

Ontario's New Blue Box System



Starting January 1, 2026, Ontario will transition to an enhanced recycling system

Ontarians will be able to recycle the same materials at the curb no matter where they are across the province, and be able to recycle more materials than ever before! This new system follows Ontario's two and a half year transition to an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for blue box materials.

About Ontario's transition to EPR

- In 2021, the Ontario government released the [Blue Box Regulation](#) that shifts the financial and operational responsibility of recycling programs to producers – those that supply blue box materials to residents
- As the administrator of Ontario's common collection system, Circular Materials is responsible for operating the new system for blue box materials.
- Circular Materials is committed to ensuring more materials are looped into the circular economy, benefiting both people and the environment.



About Circular Materials

[Circular Materials](#) is the administrator of Ontario's common collection system and a national not-for-profit organization building efficient and effective recycling systems where materials are collected, recycled, and returned back to producers to use as recycled content in new packaging and products.

Any questions?

Please contact communications@circularmaterials.ca.



What does this transition mean for residents?

- Ability to recycle more materials through an improved, Ontario-wide recycling system.
- Standardized list of materials to make recycling consistent throughout the province.
- Focus on a circular economy, where materials are collected, recycled and used again as recycled content in new packaging and products.
- New recycling app launching in 2026, making it easier to check collection schedules, receive service alerts, see what materials are accepted and more!



How we are enhancing Ontario's recycling system



Key partnerships
that drive
innovation



Improved recycling
operations and
infrastructure



Robust promotion
and education
program



An improved system
where materials can be
used again and again



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Ontario's New Blue Box System FAQs

What's happening to Ontario's recycling program?

Starting January 1, 2026, Ontario will complete its transition to an enhanced recycling system where producers – those organizations that supply packaging and paper materials to residents – are 100% responsible for funding and managing the recycling program.

This new system is managed by Circular Materials, the administrator of the common collection system and a not-for profit organization that is committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems.

As part of this new recycling system, residents will be able to recycle more than ever before at the curb. Ontarians will also be able to recycle the same materials no matter where they are across the province – supporting consistency and making the program more accessible.

[Learn more](#) about Ontario's upcoming recycling system.

Why is Ontario's recycling program changing?

Historically, Ontario's blue box recycling programs were managed by communities who were responsible for paying approximately half of the costs, with producers responsible for the other half. Under the Blue Box Regulation, Ontario is introducing a new model where producers are 100% responsible for operating and funding the program.

What new materials can residents recycle?

As of January 2026, residents will be able to recycle more than ever before at the curb, including hot and cold beverage cups, frozen juice containers, ice cream tubs, black plastic containers, deodorant, toothpaste tubes and more. [Learn more](#) about Ontario's new recycling system.

Where can I learn about my local recycling program in 2026?

Residents can visit circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario to learn about their local recycling program, including collection schedules, what can go in their recycling, customer service information, etc. On this page, residents can enter their community and access local recycling information, including customer service numbers and more.

In 2026, Circular Materials will also be releasing a [recycling app](#), making it easy for residents to check their recycling collection schedule, see what materials are accepted, receive service alerts and more.

Who can residents contact for a recycling inquiry?



For general recycling questions, replacement bin requests, accommodation requests or missed collections, residents can contact Miller Waste at 1-855-752-3257 or area3@millerwaste.ca

Who can residents contact if they would like to escalate their concerns?

If residents have concerns about contractor service, they can contact Circular Materials at customerservice@circularmaterials.ca or 1-877-667-2626.

Who can I contact if my office has any questions related to the new recycling program?

If your office has questions related to the new recycling program, please contact communications@circularmaterials.ca.

Will there be major changes to recycling collection compared to before transition?

Circular Materials aims to maintain and enhance recycling services that were provided prior to transition. Enhancements include residents being able to recycle more materials, and the same materials no matter where they are across Ontario.

Who is Circular Materials?

Circular Materials is the administrator of Ontario's common collection system, and responsible for operating the new recycling system for blue box materials in 2026. This includes enabling innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels and access to materials. For example, last year, Circular Materials **announced** a pilot for the recycling of both hot and cold paper-based and plastic-lined beverage cups at home and other eligible locations in Toronto. This pilot marked the first step towards incorporating these materials in recycling systems across all cities and communities in Ontario by 2026.

