



BLUE BOX TRANSITION UPDATE

March 17, 2025

AGENDA

Key information related to Blue Box Transition:

- Background
- Key dates
- Eligible vs. Non-eligible sources
- Timeframes and Decisions
(at transition, during transition and post transition)
- Communication
- Who is doing what?



BACKGROUND

- June 3, 2021, Blue Box Regulation announced by the MECP
- All 444 Municipalities and First Nation communities in Ontario
- Key deliverable includes a more efficient province-wide Blue Box Program
 - harmonized acceptable items
 - collection methods
 - better packaging
- Blue Box Program moving from 50% to 100% funded by Producers of packaging and paper products
- Transition dates for all ranged from July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025
- Circular Materials Ontario

100

KEY DATES FOR HAMILTON

- **Transition Date: April 1, 2025**
 - City is no longer operationally or financially responsible for blue box collection and processing of recycling material for eligible sources
- **Transition Period: April 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025**
 - No changes to collection days or acceptable items, residents will need to obtain replacement blue boxes from Circular Materials contractor (GFL Environmental Inc.) or retail store, inquiries related to recycling go to GFL Inc.
- **Post Transition: January 1, 2026**
 - Ontario-wide Blue Box program is in place
 - Collection day, collection method and acceptable item list could change



SOURCES

- The Blue Box Regulation defines what sources of blue box material are part of the new Blue Box Program – these properties are referred to as **eligible sources**
- Properties not deemed an eligible source are referred to as **non-eligible sources** and include businesses, City facilities, daycares and places of worship

Eligible Sources



Non-Eligible Sources



BUDGET IMPACT

2025 Blue Box Program Budget compared to 2024

Line item	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Change (Savings)
Recycling Processing Contract	\$5,145,120	\$2,143,800	(\$3,001,320)
Recycling Collection Contract	\$15,610,600	\$4,893,000	(\$10,717,600)
Commodity Revenue	(\$ 1,722,960)	(\$430,720)	\$1,292,240
Provincial Subsidy	(\$8,032,770)	(\$2,190,681)	\$5,842,089
Total	10,999,990	\$4,415,399	(\$6,584,591) savings

AT TRANSITION

What is **Changing** on April 1, 2025?

- Contract amendments for Collection, Hauling and Processing
- Contact GFL for missed recycling and other recycling inquiries
- Contact GFL to replace a broken blue box or a cart for an apartment building
- Residents will need to purchase additional blue boxes at a retail store
- New surveys and apartment buildings will have recycling set up by GFL
- Bulky rigid plastic no longer accepted at Community Recycling Centres
- Commercial cardboard no longer accepted at Transfer Stations

What's Changing? (April 1, 2025)

- Contact GFL Environmental Inc. about:
 - Blue box collection issues
 - Getting new or replacement blue boxes
-  hamiltonrecycling@gflenv.com
-  1-844-415-4351



DURING TRANSITION

What is **NOT Changing** between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025?

- Collection days will remain the same
- Accepted blue box materials will remain the same
- Residents continue to use one blue box for containers and one blue box for papers
- Recycling left at the curb after collection day will be enforced under the waste by-law
- Businesses and other non-eligible sources will continue to receive blue box collection (Council Report PW24021)
- Residents can still drop-off blue box materials at Community Recycling Centres (Council Report PW24066)
- Limited availability of blue boxes at Community Recycling Centres and Municipal Service Centres while supplies last



DURING TRANSITION

Continued....April 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

- Agreements with Circular Materials for Education and Community Recycling Centres
- Stranded asset – Blue carts
- Stranded asset – Recycling Facility in the short-term vs long-term
- Non-eligible source collection and processing



POST TRANSITION

Beginning January 1, 2026 (known):

