



■ TOWN OF AURORA, OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Waste Program Overview

Environmental Advisory Committee
April 20, 2026



- Key Waste Initiatives
- Waste Events
- Waste Collection Contract
- 5-Year Waste Trends
- Dog Waste Diversion
- Looking Ahead



The Town manages curbside waste, organics, yard waste, bulky items/white goods, and supports education and events.

Purpose of the presentation:

- To provide an update on Aurora’s waste program and performance
- To outline recent initiatives
- To highlight community events
- To review upcoming changes to the waste program including the 2027 contract





Key Waste Initiatives



■ Key Waste Initiatives



The Town continues to support, promote and implement many key waste initiatives including:

- Recycle Coach app
- Updated Waste & Recycling Collection Guide
- Blue Box transition to Producer Responsibility
- Public education & outreach campaigns
- Corporate Waste Audit
- Rain Barrels
- Events
- Battery recycling
- Textiles



Waste Collection App

Stay up-to-date on collection days and have your waste questions answered in one place!

What does Recycle Coach offer?

- Personalized collection schedules
- “What Goes Where” search tool
- Push notifications for service changes/and event reminders
- QR code integration in 2026 collection guide



■ Blue Box Transition



Provincial Recycling Program Overview

- Circular Materials now oversees recycling
- GFL continues collection under new framework
- Expected benefits:
 - Lower contamination
 - Standardized recycling rules
 - Improved material recovery

Effective December 31, 2025

Mandated by the Ontario Government

Town of Aurora will no longer manage recycling.



Questions about the changes?
CustomerService@CircularMaterials.ca
1-833-779-4351

CircularMaterials.ca 

NEW More items can now be recycled



<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/aurora/>



■ Education & Outreach



How we educate, promote and connect with our residents

Social media messaging, website, public notice boards, digital media, curbside signage.

What are we promoting?

- Curbside Giveaway Days
- Seasonal reminders (yard waste, holiday waste)
- Contamination reduction messaging
- Public Information Centres (PICs) for 2027 contract
- Events
- Proper waste set out

Rain Barrel Pre-Order Sale

An advertisement for a rain barrel. It features a white rain barrel with a blue water drop logo and the text "Free Curbside Pick-Up". A price tag of "\$79.95" is shown next to the barrel. To the right, the text reads "Conserve water today for a greener tomorrow." and "Order by May 2, 2025". At the bottom, the website "aurora.ca/RainBarrel" is listed.

\$79.95

Free Curbside Pick-Up

Conserve water today for a greener tomorrow.

Order by May 2, 2025

aurora.ca/RainBarrel

Winter Waste Reminder

Do not place bins on the road

A winter waste reminder graphic. It shows two scenarios: on the left, a black, green, and blue recycling bin are properly placed on a sidewalk next to a house, with a green checkmark icon below them; on the right, the same bins are placed on a snow-covered road, with a red X icon below them.

aurora.ca/WasteAndRecycling

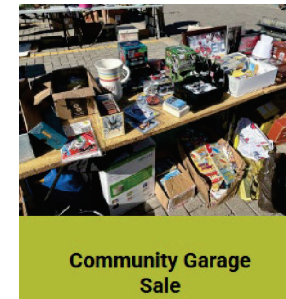
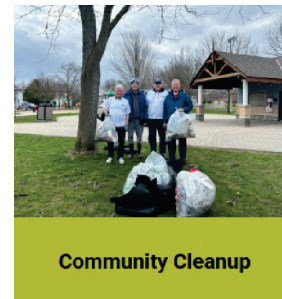
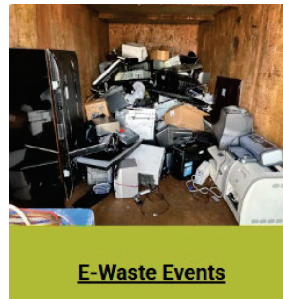
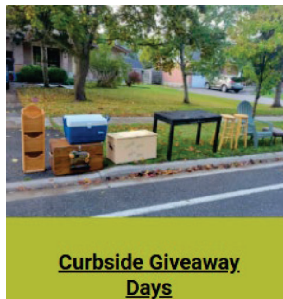




Waste Events

Current Events for 2026

- Curbside Giveaway Days – The last weekend of each month from April to October
- E-waste events - May 9 and October 3
- Community Clean Up – April 25 and September 19
- Community Garage Sale - May 30
- Repair Café - March 28





