DURHAM REGION

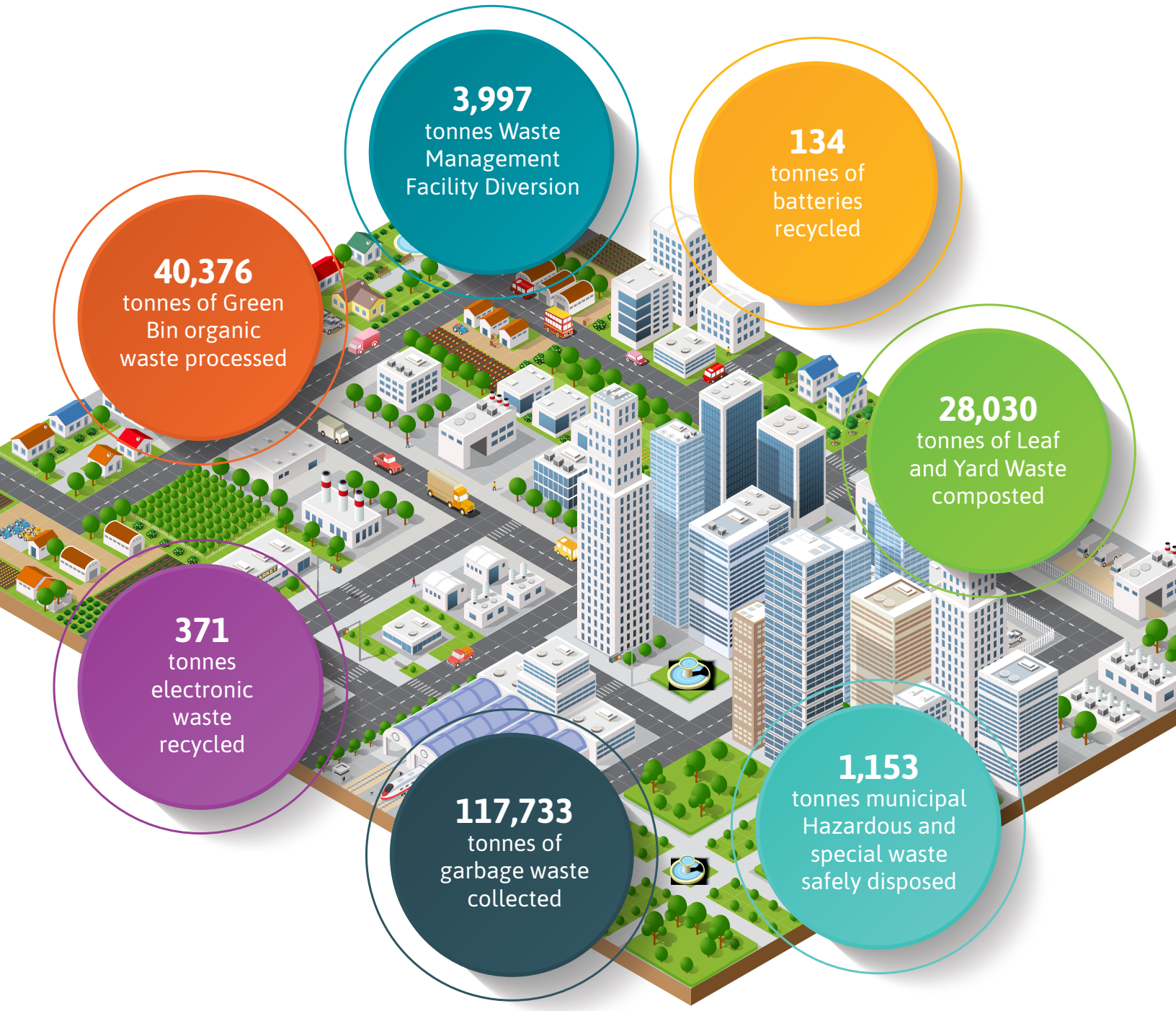


WASTE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Table of Contents

2025 At-A-Glance 3
Introduction 4
Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040 6
Climate Change 8
Waste Generation 9
Resource Recovery 10
Waste Audits 12
Green Bin 15
Leaf and Yard Waste 16
Waste Management Facilities 17
Garbage 22
Durham York Energy Centre 24
Landfill Perpetual Care 26
Community Engagement 28
Summary 30
Progress Report 31
- Objective 1 32
- Objective 2 34
- Objective 3 36
- Objective 4 42
- Objective 5 44

