

Recycling Collection Options for Non-Eligible Sources

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

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Purpose

- To address CIR from 12 Sept 2023 PWC – provide options for recycling collection to non-eligible sources within 6 months
- To present long list of **options** for servicing non-eligible sources 2026 – 2028 (post transition to end of the current contract)
- To seek **feedback** from WMSPC on the list of options to use as input for the PWC report

Non-Eligible Sources

- Non-eligible sources are properties that do not require collection under the Blue Box regulation (O. Reg 391/21), including:
 - Industrial or commercial properties, incl. those on residential routes
 - Designated Business Areas incl commercial part of mixed-use building
 - Commercial farms
 - Weekend campgrounds (without households)
 - Public facing areas of municipal buildings (eg, libraries, arenas)
 - Not-for-profit organizations, including places of worship
 - Special Events (eg, festivals, community events)



Background

- Sept 2023 - Council approved continued co-collection of non-eligible sources together with eligible sources during Blue Box transition (Jan. 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2025)
- Circular Materials Ontario, the Producer Responsibility Organization, responsible for province-wide Blue Box program, will not allow co-collection starting Jan. 1, 2026
- Should municipalities collect from non-eligible sources past Jan. 1, 2026, they will be responsible for all costs (collection, processing, education)

Background cont'd

- Receiving/processing facilities must keep waste from eligible sources separate from non-eligible sources
- In 2020 Ontario committed to consultation on IC&I waste diversion framework
 - No further action taken, however new legislation may be developed in future
- Region recently released RFP for development of Waste Management Strategic Plan; will provide a framework for waste management over 25 yrs.
 - Includes public consultation with various stakeholders (ex. IC&I sector) and recommended programs/services
- Current collection contract ends March 2028 (option for 1-yr extension)

Current Services – Mixed Use

Mixed Use Properties

Location	Garbage	Recycling	Organics
Inside DBAs	Weekly collection 4 bag/can limit weekly/property	Weekly collection Unlimited Blue/Grey Boxes or Carts	Weekly collection Unlimited Green Bins/Carts
Outside DBAs	Every-other- week collection 8 bag/can limit/property	Weekly collection Unlimited Blue/Grey Boxes or Carts	Weekly collection Unlimited Green Bins/Carts

- Services inside the DBA may vary between LAMs due to enhanced services (ex. increased collection frequency or garbage limits that are paid directly by the LAM)
- Properties that have private collection services for recycling are not eligible for any curbside collection (excluding registered charities)

Current Services – IC&I

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) Properties

Location	Garbage	Recycling	Organics
Inside DBAs	Weekly collection 4 bag/can limit weekly/property	Weekly collection Unlimited Blue/Grey Boxes or Carts	Weekly collection Unlimited Green Bins/Carts
Outside DBAs	Every-other- week collection 8 bag/can limit/property	Weekly collection Max. 8 Blue/Grey Carts or equivalent Blue/Grey Boxes/property	Weekly collection Max. 8 Green Carts or equivalent Green Bins.

- Services inside the DBA may vary between LAMs due to enhanced services (ex. increased collection frequency or garbage limits that are paid directly by the LAM)
- Properties that have private collection services for recycling are not eligible for any curbside collection (excluding registered charities)
- No collection services to any IC&I building greater than 3 storeys (excluding Regional and municipal facilities and ABCs)

Options for Non-Eligible Sources

- Options for non-eligible sources fall into three categories:
 - Cancellation of service(s)
 - No change in user experience via separate collection
 - Change in service levels
- Due to time constraints, tendering out recycling collection services for January 1, 2026 until the end of the collection contract is not being considered as an option

Options for Non-Eligible Sources

Cancellation of service(s):

- Cancel recycling collection prior to Dec. 31, 2025
- Cancel recycling collection Dec. 31, 2025 to coincide with the end the Blue Box transition period when co-collection is no longer permitted
- Cancel all collections from non-eligible sources (garbage, organics and recycling) to prevent recycling potentially ending up in other streams

Options for Non-Eligible Sources

No change in user experience:

- Separate collection with no change to collection method/limits

Change in service levels:

- Reduce limits from 8 carts to 4 carts weekly
 - Mandatory cart based program
 - Still permit the use of Blue Boxes and clear bags in addition to carts
- Collect only from DBAs for recycling and/or garbage and organics
- Users pay fully or partially for garbage, recycling and/or organics collection

Options for Non-Eligible – Cancel Service

Cancellation of recycling collection prior to or on Dec. 31, 2025

- Approximately 9,000 non-eligible properties in Niagara Region (could be multiple businesses on one property)
- 2024 budget for recycling collection and processing to non-eligible sources – approx. \$1.3M (excluding enhanced services)
- Requires amendments to existing contracts and potential payment of one-time costs to contractors (due to change of scope)

