

**To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer**

**From: Jeff Molenhuis, Director of Public Works**

**Re: Solid Waste Services – Follow-Up on Curbside Collection Changes**

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## **AIM**

To provide an update regarding solid waste service changes coming to the City of Woodstock with respect to garbage, recycling and the new green bin (organics) program.

## **BACKGROUND**

This report is to give updated information on the implementation of the green bin program and adjustments to the recycling program, to continue to keep Council and the community informed. A previous report was presented to Council on August 14<sup>th</sup> that outlined program changes, including collection cycle changes.

## **COMMENTS**

### *Green Bin (Organics) Program*

The City will begin the collection of organic waste in January 2026. The new program will begin rollout during the week of October 6, 2025 starting with the distribution of containers to residents with information packages on the organics program, including what is appropriate for the green bin and what is not. The bins are being delivered door to door, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November within the City of Woodstock. The delivery sequence will follow the new 6-day curbside collection schedule and routes. The County's contractor ORBIS is handling the distribution of bins to residents.

### *Blue Box (Recycling) Program*

Curbside Blue Box collection will no longer be provided through City resources, with the service delivery shifted to the Producer Responsible Organization (PRO) service provider Emterra. At the time of this report, Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) confirmed that the City will be moving from two-stream to single-stream recycling when the program transitions in January 2026. There is also a request to shift to weekly collection, with the possibility of having the collection schedule match the County's 6-day schedule. This item is being reviewed by Emterra, and the County/City will be provided an answer at a later date. CMO confirmed that Emterra will not be providing collection of convenience depots for Oxford County Landfill or Woodstock Enviro Depot. This means that the cost to run recycling at the depot, hauling materials and processing would have to be fully covered by the City if the decision is to continue to offer this service after December 31, 2025. A follow-up report is expected once the final curbside recycling schedule is determined. Operationally, it is expected that there will be overlap of materials received for recycling into January due to the final weeks curbside pick-ups or depot drop-offs following the holiday season.

The changes to the Blue Box program are mandated by the Province. The program continues to evolve as staff work toward the implementation date in January 2026.

### *Collection Schedule Changes*

As part of the overall changes to waste collection, Oxford County Council approved moving to a 6-day rotating collection cycle for garbage and organics (green bin) materials. Moving from a 5-day cycle to a 6-day cycle provides cost savings in the delivery of this service. Staff are aware that this makes for a significant change and will be challenging to adapt to but are committed to providing residents with tools and resources to support them.

The 6-day cycle changes apply to green bin and garbage collection only. The rollout of green bin delivery will follow the new collection zones. These are attached to this report for information.

### *Communications Planning*

As reported previously, City and County staff are collaborating on a Communications Plan to support the adjustments and program changes. Implementing this number of new processes at the City scale is recognized by staff as a significant challenge, and communications will play a critical role in successful roll-out. Early and regular communication is planned for internal and external stakeholders throughout implementation, and in the future stable state of service delivery.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

New City curbside collection zones and schedule for garbage and green bin/organics: City of Woodstock New 6 Day Collection Zones Garbage and Organics.pdf

County Waste Line Calendar and App:

[https://webresources.oxfordcounty.ca/documents/2024-25\\_Wasteline\\_Calendar\\_FINAL.pdf](https://webresources.oxfordcounty.ca/documents/2024-25_Wasteline_Calendar_FINAL.pdf)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That City of Woodstock Council receive this report for information.

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