2025 At-A-Glance



In Durham Region, sustainability is becoming part of everyday life. It's not just about reducing waste; it's about changing how we think about it. More materials are being sorted and redirected into new uses instead of being thrown away. Through expanded diversion efforts and a circular way of thinking, the Region is keeping valuable resources in circulation longer and even turning remaining waste into energy, putting it to work in a whole new way.

Introduction

The 2025 Waste Management Annual Report for the Regional Municipality of Durham offers a comprehensive review of the Region's Integrated Waste Management System and details progress of the Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040 (Waste Plan). This report is submitted each year to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to fulfill the Durham York Energy Centre Environmental Condition Assessment for monitoring and reporting waste diversion.

Durham Region is dedicated to supporting environmental sustainability by providing full-service curbside collection services to residents in Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Pickering, Scugog and Uxbridge. From green bin organics, leaf and yard waste to garbage, our services make it easy for everyone to manage waste responsibly and protect the local environment.



In addition, we offer specialized waste collection services, including bulky and metal items, electronics, batteries, and porcelain. These services simplify the safe disposal of difficult-to-manage items.

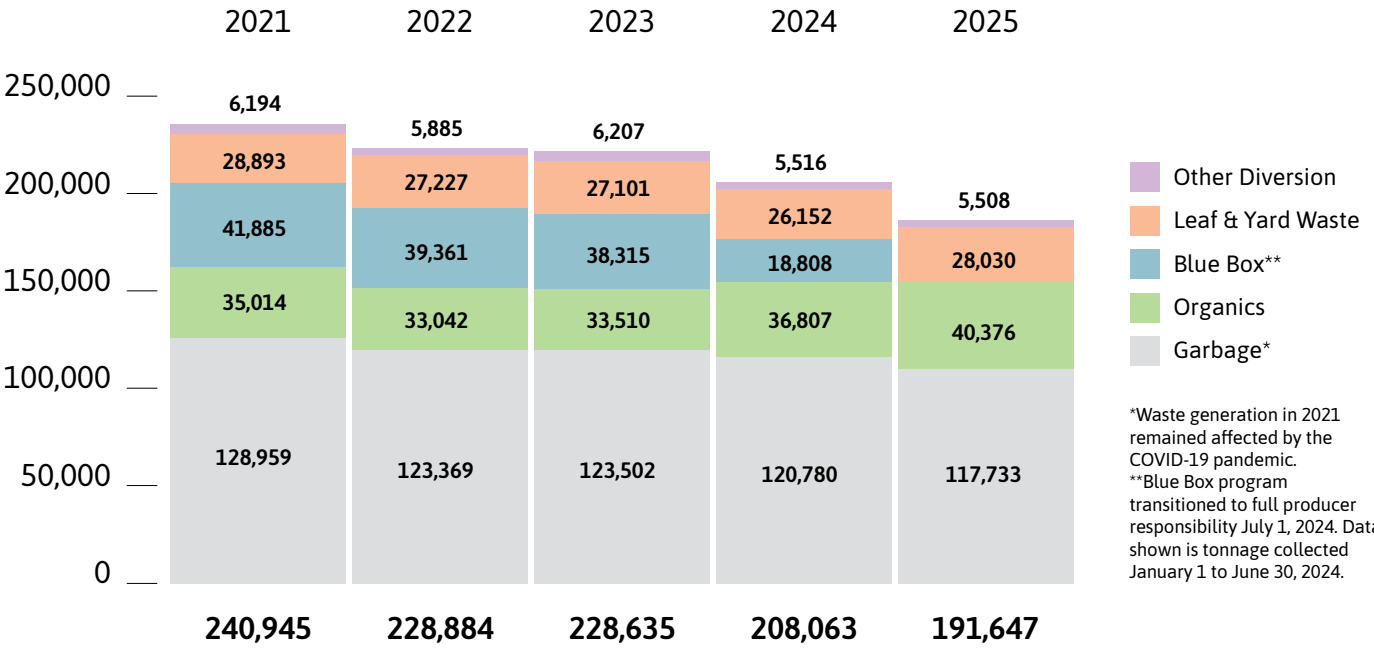
While Oshawa and Whitby manage waste collection independently within their municipalities, Durham Region works with both municipalities to support waste management programs and services, recognizing that collection programs and service levels may vary between communities.

