

- Scarborough and Etobicoke are diverting 2,200 tonnes and 1,000 tonnes per month of organic waste respectively.



- In a 2003 survey, 700 Etobicoke residents were asked several questions regarding their opinions on the Green Bin Program. The results were:
 - 96% participate in the Green Bin Program
 - 90% set out their green bin for weekly pickup
 - 54% indicate that their curbside green bin container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full or more each week
 - 90% like the wheels that are on the bins because it is easier to transport
 - 90% indicate that the tension of the green bin latch is "just right"
 - 91% are pleased with the bin's durability
 - 93% are satisfied that the bins protect the organic waste from animals.

What is Next for the Green Bin Program?

- North York residents will begin the program in the fall of 2005.
- The City of Toronto is currently looking into ways to implement the Green Bin Program in apartment buildings and condominiums.
- Two pilot projects are currently taking place at buildings in Toronto and Scarborough.

Do You Have a Backyard Composter?

- Backyard composting and the Green Bin Program work hand in hand.
- The Green Bin Program will enable households to collect organic waste not suitable for a backyard composter (dairy products, meat, etc.), which will help to decrease the amount of waste going to landfills.



Contact Information

If you require a green bin contact the Green Bin Program at:
 Tel: 416-338-2010
 Email: greenbin@toronto.ca
 Web Site:
<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/greenbin/index.htm>

Who Are We?

We are a group of youths participating in Scadding Court Community Centre's Composting Project. The objective of this project is to develop and implement a community composting program in the Scadding Court area. We will be involved in working with and educating residents and businesses about the importance of composting.

Please contact us at 416-392-0335 if you have any questions about the program.



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Green Bin Program



What is the Green Bin Program?

- In January 2001, the City of Toronto introduced the Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 to come up with a strategy for the City's waste issue.
- The Task Force addressed the City's waste problem by setting three goals: 30% waste diversion from landfill by 2003, 60% by 2006 and 100% by 2010.
- One significant proposal that was made by them in their "Beyond Landfill: A Diverting Future" report, was a system, which we now know as the Green Bin Program.
- The Green Bin Program enables residents living in houses in Etobicoke, Scarborough, Toronto, York, and East York to collect their organic waste (fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee filters, etc.) for weekly pickup.
- The purpose of the program is to reduce the organic waste going to landfills by turning it

into compost, which is a rich soil-like product beneficial for soil and plants.

Why Did They Start the Green Bin Program?

- Since the closure of the City-owned Keele Valley landfill site on December 31, 2002, our garbage is being trucked to a private landfill in Michigan.



- Millions of dollars are spent each year to dispose of this waste because disposal costs have risen from \$12/tonne to \$52/tonne.
- About 30% of household garbage is made up of organic materials but with the help of the Green Bin Program, the waste can be turned into compost for agricultural and parkland use.
- The Green Bin program with the existing recycling programs (the grey and blue box) helps the City to meet its waste diversion goals.



How Does the Green Bin Program Work?

- Residents are supplied with two bins - one small container for the kitchen and a big bin for curbside collection.



- Instructions and a new calendar outlining how the program works and new collection dates are delivered to households.
- Participants gather organic waste in the small kitchen bin, which can be lined with a plastic bag then placed in the larger curbside bin to be collected on a weekly basis.

What Happens to the Organic Waste?

- Your green bin waste is collected every week and taken to an organics processing facility.



- Operators in the facility will examine the organic waste and take out any big and unwanted items.
- The organic materials are placed in a hyrdopulper, which blends and spins it into a liquid pulp.
- A process called anaerobic digestion, which uses bacteria when there is no oxygen transforms the pulp into organic solid material.
- The organic solid material is then taken to another facility and made into compost for agricultural and parkland use.



What Goes in the Green Bin?

- Fruits and vegetable scraps
- Meat, shellfish, fish products
- Pasta, bread, cereal
- Dairy products
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

- Soiled paper towels, tissues
- Soil paper food packaging including fast food paper packaging, ice cream boxes, muffin paper, flour and sugar bags
- Paper coffee cups (no lids), paper plates
- Candies, cookies, cake
- Baking ingredients, herbs
- Household plants with soil
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Animal waste, bedding (e.g. from bird or hamster cages, kitty litter)
- Pet Food



What Does Not Go in the Green Bin?

- Plastic wrap, sandwich bags
- Plastic items such as yogurt or margarine containers, cutlery
- Plastic milk bags
- Styrofoam, meat tray liners
- Foil
- Wax paper
- Leather textiles, clothing
- Cigarette butts, tobacco
- Corks (from wine bottles, etc.)
- Gum
- Cotton swabs/balls
- Baby wipes
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Hair, pet fur, feathers
- Fireplace or BBQ ashes
- Wood products, wood chips

How is the Green Bin Program Going?

- More than 90% of eligible residents are participating in the Green Bin Program.
- More than 220 less trucks/month are driven to Michigan to dispose of our waste.