



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
AGENDA

WMPSC 1-2025

Monday, February 24, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Committee Room 4

Niagara Region Headquarters

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON

If you are interested in viewing this meeting please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at [clerk@niagararegion.ca](mailto:clerk@niagararegion.ca).

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Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR
  - 3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair
  - 3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair
  - 3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair
  - 3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice Chair
  - 3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice Chair
  - 3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice Chair
4. PRESENTATIONS
5. DELEGATIONS

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

None.

**7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca) (email).

## **Memorandum**

**WMPSC-C 1-2025**

**Subject:** Illegal Dumping 2024 Year End Summary

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Tiana Dominick, Contract Supervisor

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This memorandum provides an update to the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on illegal dumping activities in 2024 and outlines the mitigation measures planned for 2025 to address illegal dumping in the Niagara region.

### **Summary of Illegal Dumping Incidents in 2024**

In 2024, a total of 1,027 illegal dumping incidents were investigated, marking a 52% increase from the 673 incidents investigated in 2023. The rise in documented incidents, follow-up investigations, and enforcement activities is attributed to the annual public education campaign, the litter bin blitz, and proactive monitoring by staff. Additionally, a supervisory position was restructured into a Waste Collection and Diversion Advisor role in 2024, enhancing staff capacity to monitor and investigate incidents more effectively compared to the previous year.

A summary of the incident sources is provided below, with further details in the full report:

- 32 incidents were reported by local municipal staff.
- 720 incidents were reported via the Waste Info Line, the Online Reporting Tool, and Crime Stoppers.
- 275 incidents were identified through proactive monitoring by staff.

A detailed breakdown of illegal dumping investigations by area municipality can be found in Appendix 1.

## **2024 Illegal Dumping Enforcement Activity**

Waste Management staff investigate all incidents of illegal dumping on public property. When evidence of the material's origin is identified, a Part I Provincial Offence Notice is issued for contravention of the Niagara Region Waste Management By-Law.

To issue a Part I Provincial Offence Notice, certain conditions must be met, including a 30-day prescribed period and in-person contact. If these conditions are not fully satisfied (e.g., inability to make in-person contact, the individual has moved, insufficient evidence, or the individual cannot be located), staff will issue a warning letter based on the available evidence.

In 2024, evidence of the suspected generator was found in 107 incidents, representing 10% of all illegal dumping cases. As a result, 32 Part I Provincial Offence Notices were successfully issued, and 75 warning letters were delivered.

The outcomes of the 32 offence notices are as follows:

- 9 defendants were sentenced during early resolution or trial.
- 13 cases are still active and pending in the Provincial Offences court system.
- 7 defendants voluntarily paid the set fine associated with the Provincial Offence Notice.
- 2 cases were withdrawn, and 1 case is awaiting trial.

## **Update on Dumping in Public Space Litter Bins and the Annual Litter Bin Blitz**

Waste Management staff continue to monitor public space litter bins and respond to reports of illegal dumping in or around these bins. In 2024, 26% (264) of illegal dumping investigations were related to materials illegally dumped in or around public space litter bins.

As part of ongoing efforts, Waste Management staff conduct the annual Litter Bin Blitz, during which public space litter bins are audited for illegally dumped materials. If evidence is found during the blitz, staff attempt to issue a Part I Provincial Offence Notice.

The 2024 Litter Bin Blitz took place from November 4–8, 2024. As a result, six individuals were issued a Part I Provincial Offence Notice for illegal dumping, which are included in the total count of Provincial Offence Notices for 2024.

### **Illegal Dumping Rewards Distributed in 2024**

To encourage residents to report illegal dumping, Niagara Region, in collaboration with Local Area Municipalities, offers a reward system. If an individual's report leads to an act of compliance or a conviction under the Waste Management By-law, the person who made the report is eligible for a reward of \$50 or \$200, depending on the violation.

Currently, staff are preparing to issue six (6) rewards to Niagara residents for reports that resulted in successful convictions in Provincial Offences Court. Additional rewards may be issued based on the outcomes of ongoing Provincial Offences Court proceedings related to 2024 illegal dumping investigations.