Durham Region's commitment goes beyond single-family homes, providing waste collection programs to 130 multi-residential buildings. Residents at these locations have access to onsite green bin organics, battery collection, as well as electronic and textile recycling programs. Meanwhile, Oshawa and Whitby manage waste collection for an additional 300 multi-residential buildings, supporting responsible waste management.



From pickup to final processing, Durham Region ensures that organics, yard waste, and garbage are managed effectively at every step of the way. Collected materials are treated through a combination of external contracts, while garbage is managed in line with Durham's 5R hierarchy: rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover. Waste is sent to the Durham York Energy Centre in Clarington, where energy is captured efficiently, turning what's left into a resource and supporting a sustainable future for the entire community.

Total Tonnes Managed Year over Year



*Waste generation in 2021 remained affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
**Blue Box program transitioned to full producer responsibility July 1, 2024. Data shown is tonnage collected January 1 to June 30, 2024.

Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040

Created with input from stakeholders across Durham Region, the Long-term Waste Management Plan sets out a clear vision, guiding principles, and goals for managing waste effectively.



Durham Region's Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040 focuses on the 5Rs: rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover. It encourages working with producers and importers to take responsibility and adjust programs as needed. With a growing population, making waste services affordable and accessible is a top priority. The five-year Action Plan through 2026 sets short-term goals to track progress and refine long-term objectives, carrying forward key targets with updates to stay effective.

The 2025 progress report is included in this report.

Waste Management Hierarchy

The waste management hierarchy is a framework that aims to help us rethink our relationship with waste based on five priorities ranked in terms of what is best for the environment.

The hierarchy gives priority to waste prevention followed by waste reduction, reuse, recycling (including composting), recovery and disposal.

Rethink	the products you buy.
Reduce	the amount of waste you produce.
Reuse	a product more than once.
Recycle	waste into new products.
Recover	energy from waste.
Dispose	the remaining waste.

Guiding Principles

1 Emphasize rethink, reduce, and reuse principles as the first step in reducing waste generation.

2 Deliver cost-effective waste management services to a rapidly growing and diverse population.

3 Work with producers and importers of designated products and packaging to implement "Extended Producer Responsibility" and adjust Region waste programs, as required.

4 Apply innovative approaches to region waste streams to manage them as resources in a circular economy.

5 Demonstrate leadership in sustainability to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities.

Vision

Together, with our residents, we will reduce the amount of waste we create and manage the generated waste as a resource. We will build an innovative system, balancing financial needs and environmental sustainability.

To learn more and read the full Long-term Waste Management Plan, visit **durham.ca/WastePlan**.

Objectives



Engage with residents to build an understanding and awareness of the 5Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) and the Region's waste management programs and services.



Reduce the quantity of waste we create.



Increase diversion of waste from disposal and support the circular economy.



Support the Region's greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation efforts.



Protect or improve water, land, and air quality in Durham Region.

Climate Change

The Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is the Region's main roadmap for reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Waste Management Services plays an important role in supporting Durham Region's corporate climate objectives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste collection, processing, and disposal. Key sources of emissions include closed landfill sites, waste collection activities, and operations associated with the Durham York Energy Centre. Through organics diversion, landfill methane reduction initiatives, alternative fuel collection vehicles, and energy recovery, Waste Management Services continues to implement actions that support the Region's long-term climate goals.



