



GREEN BIN PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why is the EWSWA launching a new Green Bin Program?

The EWSWA has been directed by the City of Windsor and the County of Essex to launch a “**Green Bin Program**” for regional food waste and organics in all eight municipalities to comply with provincial legislation. Based on the 2022-23 residential curbside waste audit, the average household garbage set-out contains **48% food and organic waste**. This valuable resource should be kept out of the landfill.

What is a Green Bin Program?

It is a residential curbside collection program that is used by many municipalities across Ontario to successfully keep food waste and organics out of the landfill. The Green Bin will be **collected weekly** helping to reduce odours and increase participation, making it easier to keep food waste and organics out of the landfill. This approach makes the choice easy as: **Food Waste Is Too Good To Waste- Green Bin It!**

Who will participate in the Green Bin Program?

Single-family homes and multi-family homes with less than seven units are included in this new program. **Residents do not need to register!** Homes that currently receive curbside garbage collection will automatically receive a Green Bin.

What are the benefits of the Green Bin Program for the Region and its residents?

- Increase the Region’s stagnant diversion rate of 30-35%.
- Save taxpayers money by reducing garbage by half.
- Extend the lifespan of the only active Essex-Windsor Regional Landfill, avoiding the high costs of a new one.
- Reduce methane emissions by keeping food waste and organics out of our only landfill.
- Program end-product (fertilizer) helps grow new crops naturally for you and generations to come.
- Strengthen the Region’s reputation as forward-thinking, attracting investors and supporting economic growth.
- Foster a shared sense of environmental responsibility, which supports this agriculturally-rich Region.

When will collection services begin?

The Green Bin Program will launch in two Phases to align with existing municipal waste contracts.

- **Phase 1:** Essex, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Tecumseh and Windsor - collection begins the week of October 21, 2025.
- **Phase 2:** Amherstburg, Kingsville, and Leamington - collection will start in fall 2026.

Will I need to buy a Green Bin?

No, you will not need to buy a Green Bin - a Green Bin Kit will be delivered to your home. A Green Bin Kit includes:

- 120L Green Bin with gravity lock
- 7L Kitchen Catcher
- Sample compostable bag
- Program instructions

Deliveries to Phase 1 households will begin in July 2025 and take three months to complete. Download the free Recycle Coach app for delivery updates.

How do I store the food waste and organics in my kitchen?

Residents will be supplied with a 7 L Kitchen Catcher to make the collection of food waste and organics convenient in the kitchen. The Kitchen Catcher can be lined with a compostable bag (similar to your kitchen garbage). When the container is full, or when needed, empty the contents into your Green Bin. The Kitchen Catcher features a stay-open lid for one-handed operation and can be washed by hand or in the dishwasher.

What is a gravity lock?

A gravity lock is a special locking mechanism that supports automated collection programs. More importantly, it keeps the Green Bin securely closed to prevent pests from accessing the contents. The lock automatically releases when the Green Bin is lifted and tipped by the collection truck, allowing the contents to be emptied; thereby avoiding manual collection.

How do I properly set-out the Green Bin for collection?

Green Bins are emptied using a mechanical arm on the collection truck, which is an efficient touch-free system that helps to improve worker safety. The mechanical arm only functions when you follow these set-out requirements:

1. **PARK** the bin about 30 cm (1ft) from the curb
2. **POINT** the arrows on the Bin to the street
3. **SPACE** the bin at least 1 metre from other carts or structures

What do I do if I have issues with my Green Bin?

The EWSWA will provide bin maintenance services, which is typical with Green Bin programs across Ontario. More information will be provided in the Green Bin Kit that is delivered to your household.

What materials are acceptable in the Green Bin Program?

Like other programs (Blue Box, etc.), **only Acceptable Materials** can be put in the Green Bin so that the end-product (e.g., fertilizer) is valuable for use.

Food Waste (All expired/wasted food scraps, peels, rinds):

- Meat, fruits, vegetables, bones, shells, dairy products, baked goods (bread, cake, muffins), dry goods (pasta, beans, etc.)
- Cooking oils, fresh spices, herbs

Organic Items:

- Wooden utensils/sticks
- Facial tissues, paper towels/plates/bags
- Animal and human hair
- Compostable bag liners/packaging

Why should I put my food waste in the Green Bin?

Green Bin materials will be processed by Seaciff Energy Corporation in Leamington, producing renewable energy such as: electricity sold to grid and thermal energy to heat a local greenhouse, and fertilizer for local farms. By using the Green Bin, you contribute to a circular economy and support agricultural sustainability!

What is my weekly collection schedule?

Your 2025 municipal calendar will contain this information as well as information is posted on www.ewswa.org

What can I do if I don't have the Green Bin Program (multi-residential building or Phase 2 municipalities)?

Food is a valuable resource and should not be wasted. In absence of a Green Bin Program, residents can purchase composters/digesters at local Home Hardware stores. Visit www.ewswa.org for solutions to keep food waste and organics out of the landfill.

Grow Green With Us!



Green Bin Program Resources

Download the free Recycle Coach App:
Available at the Apple Store & Google Play



Green Bin Acceptable Materials:
<https://www.ewswa.org/curbside-collection/green-bin/>

Sign-up on for the free EWSWA e-newsletter:
<https://www.ewswa.org/subscribe/>

Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/food-and-organic-waste-policy-statement>



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