Transition, commencing January 1, 2026.

Whereas it is necessary to update Municipal Code Chapter 841, Waste Collection, Commercial Properties; Chapter 844, Waste Collection, Residential Properties; and Chapter 846, Waste Management Facility to align with Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box) under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 in advance of Extended Producer Responsibility: Post-Transition taking effect on January 1, 2026.

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts

1. Code Chapter 841, Waste Collection, Commercial Properties, is amended as follows:

(1) Add new definitions to Article 841-1. Definitions that state:

CITY OF TORONTO COMMERCIAL WASTE CUSTOMER – A customer enrolled to receive waste services pursuant to this Chapter 841, which may or may not include collection and processing of Recyclable Materials depending on Article 841-1A and Appendix 1 to this Chapter.

O. REG. 391/21 -- Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box, adopted pursuant to the Ontario Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016.

PRODUCER-FUNDED BLUE BOX COLLECTION SERVICES --The collection of blue box materials by producers or producer responsibility organizations, as those terms are defined in O. Reg. 391/21, and not by the City.

PRODUCER-FUNDED BLUE BOX MATERIALS – The list of blue box materials, as that term is defined in O. Reg. 391/21, that can be viewed on the website of Circular Materials (www.circularmaterials.ca), in its capacity as the entity responsible for operating the producer-funded program for blue box materials pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21.

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION – A Producer Responsibility Organization, as that term is defined in O. Reg. 391/21.

(2) Add a new Article 841-1A that states:

Article 841-1A Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services

- A. To align with the Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services that take full effect Ontario-wide on January 1, 2026, articles in this Chapter 841 that refer to Recyclable Materials no longer apply to those City of Toronto Commercial Waste Customers that receive Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services unless explicitly stated otherwise in this Chapter. Similarly, these same articles in Chapter 841 will continue not to apply to anyone receiving services from a private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee). Appendix 1 to this Chapter 841 indicates which City of Toronto Commercial Waste Customers receive Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services and where other private company services are provided.
- B. Notwithstanding sub-article 841-1A(A) and Appendix 1 to Chapter 841, the following articles in this Chapter 841 pertaining to Recyclable Materials continue to apply to all commercial properties in the City of Toronto regardless of whether the property is a City of Toronto commercial customer for Recyclable Materials:
- Article 841-11 (General requirements)
 - Article 841-12 (Times for setting out garbage, recyclable materials and organic materials)
 - Article 841-16 (Prohibited acts)
 - Article 841-17 (Charging of expenses against the property)
 - Article 841-18 (Offences)
 - Article 841-19 (Discontinuance of service)

(3) Add Attachment 1 to the Chapter by inserting it between Article 841-21 (Powers and Duties of General Manager) and Schedule A (Recyclable Materials).

(4) Delete Schedule A (Recyclable Materials) to the Chapter and replace with Attachment 2.

2. Code Chapter 844, Waste Collection, Residential Properties, is amended as follows:

(1) Add new definitions to Article 844-1. Definitions that state:

CITY OF TORONTO RESIDENTIAL WASTE CUSTOMER – A customer enrolled to receive waste services pursuant to this Chapter 844, which may or may not include collection and processing of Recyclable Materials depending on Article 844-1A and Appendix 1 to this Chapter.

O. REG. 391/21 -- Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box, adopted pursuant to the Ontario Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016

PRODUCER-FUNDED BLUE BOX COLLECTION SERVICES -- The collection of blue box materials by producers or producer responsibility organizations, as those terms are defined in O. Reg. 391/21, and not by the City.

PRODUCER-FUNDED BLUE BOX MATERIALS – The list of blue box materials, as that term is defined in O. Reg. 391/21, that can be viewed on the website of Circular Materials (www.circularmaterials.ca), in its capacity as the entity responsible for operating the producer-funded program for blue box materials pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21.

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION – A Producer Responsibility Organization, as that term is defined in O. Reg. 391/21.

(2) Add a new Article 844-1A that states:

Article 844-1A Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services

- A. To align with the Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services that take full effect Ontario-wide on January 1, 2026, articles in this Chapter 844 that refer to Recyclable Materials no longer apply to those City of Toronto Residential Waste Customers that receive Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services unless explicitly stated otherwise in this Chapter. Similarly, these same articles in Chapter 844 will continue not to apply to anyone receiving services from a private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee). Appendix 1 to this Chapter 844 indicates which City of Toronto Residential Waste Customers receive Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services and where other private company services are provided.
- B. Notwithstanding sub-article 844-1A(A) and Appendix 1 to this Chapter, the following articles in this Chapter 844 pertaining to Recyclable Materials continue to apply to all residential properties in the City of Toronto regardless of whether the property is a City of Toronto customer for Recyclable Materials:
- Article 844-16 (General requirements)
 - Article 844-17 (Times for setting out garbage, recyclable materials, yard waste and organic materials)
 - Article 844-23 (Prohibited acts)
 - Article 844-24 (Charging of expenses against the property)
 - Article 844-25 (Offences; discontinuance of service)
 - Article 844-25.1 (Inspection under power of entry)