Key initiatives include:

- A 13-year contract for the anaerobic digestion of organic waste began July 1, 2024, allowing residents to divert additional items, including diapers and pet waste. In June 2025, the green bin program was expanded to include 130 multi-residential buildings where the Region collects waste. Together, these efforts improved convenience for residents, increased waste diversion, and supported compliance with Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.
- Natural gas vehicles were introduced for the Ajax and Pickering curbside collection contract effective July 1, 2024. Contracts moving forward will be required to utilize alternative fuel sources.
- An ongoing pilot project at the Oshawa Landfill uses a biocover system to reduce fugitive methane emissions. Data gathered from this project will help in the development of additional methane reduction strategies for the Region's closed landfills.

Waste Generation

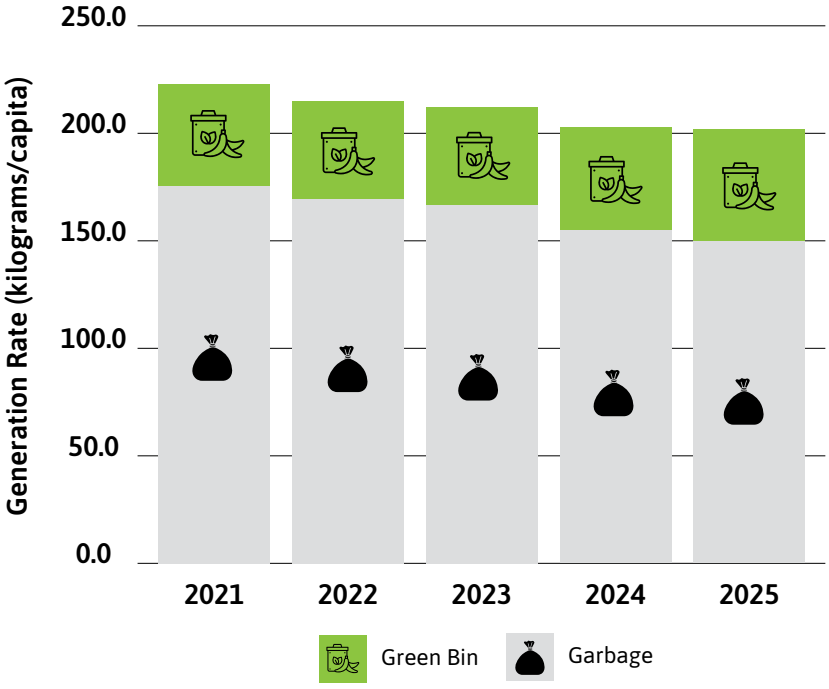
The amount of waste each person generates helps track progress in the Long-term Waste Management Plan.

Durham Region tracks two main waste streams: green bin organics and garbage. Yard waste is excluded from this measurement due to its variability and dependence on weather conditions.

Waste includes residential garbage collected from single-family dwellings, multi-residential units and business improvement areas serviced by the Region and garbage managed through the Region's three waste management facilities.



Green Bin and garbage generation per person



This indicates a gradual reduction in garbage collected over the years, and an increase in green bin waste from 2023.

Approximately **55%** of garbage is made up of food and other items that should be in the green bin.

Diversion can be improved if we consider how we dispose of our waste. Use the Know Before You Throw tool to understand how to recycle or dispose of your waste items.

Waste Collection Data

In 2025 the Region of Durham collected:

40,376 tonnes of Green Bin waste = **51.5 kg** of Green Bin waste/person

117,733 tonnes of Garbage waste = **150.3 kg** of Garbage waste/person

Curbside and Multi-Residential
2025 Total Tonnes Managed by Area/Source

	Curbside Garbage	Multi-Residential Garbage	Bulky/Other Goods	Curbside Organics	Multi-Residential Organics	Leaf and Yard Waste	Other Diversion	Total Waste
Pickering	10,087	1,602	416	6,637	69	3,561	70	22,442
Ajax	12,215	1,376	450	8,005	52	3,659	97	25,854
Whitby	13,887	2,522	369	8,611	N/A	5,683	56	31,128
Oshawa	19,930	8,674	459	8,914	N/A	6,109	20	44,106
Clarington	13,159	343	445	5,361	21	3,963	64	23,356
Scugog	2,801	156	71	1,150	1	1,102	13	5,294
Uxbridge	2,372	113	89	946	6	1,093	18	4,637
Brock	2,076	0	77	599	4	454	14	3,224
Totals	**93,689**			**40,376**		**25,624**	**352**	**160,041**

*Amounts rounded to the nearest whole number.
**Brock Multi-residential Garbage included in Curbside Garbage number.





