

Thanks Guys!

Day in, day out, they come to our homes to collect our garbage and empty our recycling boxes. In pouring rain, driving snow, freezing cold and searing heat, they are there to help us do our part for the environment.

On an average day, the garbage collector picks up over 5,000 bags of garbage and the recycling collector sorts and empties over 1,600 blue boxes!

Markham residents do a great job of sorting their recyclables. A recent Environics poll showed that Markham residents are very satisfied with their waste and recycling services – and we aim to keep it that way!

So how about giving the guys a smile next time you are passing? The collectors truly appreciate all your efforts and we appreciate theirs too!



Cardboard Woes?

Cardboard is easily recycled and there is lots of it out there. Unfortunately, cardboard boxes tend to be large and unless they are broken down, cut to size and tied in bundles (2' x 2' x 1'), they won't fit in the compartment on the recycling truck. Our collectors don't want to have to leave it behind, but if the bundle doesn't fit, they can't recycle it. If you are tired of wrestling with your cardboard, you can take it to one of Markham's recycling depots where there are large enough containers to handle all sizes of cardboard.



Ontario's Most UNWANTED



Although there is a recycling stamp on the bottom, **PLASTIC TROPICANA BOTTLES ARE NOT RECYCLABLE** due to their nylon lining! Sorry, but we have to leave these behind.

If you are hooked on Tropicana, consider buying it in a **paper carton**. Then it can be put in the blue box for recycling.

You wanted to know...

Q: I just moved to Markham. Where can I get a blue box?

A: If you just moved into a new home in Markham, you can pick up two blue boxes from your builder. If you are moving into a resale home in Markham, blue boxes can be purchased for \$6 each at the recycling depots or at the Markham Civic Centre during regular business hours.

Q: I have a sofa and a large TV to get rid of. Do I have to book a special appointment?

A: No. Large items including sofas, mattresses and TVs can be placed out on your regular garbage day.

Q: What can I use to put out my yard waste?

A: Markham collects leaves and yard clippings in clear plastic bags, brown paper yard waste bags and open rigid containers, such as garbage cans and bushel baskets. Branches and brush must be placed out in string-tied bundles no longer than 4 feet in length and not weighing more than 40 pounds. Branches cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter. Grass clippings will not be collected. Put them in your backyard composter or leave them on the lawn. Markham does not collect grass or thatch clippings as part of its yard waste program, nor as garbage.

Questions?

We love to hear from you!

Call: 905-415-7535

Fax: 905-479-7766

E-mail: wastemgt@markham.ca

Website: www.markham.ca

WOW!

In 2003, Markham residents recycled:
649 tonnes of cans
13,915 tonnes of paper products
2,109 tonnes of glass bottles and jars
540 tonnes of plastics



MISSION Green

ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2004

A Guide to Waste Reduction and Recycling in Markham

A Message from Markham Mayor and Council

Markham has been a proud leader in waste management since the opening of our first community recycling depot in 1971. Today Markham residents recycle 35% of their waste – one of Ontario's best!

Building on our success, Markham Council has unanimously approved **Mission Green**: an aggressive attack on household waste.

Mission Green is Markham's plan to divert 70% of our waste. With a program similar to the green bin program in Etobicoke and Scarborough, Markham residents will soon be separating household materials into 3-streams: household organics, blue box recyclables, and garbage.

Household organics include materials such as fish, meat, pet waste, and diapers, that cannot be composted in your backyard composter. Under **Mission Green**, you will be able to recycle more items in your blue box. Expect more information soon. Both household organics and the blue box will be collected once a week as usual. Garbage is the dry stuff left over. But, there will be so much less garbage that we intend to collect it every other week!

The result? A healthier environment, fewer trucks carting Markham's garbage to Michigan, and taxpayer savings due to increased sales of recyclables and compost!

The new 3-stream collection system will be implemented in two phases. Phase I launches on Friday, September 17, 2004 for all households east of Highway 48. The balance of the Town will begin in September 2005. Prior to your launch, you will receive a small cart for organics, a handy kitchen container and detailed instructions. By the way, the carts are raccoon proof!

Best of all, Markham's household organics will be turned into compost right here in York Region.

Once again Markham residents are proud to be environmental leaders. As a community we will reach our diversion targets by actively supporting **Mission Green**. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3: organics, recyclables and garbage!

