

Multi-Residential Eco- Ambassador Program Update

Waste Management Planning Steering
Committee

August 26, 2019

Program Creation:



- The Eco-Ambassador program was created in 2017 to support community-based volunteers residing in, or managing a Multi-Residential (MR) property.
- MR properties have lower waste diversion rates than Low Density Residential properties due to challenges with disposal accountability.
- Eco-Ambassadors work as liaisons between the building residents and Region staff to identify challenges and barriers to waste reduction.
- The Region's Eco-Ambassador program is similar to the City of Toronto's 3Rs Ambassador MR volunteer program.

Program Objectives:



The Eco-Ambassador program strives to:

- improve recycling participation rates;
- increase the quality and quantity of the resulting recyclable materials;
- support waste reduction initiatives and increases the lifespan of landfills;
- increase environmental awareness
- support a sense of community and cooperation within buildings



Becoming an Eco-Ambassador

Step 1: Receive permission from your building manager or superintendent

Step 2: Meet with Region staff member to receive Eco-Ambassador training

Step 3: Site Visit to complete Baseline Review

Step 4: With ongoing support from Niagara Region, implement programs and provide residents with education to create a greener building

Program Statistics

- 23 properties are participating in the Eco-Ambassador program
- Successfully supported existing waste diversion programs for a combined total of 1,778 units, by arranging for Region staff to provide education and outreach
- Implementation of new diversion programs:
 - Six organics collection programs
 - 11 battery recycling programs
 - Six Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) programs
 - Nine textile recycling programs

Mill Run Condo Eco-Ambassadors



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.



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.

Ina Grafton Eco-Ambassadors



Program Costs & Next Steps

- The total cost for this program was just over \$1,000, (split between the 2017 and 2018 operating budget) which includes the complementary t-shirt and hats provided to Eco-Ambassadors for joining the program.
- Recruit new Eco-Ambassadors and follow-up with existing Eco-Ambassadors to drive waste diversion in Niagara's multi-residential sector.

Questions?

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