

Mission Green

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The New Economy - Green Jobs and Recycling

A recent study on the economic benefits of recycling in Ontario indicated that for every 1,000 tonnes recycled, seven jobs are created. Recycling is now a worldwide valuable enterprise. Not recycling represents an enormous loss of resources and economic opportunity. By not recycling all we can, we fail to integrate recovered resources into new products and packaging that can be used again and again.

At a time when Ontario needs new strategies to create good jobs and confront climate change, increased recycling represents an opportunity to build a stronger, more efficient economy. Mayor Frank Scarpitti speaks to the advantages of capturing green technology opportunities, the enhancement of our natural environment and improving the quality of living in our neighbourhoods. "I'm proud that Council approved a new aggressive diversion target of 80%. As a community, we're making great progress on our sustainability goals, as outlined last year in Greenprint, Markham's sustainability plan."

Markham's success in waste diversion has resulted in nine Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) awards in the past seven years. We've won Platinum and Gold Awards as a top recycling community, and Markham is one of a handful of municipalities to win multiple Platinum Awards – Ontario's highest honour.

In 2013, Markham Council is once again leading the way with the approval of 10 new diversion initiatives. The banning of electronics and batteries from disposal, clear bags for garbage and our Zero Waste for Schools program, will position Markham as a world leader.

But it's the day-to-day efforts and small actions we each take that really make a difference. Becoming an even more sustainable community benefits our environment and the economy – today and for generations to come.

New Diversion Strategy: Small Changes - Big Benefits

Recycling in Markham is interwoven into the fabric of what makes Markham, Markham. Markham's innovative 2005 Mission Green program made it easy and convenient for all residents to recycle and compost. Municipal diversion rose from 35% to 72% and subsequently, all York municipalities followed Markham's lead. There is much to be proud of, but more to be done.

In 2012, Markham's Diversion Committee, Chaired by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, released "The Best of the Best" Markham's Road Map to 80% Diversion' which was approved by Council in October 2012.

One of the cornerstones of the new initiatives is a 'clear bag program' requiring residents to use clear bags for garbage in preparation for the transition from land filling waste to incineration. Clear bags will help collectors ensure Markham's garbage does not contain hazardous materials, recyclables, electronics, or organics. Clear bags will require residents that do not recycle to start. The current bi-weekly 3 bag limit has been eliminated and replaced by an unlimited clear bag policy to give residents added flexibility.

To encourage recycling in schools, Markham's Zero Waste for Schools program will partner with and support schools that want green bins and blue boxes in their classrooms. To date, 10 Markham schools have adopted Zero Waste practices and achieved over 88% diversion. More importantly, future generations will be learning to properly sort recyclables. Additional changes include mandatory recycling for apartments and extending leaf and yard material collection by 2 weeks to December 15.

These are small changes that will deliver big benefits to our community. "The spirit of the clear bag program goes beyond addressing disposal habits and encourages waste prevention" says Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor Jack Heath. "It is less about what is placed into the clear bag; and more about what to keep out of it. The more recycling and composting that is done by everyone can only be a good thing."

What to do with those leftover dark garbage bags?



Dark bags are not allowed starting April 30

- Use your dark garbage bag to line your green bin
- Donate excess bags to local charities, churches or food banks
- Donate to friends and family outside of Markham

Clear bags and your privacy

Tear or shred personal papers and put in weekly green bin

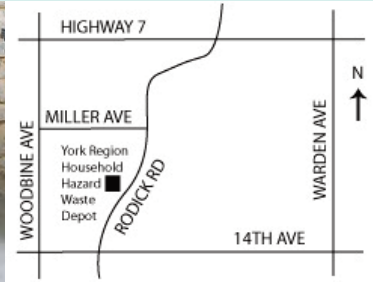
Diapers and feminine hygiene products accepted in weekly green bin

Use small bags (shopping) within your clear bag (up to 4 per collection)

Place your clear bag in a garbage can

Electronics Recycling

Starting January 1, 2013, unwanted electronics are no longer accepted at the curb.



You can drop off your unwanted electronics at the Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Depot where they will be responsibly recycled.

For more information please visit www.markham.ca or call 905.415.7535

How do I set out my garbage in a Clear Bag for Collection?

Clear Bags Required April 30

- ✓ Clear bags for garbage cost the same as dark bags
- ✓ Clear bags can be used for excess organics
- ✓ Clear bags can line your green bin



No bag limits for clear bags containing non recyclable/non compostable garbage. Clear bags can also be placed into a garbage can.



No more than 4 small shopping bags of non recyclable/non compostable garbage may be placed out per collection within your clear bag.



No more than 4 small shopping bags of non recyclable/non compostable garbage may be placed directly into a garbage can.

Battery drop off locations in Markham

- Household Hazardous Waste Depot
- Markham Library
- Unionville Library
- Centennial Community Centre
- Thornhill Community Centre
- Angus Glen Library and Community Centre
- Thornhill Old Library
- Canadian Tire
- Best Buy
- Rona
- Future Shop
- Staples
- The Source
- Costco Wholesale
- Home Depot



Markham Recycles Batteries

The average home has over 30 batteries powering games, smoke detectors, remotes, clocks, alarms and appliances.

All types of common household batteries should not go into the garbage as they may contain heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, lithium, mercury, nickel, silver and zinc.

Stewardship Ontario, a not for-profit group that manages Ontario's battery recycling program, found that 35 per cent of Ontarians improperly dispose of spent batteries.

