

Starting January 1, 2024, Chatham-Kent's recycling program undergoes a significant transformation, transitioning to an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model. Circular Materials, a not-for-profit producer responsibility organization, will administer Chatham-Kent's curbside recycling.

Changes to the Blue Box Program (January 1, 2024)

The Blue Box Program serves as a term for Ontario communities' recycling programs involving paper and paper packaging, glass, plastic, and metal. The context mentioned specifically pertains to the use of blue and black boxes in Chatham-Kent.

Ontario's Blue Box Program is transitioning to a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model in accordance with a new provincial Blue Box Regulation. This new regulation requires producers of blue box materials to be financially and operationally responsible for the collection, processing, and recycling of these materials. It also allows Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to contract with producers to help them meet their regulatory obligations.

A transition period is underway until December 31, 2025, in order to create a seamless pass-off of responsibilities between municipalities and the PROs/producers. Chatham-Kent transitions on January 1, 2024, and will begin working with our PRO, Circular Materials (CM), to manage the collection of Blue Box Materials.

There will be no changes to the Blue Box program experienced by residents during the transition period; collection schedules and the list of acceptable materials will remain the same.

Beginning January 1, 2026, CM will take full responsibility for Ontario's Blue Box program, and any program changes will be made at their discretion.

Important Dates

January 1, 2024 - Chatham-Kent Transitions to the Extended Producer Responsibility model and transfers the responsibility of administering the Blue Box recycling program to CM.

January 1, 2026 - When the transition period ends, CM will take full control of the Blue Box Program in Ontario communities, including Chatham-Kent.

How am I affected?

I currently receive curbside Blue Box Recycling. During the transition period (January 1, 2024- December 31st, 2025), there will be no change to collection dates or acceptable

recyclable materials. This may change at the end of the transition period starting January 1, 2026, when CM becomes fully responsible for recycling matters in CK.

I am a rural resident that brings my recycling to a drop-off depot (i.e., transfer station): During the transition period (January 1, 2024- December 31st, 2025), residents will continue to be able to deposit their recycling materials at their designated drop-off depot. There will be no change in the number of streams or list of accepted materials.

This may change at the end of the transition period starting January 1, 2026, when CM becomes fully responsible for recycling in Ontario. Any inquiries regarding recycling at Chatham-Kent drop-off depots should be directed to Chatham-Kent Customer Service as per below:

Phone: Call 3-1-1 (within Chatham-Kent) or 519-360-1998

Email: ck311@chatham-kent.ca

I am an Industrial, Commercial, or Institutional business owner: Starting January 1, 2024, industrial, commercial, or institutional businesses will no longer qualify for participation in the recycling program, leading to the discontinuation of collection services. This modification will impact industrial and commercial properties, not-for-profit organizations, daycares, places of worship, municipal buildings, or facilities (such as libraries and arenas), campgrounds, trailer parks lacking permanent or seasonal households, and commercial farms. However, Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools and non-profit retirement and long-term care facilities will retain access to the recycling program. Businesses seeking recycling services may explore alternative waste collection arrangements through private contracts.

Recycling carts that were purchased from the Municipality are yours to keep. You may reuse or repurpose them as you wish. However, if you prefer to return your recycling carts or boxes to the Municipality, you may drop them off at any open municipal service centre in Chatham-Kent. Only recycling carts purchased in 2023 would be eligible for a refund if one is requested upon the return of the cart(s) and before March 31, 2024. Please check out the hours of our municipal centres at <http://www.chatham-kent.ca> before undertaking your trip. The Municipality is offering to accept returned recycling carts or boxes as a courtesy to our residents. Please note this offer will only be valid between now and March 31, 2024. Broken or damaged recycling carts or boxes will not be accepted.

The [Frequently Asked Questions for the Industrial/ Commercial/ Institutional Properties](#) can provide more details.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the municipality still collect garbage, leaf, and yard waste?

Chatham-Kent will continue to provide curbside garbage and leaf and yard waste collection to areas that currently receive these services.

2. Why are we transitioning to the Blue Box Program?

The Ontario Government legislated changes to the Blue Box Regulation in an effort to expand participation in recycling programs by increasing clarity and creating comprehensive recycling guidelines across the province. This regulation also serves to promote a more

circular economy, where materials can be collected, recycled, and reused into new products and packaging. This will aid in creating less overall waste, diverting waste from landfills and mitigating impacts on the environment.

3. What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

Currently, municipalities are responsible for paying for half of the cost of collection and processing of recyclable materials. Extended Producer Responsibility holds the producers of Blue Box materials (i.e., Coca-Cola, Amazon, Walmart, etc.) logistically and financially responsible for the entire lifecycle of the materials they produce, making producers accountable for their product packaging and, ultimately, aiding in reducing waste.

4. What is a circular economy?

A circular economy refers to the idea of moving away from a make-use-dispose economy toward a structure that encourages recycling and reuse, extending the lifecycle of a product and eliminating waste. A circular economy is a system where the use of raw materials is minimized, the lifecycle of materials and resources are maximized, and waste generation and packaging are minimized. Learn more at [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca).