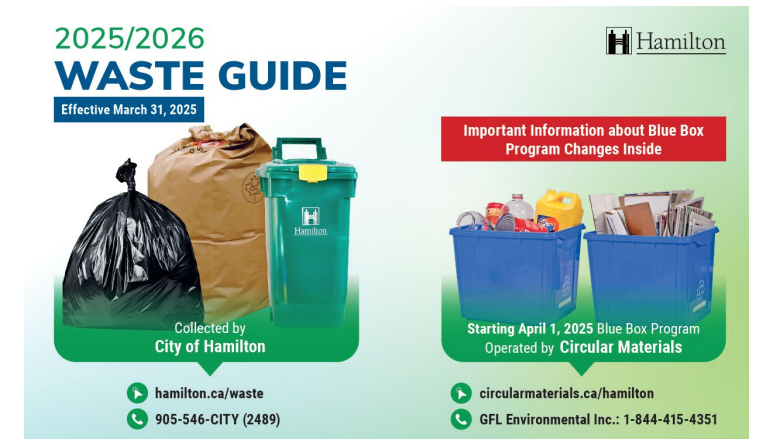
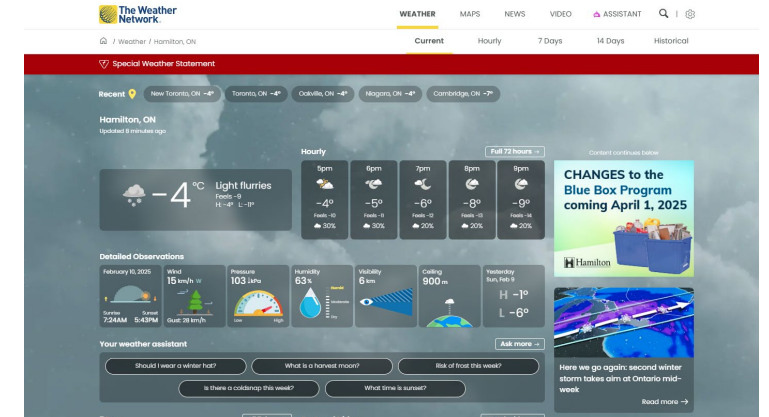
- Circular Materials fully responsible for eligible sources
- Circular Materials can change collection day / method
- Circular Materials can change the acceptable items list

Beginning January 1, 2026 (still to be determined):

- Need to confirm program for non-eligible sources (Report coming Q2 2025)
- Need to confirm services at Community Recycling Centres
- Need to confirm Public Space recycling program with Circular Materials
- Need to confirm changes for acceptable items and collection day (if applicable)

COMMUNICATION

- Blue Box transition education campaign launched on February 10, 2025
- www.Hamilton.ca/blueboxtransition
- Updates to the “Waste App”
- Multiple types of media used to inform residents of the
 - social media (Facebook, X and Instagram)
 - digital (City website, Weather Network, CHCH, Bell)
 - print (postcard, annual waste guide, tenant guide)
 - signs at Community Recycling Centres
 - digital billboards on the LINC
- Public Service Announcement
- Council toolkit



COMMUNICATION



Have you heard?



Starting **April 1, 2025**, Circular Materials will operate Hamilton's residential Blue Box program!

Learn more by scanning the QR code or visit hamilton.ca/blueboxtransition



What stays the same? (April 1 - December 31, 2025)

- ✓ Your recycling collection day won't change
- ✓ Keep using two blue boxes – one for paper, one for containers
- ✓ What goes in the blue box stays the same
- ✓ The City will continue managing green bin, garbage, bulk garbage, and yard waste collection

hamilton.ca/waste | 905-546-CITY(2489)

Effective April 1, 2025

What's Changing?

- Contact GFL Environmental Inc. about:
 - Blue box collection issues
 - Getting new or replacement blue boxes
- ✉ hamiltonrecycling@gflenv.com
☎ 1-844-415-4351

Updated Community Recycling Centre (CRC) Services:

- ✓ You can still drop off blue box materials
- ✓ Green bins available (with a service request number)
- ✗ Blue boxes will no longer be available for pick-up or exchange
- ✗ Bulky rigid plastics (like storage totes and large toys) will no longer be recyclable – please dispose of these as garbage or bulk garbage

Updated Transfer Station Services:

- ✗ Commercial cardboard will no longer be accepted

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WHO IS DOING WHAT?

Recycling:

GFL Environmental Inc

✉ hamiltonrecycling@gflev.com

☎ 1-844-415-4351

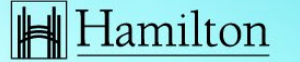
Garbage, Green bin, Yard waste and Bulk:

City of Hamilton

✉ askcity@hamilton.ca

☎ 905-546-CITY (2489)

The Residential Blue Box Program has **CHANGED**



As of April 1, 2025, now managed by
Circular Materials



Continues to be collected by
The City of Hamilton

Stay informed at hamilton.ca/blueboxtransition



Hamilton

THANK YOU