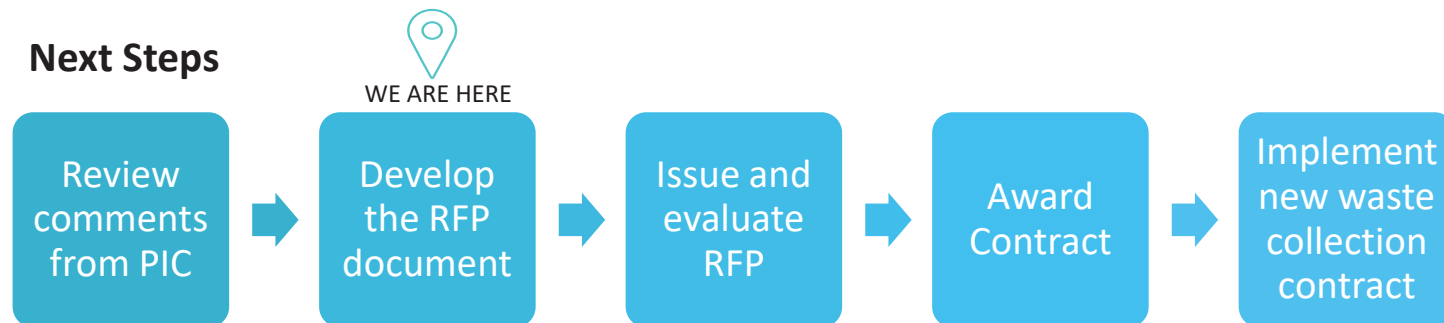
Waste Collection Contract



■ Background

- Aurora part of Northern Six (N6) municipalities
- Reviewing future waste collection options
- Public Information Centre (PIC) held on September 24, 2025
- Resident survey
- Aligning service levels across municipalities
- Automated cart and Manual collection under consideration
- New contract set to be in place by January 2029

Next Steps



Changes, additions and considerations

- Cost stability
- Service level improvements
- Automated vs. Manual collection
- Impacts of producer responsibility
- Organics program enhancements including multi-residential and Aurora facilities
- Contamination reduction opportunities



Survey Results

- PICs held in 2025
- Survey feedback collected until October 17, 2025
- Themes from residents:
 - Desire for consistency
 - Interest in automated carts
 - Concerns about cost and storage space
 - Overall satisfied with existing service
 - Options for choice in carts





5-Year Waste Trends



■ Existing Solid Waste Management Services

Curbside Garbage / Large Items

- Collected every-other-week
- 3-container limit/3 bag limit
- Bag tags required if over the limit
- \$5 per Bag Tag
- Curbside garbage collected in 2025:
5,215 tonnes

Curbside Source Separated Organics

- Weekly collection
- Includes residential, some multi-residential, and municipal facilities
- Curbside Source Separated organics collected in 2025:
5,092 tonnes

Metal Items / Large Appliances

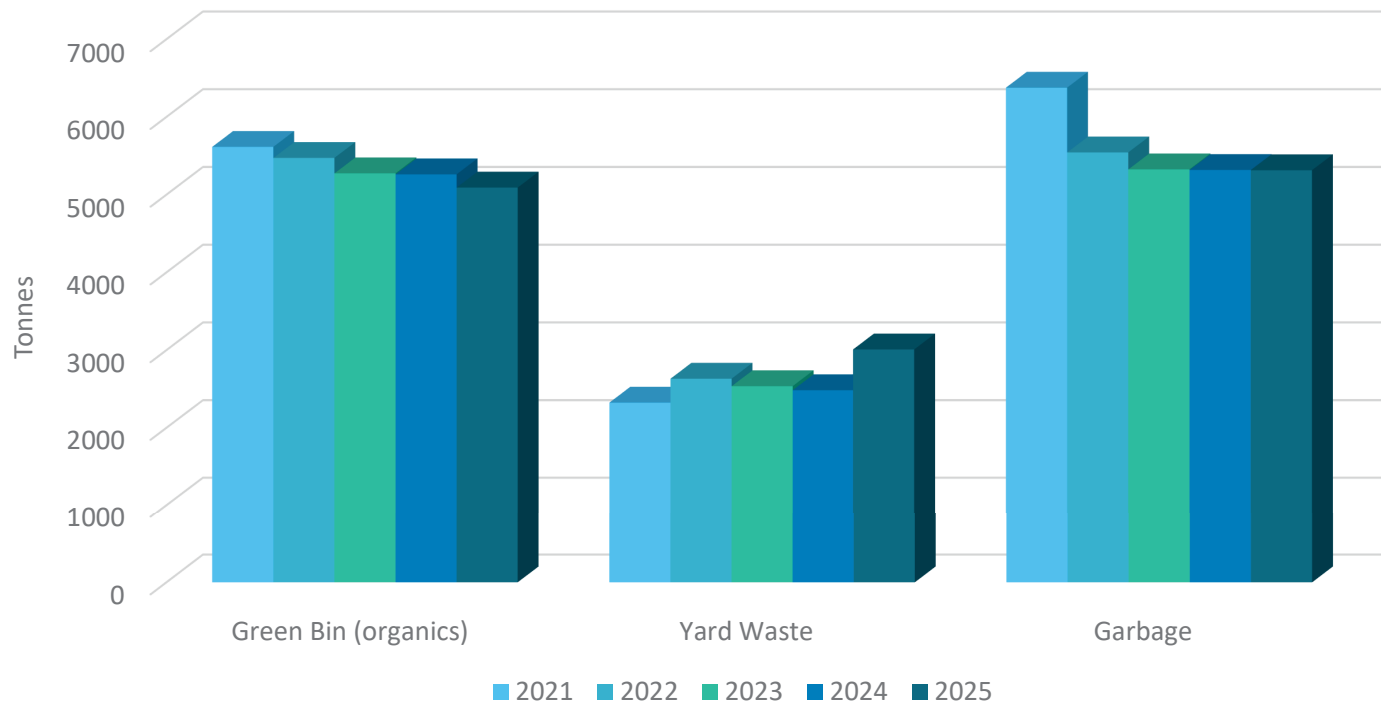
- Starting in 2026 large items, metals and appliances will not automatically be picked up at the curb
- Residents will need to schedule a pick-up directly with GFL
- Curbside large metal appliances collected in 2025:
19.08 tonnes