### **Public Education and Annual Campaign**

In November 2024, staff launched an Illegal Dumping campaign across various social media platforms, including Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and Snapchat. The campaign led to a dramatic 3,289% increase in visits to the Illegal Dumping page on the Niagara Region website between November and December 2024. A campaign is planned for 2025 to continue to encourage residents to report incidents of illegal dumping.

### **Next Steps**

On average, Niagara Region incurs approximately \$24,000 annually in staff time to investigate and follow up on illegal dumping incidents. It is essential that staff continue to prioritize the investigation and mitigation of illegal dumping in the region. While the issuance of tickets may not always occur, it is important to recognize that consistent enforcement, monitoring, and deterrence are crucial in preventing further violations. These ongoing efforts support the long-term health of our environment, help preserve public spaces, and foster a sense of community pride.

In 2025, staff will maintain a strong presence and continue collaborating with community partners to address illegal dumping. Staff will also proactively monitor public space litter bins and conduct the annual Litter Bin Blitz. Additionally, staff will continue to utilize an app-based Geographical Information System (GIS) tool, which enables real-time data collection and precise tracking of illegal dumping hotspots, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement activities.

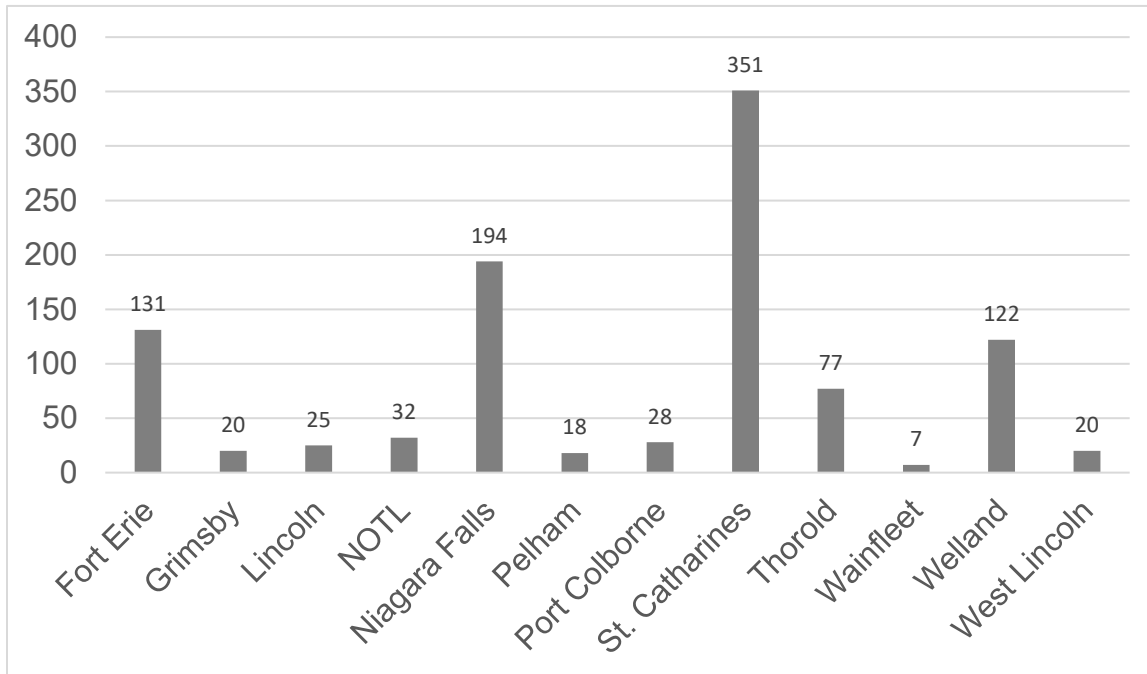
Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Tiana Dominick  
Contract Supervisor, Waste Management Services

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### Number of Illegal Dumping Reports by Municipality



## **Memorandum**

**WMPSC-C 2-2025**

**Subject:** Collection Contractor Performance Report October 19, 2023 to October 18, 2024

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Jennifer Wilson, Collection and Processing Project Manager

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### **Purpose**

This memorandum provides an update on the performance of the curbside collection contracts for the period from October 19, 2023, to October 18, 2024, which represents the fourth year of the contract term. The contracts are held with Green For Life Environmental Inc. (GFL) and Miller Waste Systems Inc. (Miller), hereinafter referred to as the Contract.