Waste Management Facilities and Community Events
2025 Total Tonnes Managed

	Bulky/Other Goods	Recycling	Leaf & Yard Waste	Other Diversion	Total Waste
Oshawa	17,073	288	1,008	2,880	21,249
Scugog	3,726	161	797	1,390	6,074
Brock	3,236	45	601	565	4,447
Pickering				200	200
Clarington				105	105
Community Events				16	16
Recycling Facility Residue	9				9
Totals	**24,044**	**494**	**2,406**	**5,156**	**32,100**

*Amounts rounded to the nearest whole number.

Waste Audits

Through its waste reduction and waste audit programs, the Region supports residents in monitoring progress and making positive changes.



Waste audits conducted in June 2025 looked at how 100 single-family homes in Durham Region put out their waste. These audits provide a clear snapshot of what residential curbside waste looks like and how much is generated. They also look at set-out practices, counting garbage bags, green bins, blue boxes, leaf and yard waste, and bulky items placed at the curb.

The audits went further by examining the contents of garbage and green bin waste to identify materials that could be diverted. Regular auditing of waste composition like this helps quantify unavoidable and avoidable food waste, recyclables, durable goods, textiles, single-use plastics, and compostable packaging. This information will guide future communication priorities and support efforts to reduce waste.

Seasonal changes or other variations can impact the composition and quantities generated.



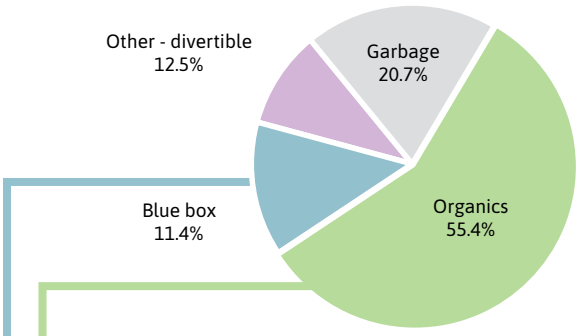
Avoidable food waste is food that could have been eaten but gets thrown away, like leftovers, spoiled produce, or food past its best-before date that was still safe to eat.

Unavoidable food waste is food that can't normally be eaten, like banana peels, eggshells, or bones.

Key findings of single-family garbage stream composition

Over a two-week period, a total of 1,158 kilograms of garbage was collected from 78 addresses in the 100 household collection sample. That corresponds to an average of 5.79 kilograms per household per week.

Composition of the garbage stream

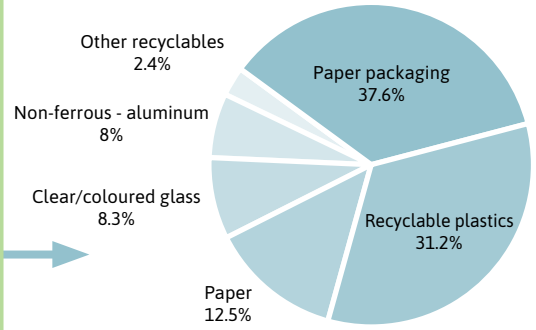


79.3% of the garbage stream is targeted by diversion programs in place or is easily divertible, such as recyclables, organics, and other diverted material (batteries, other HHW, textiles, etc.);

55.4% of the garbage stream is composed of organics that could have been diverted by the green bin stream;

Blue box materials represent 11.4% of the waste generated in the Durham Region.