Chatham-Kent's Recycling Transition Impacts to Industrial/Commercial/Institutional Properties (ICI)

Ontario's Blue Box Program is transitioning to a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model in accordance with ON Regulation 391/21 under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA). This new regulation requires producers of blue box materials to be financially and operationally responsible for the collection, processing, and recycling of these materials. Also, it allows for Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to contract with producers to help them meet their regulatory obligations. This new model, however, only incorporates blue box material generated through residential sources and excludes blue box material generated through industrial, commercial, or institutional sources.

Chatham-Kent will transition to this new EPR model on January 1, 2024, and has begun working with the PRO, Circular Materials (CM), to manage the collection of blue box materials. As a result, on October 16, 2023, Chatham-Kent Council approved the discontinuation of curbside collection of blue box materials from ineligible sources (i.e., ICI properties) through the municipal funding effective January 1, 2024.

Frequently Asked Questions for Industrial/ Commercial/ Institutional Properties

1. What is considered an Industrial, Commercial, or Institutional (ICI) property?

Any property not designated residential based on Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) codes is considered ICI. However, elementary, and secondary schools and select non-profit organizations will continue to be eligible under the new regulation.

2. How does this affect my business?

As of January 1, 2024, the Municipality's recycling collection program will end. If your property is ineligible, you will need to make alternate arrangements to have your recycling collected.

3. What are my options for disposing of the recycling generated from my business starting January 1, 2024?

Ineligible properties can choose to:

- Contract a private contractor to collect the recycling.

The properties' occupants, owners, or managers can make private arrangements to collect and process their recycling. Below is a non-comprehensive list of possible service providers. Please call the individual business to learn about their programs, pricing, etc.

Please note that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent **does not endorse or vouch** for any of these service providers.

Company	Telephone	Website
Waste Connections of Canada (WCC)	519-360-9435	https://www.wasteconnectionscanada.com/chatham/
Green For Life (GFL)	519-948-8126	https://gflenv.com/
Waste Management (WM)	855-292-6030	https://www.wm.com/ca/en/home

- Place recycling in the garbage stream.

4. I own/manage an apartment building; will it be impacted by this change?

Apartment buildings will continue to receive curbside recycling collection through Circular Materials.

5. I have/manage a property that has a business on the main floor and apartments above. How does the transition affect my property?

Blue Box material generated from the residential portion of a mixed-use property will be eligible for collection, while the material generated from the commercial portion of such a property will be ineligible for collection. It is up to the collection contractor to make that distinction.

6. Can the recycling generated from my business be delivered to a municipal transfer station?

No. Municipal transfer stations are not licensed to accept blue box material from ICI sources. Therefore, this service has never been provided and will continue the status quo in that only residential sources for blue box material are eligible.

7. What do I do with my business's recycling cart(s)/recycling boxes?

The Municipality will not retrieve any sold recycling carts. You may repurpose the cart(s) as you wish.

However, if you absolutely need to return your recycling cart/boxes to the Municipality, please arrange for a drop-off at any of Chatham-Kent's municipal service centres. Please note that only recycling carts purchased in 2023 can be returned for a refund. The purchase date will be verified, and the refund process will be initiated by Chatham-Kent's Customer Service Team. Please visit www.chatham-kent.ca to find Municipal Service Centre hours.

Returned recycling carts/boxes will be accepted only between December 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.

8. How is Chatham-Kent helping businesses during this transition?

Ontario municipal staff and industry support groups have expressed concern and criticism of excluding ICI Blue Box materials from the EPR model. Chatham-Kent's administration is committed to advocating for the province to develop a practical solution for ICI sectors' materials, either directly or through industry organizations.

9. Are there any subsidies available for businesses as a result of this change?

Currently, there are no subsidies available; however, the Municipality will continue to advocate on behalf of the ICI properties in Chatham-Kent.

10. Who do I contact at the provincial level to advocate against this change?

You can always connect with your local MPP. If you are part of an industry organization, ask your board of directors for support by writing to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, for example.

11. Will the municipality still collect garbage?

Chatham-Kent will continue to provide curbside garbage collection to areas that currently receive this service. Garbage collection is not impacted by this new regulation and remains unchanged.

12. Why are we transitioning to the Blue Box Program?

The Ontario Government legislated changes to the Blue Box Regulation in an effort to

promote a more circular economy, where materials can be collected, recycled, and reused into new products and packaging. Having producers be entirely responsible for their products in the post-consumer phase will aid in creating less overall waste, diverting waste from landfills, and mitigating environmental impacts.

13. What is a circular economy?

A circular economy refers to the concept of moving away from a make-use-dispose economy toward a structure that encourages recycling and reuse, extending the lifecycle of a product and eliminating waste. A circular economy is one where the use of raw materials is minimized, the lifecycle of materials and resources are maximized, and waste generation and packaging are minimized.

14. What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

Before the transition, municipalities and producers shared the financial burden of collecting and processing recyclable materials based on a 50-50 model. Extended Producer Responsibility holds the producers of Blue Box materials (i.e., Coca-Cola, Amazon, Walmart, etc.) logistically and financially responsible for the entire lifecycle of the materials they produce, making producers accountable for their product packaging and, ultimately, aiding in reducing waste.

Relevant Links

www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210391

[Chatham-Kent's Blue Box Transition Update \(escribemeetings.com\)](#)

[Blue Box Regulation](#)

[Transition Schedule](#)

[Circular Materials](#)