### **Background**

The region is divided into two collection areas:

- Collection Area One, under contract with GFL, includes the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, Town of Pelham, City of Thorold, Township of Wainfleet, and Township of West Lincoln.
- Collection Area Two, under contract with Miller, includes the Town of Fort Erie, City of Niagara Falls, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, City of Port Colborne, City of St. Catharines, and the City of Welland.

### **Completion Times**

GFL and Miller have successfully completed collections on all scheduled days during year four of the Contract. The contractors are required to complete collection by 5:30 p.m. each day as per the terms of the Contract.

- GFL consistently completed collections in Area One before 5:30 p.m.
- Miller completed collection prior to 5:30 p.m. on 96% of collection days. On the occasions where collection times exceeded 5:30 p.m., approximately 2% were



attributed to high leaf and yard volumes or weather-related events. On these late collection days, the average finish time was reported to be 6:02 p.m.

### Contractor Performance Issues

Contractor performance is evaluated based on the number of service issues reported by residents or businesses. These issues include, but are not limited to, missed collections, incomplete pickups, improper container placement, and other operator-related complaints.

Table 1 provides a summary of the number of service complaints received during the past four years of the Contract.

**Table 1: Summary of Service Complaints**

	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
	<b>2019 to 2020</b>	<b>2020 to 2021</b>	<b>2021 to 2022</b>	<b>2022 to 2023</b>	<b>2023 to 2024</b>
<b>Total Service Complaints</b>	14,282	10,278	5,740	4,788	2,828

Note: The four-year average of service complaints under the Contract is 5,909. Compared to the baseline year (October 2019 to October 2020), this represents a decrease of 8,373 complaints or 59%.

Service complaints have consistently decreased year over year throughout the duration of the Contract, reflecting an overall improvement in service delivery with fewer issues reported by residents and businesses. This decline can likely be attributed to several factors, including enhanced service since the new Contract began, the availability of video footage to verify contractor actions, and better communication of program requirements. Additionally, the decrease between year three and year four can be attributed to the Blue Box transition, during which contractors collecting on behalf of producers (Circular Materials) assumed responsibility for recycling collection, with service complaints now directed to them instead of the Region.

### **Accidents/Incidents**

The collection contractors are required to report any incidents, including vehicle collisions, spills, and property damage. While both contractors experienced minor vehicle collisions, these incidents have been resolved directly with insurance providers. Both contractors have maintained a satisfactory Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration (CVOR) carrier safety rating.

Spills were reported by both contractors, but these were relatively minor occurrences, including the spillage of vehicle fluids (e.g., engine oil, engine coolant, hydraulic fluid), as well as fluids from organics/waste collection and household hazardous waste materials (e.g., paint, oil) mixed in with garbage bags. The contractors appropriately cleaned up the spills in accordance with the terms of the Contract.

Property damage, including damage to personal property, landscaping features, or structures, was reported only in Area Two and has been resolved with property owners at the contractor's expense, as required by the Contract. There were no reports of property damage in Area One.

### **Liquidated Damages**

Liquidated damages can be assessed for breaches of performance standards outlined in the Contract. In year four, \$300 in liquidated damages were assessed for the collection of non-compliant materials.

### **Curbside Tonnage**

The table below compares the tonnage of garbage, organics, and recycling collected from the baseline year (previous contract) compared to each year of the current Contract.