Markham Council is proud to be leading the way to a healthier environment! Check out Markham's Environmental Issues webpage at www.markham.ca to learn more about Council's actions to preserve our environment through environmental planning, air and water quality initiatives and public education programs.

Get kitchen organics out of the waste stream.



Markham Council prepares for the launch of Markham's new organics collection program

Not Your Same Old Garbage Day!

Starting July 5th, whenever a holiday falls on a MONDAY, your regular collection day will be delayed by one day. For example, if your regular collection day is Monday, your materials will be collected on Tuesday. If your regular collection day is Friday, your materials will be collected on Saturday. Please remember that garbage, recycling and yard waste must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Garbage Collection Days to Change for Some

Your garbage and recycling day may be changing! On July 5th, 2004, Markham is moving to a new 5-day collection schedule. This change will help Markham keep up with its growing population and is a key step in implementing the Town's new **Mission Green** waste diversion program.

To find out if your collection day is changing, just locate where you live on the attached map. If your collection day is changing, your yard waste and "no tag" days will change. Please refer to the attached schedule for your revised yard waste and "no tag" days.

If your collection day is changing you will receive a reminder doorhanger indicating your new collection day a week or so before the change.



Mission Green makes sense for the environment!



WHAT is Mission Green?

Mission Green is Markham's new aggressive plan to divert 70% of our waste from landfill. The plan includes a new system of collecting waste in three streams: 1. Organics, 2. Recycling, 3. Garbage.

A key component of **Mission Green** is the introduction of an organics curbside collection program which will allow residents to recycle their organic waste into compost.

Mission Green means less garbage! While your recycling and organics will continue to be collected every week, what's left (dry garbage) will now only need to be collected every other week – saving money and the environment!

WHY Mission Green?

With the closure of the Keele Valley landfill site in 2002, all of Markham's garbage is being transported to Michigan for disposal.

This raises a number of issues, including the possibility that the United States will stop accepting our waste, increased truck traffic on our highways and more pollution.

The Ontario Government has announced new goals to better manage Ontario's waste and reduce the Province's reliance on landfills. They've targeted a 60% diversion rate: by 2008, 60% of the province's waste is to be diverted from landfill. Markham will be one of the first municipalities to exceed the provincial goal!

WHO will be getting Mission Green?

The **Mission Green** plan will be rolled out in two phases. Phase I will include all homes located east of Highway 48/Markham Road. The organics bins, kitchen containers, detailed program information and instructions will be delivered to Phase I homes beginning in August.

Phase II of the program will be launched in September 2005 to the remainder of the Town (all homes west of Highway 48/Markham Road). The program will only be available to residential single-family homes (not private businesses or apartment buildings) at this time.



HOW will Mission Green work?

Starting in September, 12,000 single-family homes will receive two containers – a small green cart with wheels that you can take to the curb and a smaller kitchen container that can fit under your sink, on your counter or anywhere that is convenient for you. If everyone in Markham embraces **Mission Green** by actively using backyard composters, the organics bin and blue boxes – we will generate very little garbage!

WHERE will the materials go?

Organics will be taken to Halton Recycling Ltd., a processing facility located in Newmarket. The facility will use technology to remove unwanted materials and plastics from the organics and then turn the material into compost!

What goes in the organics bin?

YES

- ◆ Fruits, vegetable scraps
- ◆ Meat, shellfish, fish products
- ◆ Pasta, bread, cereal
- ◆ Dairy products, egg shells
- ◆ Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- ◆ Soiled paper towels, tissues
- ◆ Soiled paper food packaging: fast food paper packaging, ice cream boxes, muffin paper, flour and sugar bags
- ◆ Paper coffee cups, paper plates
- ◆ Candies, cookies, cake
- ◆ Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- ◆ Household plants, including soil
- ◆ Diapers, sanitary products
- ◆ Animal waste, bedding (e.g. from bird/hamster cages), litter
- ◆ Pet food

NO

- ◆ Plastic wrap, baggies, sandwich bags, plastic milk bags
- ◆ Plastic items such as food containers (e.g. yogurt or margarine tubs), cutlery
- ◆ Styrofoam, meat tray liners
- ◆ Foil, wax paper, candles
- ◆ Artificial flowers and plants
- ◆ Leather, textiles, clothing
- ◆ Cigarette butts, tobacco
- ◆ Gum
- ◆ Ear cleaners, cotton balls, make-up removal pads
- ◆ Baby wipes, Disposable mop sheets
- ◆ Fireplace or BBQ ash
- ◆ Wood products, wood chips

End Litter



Clean up and speak up!

