



NORTH HALTON'S ONLY TRULY INDEPENDENT DAILY MULTIMEDIA NEWSGROUP

Reclaiming our community, one story at a time.

[HERALD ARCHIVES](#)

[COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#)

[LINKS](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Despite opposition, Green Cart trials will continue in Halton

Posted on Tuesday, July 04 @ 18:16:32 EDT by [editor](#)

July 4, 2006

Halton Region: A 2006-2010 Waste Management Strategy has been approved. Both items cleared Region Committee and Council in the past month.

Some Halton residents have been opposing the Green Cart program.

- It is expensive - \$6 million for carts, \$6 million for a transfer station, and an estimated \$30 million if Halton builds its own central composting facility. Operating cost is \$110 per tonne to a central composter in Arthur and about triple that if you include residents' cost for bags.
- On a voluntary basis, 50% at most of Halton households would be willing to sort their organic waste. The Region reports that only about 37% are participating weekly in the trial areas.
- The Region also reports that 34% now have yard composters and 8% have garbarators. Green Cart would convert these low/no cost solutions to an expensive one.
- Energy from Waste is inevitable. The Region estimates the capital cost at 25 to \$50 million and the operating cost at \$100 to \$150 per tonne. The City of Ottawa is now building a pilot installation that appears promising.
- Green Cart focus is delaying implementation of common sense measures such as reducing bag limits. The Halton limit is 6. No other GTA communities are more than 4.

John Downing said it well in his Toronto Sun column of June 12 regarding the Toronto Green Bin program:

" ...their great solutions of recycling our garbage are actually the most expensive ways to deal with our garbage. Just sort out the useful stuff and burn the rest. "

Some Region Councillors are now questioning Green Cart and the Waste Strategy:

- Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison voiced his support for Ellis' suggestion to discontinue the Green Cart pilot.
- Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette also questioned why the Region wouldn't want to look at reducing the bag limit to at least four now. The current limit is six.
- Burlington Councillor John Taylor said he would support the strategy on the understanding that the Region-wide Green Cart program won't be put in place until council has all information on its alternatives.

A significant change to the approved Waste Strategy from the draft is that a review of EFW technology will be done at the same time as Green Cart trials rather than after Green Cart is implemented. The next Region report on the Green Cart program is expected in Spring 2007.

The Region is responsible for all waste management services. The Region also has the authority to define the level of service for Blue Box while the municipalities have the authority to define the level of service for regular garbage, bulk items and yard waste. For example, Halton Hills chose not to implement rural garbage pick-up. That leaves the question of authority to approve implementation of Green Cart.

One of the recommendations of the region Waste Management Strategy was " That the harmonization of Regional waste management services be investigated in collaboration with the local municipalities prior to the next collection contract in February 2008." If the Region gets agreement to harmonize, it will have the authority to implement Green Cart everywhere and to make it compulsory for residents as is the case in Guelph.

Green Cart and the Waste Management Strategy should be coming soon to the municipality agendas. Now is the time to speak up. Contact your regional councillor and ask them to find a more cost effective method of handling this waste. We have the technology to manage the green waste at its source. Single resident dwellings just need the tools.

Public comments reported by the Region: [2006 - 2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy - PPW82-06/CS-40-06](#)

Dear Sir/Ms, Why are Halton homeowners constantly being made to feel guilty about the amount of garbage today's lifestyle causes them to generate? Disposal diapers and empty plastic water bottles are examples. Note that I said "homeowners". There are tens of thousands of residents in Halton apartment buildings that are not subject to the same rules with their garbage.

And who are the bright sparks who itemised what the contents of a typical garbage bag are, as listed in the

Burlington Post, 5th February? They must have a lot of spare time on their hands.

I suspect it's already decided that we will be issued the green containers for kitchen scraps even though there's a trial period being held. It's being mentioned that special bags will be needed, "available at many stores". Another expense.

For many years I have been using plastic grocery bags for kitchen scraps. They attach to a small rack designed for that purpose and so the bags are recycled.

On another matter. In the fall we used to have to put leaves into clear plastic bags, which cost around ten cents each. The reason we given for having to use clear bags was to prevent other items being sneaked in with the leaves. Now we have to use paper bags at a cost of sixty cents each (I fill over forty) and the concern about other items being in the bags is not mentioned.

Why don't you study how European countries dispose of their garbage? They are much smaller countries and some have much larger populations.

Looking for ways to reduce the quantity of trash going to landfill requires innovative thinking coupled to tax reduction incentives, not increased unfairness and more tax increases.

In the last ten years or so, our family's garbage output has been reduced by over 90%, yet our costs for garbage disposal (via our taxes) have gone up well over 500%. Something is dreadfully wrong with this picture wouldn't you say? It's just unfair.

A while back we took it upon ourselves to look at all the ways we could identify and harness to help produce/generate less garbage for disposal. Though it was more expensive to ourselves, we felt it was a good idea as it would help save our environment and use less landfill space.

We shopped selectively cutting back on all over-packaged products and changed our cooking and eating habits, both to conserve energy and to generate less wastes. We brought our lunches to work in reusable containers and if going to Tim Horton's, we used their china mugs and plates versus their throw-away paper cups and bags. We started to read newspapers on-line versus getting the paper copies and we've been trying to get marketers and the post office to stop sending us junk-mail as well. We even tried to get Bell Canada to stop dropping off those huge, and will never be used, bulky telephone books. We compost near about everything that leaves the kitchen and anything that's not composted is always recycled.

We now put out much less than a half bag of garbage per week and a half full blue box of recyclables every second week. As we compost all kitchen scraps, we have no organic materials that could go to a green cart program such as the Region is now trying.

I believe that like many others in Halton, we too are doing more than our bit to help reduce what's going to landfill, yet our costs (via our taxes) have skyrocketed beyond belief and from what I gather with the Region's planned green cart program that many don't want nor need, will be going up once again. We have paid hard earned dollars to be extremely waste management conscious and garbage-reduction proactive, yet we keep getting hit with tax increases that the Region says is to cover the garbage pick-up component and other trash disposal services.

As we live in a higher tax-assessed home, our garbage-tax component is much higher than those who live in lower tax-assessed homes and yet might produce more trash than us.

I noticed a Halton ad in the Oakville Beaver asking residents what they think we should do with Halton waste. I think we should recycle as much of our garbage as possible, and that the remainder should be incinerated, or made into pellets as they are doing in Peel. I do not think we should continue to bury our garbage. The land fills will soon be filled, and we will then have to make a decision, so let's do it now. The technology for burning garbage has been much improved in recent years, so we should not have air pollution in trying to get rid of our garbage by incineration.

[More ...](#)