**Table 2: Annual Tonnage Comparison**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Curbside Garbage Tonnes</b>	<b>Curbside Organic Tonnes</b>	<b>Curbside Recycling Tonnes</b>
<b>2019 to 2020 (Baseline)</b>	72,500	32,226	37,369
<b>2020 to 2021</b>	60,007	39,430	40,509
<b>2021 to 2022</b>	58,219	39,315	38,947
<b>2022 to 2023</b>	56,535	39,024	36,786
<b>2023 to 2024</b>	57,264	39,304	9,402
<b>% Change</b>	-21.0%	+22.0%	Not available

Notes:

Tonnage data excludes leaf and yard waste, branches, and front-end containerized garbage. Most waste is generated by the residential sector through the curbside collection service.

Year-over-year trends show that garbage tonnage remains lower than the base year, while organic tonnage remains higher.

In year four, there was a slight increase in curbside garbage and organics likely attributed to population growth and new development.

Year four recycling tonnage includes data only from October to December 2023, before Niagara Region's transition to Extended Producer Responsibility; data after December 31, 2023, is unavailable.

**Next Steps**

The performance of both GFL and Miller in the fourth year of their Contract has remained positive. Staff will continue to monitor contractor performance throughout year five and will work promptly with the contractors to address any Contract deficiencies that may arise.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Jennifer Wilson  
Collection and Processing Project Manager  
Waste Management, Public Works

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## Memorandum

**WMPSC-C 3-2025**

**Subject:** Councillor Information Requests

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Catherine Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services

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This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with an update on the outstanding Councillor Requests from previous meetings.

### Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**Meeting Date:** December 9, 2024

**Minute Item #5.1:** Councillor Ugolini requested additional options for August 25, 2025 meeting date, due to scheduling conflicts with Committee members.

**Follow-up Action:** Niagara Region Clerk's office to provide alternative meeting dates.

**Status:** In Progress

**Minute Item #6.1:** Councillor Rigby requested a detailed list of items collected through Niagara Region Waste Management programs following changes to provincial regulations.

**Follow-up Action:** Information pertaining to this Councillor request will be included in memo WMPSC-C 4-2025 - Items Collected at Niagara Region Site Under the Extended Producer Responsibility Programs, which will be presented to the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on February 24, 2025.

**Status:** Complete

**Minute Item #6.1:** Councillor Foster requested the current balances of the Waste Management Reserve Funds

**Follow-up Action:** As reported in the 2024 Q3 Financial update, the Waste Management Reserve balances are as follows as at September 30, 2024 (shown in thousands of dollars):

- Waste Management Capital Reserve \$24,557

- Waste Management Stabilization Reserve \$7,701
- Landfill Liability \$3,319

Updated reserve balances, pending councils' approval on the recommended reserve transfers, will be presented as part of the Q4 financial update at Corporate Services Committee in March 2025.

**Status:** Complete

### **Public Works Committee**

**Meeting Date: January 7, 2025**

**Minute Item #4.1:** Councillor Huson requested staff consider Regional statistics from Circular Materials Ontario respecting the blue box program.

**Follow-up Action:**

**Status:** In Progress

**Meeting Date: September 10, 2024**

**Minute Item #4.1:** Councillor Huson requested staff consider funding options that are available for waste management through the Green Municipal Fund.

**Follow-up Action:** Green Municipal funding will be explored during the Waste Management Strategic Plan process.

**Status:** In Progress

**Meeting Date: January 11, 2022**

**Minute Item #5.2:** Councillor Heit requested information respecting the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario Committee strategic plan regarding waste management information sharing between municipalities.

**Follow-up Action:** The Regional Public Works Commissioner of Ontario Committee is updating their strategic plan in 2025. Once this plan is available publicly, a copy will be provided to Councillors.

**Status:** In Progress

### **Budget Review Committee of the Whole**

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

### **Committee of the Whole**

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

### **Council**

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

### **Completed Items**

#### **Waste Management Planning Steering Committee**

##### **Meeting Date: August 27, 2024**

**Minute Item #3.1:** Councillor Witteveen requested to revisit proposed tip fee rate for contaminated soil deposits in landfills and consider implications of charging at the proposed general waste tip fee rate.

**Follow-up Action:** Rate adjusted and has been submitted as part of the User Fee By-Law which will be considered by Council on December 12, 2024.