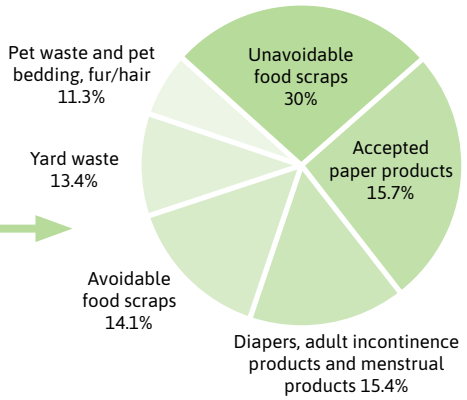
Recyclable materials in the garbage



The 11.4% of blue box material in the garbage stream is mainly composed of:

- 37.6% of paper packaging;
- 31.2% of recyclable plastics;
- 12.5% of paper.

Organic materials in the garbage



The 55.4% of organic materials in the garbage stream is mainly composed of:

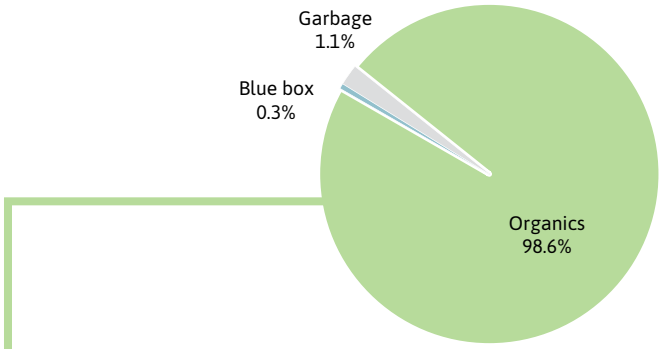
- 30% unavoidable food scraps;
- 15.7% accepted paper products;
- 15.4% diapers, adult incontinence products and menstrual products;
- 14.1% avoidable food scraps.

Key findings of single-family organic stream composition

Over a two-week period, 698 kilograms of organic waste were collected from 120 samples representing 100 households. Some households contributed samples in both weeks. This corresponds to an average of 3.49 kilograms per household per week.



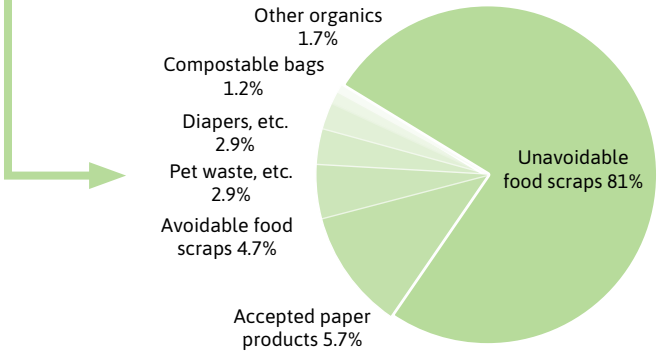
Composition of the organic stream



98.6% of the material put in the green bins is effectively organic materials;

1.1% of the content of the green bin is garbage, that is, a contaminant of the stream.

Composition of organic materials



The 98.6% of organic material in the green bins is mainly composed of:

- 81% unavoidable food scraps
- 4.7% avoidable food scraps

Green Bin

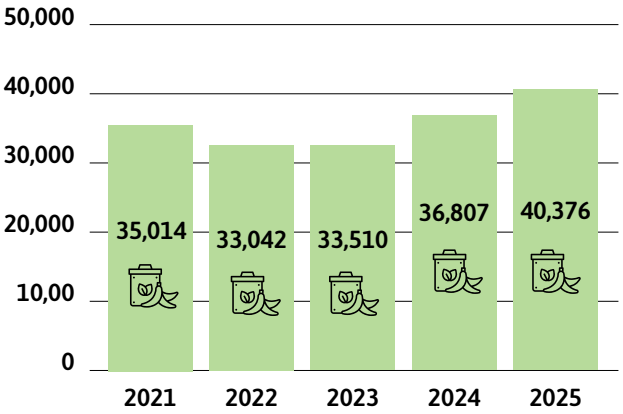
With the Green Bin program, food and organic waste are turned into valuable resources, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Durham Region processes all green bin materials at an existing Anaerobic Digestion facility. This technology allows additional materials, such as diapers and pet waste to be collected and processed. Anaerobic digestion is the preferred solution for Durham Region due to its many benefits including the production of renewable natural gas and fertilizer from green bin materials.