Options for Non-Eligible – Cancel Service

Cancellation of recycling collection prior to or on Dec. 31, 2025 cont'd

- Non-eligible sources to pay a private contractor to collect recyclables
- Recyclable materials could end up in garbage and/or organic stream
- Other municipalities are reviewing collection services to non-eligible sources due to EPR. Some are cancelling starting January 1, 2026 (ex. City of Guelph); continuing for the transition period and re-evaluating post transition (Norfolk County); or continuing collection post transition (City of Toronto)

Options for Non-Eligible – Cancel Service

Cancellation of all collections (garbage, organics and recycling)

- 2024 budget for garbage and organics collection and recycling collection and processing to non-eligible sources – approx. \$2M
- 2024 budget for enhanced services related to non-eligible sources - approx. \$540,000
- Requires amendments to existing contracts and potential payment of one-time costs to contractors (due to change of scope)
- Non-eligible sources to pay private contractor to collect garbage, recyclables and organics
- Number of non-eligible properties using curbside garbage and organics collection is unknown

Options for Non-Eligible – No Change in User Experience

Separate collection starting Jan. 1, 2026 with no changes to collection limits/methodology

- Requires negotiations with collection contractor(s)
- A processor for the material will need to be available
- Cost increases compared to co-collection (separate collection vehicles are required)
 - Cost increase could be less if change existing collection days
- Requires maintenance of records of participating non-eligible sources
- Allows businesses to continue to receive services
- Allows staff to fully analyze any changes to implement for start of next collection contract

Options for Non-Eligible – Change in Service Levels

Mandatory cart based program; reduce limits from 8 carts to 4 carts weekly

- Approx. 200 out of approx. 1170 non-eligible sources that use carts have 5 or more carts
 - Approx. 25% (or approx. 50) place out more than 5 carts each week for collection
 - Some locations may also place out clear bags, Blue/Grey Boxes and bundled cardboard in addition to carts
- Other municipalities have recycling limits (City of London) and others do not (Oxford County)
- Potential collection costs savings compared to keeping existing limit

Options for Non-Eligible – Change in Service Levels

Mandatory cart based program; reduce limits from 8 carts to 4 carts weekly cont'd

- Non-eligible sources to purchase carts from Niagara Region (96 gallon carts - \$100/cart)
- Staff resources and potentially third party contractor required to roll out cart collection to all participating locations prior to Jan. 1, 2026
- Some municipalities have transitioned to cart based collection only for all properties (Peel Region) or plan to in the future (Waterloo Region)

Options for Non-Eligible – Change in Service Levels

Non-mandatory carts; reduce recycling limits to 4 carts from 8 and still permit use of Blue Boxes and clear bags

- Some of the same considerations as on previous slide, however, non-eligible sources not required to purchase carts and no roll-out of carts required
- Ensure processing facility will accept material in clear bags

Options for Non-Eligible – Change in Service Levels

Collect only from DBAs for recycling and/or garbage and organics

- Approx. 22% (approx. 2000) of non-eligible source properties are inside the DBAs
- Less costly than providing separate collection to the entire region
- Requires amendments to existing contracts and potential payment of one-time costs to contractors (due to change of scope)
- Non-eligible sources outside the DBAs to pay private contractor to collect material
- Results in further discrepancies between inside vs. outside DBA
- Some municipalities only provide collection services to DBAs (ex. Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan, Newmarket)
- Businesses in DBAs typically have storage space issues

Options for Non-Eligible – Change in Service Levels

Users pay fully or partially for garbage, recycling and/or organics collection

- Users pay for service on the basis of the volume of waste set out (ex. businesses purchase a garbage tag for each garbage bag placed curbside or pay a fee based on the size of container(s) set out for collection)
- Staff resources are required to administer and monitor the program
- Requires further analysis with Finance
- City of Ottawa Yellow Bag program for garbage for small businesses
 - Businesses purchase yellow garbage bags for \$4.30 each or \$17.40 for four
 - No additional fee to have recycling and green bin material collected

Considerations

- In addition to considerations noted under each option, when reviewing options and coming up with a final recommendation, the following will also need to be considered:
 - Feasibility of implementing within given timeframe
 - Implementation timeframes for the options vary (e.g. public communication needs, resources required)
 - Timing of the Waste Management Strategic Plan (the Plan) as public consultation and recommendations for programs/services are part of the development of the Plan
 - Require a decision from Council on whether services will continue for this sector beyond 2025 no later than June 2024

Next Steps / Recommendations

- In early 2024 staff will bring to PWC options for servicing non-eligible sources
- Based on historic work/time requirements regarding service level changes, staff recommend not changing service levels/methodology prior to the expiration of the current contract (2028 plus one year extension)
- Decision for PWC will be cancellation prior to or on December 31, 2025; continuation of collection services until December 31, 2025 or until end of current contract (2028 plus one year extension) via separate collection
- If applicable, staff recommend implementing any changes into the next collection contract RFP. Development of RFP will commence in Q3 2025