Circular Materials is committed to increasing recycling rates across Ontario and ensuring more materials are looped into the circular economy, benefiting both people and the environment.

Who are the other parties involved in Ontario's move to this new recycling system?

Circular Materials, Ryse Solutions, Landbell Canada and EnvironFocus Incorporated are the producer responsibility organizations (PROs) that are operating Ontario's new common collection system.

What does extended producer responsibility (EPR) mean?

EPR is a framework in which producers – the businesses that supply paper and packaging to residents – are responsible for managing the end-of-life management of these materials. EPR enables innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels, and access to materials.

Recycling programs founded on the principles of EPR improve recycling rates and encourage the more efficient use of materials. Learn more [here](#).

Post-Transition Recycling Promotion and Education Approach

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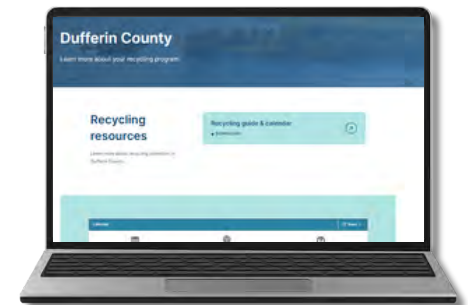
Customer service process

- All recycling-related questions from residents will be redirected to the local collection contractor. Contractor customer service details will be shared in advance of 2026 and posted on each community's webpage on the Circular Materials [website](#). Residents can enter their community name in the search bar to find their community-specific information.
- Should a resident have a collector complaint or questions on the transition to EPR, they can contact Circular Materials at customerservice@circularmaterials.ca or 1-877-667-2626 where an escalation process will be in place.
- Circular Materials monitors and tracks all inquiries to support ongoing service improvements.
- As part of their scope of work, contractors provide Circular Materials with call logs. This helps us identify common issues and adjust public education (P&E) materials accordingly.

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Community webpages on Circular Materials' website

- Each Ontario community will have its own webpage on our [website](#) to reflect local recycling details, such as bin types and customer service contacts.
- These dedicated pages ensure residents can easily access accurate, local information.
- URLs will serve as the primary call to action in local P&E efforts.



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Province-wide material list

- The new province-wide material list for 2026 will include what materials are accepted, how they are accepted as well as recycling preparation instructions.
- [Detailed material list](#) to support communities in preparing changes to their channels.

Post-Transition Recycling Promotion and Education Approach

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Advertising

- Circular Materials will lead province-wide recycling advertising as the administrator of the common collection system.
- Campaign tactics will include traditional media (print, radio, out-of-home, TV) as well as digital and social platforms.
- We'll leverage discovery meeting insights and audit data to target problem areas and drive positive recycling behaviour.

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Recycling app

- Circular Materials will release a province-wide recycling app in 2026 as an extension of the P&E program and to meet regulatory requirements.
- Residents can find their recycling collection schedule, receive service alerts, search materials to see if they are accepted, and more.



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Recycling calendars

- Circular Materials will continue to collaborate with communities who wish to maintain recycling information in their 2026 onward waste calendars.
- Circular Materials will develop and distribute a recycling-specific calendar to residents in communities that do not wish to collaborate on a calendar.

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Local events

The direct face-to-face interactions are a powerful way to educate residents and answer real-time questions about recycling.

- We will launch activations in 2026 onward which will include:
 - Tent, staff and recycling education materials.
 - Sorting activity and DYK flipboard activity.
 - Trivia and education activity handouts.
 - Events team will provide residents information on new materials included in the system and encourage residents to download our app.



Post-Transition Recycling Promotion and Education Approach

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Social media

- Our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) channels will serve as an extension of our P&E program, offering a platform to educate and engage residents online.
- We share recycling videos, run contests and polls, and post interactive content to make recycling more accessible and engaging.
- We encourage all communities to follow our channels and share relevant content with your residents as it fits your local strategy.

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School educational toolkits

- School programming will be a main focus of the P&E program.
- Educational toolkits that were developed during the transition period will continue to be used upon [request](#).
- Formed partnerships as an extension of our program with EcoSchools and Earth Rangers.



