



Blue Box Recycling – Changes Effective January 1, 2026

As of January 1, 2026, the Blue Box Program in Ontario will transition from being operated by municipalities to a producer operated program. The organization that has been created by the producers to operate the Blue Box Program is called [Circular Materials](#).

Under the original Blue Box Program, properties that were primarily industrial, commercial, institutional (IC&I) were not included. Municipalities had the option to include these properties in their collection program, which most did, including South Bruce.

When the collection program transitions to Circular Materials on January 1, 2026 the IC&I properties will no longer be included in the blue box collection program, so these properties are being referred to as “Non-Eligible Sources”. These properties will no longer have access to any recycling services including curbside collection, cardboard depots and landfill recycling depots through this new program.

In order to maintain our current landfill diversion rates and encourage recycling, Council passed the following motion:

That Council directs Staff to proceed with Option 2 of report number PW-03-10-2025, being the operationally funded model, to provide depot service for the collection of recycling at the Teeswater and Mildmay landfill sites for the "Non-Eligible Sources" under the Blue Box Program and that this depot service be funded within the 2026 Operational Budget.

How does this affect you?

- **Urban Residents**

- As an urban resident, as of January 1, 2026 there is no change in that you will continue to receive curbside blue box collection with no change to your current service.
- In addition, there are some NEW items that are included on the list of recyclables that have not been part of our recycling program before. These items will be recyclable as part of the residential curbside service, as well as at the landfill depots (IC&I). The full list of accepted recyclable items is included at the end of this document.

- **Rural Residents**

- As a rural resident, as of January 1, 2026 there is no change in that you will continue to take your recyclables to the landfill sites (depots). The only change is that when you take your blue box materials to the landfill, you will need to place them in the bins identified as “Eligible” Sources.
- There are some NEW items that are included on the list of recyclables that have not been part of our recycling program before. The full list of accepted recyclable items is included at the end of this document.

- **Rural Business**

- As a rural business, as of January 1, 2026 there is no change in that you will continue to take your recyclables to the landfill sites (depots). The only change is that when you take your blue box materials to the landfill, you will need to place them in the bin identified as “Non-Eligible” Sources.
- There are some NEW items that are included on the list of recyclables that have not been part of our recycling program before. The full list of accepted recyclable items is included at the end of this document.

- **Urban Business with Residential Component**

- As an urban business with a residential component, as of January 1, 2026 your IC&I unit will no longer have curbside collection service for your blue box material. You will be required to take your recyclables to the landfill sites (depots) and place them in the bin identified as “Non-Eligible” Sources.
- Your residential units will continue to receive curbside blue box collection and they will see no change to their current service.
- In addition, there are some NEW items that are included on the list of recyclables that have not been part of our recycling program before. These items will be recyclable as part of the residential curbside service, as well as at the landfill depots (IC&I). The full list of accepted recyclable items is included at the end of this document.

- **Urban Business without Residential Component**

- As an urban business without a residential component, as of January 1, 2026 you will no longer have curbside collection service for your blue box material. You will be required to take your recyclables to the landfill sites (depots) and place them in the bin identified as “Non-Eligible” Sources.

- There are some NEW items that are included on the list of recyclables that have not been part of our recycling program before. The full list of accepted recyclable items is included at the end of this document.
- **Additional Changes**
 - Community Cardboard bins will be removed from the various locations in Formosa, Mildmay and Teeswater, as well as at the landfill depots, as corrugated cardboard will be included in the new Blue Box Program (curbside & Eligible/Non-Eligible depot bins)
 - Film Plastics bins will be removed from the landfill depots, as this material will be included in the new Blue Box Program (curbside & Eligible/Non-Eligible depot bins)
 - Collection will be dual-stream, meaning items need to be sorted into two categories:
 1. Paper/Fibres
 2. Containers

Why are we transitioning?

The Government of Ontario introduced legislation that transforms the management and collection of Blue Box materials in the province. The [Blue Box Regulation](#), enacted under the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act](#), is a cornerstone of Ontario's [Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy](#).

This regulation shifts the current cost-sharing model, which divides expenses between municipal taxpayers and producers of Blue Box materials, to a new system where producers are fully responsible for funding, operating, and meeting performance targets for the recycling program. Producers will be accountable for collecting and recycling Blue Box materials, reporting to the [Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority \(RPRA\)](#), and achieving progressively higher recycling targets.

By placing the full financial, operational, and performance responsibility on producers, this new approach creates a direct incentive to minimize waste and enhance recycling efforts, leading to reduced natural resource extraction, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, the following will be [Acceptable Recyclables](#):

Recyclable material list

Paper/fibre



Material & examples	What to know
	Cardboard boxes Pizza boxes, direct mail boxes, moving boxes, shoe boxes. ☒ Flatten. No larger than 60 x 60 cm.
	Boxboard Cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, rolls from toilet paper and paper towel. ☒ Flatten. ☒ Empty.
	Paper Any colour, including flour bags, prescription bags, paper produce bags. Notebooks, white or coloured loose paper, file folders, other printed materials. Community newspapers, flyers, brochures and magazines. Greeting cards and envelopes, gift boxes. ☒ Empty. ☒ Place shredded paper in a tied clear plastic bag. ☒ Separate from plastic bags used to cover items, remove elastic bands. ☒ Remove rope handle from bags. ☒ Do not include soft or hard covered books/novels.

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Recyclable material list

Paper/fibre



Material & examples	What to know
	Paper laminate packaging Pet food bags, food service paper bags, and plates. ☒ Empty.
	Paper laminate packaging Spiral cans, cookie dough package, ice cream containers, and hot and cold beverage cups. ☒ Empty. ☒ Remove lids.
	Cartons Beverage cartons, juice and milk cartons, coffee creamers, and sugar cartons, soup and sauce cartons. ☒ Empty. ☒ Lids on. ☒ Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Recyclable material list

Plastic



Material & examples		What to know
	Plastic containers Laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouth wash bottles, plastic beverage bottles.	☒ Empty. ☒ Lids on. ☒ Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.
	Food trays, salad, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, plastic cups, plastic tubs and lids.	
	Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes.	
	Small item packaging, hand sanitizer bottles, plant pots.	

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Recyclable material list

Plastic



Material & examples	What to know
	Flexible plastic packaging Bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers. Overwrap (paper towel & toilet paper, beverage containers). Coffee bags or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags. ☒ Empty.
	Foam packaging Meat trays, takeout containers, cups, plates, bowls, foam packaging. ☒ Empty. ☒ Remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays.

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Recyclable material list

Metal



Material & examples		What to know
	Metal Food cans, metal lids, cookie, coffee and tea tins, beverage cans.	☒ Empty. ☒ Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.
	Aluminum (foils and trays) Aluminum foil, pie plates, frozen food trays.	☒ Empty. ☒ Ball up aluminum foil.
	Aerosol containers Food spray, hairspray, air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant.	☒ Empty. ☒ Lids on.

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Recyclable material list

Glass



Material & examples	What to know
	Glass containers Clear and coloured glass. Food containers, jars and bottles, cosmetic containers, spice bottles, oil and vinegar bottles, non-alcoholic glass beverage containers. ☒ Empty. ☒ Lids off. ☒ Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

For details on what goes where, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.