



In The Loop



An update for Councillors from Solid Waste Management Services

July 2002

Countdown to the Green Bin Program... Two months to go

Coming the week of September 17th to Etobicoke:

The Green Bin Program

This long-awaited program allows residents to put organics (fruit and vegetables scraps, paper towels, coffee grinds, etc.) out for separate collection along with garbage and recycling. Organics currently make up about 30% of the garbage going to landfill.

A number of changes to the current garbage and recycling program will take place:

- The City will deliver two new containers to residents (one for the kitchen and a larger green bin for the curb).
- Instructions will be included with the bins explaining how the program works.
- Residents' collection day may change.
- Garbage will be collected every two weeks. All of the "smelly" garbage will be collected in the organics container every week. There should only be a few items left in the garbage (plastic wrappers, old running shoes, etc.)
- Yard waste will continue to be collected weekly in April, May, October and November, and every second week during June, July, August and September.

What can go in The GreenBin?

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat and fish products (bones, skins, fat)
- Pasta, bread and cereal
- Dairy products, egg shells
- Coffee grinds and filters, tea bags
- Candy, cookies and cake
- Soiled paper towels, tissues
- Soiled paper and packaging
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Household plants, including soil
- Animal waste, bedding and litter

Plastic bags can be used to line either bin, but are not required.



The organic material will be made into high-quality compost to be used on farmlands and parklands.

How are we communicating to the public?

The promotions for the Green Bin Program are already well under way. We want to provide as much information, through as many means as possible. To date, the Green Bin program has been promoted through:

- The Spring 2002 issue of Waste Watch
- A video (shown at Environment Days, displays)
- Students visiting Etobicoke residents door-to-door (this will continue until August)
- Interactive displays at Environment Days
- Displays at malls
- Web site www.city.toronto.on.ca/greenbin
- Presentations at schools
- Open houses
- First newsletter going out shortly (has been translated into different languages)

