

An enhanced recycling program is coming ...

Starting January 2026, you'll be able to recycle more than ever before.



BE RECYCLE READY

Simple steps to recycling right.



Sort

Separate recyclables from garbage and organics.



Rinse

Remove leftover residue by giving containers a rinse.



Flatten

Save space in bins by flattening cardboard.



Loose

Place materials loose in your building's recycling bins.

ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING BIN

Ensure your materials are clean and dry before placing them loose in the appropriate recycling bins.



Flattened cardboard



Paper



Plastic bottles & containers



Metal cans & containers



Aluminum beverage cans



Glass bottles & jars

Learn more:
circularmaterials.ca/ON



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING RIGHT

ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING BIN

Ensure your materials are clean and dry before placing them loose in the appropriate recycling bins.



**Flattened
cardboard**



Paper



**Plastic bottles
& containers**



**Metal cans
& containers**



**Aluminum
beverage
cans**



**Glass bottles
& jars**

NOT ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING BIN

Where applicable, donate or take to a designated drop-off location.



**Hazardous
materials**



Diapers



**Tissues &
paper towels**



Textiles



Wood



**Organics
& food**



Toys



Batteries

Learn more:
circularmaterials.ca/ON



BE RECYCLE READY

Simple steps to recycling right.



Sort

Separate recyclables from garbage and organics.



Rinse

Remove any leftover residue by giving containers a rinse.



Flatten

Save space in bins by flattening cardboard.



Loose

Place materials loose in your building's recycling bins.

These steps ensure materials do not get contaminated and can be recycled efficiently to return to your home as another product or packaging.

Learn more:
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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.



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 transition to producer responsibility

In 2021, the Ontario government released the [Blue Box Regulation](#) that shifts the financial and operational responsibility of recycling programs to producers – those that produce and supply blue box materials to residents. In this new extended producer responsibility framework, producers become financially and operationally responsible for collecting and recycling blue box materials.

Who we are

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization that builds efficient and effective recycling systems where materials are collected, recycled and returned to producers to use as recycled content in new packaging and paper. As the administrator of Ontario's common collection system, Circular Materials is responsible for operating the new system for blue box materials. We are committed to increasing recycling rates across Ontario and ensuring more materials are looped into the circular economy, benefiting both people and the environment.

What does this transition mean for residents?

Transition to the new framework will occur in a phased approach over the next two and a half years. During this time, Ontarians will still be able to recycle the same materials as before.

Residents with recycling questions can contact their community's contractor.

Community-specific recycling information can be found at circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Transition timeline

Transition to extended producer responsibility will take place between 2023 – 2025, with the new framework fully in place on January 1, 2026. Along with the Regulation, the government released a [schedule](#) that assigns each of the 376 Ontario communities a transition date.



Why the transition is important



- Historically, Ontario's blue box programs were operated by municipalities who shared the costs with producers. Now, under the Blue Box Regulation, Ontario is transitioning to a new model where producers are fully responsible for operating and funding the entire blue box program.
- In 2026, Ontario can expect a convenient, consistent, and effective recycling system in place that will improve recycling rates. This includes a consistent list of recyclable materials across the province.
- This new system operated by Circular Materials represents the evolution from product stewardship to a more circular economy where materials are collected, recycled and used again as recycled content in new packaging and products.

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. It is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates.

How we are enhancing Ontario's recycling system



Strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives to drive innovation



Optimizing recycling operations and infrastructure



Promotion and education that drives recycling rates



Ensuring a continuous loop where materials are used again in new packaging and products



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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 I recycle?

As of January 2026, you will be able to recycle more than ever before at the curb, including coffee cups, frozen juice cans, ice cream tubs, black plastic take-out containers and more.

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

There will be a dedicated webpage on the [Circular Materials website](#) ahead of 2026 where residents can learn about their local recycling program, including collection schedules, what can go in their recycling, customer service information, etc.

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 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.

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, H2 Compliance 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](#).

What advantages are associated with this new system?

EPR is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates and advance a circular economy where materials are collected, recycled, and returned to producers for use as recycled content in new products and packaging.