



Hamilton

Blue Box Transition

Item 7.2

Blue Box Transition



- Key Dates:
 - April 1, 2025 – City is no longer responsible for blue box collection and processing of recycling material at the City’s MRF
 - April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 – Blue Box Transition Period when there will be no changes to collection days or acceptable items, residents will need to obtain blue boxes from GFL Environmental Inc.
 - January 1, 2026 – Post Transition when an Ontario-wide Blue Box program is in place

Blue Box Transition

- What will change on April 1, 2025:
 - Residents and property managers / owners will need to contact GFL Environmental Inc. for missed recycling and other recycling inquiries
 - Residents will need to have broken blue boxes replaced by GFL Environmental Inc. – staff are confirming the process
 - Residents will need to purchase additional blue boxes
 - Property managers / owners will contact Circular Materials for recycling education material such as posters
 - Residents will not be able to drop-off bulky rigid plastic at Community Recycling Centres
 - Businesses will not be able to drop-off cardboard at transfer stations

Blue Box Transition

- What will stay the same on April 1, 2025:
 - Collection days and accepted blue box materials
 - Businesses and other non-eligible properties will continue to receive blue box collection
 - Residents can still drop-off blue box materials at Community Recycling Centres
 - Although GFL Environmental Inc. is to provide blue boxes to residents as of April 1st, staff will ensure that the City has an inventory of blue boxes past this date for residents

Blue Box Transition

- Operational contracts and policy changes:
 - GFL Environmental Inc. waste collection - contract amendment
 - Waste Connections of Canada depot operating contract – contract amendment
 - GFL Environmental Inc. Material Recycling Facility - operating contract termination
 - Waste By-law amendment – Public Works Committee report on March 17, 2025
 - Waste Design Requirements – to be updated later this year

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Recent and upcoming communication actions:

- Communication Update on February 5th
- Education campaign went live February 10th
- Communication Update and Councillor toolkit – early March

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Blue Box Transition Education Campaign:

Communication Tactic	Details	Date
City Website	Page on City website dedicated to blue box transition with frequently asked questions	February 10 to June 10
Digital	CHCH, Bell Digital, Weather Network, Reddit, Hamilton Spectator, Google, Bay Observer	February 10 to May 15
Social Media	Advertisements on Facebook, X and Instagram	February 10 to May 15
Outdoor Electronic Boards	Electronic boards throughout City including Lincoln Alexander Parkway	February 10 to May 15
Mobile Signs	Each Community Recycling Centre to have a mobile sign	February 10 to April 30

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Blue Box Transition Education Campaign:

Communication Tactic	Details	Date
Tenant Guide and Superintendent Guide	Resources provided to residents and operators of multi-residential buildings	Mailing to begin week of February 10 th
Radio	KX94.7	February 24 to March 31
Print	Hamilton Spectator	February 26 to May 3
Television	CHCH	March 1 to April 15
Annual Waste Guide	Mailed to each household	Resident to start receiving in late February
Newsletter	Urbanicity	April 4 to April 25

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Decisions and Next Steps

- Negotiating with GFL Environmental Inc. on collecting non-eligibles after January 1, 2026 – report to Public Works Committee in Q2
- Decision on collecting recyclables at Community Recycling Centres after December 31, 2025 – report to Public Works Committee in Q2