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Multi-family resources

- To accommodate the growing need in 2026 for materials and resources for multi-family buildings, we have launched a [request form](#) on our website.
- Communities and property managers can request resources such as posters, updated bin signage/decals, etc.
- Resource distribution will begin in 2026.

Post-Transition Recycling Promotion and Education Approach

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Depot P&E

- Circular Materials will work with depots to provide consistent signage and communication materials for residents in 2026.
- In communities where residents will move from depot to curbside collection, Circular Materials will provide targeted communications to those impacted to inform them of changes.

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Translation P&E

- In accordance with the Regulation, all P&E materials must be available in both English and French.
- Material lists will be translated into the top 10 languages identified by Statistics Canada.
- Our website and social media channels will remain bilingual in 2026 and beyond.
- For additional translation or print needs, including resources such as signage, guides and campaign materials, contact communications@circularmaterials.ca.



Contact the Circular Materials Marketing team:

We welcome feedback and questions to
communications@circularmaterials.ca.



Sample Social Posts for Ontario's Blue Box Transition

In support of resident education and engagement, we encourage you to share this important milestone on Ontario's full transition to extended producer responsibility on your social channels. Below are sample social posts to support you.

Choose the post(s) and languages you would like to share, and then copy and paste the text and find the associated image(s) in the toolkit package to use. We encourage you to use your own images as well (e.g. putting material in your recycling bin).

You can tag Circular Materials on the following channels:

- X: [@circmaterials](#)
- LinkedIn: [Circular Materials](#)
- Instagram: [@circmaterials](#)
- Facebook: [@circmaterials](#)


Image	Social media caption
	<p>Starting January 1, 2026, Ontario will complete its transition to extended producer responsibility (EPR) where producers—those that supply packaging and paper materials—will be fully responsible for funding and managing the program.</p> <p>This new system will be managed by @circmaterials, the administrator of the common collection system and a not-for profit organization that is committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems.</p> <p>What does this change mean for residents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ You will be able to recycle more materials than ever before right at the curb, including newly accepted materials like hot and cold beverage cups, deodorant and toothpaste tubes, ice cream tubs and more! ✓ You will be able to recycle the same materials no matter where you are in the province. Learn more: circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario



Image	Social media caption
	<p>#EPR #Ontario #CircularEconomy #ReadyRecycleRepeat</p> <p>Ontario's enhanced recycling system is here.</p> <p>Under the new system, Ontario's new recycling program will be fully funded and operated by producers of packaging and paper products.</p> <p>What does this mean for residents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Residents can recycle the same materials no matter where they live across the province. ✓ Residents can recycle more materials at the curb, including toothpaste tubes, deodorant, ice cream tubs, black plastic containers and frozen juice containers. ✓ A stronger focus on building a circular economy where recyclable materials – once collected, sorted and processed – can be used again and again, coming back into your home as another product or packaging! <p>Learn more: circularmaterials.ca/ontario</p> <p>#CircularEconomy #ReadyRecycleRepeat #EPR #Ontario</p>

Image	Social media caption
	<p>Ontario's enhanced recycling system is here.</p> <p>With the launch of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) across Ontario, producers are now fully accountable for funding and managing the collection and recycling of packaging and paper materials across the province.</p> <p>What does this mean for residents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A consistent recycling system across Ontario, no matter where you live. ✓ An expanded list of accepted materials at the curb, including toothpaste tubes, deodorant, ice cream tubs, black plastic containers, and frozen juice containers. ✓ A stronger focus on building a circular economy where recyclable materials – once collected, sorted and processed – can be used again and again, coming back into your home as another product or packaging! <p>This new system is managed by Circular Materials, the administrator of the common collection system and a not-for profit organization that is committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems.</p> <p>Learn more: circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario</p> <p>#CircularEconomy #Ontario #EPR #ReadyRecycleRepeat</p>

A photograph showing a person's arm and hand holding a yellow detergent bottle, about to place it into a blue recycling bin. The bin is already filled with various recyclable items, including plastic bottles, a milk carton, and metal cans. The background is a blurred green lawn.

Get ready, Ontario.

An enhanced recycling system is coming.

An enhanced recycling system is here.



You can now recycle the same materials no matter where you live in Ontario.





An enhanced recycling system is here.

You can now recycle the same materials no matter where you live in Ontario.

