

Municipalities Which Considered Using Recycling Box Covers

Municipality	Reasons for Not Pursuing Recycling Box Covers
Town of Markham (population: 328,966)	<p>The Town decided not to provide recycling box covers for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The contractor found the blue box covers unsuitable, as residents tended to overfill them and material would spill when cover was removed; and 2) In winter, the covers became sticky from residue and material would stick to them, especially if snowing and freezing. <p>The Town will also not be allowing residents to use blue bags for recycling, as the York Region Material Recovery Facility will not accept bags.</p>
Region of Peel (population: 1,382,000)	<p>The Region decided not to provide recycling box covers for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The areas with the blue box covers had the highest collection time with an increase in up to 5 seconds per household, in comparison with a standard recycling box; 2) Improper use of netted recycling boxes including overloaded netted boxes; 3) Significant annual increase in collection costs for mesh nets and plastic bonnets (\$3.6 million); and 4) Covers were least favourite of three container type options (other two were 121 litre container and blue plastic bags) by collection staff. <p>The Region of Peel switched to a bi-weekly recycling cart-based collection system as part of its new collection contract, which commenced in 2016. Organic carts are collected on the alternate weeks as recycling carts.</p>
City of Kingston (population: 129,653)	<p>The City tested three types of covers in a 2013 pilot of 100 households:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Peninsula Plastics snap-on cover, which can only be used with Peninsula Plastic brand recycling boxes; 2) The EnviroWeb mesh net, which can be used on most standard curbside recycling boxes; and 3) The KITEE fabric cover, produced by a local resident, which can be used on most standard curbside recycling boxes. <p>Based on the results of this pilot, it was determined that it would not be feasible to introduce the covers due to the extra time that would be added</p>

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	to collection routes and the potential for increased costs for collection. The City would not consider allowing covers as part of their next contract.
Region of Halton (population: 548,435)	<p>The Region considered doing a pilot project in 2010, but decided against it for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The research the Region did on available covers at the time was not conclusive; and 2) The cost and time involved in doing a study was prohibitive. <p>Instead, the Region decided to focus on promotion and education measures to educate residents on how to avoid litter issues.</p>
City of Kawartha Lakes (population: 190,000)	<p>The City of Kawartha Lakes used to offer hard metal recycling box covers to residents for purchase for \$5. The City stopped offering this service as their supplier (Green Marketing Co.) for the hard metal covers stopped producing this product. The City of Kawartha Lakes noted that there was minimal interest from residents in purchasing these lids.</p>
County of Essex (population: 181,53)	<p>The County of Essex conducted a 3 month pilot project on 200 houses in the County and City. The pilot tested using the plastic, elasticized Bonnet to cover the Blue Box. The project was completed in 2008. At the time the product was not available by retail and cost approximately \$4.50 for a package of three. The County of Essex does not currently offer Blue Box covers or lids.</p>
Region of Durham (population: 645,862)	<p>In June of 2018, Region staff recommended a pilot project to reduce Blue Box related litter through a combination of education and the provision of additional bins to residents. Staff recommended against Blue Box lids for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Blue box lids have not worked in the past as the lids come off and become part of the litter problem. 2) Attached lids present a pinch point hazard to recycling collectors 3) Mesh covers encourage residents to overfill boxes, leading to increased litter when the cover is removed by the collector and the compacted recycling falls out of the container. <p>In 2019, recycling box lids were distributed to 400 homes. In the fall of 2020, a litter audit was completed and it was found that only 24 households (6%) were using the provided lids. The low participation made it difficult to</p>

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	<p>evaluate the relationship between the litter generated and the presence of lids. Additional lids have been distributed to 600 additional homes and a follow up audit was completed in the Spring of 2021. Durham will determine how they proceed once the results of the follow up audits have been tabulated.</p>
<p>Niagara Region (population: 447,888)</p>	<p>In November 2019 one blue box and rigid lid was distributed to 349 homes with a promotional card and survey to educate on the use of the provided tools to reduce litter caused by recycling set outs. Three months after distribution in February 2020, only 72 households (21%) were observed to be using the lids in week one, and that shrunk to only 39 households (11%) using the lids in week 2. Of those pilot households that were observed <u>not</u> to use the provided box and lid, other litter reducing tactics were found to be practiced by 20% of the pilot households (i.e. stacking boxes and clear bags).</p> <p>Based on the uncertainty of the collection processes after the transition to the EPR framework, the poor results of the municipal blue box lid trials; the potential impact to the safety and efficiency of collection staff; and the availability of recycling box lids and covers in popular department stores at reasonable prices, Niagara Region did not recommend the use of recycling box covers.</p>