Markham has a well-deserved reputation for its clean and beautiful streets, parks, sports fields and residential neighbourhoods. Maintaining Markham's beauty is important in terms of health, the environment and the image the Town projects to its own citizens and visitors.

Markham is in the planning stages of implementing a Town-wide litter prevention strategy that will focus on the social unacceptability of litter. The litter prevention program aims to reduce the litter that accumulates in development areas, schools, parks, undeveloped private property, residential blue boxes, litter along roadways and fast food restaurants.

The best way to prevent litter is to lead by example. We are all responsible to prevent litter before it hits the ground. Set an example for others by not littering and challenging those who do. Be part of the solution, not part of the litter problem.

Litterman's TOP 10

- 1 It's not litter – it's food for the birds!
- 2 My Mother will pick it up.
- 3 This is what I pay taxes for.
- 4 It flew out of my hand...
- 5 The garbage can was too far away.
- 6 No one will notice.
- 7 I'm creating jobs!
- 8 You don't expect me to carry it around do you?
- 9 There was already litter on the ground.
- 10 I don't litter. "They" do.

The fridge may be dead, but the metal isn't!



It may be an old fridge now, but it could become next year's family sedan – if you recycle it. And it could be an environmental problem if you don't. That's why Markham offers a monthly pickup service for old appliances.

Residents can arrange for the collection of refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, freezers, washers, dryers and air conditioners by calling the Town's Contact Centre at **905-415-7535** and booking an appointment. There is a \$10.00 handling charge for each pick-up.

Some appliances, like fridges and freezers, contain freon, a hazardous substance that cannot be released into the environment. After collection, the freon is reclaimed for recycling and mercury switches are removed and disposed of properly. Appliances are then sent to scrap metal recyclers for reprocessing into new steel, closing the recycling loop.

Last year the Town collected over 7,000 old appliances for recycling. Now that's a lot of steel! Just think: someone's old fridge could be part of that new car you are driving!

Backyard Composting is easy!

What is backyard composting?

Backyard composting requires mixing different types of organic waste materials from your home and garden with air, water and heat in a backyard composter. Backyard composting breaks down household and garden material into basic nutrients that enhance the soil.

Why bother composting?

It is more important than ever to start backyard composting. Markham's waste is being sent to landfill in Michigan. 30% of this waste could actually be recycled to form rich compost for use in the garden. Backyard composting reduces emissions of methane gas in landfills and reduces air pollution that is created when waste is transported. If these aren't reasons enough, home produced compost is completely free!

What can I backyard compost?

All composting materials generally fall under one of two categories – **browns** or **greens**.

Browns are dry, carbon-rich materials like leaves, straw/hay, wood chips, sawdust, hair, dryer lint and wood ashes.

Greens are moist, nitrogen-rich materials like grass and thatch clippings, weeds before they seed, vegetable and fruit peelings/scrap, pasta (no oil or sauce), rice, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags and eggshells.

Do NOT backyard compost these:

Meat, fish, bones, fats and oils, dairy products, weeds that have gone to seed, grass /tree clippings treated with chemicals, pet manure and kitty litter.

How do I get started?

• Get yourself a backyard composter. There are many different types available for sale at your local home and garden centers. Markham sells backyard composters at the recycling depots.

• Place kitchen scraps (**greens**) and dried excess yard material (**browns**) in alternating six-inch layers.

- Remember to turn the pile frequently to aerate your compost. Doing this will help the materials break down faster.

What can I do with finished compost?

Finished compost can be mixed with your soil in the garden and added to potted plants as a soil enricher.

Need help?

Call us at **905-415-7535**. Or visit the Composting Council of Canada website www.compost.org



It's so Easy!

Cool Environmental Websites for Kids

Check out some great environmental websites about recycling for kids and teachers.

www.ecokids.ca

Teaches youth about the environment with fun hands on activities.

www.green-group.com

Provides environmental programming to school-aged children, their teachers and families.

www.virtualrecycling.com

An educational initiative of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) for teachers and their students.

www.wrwcanda.com

The waste reduction week in Canada website.

