

# Ward 28 – Blue Bin Update

The City is targeting 70% waste diversion from landfill by 2010. This will establish Toronto as North America's premier diversion city. To reach this goal, the City is implementing a number of measures designed to encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle (3Rs).

Introducing new Blue Bins to replace current blue/grey boxes consolidates several boxes to a single bin, providing us the capacity to divert more – the bins will hold the additional materials the City expects to add to our recycling program. These bins have wheels and lids to protect contents from bad weather and to prevent the nuisance of blowing litter. The semi-automated collection will also save taxpayers' money.

Two information meetings were held in Ward 28, to explain the new system and hear community input. The concerns expressed included:

- The bins were too large.
- Storing bins was difficult.
- When full, the bins would be too heavy to move, especially down stairs.
- Along with the new Green Bin and new Garbage Bin, which will be introduced later this year, there will be too many containers to properly store.
- The bins are not in keeping with the heritage character of the neighbourhood.

The City of Toronto recognizes that this is a city of neighbourhoods, and we are committed to work in partnership with the communities to build a vibrant, liveable city that values the unique nature of its neighbourhoods.

## **Cabbagetown/Corktown residents lead the city to finding solutions**

Many older and historic neighbourhoods across the city face similar challenges:

- Narrow and short frontages for houses.
- Narrow or no access to backyards from the street.
- Small porches and front yards – or no front yard space at all.
- No garages, driveways or laneway access.
- City-appointed heritage area is taken seriously by many residents who highly landscape their properties and keep their front yards clear of clutter.

To help address the unique challenges in dense, downtown neighbourhoods, a Ward 28 steering committee was formed, consisting of local residents, Councillor Pam McConnell and staff, and staff from Solid Waste Management Services. The group met to discuss the community's feedback and agreed to conduct a Ward pilot to test a new approach to working with the bins.

## **One Bin Pilot details:**

- Residents will receive their choice of bin size, selecting from current available inventory.
- The **default** bin will be the **Medium** size (not the Large size, as previously stated).
- A new, Small Blue Bin (H-32" x W-19" x D-23") will be available later this summer. Residents may then switch bin sizes – free of charge – until November 1, 2008.
- The selected size Blue Bin will alternate as a receptacle for recycling and garbage according to the local collection schedule. One bin will do double duty.
- On collection day, residents will bring the empty bin to the curb and then carry out the appropriate material (recyclables one week; garbage the next), as required by the schedule, and place the items in the bin for pick-up.
- Residents will continue to store recycling and garbage as they currently do (e.g., blue boxes in the basement, in backyards, under porches, etc.).

- During the pilot, the amount of recycling and garbage collected and any cross-contamination (e.g., regular garbage mixed in with recycling) will be monitored.
- Even though the new Garbage Bin will not be distributed until next summer, residents are encouraged to start using their Blue Bins for both garbage and recycling immediately upon receiving them, to test the feasibility of the one bin option.
- At the end of the pilot, residents' satisfaction will be measured in a survey and their feedback will be used to assess whether this option may become a permanent system for the Ward and be considered for other downtown neighbourhoods across the city.
- Participation in the pilot is voluntary – having a Blue Bin and a Garbage Bin is also an option.

**Pilot will begin in mid-April and end on November 1, 2008**

**The Blue Bin order deadline is extended until February 8, 2008.  
The new default size is Medium.**

*(Note: Do not re-order if you've already done so and are satisfied with your bin size selection.)*

**Ordering options include:**

1. On-line: via the website: [toronto.ca/target70](http://toronto.ca/target70)
2. Automated Telephone Order Line: call 647-288-1088

If you order on-line or by telephone, please have the order card that came with your order package handy – you'll need information printed on the card to complete your order.

**The new Garbage Bins and fee program are coming soon**

On November 1, 2008, the City will introduce a new city-wide volume-based rate structure for garbage collection. Fees will be charged based on how much garbage each household generates. Residents will put their garbage out in bins – the larger the bin, the higher the fee for disposal.

Ward residents participating in the one bin pilot must remember that the fee applied to their garbage collection service will be based on the size of the one bin they've opted to use. There are no fees associated with the Blue Bin but since this bin is doing double duty as a garbage bin, the fee will be determined by the size of the single bin.

Currently the Garbage Bin fees are estimated and will not be finalized until the end of March 2008. The cost for solid waste management services will be removed from property tax bills and placed on water bills. Future community information sessions will answer questions about the new pricing structure.

**Other solutions**

While the system, as designed, works for the majority of Torontonians, the City acknowledges that no one approach is likely to suit all. Our downtown neighbourhoods are unique. Many of the solutions may also need to be unique. Staff remain open to investigating other solutions to achieve the goals of waste diversion while accommodating specific challenges and limitations present in high-density communities.

For example, Corktown residents on Percy Street are currently arranging for a central location for all residents to dispose of their recycling. Options like this can be studied and potentially implemented during the pilot period or afterwards. We will make every effort to help implement a system that allows Ward 28 residents to continue to be city leaders in recycling and waste diversion.

**For more information, visit [toronto.ca/target70](http://toronto.ca/target70)  
Call 416-392-BINS (2467)**

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