As a result, Markham has banned batteries from curbside collection.

Store spent batteries in a bag or can and drop them off at any of Markham's many drop-off locations to be recycled.

For drop off options close to you please visit www.call2recycle.ca.



RECYCLING, ITS NOW THE LAW

Markham now requires all residents in homes and apartments to separate their waste into 4 streams: **blue box**, **green bin organics**, **yard material** and **garbage** where services exist.

Be Water Wise – Know How Much You Use

Typical automatic sprinkler system	average 37 litres per minute
Toilet - 1 Flush	about 6 to 13 litres
Swimming pool - 5 by 9 metres	about 50,000 litres
Top load washing machine - 1 load	between 150 and 250 litres
Shower - 5 minutes	average 53 litres
Car wash in the driveway	about 440 litres
Average Markham family of 4	between 5000 and 7000 litres of water per week



Do I need to boil my water to make it safe to drink?
No.

Markham drinking water is continuously tested and does not need to be boiled or filtered. Drink it straight from the tap!

Automatic Lawn Sprinklers

Home automatic sprinkler systems are growing in popularity, but unfortunately, when not used efficiently can lead to wasting water, poor plant growth and high water bills.

Households using automatic sprinkler systems typically use 33% more water than those that water by hand with a hose. If you decide to invest in a system, take time to choose one that can be programmed to provide exactly the right amount of water at the right time. Be sure to purchase a high quality rain sensor to automatically stop the watering cycle. Choose one that features a sensor to determine the amount of water in the soil.

If you are considering installing a sprinkler system choose a certified irrigation contractor. Visit landscapeontario.com and search for the list of irrigation contractors.

SUSTAINABLE POOL TIPS

1. Do not add chemicals for 2 weeks prior to draining your pool, spa or hot tub.
2. Drain into your lawn avoiding the storm sewer.
3. Never drain chlorinated water directly to the storm sewer. It kills fish.
4. Never drain on a rainy day.



Markham's Tap Water doesn't just taste great...

✓ It's Healthy.
Water is calorie-free and a great alternative to sugary sodas or sports drinks.

✓ It's Affordable.
About 1,000 times less expensive than bottled water.

✓ It's Convenient.
We deliver right to your home!

Our Water is Precious

The water that runs off your property flows through storm grates into the storm system. From there it goes untreated into the nearest creek, river, or storm pond and then back into Lake Ontario – our drinking water source.

NEVER pour hazardous materials, cooking oil, or any chemicals into storm drains. We all need clean water to live.



We Want to Hear From You!

Share your opinions on water use in Markham by completing a survey. Email us at WaterSurvey@markham.ca if you would like to participate.



New Spring & Fall Clean Up Days

Starting in 2013, Markham is introducing Spring and Fall Clean Up Days (formerly "No Tag Days") so you can dispose of your unwanted unusable items in May and September.

No large appliances (you must book an appointment for the collection of large appliances.)



✓ Materials Accepted

- Couches/sofas
- Chairs
- Carpet (bundled in 4' lengths)
- Small metal items such as microwaves
- Mattresses
- Toilets
- Furniture
- Console TV's only
- Wood (bundled in 4' lengths)

✗ Materials Not Accepted

- Hazardous waste
- Construction material
- Electronics, TV
- Propane Tanks
- Tires

NEW in 2013!

Leaf and Yard collection begins April 1 and will extend to December 15 (weather permitting). Please follow your waste collection schedule or visit www.markham.ca (select 'Residents, Recycling & Waste') for more details.

CARPET AND TEXTILE RECYCLING

While 2.5 billion pounds of used clothing and household textiles are recycled annually, this represents only 20% of available recyclable textile material. The rest is thrown in the garbage.

In 2013, Markham will be expanding opportunities to recycle both textiles and used carpet.

Residents will be able to recycle used carpet at the Milliken Recycling Depot.

Always donate, reuse or recycle unwanted textile material. For donation sites across York Region visit www.york.ca, (Select "Services", "Garbage and Recycling" then "Reusable Goods").

- Goodwill Donation Centres
- Value Village
- Markham Fire Stations
- Salvation Army Bins
- Community Recycling Depots
- Community Charities
- York Region Community Environmental Centres

Suffer from Blue Box confusion?

Not sure if something is compostable or recyclable? Markham has an online tool to help. Visit www.markham.ca, select "Residents, Recycling & Waste" and then simply click the "What Goes Where" icon! Search your item and get your answer. It's easy!



5 Things That Upset Canadians About Water Wastage

- 1 Watering lawns when it just rained or is about to rain
- 2 Flushing items down the toilet that should be disposed of another way
- 3 Using a hose to wash your driveway
- 4 Leaving a faucet running
- 5 Using soap or shampoo in a lake

*From 2012
RBC Canadian Water
Attitudes Study



Recycling is Big Business!

In 2011 York Region sold recyclables collected from Blue Boxes for \$11.2 Million!



THINK EAT SAVE
REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT

The world wastes a great deal of food - 1.3 billion tons per year, to be precise. "In a world of seven billion people, set to grow to nine billion by 2050, wasting food makes no sense - economically, environmentally and ethically," according to UN Under-Secretary-General Achim Steiner.

Wasting food has serious environmental consequences. 70% of our freshwater goes to agriculture and we are fishing our oceans empty. If you are a retailer or a consumer, visit www.thinkeatsave.org for tips on how to reduce your food footprint.



www.markham.ca

Questions? We'd love to hear from you!
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