(3) Amend Article 844-3 by adding new subsections A and B and then re-lettering the existing subsections accordingly:

- A. This Article 844-3 is subject to section 844-1A which takes priority.
- B. Notwithstanding any provision in this Article 844-3 to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2026 and continuing indefinitely:

1. The City will not provide services to collect, transfer and process Recyclable Material for any residential property, including without limitation a Multi-Residential Property and Single Family Residential Property:
 - a. if that property is an eligible source, as defined in section 4 of O. Reg 391/21, for Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services; or
 - b. if that property is not an eligible source, as defined in section 4 of O. Reg 391/21, for Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services but opts to receive services from a private entity other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee).
 2. The City will not provide services to collect, transfer, and process Garbage, Organic Materials and Yard Waste for any Multi-Residential Property that is not an eligible source, as defined in section 4 of O. Reg. 391/21, for Producer-Funded Blue Box Collection Services unless the Multi-Residential Property retains a private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee) to handle Recyclable Materials, and provides the City with confirmation that such services have been retained.
- (4) Add Attachment 3 to the Chapter by inserting it between Article 844-47 (Administration of co-operative housing solid waste grant) and Schedule A (Special Collection Services)
3. Municipal Code Chapter 846, Waste Management Facility, is amended as follows:
- (1) Add new definitions to Article 846-1 Definitions that state:
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE – The waste items, other than electronic waste and metal goods, referred to in Schedule A of this chapter.
- O. REG. 101/94 – Ontario Regulation 101/94, adopted pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act.
- O. REG. 387/16 – Ontario Regulation 387/16, adopted pursuant to Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016.
- (2) Amend the definition for TRANSFER STATION in Article 846-1 Definitions by deleting the current definition in its entirety and replacing with the following:
- TRANSFER STATION - A City-owned and controlled facility used for the purpose of transferring waste from one vehicle to another for transportation to another waste disposal or processing site, including a municipal waste recycling site, a municipal waste recycling depot, a leaf and yard waste composting site as defined in O. Reg. 101/94, and a site or depot that receives Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste, as defined in O. Reg. 387/16.

(3) Add a new Article 846-10 that states:

Article 846-10 Powers and Duties of General Manager

The General Manager shall:

- A. Determine the hours of operation of the services to be provided;
- B. Designate collection points for categories of waste which are eligible for drop-off, including without limitation:
- C. Modify the list of Recyclable Materials, Yard Waste, and Organic Materials in Schedule A to Chapter 846 as needed to align with industry best practices or comply with all applicable laws and policies;
- D. Provide information and services with respect to the acceptance and handling of items on Schedule A (Recyclable Materials, Yard Waste, and Organic Materials) and Schedule B (Prohibited Waste) at Waste Management Facilities;
- E. Allow for closure of some or all Waste Management Facilities in the event of inclement weather or other condition which renders the provision of the services unsafe for a specified period of time; and
- F. Establish such other things as are necessary for the proper administration of this chapter.

(4) Add a new Article 846-11 that states:

Article 846-11 Closed Landfills

- A. The General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services is authorized to act on behalf of the City of Toronto with respect to management and operations for closed landfills (sometimes referred to as “old landfills”) located on lands owned by the City of Toronto.
- B. This authority is intended to take priority over any earlier authorizations provided by Council resolution with respect to management and operation of closed landfills.

(5) Delete Part A of Schedule A (Recyclable Materials, Yard Waste and Organic Materials) to the Chapter and replace with Attachment 4.

4. This By-law shall be effective commencing January 1, 2026.

Enacted and passed on December 17, 2025.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

ATTACHMENT 1

TYPE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	ENTITY THAT IS COLLECTING RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM THIS LOCATION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2025	ENTITY THAT WILL COLLECT RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM THIS LOCATION ON OR AFTER 1 JANUARY 2026	DO THE PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 841 CONCERNING RECYCLABLE MATERIALS APPLY TO THIS PROPERTY (EXCEPT WHERE UNLESS EXPLICITLY STATED OTHERWISE IN CHAPTER 841)?
Commercial property without any residential dwelling units	City of Toronto	City of Toronto (Collection service provided by the City of Toronto along with collection of organic waste and garbage, with service paid by customer.)	Yes. Provisions do apply.
	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	No. Provisions do not apply.
Commercial Property with six or more residential dwelling units above the commercial portion of the property.	City of Toronto	For the commercial portion of the Commercial Property: City of Toronto	Yes. Provisions do apply.
		For the residential portion of the Commercial Property: Producer Responsibility Organization	No. Provisions do not apply.

