

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# Municipal Curbside Waste Collection Program

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. That County Council authorize staff to release procurement documents for regional residential curbside collection of garbage, source separated organics, large items, and recycling from non-eligible sources as referenced in Report PW 2024-23, starting May 2027 for a seven year term, subject to contract award by County Council;
2. And further, that County Council authorize staff to negotiate contract amendments with the County's current curbside collection and recycling processing Contractor for extended contracted services from May 2025 to April 2027 in order to accommodate the municipal blue box program transition as referenced in Report PW 2024-23, for Council's further consideration and approval;
3. And further, that County Council authorize staff to negotiate pricing with a local vendor for source separated organics processing starting May 2027 for a seven year term, subject to Council's further consideration and approval, until feasibility of a County-owned organics processing facility can be further evaluated and considered for County Council's final award approval.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- The purpose of this report is to seek Oxford County Council support for release of Request-For-Proposal (RFP) procurement documents for residential curbside collection services (garbage, organics, large items, non-eligible source recyclables) starting May 2027, from which the associated potential award(s) will be presented to Council for consideration in Q4, 2024.

- In the interim period, staff are also seeking authorization to undertake service contract amendments with its existing curbside collection and recycling processing contractor (Emterra Group) and its Area Municipality service providers which are under contract to the County (City of Woodstock, Township of South-West Oxford) in order to accommodate the transition of the municipal blue box program to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The associated potential award(s) will also be presented to Council in Q4, 2024.
- Staff have received considerable feedback from local residents and Area Municipality staff during the curbside waste collection public consultation and engagement campaign (March 25 to May 1, 2024) which further supports and validates the proposed curbside level of service need as per the key findings noted below:
  - About 2/3rds of respondents set out one bag of garbage for collection on a weekly basis, with over half of respondents supportive of a five day waste collection schedule (weekly organics, biweekly garbage), a potential two garbage (non-clear) bag limit and of a municipal green bin program for organics.
  - Over 70% of County respondents dispose of organics in their garbage, while composting of organics is performed by rural (33%) and urban (15%) respondents respectively. Both urban (57%) and rural (42%) respondents indicated the primary reason they disposed organics into their garbage was due to the lack of a municipal green bin program.
  - Respondents also most commonly disposed of pet waste (59%), paper waste (88%) and diaper waste (59%) within their garbage while about 2/3rds of respondents dispose of brush, leaf and yard waste at municipal depot/transfer stations.
- Noting these survey respondent preferences and other municipal best management practices, various curbside collection program service options (including organics) will be presented to the vendor market for competitive procurement including, but not limited to, 5 or 6 day collection frequency (weekly organics, biweekly garbage), manual or automated curbside pick-up, collection/processing of recycling from non-eligible sources, etc.

## **IMPLEMENTATION POINTS**

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An overview of key dates and timeframes associated with changes to the County's proposed curbside waste collection program is provided in Figure 1.

Implementation of a County source separated organics (SSO) collection program is proposed to commence in May 2027 as part of the next curbside waste collection contract procurement. Commencement in May 2027 will allow for the necessary implementation lead time that will include but not be limited to, procurement of collection vehicles, development of collection schedules and routing, distribution of organic waste carts, and development of a comprehensive public education campaign.

Implementation of a potential County organics program was initially identified to start in January 2026 in alignment with the Blue Box transition; however, after further consideration, various factors will make it challenging to meet this timeline. With many other municipalities seeking to procure similar contracts and private contractors focusing on Producer support of the Blue Box program, high demand along with lingering supply chain issues is expected to result in extended delivery times for new collection vehicles of up to 18 – 24 months and potentially longer.

