



**Green Cart Program for Schools  
Information Handout  
519-575-4400  
[greenbin@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:greenbin@regionofwaterloo.ca)**

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Welcome to the Region of Waterloo's (Region) Green Cart Program for schools! This is an exciting opportunity for your students and staff. Region staff conducted a waste audit at several elementary schools and the results showed that approximately 60% of the waste generated is organic. Using the Green Cart Program will allow this waste to be diverted away from landfill and diverted into useful compost.

**Starting the program:**

Promotion and education of the program rests with the staff / students at the school. The Region has a number of resources for the school at no cost. Please contact us when you are ready for this material.

The school is responsible for all internal collection.

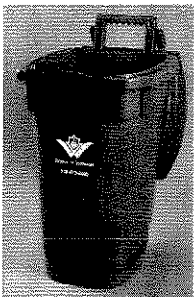
Carts and internal collection containers will be delivered approximately one week prior to the first collection.

**The Region will provide you with:**

**Containers:**

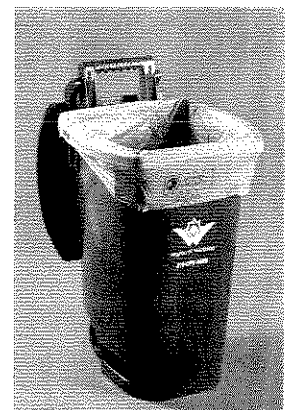
*Classroom catchers:*

These are great for having on a counter in a classroom or staffroom. We do not provide paper bag liners for these but do recommend students make them from newspaper (instructions will be provided).



*Green bins:*

These are the residential green bins used in your homes. We do not provide paper bag liners.



*Curbside Carts - 120 L size (smaller than the blue recycling cart):* This size is great for a food and paper towel mix. After each collection, a plastic liner bag will be replaced by the collection driver.

## Collection:

Collection occurs once or twice a week on Mondays (including all holiday Mondays except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) and/or Thursdays. The frequency is pre-determined by estimated volumes the school will produce. Modifications can be made as the program advances.

Carts must be to the curb by 7:00 am. We do not guarantee a specific collection time. Cart locations will be the same location as your recycling cart collection.

**Drivers are asked to check for contamination and leave carts behind if there is more than 5% contamination. If there is contamination in the cart it is the school's responsibility to remove contamination before next collection.**

## Container / Cart Cleaning:

Cleaning of the carts or containers is solely the responsibility of the school.

## Promotional material:

We have provided you with samples of each of these:

- Green Cart Handbook
- Junior (pictures) or Senior (word lists) green bin posters
- Stickers that list what goes in the green cart program for the Classroom Catchers
- Blue box posters (words and pictures of what can and cannot go in the blue box)
- "Don't feed the landfill/Feed the soil, Don't waste another day" posters
- Green bin song / cd
- Origami bag liner instruction sheet
- Sample student announcements promoting the program

## Things to consider in setting up the program:

- Establish a team to implement and maintain the program. Encourage participation that includes students from all grades.
- Place an organics collection container in every classroom, staffroom and bathroom and / or set up waste stations that have a blue box, green bin and garbage.
- No plastic of any kind is allowed in the green bin program, except the certified compostable liners. (Check for the logo!)
- The large sized green carts (120L) will be the only containers collected from the curb.
- These carts must be at the curb by **7 a.m. on your collection days (Mondays and/or Thursdays)**.
- It is helpful to have posters at each station as a reminder for the children on how/where to sort items.
- Contamination in the cart is to be removed **before collection**. The collection crew will check for contamination before pick up and has been instructed to leave contaminated carts behind.

### Green bin choices!

- Paper liner bags
- Certified Compostable liner bags (look for one of these logos)



- **Make your own liner**, see how on our website

## **Program Cancellation:**

There are a number of reasons for the cancellation of the green cart organic program. These include (but not limited to):

- Inactive program (carts are not consistently placed to the curb for collection)
- High contamination
- Limited material (i.e. paper towels only)
- Region's budget constraints

If for some reason the green cart program is no longer operating at the school (usually because the initial staff member leaves) please contact us immediately. We offer re-training for new staff members who wish to assist in the program.

**You can reach the Green Bin Team at: [Greenbin@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:Greenbin@regionofwaterloo.ca)**

**If you have questions about missed collection, ordering additional carts or what can go in your green bin please call 519-575-4400.**