**Status:** Complete

**Minute Item #3.1:** Councillor Foster requested to revisit the proposed minimum tip fee rate and the implications of increasing this rate further to better reflect costs.

**Follow-up Action:** Rate adjusted and has been submitted as part of the User Fee By-Law which will be considered by Council on December 12, 2024.

**Status:** Complete

#### **Public Works Committee**

##### **Meeting Date: September 10, 2024**

**Minute Item #8.1:** Councillor Bateman requested information respecting ways to expedite cleanup of waste materials and receptacles left at the curb following collection and options to manage repeat offenders.

**Follow-up Action:** Waste Management By-Law Enforcement memo submitted to Council Weekly Correspondence Distribution on October 11, 2024. (CWCD 2024-168)

**Status:** Complete

**Meeting Date: June 11, 2024 Closed Session**

**Minute Item #1.1:** Councillor Bateman requested the circulation of the letter distributed by Chair Bradley respecting Producer Responsibility

**Status:** Complete

**Minute Item #1.1:** Councillor Witteveen requested the number of Municipalities that have chosen to provide recycling collection to non-eligible sources.

**Status:** Complete

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Catherine Habermehl  
Director, Waste Management Services  
Public Works Department



## **Memorandum**

**WMPSC-C 4-2025**

**Subject:** Items Collected at Niagara Region Sites Under the Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Andrew Winters, Waste Disposal Operations, Program Manager

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### **Purpose**

This memorandum provides Committee members with an update on the outstanding Councillor request from the December 9, 2024, Waste Management Planning Steering Committee meeting (Minute Item #6.1). Councillor Rigby requested a detailed list of items collected through Niagara Region Waste Management programs following changes to provincial regulations.

### **Background**

In 2016, the province introduced legislation to transition six material groups collected under municipal waste diversion programs to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), making producers responsible for the collection and management of these materials.

With this change, municipalities had the option to continue acting as collection sites for these materials on behalf of the producers. Niagara Region chose to host collection sites for all six material groups.

The Region has agreements with these producers to collect the following materials on their behalf:

- Tires
- Batteries
- Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Hazardous and Special Products
- Lighting

- Blue/Grey Box Program

### **Collected Materials**

Below is a summary of the six programs currently collecting materials at Niagara Region's depots, along with the dates they began operating under the Extended Producer Responsibility legislation. The Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for each designated material is responsible for covering the cost of hauling and processing the collected materials. For detailed lists of acceptable materials see Appendix 1.

### **Tires (starting January 1, 2019)**

Residents may drop-off up to 10 passenger or small truck tires including rims per day, free of charge.

Drop-off Locations:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Bridge Street Drop-off Depots
- Walker Environmental Group's (Walker's) Drop-off Depot

A list of acceptable tires can be found at the links below:

[Recycling Tires - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/items/tires.aspx)

(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/items/tires.aspx>)

[Niagara - Walker Industries](https://walkerind.com/niagara/)

(<https://walkerind.com/niagara/>)

### **Single-Use/ Rechargeable Batteries (starting July 1, 2020)**

Batteries are collected at the following drop-off locations, free of charge:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Thorold Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depots
- Bridge Street Drop-off Depot
- Walker's Drop-off Depot

A list of acceptable batteries can be found at the links below:

[Household Hazardous Waste Items - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx)  
(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx>)

[Niagara - Walker Industries](https://walkerind.com/niagara/)  
(<https://walkerind.com/niagara/>)

### **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) (starting January 1, 2021)**

EEE is collected at the following drop-off locations, free of charge:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Bridge Street Drop-off Depots
- Walker's Drop-off Depot

A list of acceptable electrical and electronic equipment can be found at the links below:

[Recycling Old Electronics - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/items/electronics.aspx)  
(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/items/electronics.aspx>)

[Niagara - Walker Industries](https://walkerind.com/niagara/)  
(<https://walkerind.com/niagara/>)

### **Hazardous and Special Products (HSP) (starting October 1, 2021)**

HSP is collected at the following drop-off locations, free of charge:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Thorold Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depots
- Bridge Street Drop-off Depot (limited items – batteries, oil, paint, and propane tanks)

In addition to the HSP materials accepted under the HSP program, Niagara Region collects additional household hazardous materials.