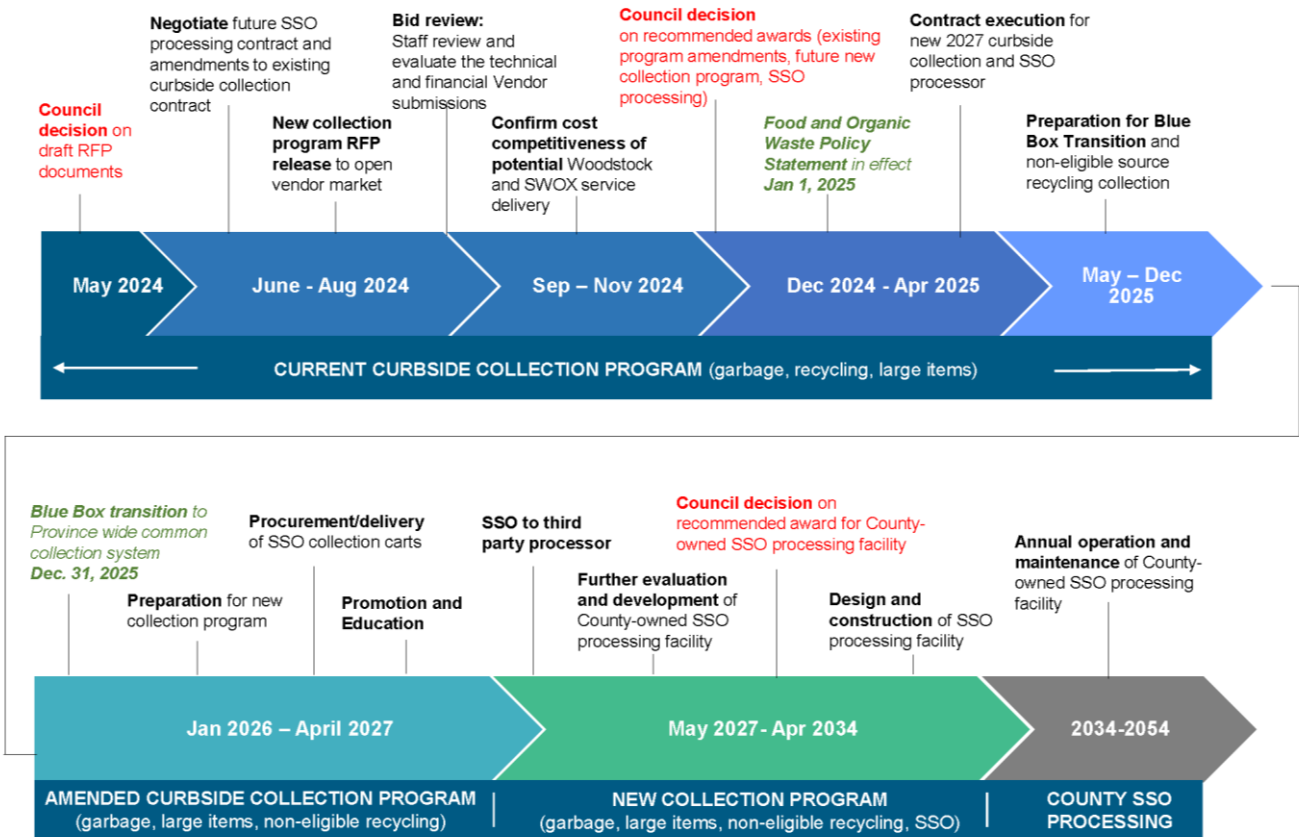


Figure 1: Proposed Implementation Timeline of Curbside Waste Collection Service Changes

Continuation of the current curbside waste collection program up to April 2027 will therefore be required, and can be accommodated through the existing curbside collection and recycling contract provisions that allow for two one-year extensions beyond the end of the initial 5 year term ending in April 2025. However, contract amendments will be required to address transition of the Blue Box program to Producer Responsibility on Dec 31, 2025.

Utilizing existing contract provisions to extend the County’s current curbside collection and recycling processing contracts with applicable amendments will avoid competing with other municipalities for similar services, allow for utilization of remaining life cycle of existing collection vehicles, and maintain status quo of the current curbside collection program until after transition of the Blue Box program, allowing residents time to acclimate before other new changes, such as introduction of an organics program, are implemented.

Amendments to the current curbside collection and recycling processing contracts (Emterra Group) will be presented for County Council's consideration in Q4, 2024, in order to extend current curbside waste collection services up to April 2027 with consideration of recycling collection and processing from non-eligible sources.