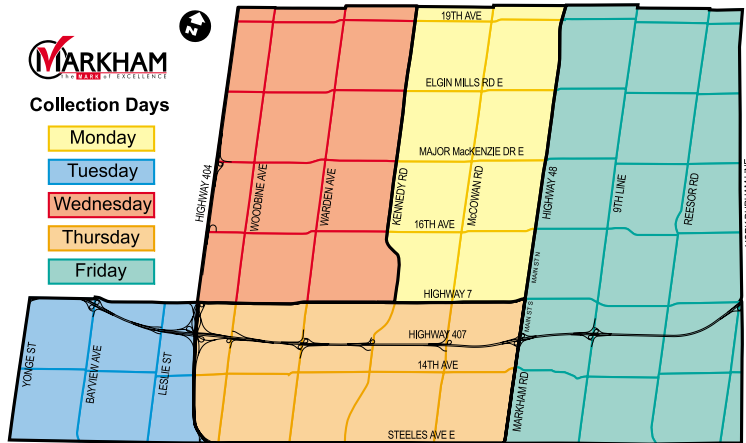
REVISED



Waste Collection Schedules

Check here for your collection day

REVISED 2004 Collection Day Area Map



Effective July 5, 2004

REVISED 2004 Yard Waste Pick Up Days

	Mon. Yellow	Tues. Blue	Wed. Red	Thurs. Orange	Fri. Green
JULY	12	13	14	15	16
JULY	26	27	28	29	30
AUG.	9	10	11	12	13
AUG.	23	24	25	26	27
SEPT.	7 (Tues.)	8 (Wed.)	9 (Thurs.)	10 (Fri.)	11 (Sat.)
SEPT.	20	21	22	23	24
OCT.	4	5	6	7	8
OCT.	18	19	20	21	22
NOV.	1	2	3	4	5
NOV.	15	16	17	18	19
NOV.	29	30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3

REVISED 2004 "NO TAG" DAYS

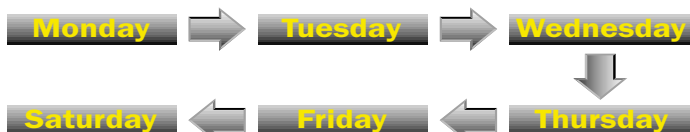
	Mon. Yellow	Tues. Blue	Wed. Red	Thurs. Orange	Fri. Green
OCT.	25	13 (Wed.)	27	15 (Fri.)	29

REMINDER!

GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION HOLIDAYS

Civic Holiday Monday, Aug 2
Labour Day Monday, Sept 6
Thanksgiving Monday, Oct 11

Whenever a holiday falls on a weekday, your collection day will be delayed by one day! This means:



LEAF AND YARD WASTE RULES

- Yard waste is banned from landfill. Yard waste placed out for garbage collection will not be picked up.
- Put grass and thatch clippings in your composter or leave them on the lawn. They are banned from curbside collection.
- No sod, dirt, gravel, cement, root balls or stumps will be collected at the curb.
- BIODEGRADABLE KRAFT PAPER BAGS are preferred for leaf and yard waste collection. Clear plastic bags, garbage cans and bushel baskets are also acceptable.
- Branches and brush must be tied in bundles no longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet) and weighing no more than 18 kg (40 lbs).

NEVER!

- Place yard waste in cardboard boxes OR in orange, green or other coloured bags.
- Mix your yard waste with garbage.
- Rake your leaves or grass to the curb, ditch area or onto the road.
- Exceed 18kg (40 lbs) per bundle.
- Tie your bundles with wire.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The residential leaf and yard waste public drop off service at the Bloomington Composting Facility (located at 1351 Bloomington Rd) has been **CANCELLED**. Markham residents may deliver yard waste for composting to the following locations:

Halton Recycling Ltd.

395 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket
 (West of Hwy 404 and south of Davis Dr.)

April 1 to Nov. 30, 2004

Hours:

Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday to Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 (Closed on all statutory holidays)

Cost: Free for residents of York Region.

Victoria Park Transfer Station

3350 Victoria Park Avenue, North York, 416-392-3025
 (SW corner of Victoria Park and McNicoll Ave)

Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Cost: A minimal fee may apply.

Please contact Victoria Park Transfer Station for further details at 416-392-3025 or 416-392-3027.

You can compost your grass and yard waste clippings in a backyard composter. Composters are available for \$15 at all Markham recycling depots.

QUESTIONS?

Call: **905-415-7535**

E-mail: wastemgt@markham.ca

Website: www.markham.ca