A list of all acceptable household hazardous materials can be found at the link below:

[Hazardous Household Materials - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx)  
(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx>)

### **Lighting Material (starting January 1, 2023)**

Lighting materials collected at the following drop-off locations, free of charge:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Thorold Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depots

A list of acceptable lighting can be found at the link below:

[Household Hazardous Waste Items - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx)  
(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/items.aspx>)

### **Blue/Grey Box Material (starting January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2025)**

Blue and grey box materials are accepted at the following drop-off locations, free of charge:

- Humberstone, Niagara Road 12, and Bridge Street Drop-off Depots
- Walker's Drop-off Depot

A list of acceptable blue/grey box materials can be found at the links below:

[Blue Box Recycling Collection](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/collection/items/blue-box.aspx)  
(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/collection/items/blue-box.aspx>)

[Niagara - Walker Industries](https://walkerind.com/niagara/)  
(<https://walkerind.com/niagara/>)

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Andrew Winters  
Waste Disposal Operations, Program Manager

## WMPSC-C 4-2025 Appendix 1

### Information on Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

Below is the list of items, accepted free of charge, at public drop-offs operated by Niagara Region and Walker Environmental Group, as specified in various regulations:

**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)** designated under O. Reg 522/20 are free for residents to drop off.

Designated materials include:

- Computers, printers (desktop and floor-standing), printer cartridges
- Video gaming devices, telephones (including cellular phones)
- Display devices, radios, and stereos (including after-market vehicle stereos)
- Headphones, speakers, and cameras (including security cameras)
- Video recorders and drones with audio or visual recording equipment
- Peripherals and cables used to support the function of information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment including charging equipment
- Parts of information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment sold separately such as hard drives
- Handheld point-of-sale terminals or devices

**Lighting Material** designated under O. Reg 522/20 are free for residents to drop off.

Designated materials include:

- Bulbs, Dimmable light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs
- Halogen bulbs, headlight bulbs, high-Intensity discharge (HID) lamps
- Indicator lights, incandescent bulbs, and lamps
- LED bulbs, mini and miniature bulbs
- Motion-activated bulbs, replacement bulbs, and lamps
- Tube lights, UV lamps, Wi-Fi light bulbs

**HHW Depot- Items Collected** designated under O Reg 449/21 are free for residents to drop off.

Designated materials under HSP regulation:

- Paints, coatings, pesticides, solvents, aerosols
- Propane cylinders, and pressurized fillable containers
- Oil filters, antifreeze, oil containers
- Non-refillable cylinders
- Barometers
- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Fertilizers\*

The following items are also collected free of charge at Niagara Region's household hazardous waste depots:

- Used Oil
- FOG (fats, oils and grease)
- Sharps/Needles
- Pharmaceuticals
- Acids
- Organics – Flammable
- Fire Extinguishers
- Expanding Foam Cylinders
- Mercury
- Fertilizers\*

\*Included in the HSP regulation, however, Niagara Region pays for haulage and processing

## Memorandum

**WMPSC-C 5-2025**

**Subject:** Amendments to Four Producer Responsibility Regulations for Tires, Batteries, Electrical and Electronic Equipment, and Hazardous and Special Products: A Summary of Changes

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Dave Yousif, Manager Waste Policy and Planning

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Committee members on the finalized [amendments to four producer responsibility regulations](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-8866) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-8866>) concerning tires, batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, and hazardous and special products, as announced by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

### Background

On October 18, 2024, Niagara Region submitted formal comments to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO Notice 019-8866), expressing concerns about the proposed amendments. The comments highlighted the lack of detailed information, potential negative impacts on waste diversion and accessibility, and the need for stakeholder consultations on draft regulations.

Following this, report WMPSC-C 14-2024, which summarized Niagara Region's comments and concerns, was presented to the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on December 9, 2024. The report and presentation provided Committee members with an overview of the proposed changes, their potential implications, and Niagara Region's recommendations to the MECP. Following consultation in October 2024, the provincial government finalized the amendments on January 1, 2025.