In parallel, staff will be proceeding to negotiate and execute amendments to the County's waste management service agreements with Woodstock and SWOX, as previously directed by Council via Report [PW 2022-33](#), to reflect the changes associated with the transition of the municipal Blue Box Program to full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) effective January, 2026. Such agreement re-negotiations could also potentially consider future local SSO and non-eligible source recyclables collection within their respective service areas as applicable pending cost competitiveness.

Concurrently, staff will also issue procurement documents in Q2, 2024 to the open vendor market for new future regional curbside waste collection services (garbage, SSO, large items, and ineligible recycling sources) and initiate sole source negotiations for third party SSO processing, for both services starting May, 2027. Procurement of recycling processing services for non-eligible source recyclable materials can be considered in 2026 (for May 2027 implementation) since it does not require extensive lead time for implementation. The associated potential award(s) for such services will be later presented to Council for consideration and approval in Q4, 2024.

It is staff's opinion that the award of SSO component of the new future regional curbside waste collection contract prior to 2025, and subsequent implementation in 2027, satisfies the intent of Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement, as issued under Section 11 of the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*. Specifically, the Statement guidance document seeks to achieve a 50% food and organic waste diversion target by 2025 from single-family dwellings based on municipality population and population density thresholds (i.e. local municipalities greater than 20,000 but equal to or less than 50,000 and the population density of the local municipality is greater than or equal to 100 persons per square kilometre).

## **Financial Impact**

No financial implications are associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

A detailed financial breakdown and annual budget implications will be presented to Council later this year as part of the curbside waste collection bid submission evaluation and potential contract award proposals.

## **Communications**

To seek feedback on potential changes to the County's curbside collection program, staff undertook an extensive six-week public consultation and engagement campaign as per Council direction received during consideration of Report [PW 2023-42](#). The goal of this campaign was to understand what residents need and value from their waste collection program. Information about this campaign was shared with Area Municipalities on March 22, 2024 in advance of its launch. As outlined below, a variety of outreach methods were used in an effort to obtain this feedback.

- **Speak Up, Oxford!:** A dedicated project webpage was published on March 25, 2024 and served as the main engagement hub for information and consultation. During the public engagement campaign, there were approximately 7,200 visits to the site.
- **Feedback survey and comment and question form:** The survey was live from March 22 to May 1, 2024 and generated valuable feedback from 4,021 participants. 6,200 comments were obtained through the survey, direct comments and questions were received (and responded to) from 10 users. Respondents represented approximately 8% of the Oxford County household count with proportionate responses from each Area Municipality.
- **Public Information Session:** A virtual public information session was held on Wednesday April 24 at 6:30 pm. A total of 6 residents participated in the session and a significant amount of discussion occurred. A recording of the public information session is available on the *Speak Up, Oxford!* page for viewing.
- **Communication:** Public communication about the survey included media release (with resulting news coverage); social media organic and paid/promoted posts; digital (web) advertising; print (newspaper) advertising; radio advertising; Oxford County website posts; *Speak Up, Oxford!* online town hall; poster for libraries and municipal office use; and outdoor electronic billboard. Internal communications helped inform staff so they could promote and/or answer basic questions about the survey with family and friends. The survey was also profiled through signage and Waste Management staff participation in Woodstock Hospital's Earth Day event on April 22, 2024.
- **Project backgrounder:** Information about the project was presented in the form of an interactive 'Prezi'. Through this, residents could get information related to the project background, current services, upcoming regulatory changes and next steps.

Details and analysis of the feedback received through the above efforts is discussed in the Comments Section of this report. Following the direction received by County Council through this report, staff will report back with more details and information on costing. The *Speak Up, Oxford!* page will continue to serve as an information source for residents and will include updates and information on possible changes. Any possible future changes to the County's curbside collection program will be reviewed with Area Municipalities and rolled out through dedicated social media campaigns.

Report PW 2024-23 will be shared with Area Municipalities and with Zero Waste Oxford.

## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

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Oxford County Council approved the [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council's vision of "Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future." These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendations in this report supports the following Strategic Plan pillars and goals:

		
<b>Promoting community vitality</b>	<b>Enhancing environmental sustainability</b>	<b>Fostering progressive government</b>
<p>Goal 1.2 – Sustainable infrastructure and development</p>	<p>Goal 2.1 – Climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Goal 2.2 – Preserve and enhance our natural environment</p>	<p>Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions</p> <p>Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities</p> <p>Goal 3.4 – Financial sustainability</p>

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

## DISCUSSION

### Background

As the Waste Management Authority, Oxford County is responsible for residential curbside waste collection and management of waste generated regionally within the County through landfill disposal, waste diversion, and resource recovery programs. Residential waste collection services are managed by the County through various contracts with third-party contractors and municipal service agreements with Area Municipalities (City of Woodstock, Township of South-West Oxford).

Staff have been actively reviewing and assessing the municipal impacts of Provincial and Federal legislative waste management requirements and policy changes that will result in pending changes to municipal curbside waste collection services. Of note, overviews of the municipal impacts of EPR on the Ontario Blue Box Program and the Provincial Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement were presented to Council in Reports PW 2023-42 and [PW 2023-30](#).

In order to respond to these changes, County Council directed staff to develop draft RFP procurements documents for overall regional curbside waste collection services (garbage, organics, large item, ineligible recycling sources) and present such service options for Council's consideration and approval prior to the formal release of the RFP to the vendor market.

In support of a potential regional residential SSO (green bin) program, County Council also approved in principle (Report PW 2023-42), a County-owned organics processing facility for future consideration utilizing Covered Aerated Static Pile Composting technology. As an interim approach, a third party SSO processor would be procured for initial implementation of an SSO program while feasibility of a future County-owned organics processing is further evaluated.

Staff was further directed by Council to undertake a six week public consultation and engagement campaign in order to gauge residents’ desire for a County-wide organics collection program along with preferred waste collection options based on various scenarios, and other potential program changes intended to promote program participation and increase overall waste diversion.

**Current County Curbside Waste Collection Services**

Oxford County currently supports three residential curbside garbage and blue box material collection programs, each having different collection frequencies and acceptable material requirements as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Current County Curbside Waste Collection Programs**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Collection Type</b>
Ingersoll, Zorra, East-Zorra Tavistock, Blandford-Blenheim, Norwich, and Tillsonburg (County contracted service)	Weekly (5-business day cycle) co-collection of garbage and single stream recycling (Blue Box), including statutory holidays but excluding New Year’s Day and Christmas Day.
South-West Oxford (SWOX) Public Works (Under service contract to Oxford County)	Six-business day cycle for co-collection of garbage and single stream recycling (Blue Box). No pick up on statutory holidays.
Woodstock Public Works (Under service contract to Oxford County)	Weekly garbage collection and bi-weekly two stream recycling (Blue Box) collection. No pick up on statutory holidays.

As part of the County’s current organic waste diversion program, municipal drop off depots are provided at 11 County-wide locations where residents can drop off brush, leaf and yard waste at no cost. This material is collected and transported to the OCWMF where it is processed into finished compost and sold for use in gardening and landscaping products. The County also undertakes backyard composting program education and outreach to promote reduction of organic waste that is otherwise placed in the garbage and landfilled.

## Comments

Development of the County's proposed regional curbside waste collection program for residential garbage, organics, large items and recycling from non-eligible sources considered several collection scenarios as well as other potential program changes (i.e. reduced garbage collection frequency/quantity, clear garbage bags, etc.) intended to promote landfill diversion.

Curbside collection scenarios and other potential program changes were considered based on public feedback, industry best practices/municipal comparators and collaborative discussions with Area Municipality (Woodstock, SWOX) staff.

