



## Multi-Residential Recycling Guide

For apartments and condominiums with seven or more units

### Condo's Green Team Making a Huge Impact on Reducing Waste!

Mill Run Condo is a 170 unit, high-rise condominium building located on the perimeter of downtown St. Catharines. The building is home to a dedicated team of residents who share a passion for waste reduction and contribute to Mill Run's 'Eco-Ambassador Green Team'. This past February, the Green Team worked with Niagara Region's Waste Management staff to re-launch the organics program at their building. The Green Team, along with Niagara Region staff, visited each unit to provide residents with a free Kitchen Catcher container for organic waste collection, along with associated program information. An evening presentation was also provided by the Region's Waste Management staff for residents interested in learning more about the program.

Since March to mid-June, 2018, Mill Run has already diverted over 3.5 tonnes of organic material from landfill. This is equivalent to the weight of two hippopotamuses ([www.torontozoo.com](http://www.torontozoo.com))! The Green Team attributes the success of the organics collection program to clear and consistent organic waste signage, face-to-face resident engagement with Niagara Region and Mill Run Green Team staff, a clean and well-kept cart storage area, and a shared positive outlook.

Initially, residents had their concerns. Some were worried about the potential for odours or if the organics program would result in any issues with pests. The Mill Run Green Team and Niagara Region staff were able to alleviate these concerns by providing residents with education and tools to ensure the organics program was successful. Free samples of certified compostable liner bags for Kitchen Catcher containers were distributed and additional Green Carts and a larger cart storage space were made available to handle the increase in the volume of material generated. The Green Team went the extra mile by hanging their waste sorting posters in durable frames above the organics carts. New superintendents, Doug and Gayle, have been



Mill Run Green Team members (from left to right) Gayle Hastey, Doug Hastey, Bruce Knicley and Frank Schiarizza. (Absent: Julia McLaren and Carol Schiarizza).

doing an excellent job switching out full carts for empty carts throughout the week and take great pride in their efforts to keep the sorting area clean and tidy. As such, they are big proponents of lining their Green Carts with certified compostable bags to keep their sorting area tidy.

For other buildings interested in implementing an organics program, the Green Team recommends: a team or an individual to act as an ambassador to aid in generating awareness on proper recycling practices among tenants; superintendents who are committed and supportive; proper signage; and continuous education for residents. Niagara Region Waste Management staff can help to support the building's waste management initiatives.

“ I would have to say the single most important element to make any kind of recycling and organics collection program work is the cooperation and support of the Building Superintendent. Once the Superintendent is on board then it is all about educating the residents in the proper manner in which to dispose of their recyclables and kitchen waste. With the diligence and commitment of the Superintendents, the residents and Niagara Region Waste Management Services, solutions can be found for almost any problem. ”

- Julia, Mill Run Condo Green Team