### Summary of Changes Implemented

A high-level overview of the finalized amendments and how they compare with Niagara Region's submitted comments is outlined below:

**1. Collection Network Flexibility:**

- Niagara's Comments: The introduction of geographic offsetting (allowing alternative collection sites in adjacent municipalities) and an increased reliance on collection events (instead of permanent depots) could reduce service accessibility, especially in rural areas.
- Finalized Amendment: The government finalized the amendments allowing producers to establish alternative collection sites in adjacent municipalities (up to 10% across all regulations) and increased allowances for collection events.

**2. Revised Lighting Targets:**

- Niagara's Comments: Lowering recycling targets could undermine waste diversion efforts.
- Finalized Amendment: The government reduced recycling targets to 30% (best efforts) for 2025–2026, 30% for 2027–2030, and 35% for 2031 and beyond.

**3. Combined Battery Management Targets:**

- Niagara's Comments: Combining targets for primary and rechargeable batteries and delaying the 50% management target until 2026 could reduce the focus on recycling more problematic batteries.
- Finalized Amendment: The government implemented this change, which may allow producers to meet targets through easier-to-recycle batteries, without the need for focus on more challenging material types.

**4. Expansion of Regulated Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE):**

- Niagara's Comments: Advocated for the expansion of regulated EEE types to enhance waste diversion.
- Finalized Amendment: No further discussion or action was taken on this matter.

**Niagara Region's Concerns**

The finalized amendments raise several concerns for Niagara Region regarding their potential impact on waste diversion efforts and municipal responsibilities. The reduction of recycling targets and the extension of timelines for meeting these targets could



undermine progress toward waste diversion goals. These changes could shift responsibility onto municipalities to manage 'hard-to-recycle' materials, which may end up in the garbage stream. This would place additional financial pressure on local waste management systems to manage these materials, as well as take up valuable disposal capacity.

Further, allowing producers to establish collection sites in adjacent municipalities raises significant concerns regarding enforcement, oversight, and accessibility. To ensure compliance, the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) must develop robust processes, standards, and monitoring mechanisms to verify that these sites effectively serve the residents of the base municipality. There are uncertainties about how the 10% offset will be monitored and what records will be required to confirm that adjacent collection sites are properly serving the base municipality. Challenges include verifying service adequacy, tracking data, and ensuring producers do not exploit the flexibility to prioritize cost savings over accessibility. These changes also place additional resource demands on RPRA for audits and enforcement, while creating potential gaps in service for municipalities like Niagara Region, where residents may see reduced convenience, increasing the risk that these materials will be put into municipally collected garbage instead.

Additionally, the absence of consultation on expanding the scope of regulated EEE is seen as a missed opportunity to address emerging waste streams that could otherwise be diverted from landfills. Expanding the list of regulated items would have strengthened waste diversion efforts and reduced municipal costs.

Finally, if producers fail to meet their obligations under the new regulations, municipalities, including Niagara Region, may face increased costs. These costs would result from the need to manage materials that are not adequately addressed by producer responsibility programs, further straining municipal resources and budgets.

### **Next Steps**

To address concerns with the finalized amendments, Niagara Region will take steps to ensure waste diversion goals are met and municipal interests are protected.

First, the Region will closely monitor and evaluate the impact of the amendments. This includes tracking changes to waste diversion rates, assessing service accessibility, and analyzing the financial implications for municipalities. This monitoring will help identify gaps and challenges resulting from the regulatory changes. This will include proactive

engagement with RPRA, advocating for transparency, strong oversight, and clear reporting standards to protect local waste diversion efforts.

Niagara Region will continue advocating for stronger producer responsibility frameworks. By collaborating with other municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and key interest holders, the Region will push for regulations that enhance waste diversion and ensure producers meet their obligations.

Additionally, the Region will provide regular updates to Council on the implementation of the amendments, including any impacts on waste diversion rates, service accessibility, or municipal costs, and will recommend actions to address ongoing challenges.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Dave Yousif  
Manager, Waste Policy and Planning