### Public Consultation and Engagement Campaign Key Findings

As noted in the Communications section previously, a comprehensive public consultation and engagement campaign was undertaken that included an online survey to gain a better understanding of what residents may or may not like to see in their curbside waste collection program. Attachment 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the survey findings by Area Municipality and urban versus rural municipalities

The key findings of the survey are summarized as follows:

#### Current Garbage and Organics (Green Bin)

- The majority of respondents (73%) indicated that they currently set their garbage out every week, followed by 17% indicating every two weeks. Responses show that this trend is consistent in both the urban and rural municipalities in the County.
- 63% of respondents indicated that they set out one bag of garbage on average at a time, followed by 28% indicating they set out two bags of garbage. This was also consistent among rural resident responses.
- County wide, respondents indicated that they mostly use the garbage to dispose of food waste (71%), followed by composting at 22%. A somewhat larger portion (33%) of rural only respondents indicated that they dispose of their food waste through composting; whereas only 15% of urban respondents indicated the same.
- Responses showed that the depot / transfer station is the most used method of disposing of leaf and yard waste (62%); pet waste, paper waste and diaper waste is most commonly being disposed of in the garbage (59%, 88% and 59% respectively).
- The greatest number of respondents indicated that the reason they are not currently removing organic material from their garbage is because there is currently no green bin program available (57% of urban responses and 42% of rural responses).

#### Support for an Organics (Green Bin) Collection Program

- Respondents reported that the highest (most important) consideration in deciding whether or not they will use an organics (green bin) service if offered in the future is secure and odourless green bin storage (35%), followed by how often the green bin is collected (28%). These findings are consistent among rural versus urban responses.



- Of the responses received, 64% indicated that they would participate in an organics (green bin) collection program if offered in the future. This worked out to be 68% of the responses received from urban residents and 58% of the responses received from rural residents.
- More than half (54%) of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay more on their municipal tax bill in order to implement an organics (green bin) program County-wide, whereby all residents in all Area Municipalities would be receiving the same curbside organics collection. This is a consistent finding among urban versus rural respondents.

### Collection Cycle Preferences

- When asked whether they would prefer a 5-day collection cycle vs a 6-day collection cycle for curbside collection, 59% of all respondents indicated they would prefer a 5-day collection cycle, followed by 21% indicating they would prefer a 6-day collection cycle and 17% indicating that they have no preference. This was also found to be relatively consistent among urban versus rural responses.
- 37% of all respondents reported that they feel the cost to Oxford County taxpayers is the most important factor when considering an organic (green bin) and garbage collection program, followed by how often green bins and garbage are picked up (21%). Respondents indicated that they feel the least important factor was reducing carbon footprint / greenhouse gas emissions (30%), followed by diversion from the landfill (18%).

### Support for Clear Bags and Garbage Bag Limits

- More than half (54%) of the respondents indicated that they would not support the implementation of clear garbage bags, with 24% reporting that they would support it and the remaining indicating that they were not sure.
- 45% of respondents reported that they support having a garbage bag limit in place to encourage recycling and the use of green bins for organics. This was consistent among urban versus rural respondents. For those that indicated they supported a garbage bag limit, 55% of them felt that 2 bags would be an appropriate limit, followed by 21% indicating 3 bags and 17% indicating 1 bag.

### Municipal Comparator Analysis

Staff reached out to 71 municipalities to gather information on their curbside waste collection program and lessons learned on implementing an Organics (Green Bin) program. The municipalities were selected based on having an organics program, similar geographic and population size, surrounding municipalities, and all rural-regional municipalities in Ontario (as classified by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority for the Blue Box Datacall). Staff received a response from 37 of the municipalities contacted, two which 17 of them have a SSO program in place.

The municipal comparator analysis is included in Attachment 2 with the key findings highlighted below:

#### Prevalence of Municipal Organics (Green Bin) Collection Programs

- Of the municipalities who do not have an organics program, 6 municipalities are looking to implement or are required to implement a program as they meet the population threshold outlined in the Food and Organic Waste Framework, while eleven municipalities are alternatively promoting backyard composting and/or the food cyclers.