Curbside Yard Waste

- Collected every other week, April to November
- Christmas trees collected in January
- Curbside yard waste collected in 2025:
3,009 tonnes



5-Year Waste Trends



Green Bin



Program Overview

- Green bin (organics) are collected weekly
- Material is delivered to a transfer station in York Region where its gathered and transported to contracted composting facilities in Ontario
- Materials accepted include: food products, paper products, personal hygiene products, pet waste, other compostable products.



What we know so far about food waste

- 60% of food in Canada is wasted
- Food wasted in Canada generates as much greenhouse gases as 2.1 million cars on the road ([Love Food Hate Waste](#))
- In Canada, the average household wastes over \$1,300 per year of good food that could have been eaten ([Love Food Hate Waste](#))
- The Region reporting Canadians are wasting less food
- In 2025, more than 108,000 tonnes of green bin waste were collected and composted from over 424,000 York Region households
- Residents are also choosing another option to dispose their organic materials through backyard composting.



Source: <https://www.york.ca/environment/garbage-and-recycling/compost-and-green-bin>

- York Region residual waste to energy-from-waste:
- The facility accepts 30,000 tonnes annually
- Produces approximately 14 megawatts of power (powers about 10,000 homes)
- Aurora household garbage is decreasing each year since 2021
- Opportunities:
 - Increased organics participation
 - Reduced contamination/bag limits and Bag Tag program
 - Multi-residential improvements





Dog Waste Diversion

■ Dog Waste Diversion



In-ground waste containment

- Number of dog waste bins installed – currently 23
- Annual tonnage diverted: 27,770 kg since 2021

Plans for the future:

- 2026 - add three more locations
- 2027 - add five more locations
- 2028 – another five locations

Benefits:

- Reduced landfill methane
- Cleaner parks- odour reduction in waste receptacles
- High capacity – reducing servicing frequency
- Higher diversion rates

Challenges/Considerations:

- Contamination (garbage in dog waste bins)
- Requires vertical-lift truck servicing
- Weather conditions – frozen or snow covered





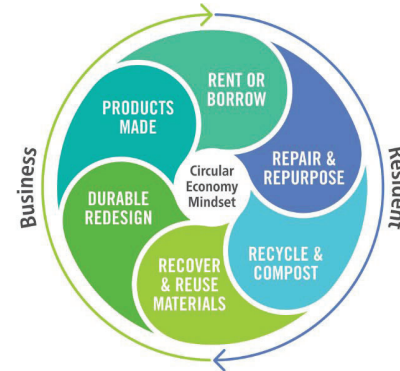
Opportunities for Improvement

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■ Opportunities for Improvement



- Increase green bin participation
- Expand textile and e-waste diversion
- Improve multi-residential waste management
- Pilot food waste reduction programs
- Update the Waste By-law
- Education – Circular economy, the 4+ R's
- Reduce Repair
- Reuse Refuse
- Recover Rethink
- Recycle Refill





Looking Ahead

■ What's Next



Looking ahead – what's next for Aurora's waste program?

- Contract decision timeline
- Continued alignment with York Region Circular Economy Strategy
- Potential pilot programs:
 - Smart bins
 - AI contamination detection
 - Multi-residential organics
- Enhanced digital tools and resident engagement
- Recycling in Parks
- Streetscape promenade outcome – molok, traditional garbage cans?
- Additional events





Thank You

<https://www.aurora.ca/waste>