		(funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	
	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	For both the commercial and residential portions of the Commercial Property: Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	No. Provisions do not apply.
Commercial Property with fewer than six residential dwelling units above the commercial portion of the property.	City of Toronto	For the commercial portion of the Commercial Property: City of Toronto	Yes. Provisions do apply.
		For the residential portion of the Commercial Property: Producer Responsibility Organization (funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	No. Provisions do not apply.
	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	For the commercial portion of the Commercial Property: Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	No. Provisions do not apply.

		For the residential portion of the Commercial Property: Producer Responsibility Organization (funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	No. Provisions do not apply.
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ATTACHMENT 2

Schedule A Recyclable Materials

The following items shall be deemed to be recyclable materials for the purposes of this chapter:

1. Glass bottles and jars;
2. Metal food and beverage cans;
3. Plastic bottles and jugs made of high density polyethylene (HDPE #2) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET #1);
4. Household paper (including junk mail, writing and computer paper and envelopes);
5. Paper egg cartons, rolls and bags;
6. Boxboard;
7. Newspapers;
8. Telephone directories;
9. Magazines and catalogues;
10. Clean corrugated cardboard;
11. Aluminum foil and trays;
12. Polycoat milk and juice cartons;
13. Aseptic drink boxes;
14. Empty aerosol cans;
15. Plastic food jars, tubs and lids;
16. Spiral-wound containers and other paper laminate containers (for example, orange juice, dough and potato chip containers);
17. Paper gift wrap and cards;
18. Plastic bags and flexible plastic packaging which may include overwrap, coffee bags, chip bags, snack wrappers, bubble wrap, standup pouches, toothpaste tubes, and cereal liner bags;
19. Expanded polystyrene and foam packaging which may include meat trays, takeout containers, and foam packaging from products (for example, foam peanuts and pellets);
20. Mixed rigid post-consumer plastic containers and packaging (SPI codes #1-7) which may include plastic clam shell containers, disposable coffee pods, thermoform packaging, plastic egg cartons, plastic pails sold as packaging, compact disk cases, disposal plastic plates and drink cups, plastic utensils, and plastic food trays;
21. Paper laminate packaging (for example, pet food bags, food service bags, and parchment paper);
22. Any other item designated as a recyclable material by the General Manager.

ATTACHMENT 3

TYPE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	ENTITY THAT IS COLLECTING RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM THIS LOCATION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2025	ENTITY THAT WILL COLLECT RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM THIS LOCATION ON OR AFTER 1 JANUARY 2026	DO THE PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 844 CONCERNING RECYCLABLE MATERIALS APPLY TO THIS PROPERTY (EXCEPT WHERE EXPLICITLY STATED OTHERWISE IN CHAPTER 844)
Multi-Residential Property with six or more dwelling units.	City of Toronto	Producer Responsibility Organization (funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	No. Provisions do not apply.
	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	Private company other than a Producer Responsibility Organization (for a fee)	No. Provisions do not apply.
Multi-Residential Property with fewer than six dwelling units	City of Toronto	Producer Responsibility Organization (funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	No. Provisions do not apply.
Single Family Residential Property	City of Toronto	Producer Responsibility Organization (funded pursuant to O. Reg. 391/21)	No. Provisions do not apply.

ATTACHMENT 4

A. The following items shall be deemed to be recyclable materials for the purposes of this chapter:

1. Glass bottles and jars;
2. Metal food and beverage cans;
3. Plastic bottles and jugs made of high density polyethylene (HDPE #2) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET #1);
4. Household paper (including junk mail, writing and computer paper and envelopes);
5. Paper egg cartons, rolls and bags;
6. Boxboard;
7. Newspapers;
8. Telephone directories;
9. Magazines and catalogues;
10. Clean corrugated cardboard;
11. Aluminum foil and trays;
12. Polycoat milk and juice cartons;
13. Aseptic drink boxes;
14. Empty aerosol cans;
15. Plastic food jars, tubs and lids;
16. Spiral-wound containers and other paper laminate containers_(for example, orange juice, dough and potato chip containers);
17. Paper gift wrap and cards;
18. Plastic bags and flexible plastic packaging which may include overwrap, coffee bags, chip bags, snack wrappers, bubble wrap, standup pouches, toothpaste tubes, and cereal liner bags;
19. Expanded polystyrene and foam packaging which may include meat trays, takeout containers, and foam packaging from products (for example, foam peanuts and pellets);
20. Mixed rigid post-consumer plastic containers and packaging (SPI codes #1-7) which may include plastic clam shell containers, disposable coffee pods, thermoform packaging, plastic egg cartons, plastic pails sold as packaging, compact disk cases, disposal plastic plates and drink cups, plastic utensils, and plastic food trays;
21. Paper laminate packaging (for example, pet food bags, food service bags, and parchment paper);
22. Empty paint cans;
23. Scrap metal, including but not limited to refrigerators, stoves, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, barbecues, and large metal objects;
24. Drywall;
25. Polystyrene;
26. Passenger tires without rims; and
27. Any other item designated as a recyclable material by the General Manager.