#### Organics (Green Bin) Collection Program

- Of the responses received, 17 municipalities have an organics program. 82% have an established program for over 10 years.
- All of the municipalities provide weekly collection of organics. The Municipality of Muskoka provides weekly collection in the summer and bi-weekly in the winter.
- When the organics program was implemented, 41% of municipalities changed their garbage collection from weekly to bi-weekly, 18% changed the garbage set out limit and 29% did not change the garbage program.
- More than half (59%) of the municipalities have manual collection for their organics program using a standard 45 L bin.
- All municipalities offered the organics program to urban and rural communities. The Municipality of Muskoka initially rolled out the program to urban only, and is now rolling out to rural properties. Since they have mostly seasonal residents in rural areas that program was not initially offered.
- Some municipalities require organics to be contained in a certified BPI or 100% compostable bag because collection is cleaner and the trucks do not leak as much, while other municipalities do not allow bags. This decision all depends on what materials their organics processor can accept.

#### Hard-to-handle Materials

- Only two municipalities accept pet waste, diapers and sanitary waste in the organics bin, while six municipalities accept pet waste but not diapers or sanitary waste. All remaining municipalities do not accept those hard-to-handle materials such as this in the organics green bin program and that material is disposed of in the garbage.
- Four municipalities have a diaper exemption program in place to address issues with holding on to that material for longer than a week. For municipalities that do not have an exemption program in place, they recommend residents double bag that material or bring it to a transfer station for disposal.

Clear Bag Program

- 28% of municipalities have a clear bag program in place, while 5% are planning to implement the program. The general comment was that residents were concerned about the program initially but once it was rolled out, municipal staff did not hear many complaints.
- Of the 17 municipalities with an organics program in place, only one municipality uses the clear bag program to complement the organics program.

Statutory Holiday Collection

- Most municipalities had a similar practice to Oxford County: collecting on all statutory holidays except for Christmas and New Year’s Day. When the collection day is impacted by one of those holidays, the collection day gets bumped to a Saturday.
- Four municipalities surveyed have a 4-day collection system (Tuesday-Thursday) and will shift the collection days within the week so that they do not have to collect on holidays.

Waste Collection Program Level of Service Considerations

Various waste collection program service options are briefly described below and were relevantly assessed for RFP inclusion consideration by staff based on public feedback, industry best practices/municipal comparators and collaborative discussions with Area Municipality (Woodstock, SWOX) staff.

Collection Frequency – 5 business day / 6 business day cycles

As shown in Figure 2, a five-business day collection cycle provides weekly organics and biweekly garbage collection for residents on the same day every week but requires an alternate day when a statutory holiday occurs.





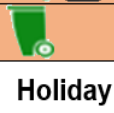










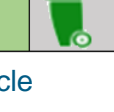
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3		<b>Holiday</b>					
Week 4							

Figure 2: Five Business Day Collection Cycle

The six business day cycle show in Figure 3 provides curbside waste collection (organics, garbage) once every six business days (i.e. excluding weekends and statutory holidays). Collection day is different every week and results in approximately 10 less collection days per year.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4		<b>Holiday</b>					
Week 5							
Week 6							
Week 7							

Figure 3: Six Business Day Collection Cycle

Implementation of an organics program provides an opportunity to reduce the frequency of garbage collection since organics is more than 50% of weekly residential waste (garbage volumes are expected to be significantly less). Reduced collection frequency of garbage has been implemented by many other municipalities to promote resident participation in Green Bin programs and further drive landfill waste diversion.

The majority of Oxford residents indicated preference for a five day collection cycle but also identified cost as an important collection program consideration.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- **Carry forward both the five-day collection (weekly organics, biweekly garbage) and six day collection (weekly organics and garbage) for RFP consideration.**

Collection Automation

Some municipalities have implemented collection vehicles with automated loading (cart tippers) capabilities to reduce workplace injuries, staffing issues, and streamline collection activities. Automation can potentially reduce annual collection costs but require higher upfront costs for larger garbage and SSO carts.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- **Carry forward both manual and automated curbside collection methods for RFP consideration.**

Organics Collection - Urban vs Rural

At a minimum, Woodstock meets, and Tillsonburg will soon meet, population/density thresholds identified in Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement requirements for organic waste diversion whereas rural municipalities in Oxford are below these threshold requirements.

