

New Blue Bins, Garbage Bins and programs to get to 70% diversion from landfill

Program Highlights

Revised November 2007

- The City has set an **aggressive goal of 70% solid waste diversion from landfill by 2010** – distributing new Blue Bins for recycling and Garbage Bins to residents in homes receiving curbside collection are two tools that will help us get there.
- **New programs and services will give residents the tools they need to reduce and reuse** including a new larger Blue Bin with a lid and wheels.
- Reaching our goal of 70% solid waste diversion from landfill by 2010 will **extend the life of the Green Lane Landfill until approximately 2034**.
- The City will need an additional **\$54 million annually** to provide the programs/services needed to target 70% diversion.
- The City will **generate the necessary funds** through a **new volume-based rate structure for solid waste**.
- Payment will be **based on how much garbage is produced by the household**. Residents can **reduce garbage to reduce costs**.
- **Four different-sized Garbage Bins (Small, Medium, Large, Extra-large)** will be made available that will accept from **1 to 4.5 bags of garbage every two weeks**. The estimated cost of these bins **ranges from approximately \$209 to \$360 per year, however households will receive a credit equal to \$209, the amount the average household currently pays through their property taxes. Final bin costs will be confirmed once the City's budget is approved in Spring 2008**.
- Initially, the credit will appear on the **new joint Toronto Water/Solid Waste bill** and will be applied against the cost of the new size of Garbage Bin(s) the householder has chosen.
- Those able to keep to the limits of the **Small-size Garbage Bin will not owe any money on their new bill**. Houses that choose a **larger bin will pay the difference of the cost of their new Garbage Bin minus \$209**.

- The **average** single-family residential household will pay an **additional \$62 per year (\$1.20 a week)**.
- **The same concept will apply to multi-unit residential buildings.**

By achieving 70 per cent diversion from landfill:

- Solid Waste is reducing its GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions by an additional 25 per cent, which is equal to taking over 100,000 cars off the road.
- Toronto will recycle 240,000 tonnes of paper annually, which will save 4.5 million trees a year.
- Toronto will recycle enough materials to save 900 million kWh (kilowatt hours) of energy annually, which is enough to supply all the electrical needs for 170,000 homes.