Green Bin programs are also generally less feasible in rural areas due to low population density (less collection stops/km) and rural properties typically have more options for managing organic waste (compost, burn pile). However, a County-wide organics collection program would ensure consistent levels of service to all residents and further promote waste resource recovery.

Most municipalities operating green bin programs provide the same service levels in rural and urban areas.

The majority of Oxford residents in both rural and urban municipalities would support and participate in a County-wide green bin program.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Carry forward both urban only and County-wide organics collection options for RFP consideration.***

[Acceptable Green Bin Materials](#)

The County's proposed Green Bin program is expected to only include food and kitchen waste organics. Very few municipal Green Bin programs include non food waste items, such as diapers and pet waste, since it tends to result in additional residual waste (plastics and absorbents) that ends up being landfilled which ultimately increases overall processing costs. Other municipalities have also offered special collection programs for non-organic waste items rather than include as part of a Green Bin program.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Carry all acceptable food and organic materials for RFP consideration, excluding diapers and pet waste.***

[Collection on Statutory Holidays](#)

As part of the County's current curbside collection program (except Woodstock and SWOX), collection is provided on statutory holidays (except Christmas and New Years Day). This requires staffing at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility (OCWMF) in order to receive collected waste.

Although collection on statutory holidays prevents disruption to weekly collection schedules, daily garbage and recycling volumes are generally lower due to residents being away or not realizing that collection service is provided on holidays.

Other municipalities provide curbside collection on Statutory Holidays similar to the County's current program. However, based on staff's experience, there is limited benefit and it often creates staffing issues for both the County and those employed by the County's Contractor.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Remove statutory holiday curbside collection from RFP consideration.***

### Mandatory Use of Clear Garbage Bags

Clear bag mandates have been implemented by other municipalities to promote use of Green Bin programs and other recycling programs. Privacy concerns are cited as the main issue associated with use of clear garbage bags and many municipalities permit the use of one small opaque bag within a clear bag or one full-sized privacy bag per weekly set out.

The use of clear bags was not supported by Oxford residents and would require additional scrutiny by Collectors. Promotion of waste diversion from use of clear bags can be similarly achieved through garbage set out limits noted below.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Remove mandatory use of clear bags from future curbside collection level of service.***

### Weekly Garbage Bag Set-out Limits

Weekly bag limits have also been used by other municipalities to promote use of Green Bin and other recycling programs, and can also be an incentive for residents to reduce their waste generation.

The majority of Oxford residents support a weekly bag limit and most households typically set out two bags per week.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Carry a two garbage bag weekly limit for future curbside collection level of service and RFP consideration.***

### Collection of Non-Eligible Source Recyclables

Some municipalities have opted out of recycling collection and processing from non-eligible sources following the transition to EPR, of which such materials will no longer be managed by the Producers based on current direction (may be subject to change).

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

- ***Carry forward collection and processing of non-eligible source recyclables for RFP consideration.***

### SSO Processing Options

Processing of organics collected through a County-wide regional green bin program will initially require third party services while a County-owned processing facility is further evaluated and considered by Council for approval.

Procurement of a local SSO processing vendor where collected material can be transported via direct haul will eliminate the need for capital infrastructure (i.e. transfer stations) and avoid stranded assets prior to potential implementation of a County-owned SSO processing facility.

## CONCLUSIONS

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The proposed regional curbside waste collection program service options (garbage, SSO, large item, ineligible source recyclables) proposed in this report will further advance the goals of the County's Zero Waste Plan.

Specifically, the future potential implementation of these waste collection service considerations formally align with the County's transition of its municipal blue box program to full EPR, position the County to meet provincial targets related to the management of organics/landfill methane emissions and serve to extend the overall operating lifespan of the OCWMF landfill.

Operational savings derived from the transition to full EPR could be reallocated to offset future SSO curbside and non-eligible source recyclables collection and processing costs, if such programs were to be adopted.

## SIGNATURES

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## ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment 1 – *Speak Up, Oxford!* Online Survey Results  
Attachment 2 – Municipal Scan, April 3 – April 17, 2024