In June 2025, the Green Bin program was introduced in phases to 130 multi-residential buildings, with a small number of buildings set to join in 2026. More than 10,200 units have received in-unit kitchen containers to make organics diversion easy and convenient. Building on this progress, approximately 300 additional buildings in Oshawa and Whitby are expected to join the program over the next several years.

This initiative supports the Region's Five-Year Action Plan by advancing waste reduction, encouraging sustainable behaviours, and contributing to greenhouse gas reductions. It also aligns with Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy, which set targets for municipalities to achieve 70 per cent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste from single-family homes and 50 per cent from multi-residential properties. Ongoing education, engagement, and phased expansion will continue to strengthen program outcomes and ensure progress towards the Region's environmental goals.

Green Bin Tonnes Collected



40,376
tonnes in 2025

▲ **9.7%**
from 2024

▲ **15.3%**
since 2021

Delivered **7,544** new resident kits

Exchanged **11,189** curbside green bins

Exchanged **1,177** kitchen food waste containers

Sold **2,457** curbside green bins

Sold **877** kitchen food waste containers

Sold **129** Backyard Composters

Leaf and Yard Waste

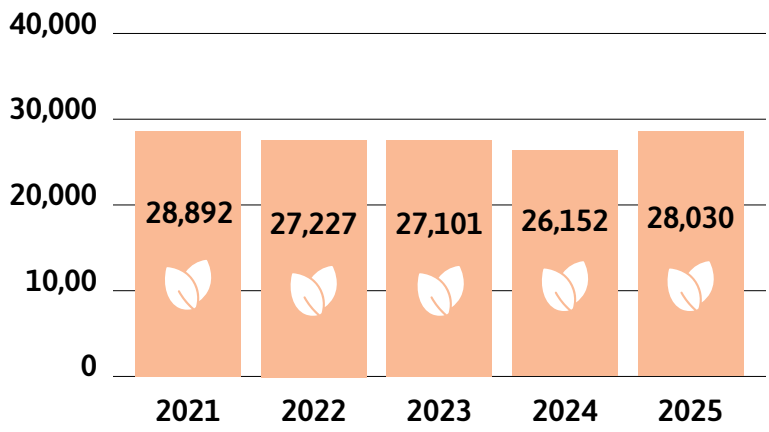
Leaf and yard waste are transformed into nutrient-rich compost that residents can pick up during spring giveaway events.



From April through early December, leaf and yard waste is collected right at the curb, with additional collection for Christmas trees in January. Fall pick-ups account for nearly 70 per cent of all leaf and yard waste collected each year.

Collected materials are processed into compost and redistributed to residents through spring compost giveaway events.

Yard Waste Tonnes Collected



28,030
tonnes in 2025

▲ 7.2%
increase from 2024

Brock Township was significantly impacted by a severe ice storm in late March 2025, resulting in widespread damage, power outages, and the declaration of a municipal state of emergency. Heavy freezing rain led to substantial ice buildup, causing fallen trees, damage to infrastructure, and major disruptions to services.

Residents were asked to place storm debris at the curb for leaf and yard waste collection, with the Region also temporarily reinstating free residential leaf and yard waste drop-off at waste management facilities until May 3. A total of 712 tonnes (712,000 kilograms) of leaf and yard waste was collected from the storm.

The Region supported recovery efforts by placing roll-off containers at designated locations throughout Brock Township, with full containers regularly replaced by empty ones. In total, 167 tonnes (167,000 kilograms) of waste were collected and disposed of.

Waste Management Facilities

Waste Management Facilities offer easy access to expanded waste diversion programs.

As the Region grows, more residents are using waste management facilities, which play an important role in supporting Durham Region's waste diversion programs. Careful planning is needed to ensure these facilities can meet both current and future demand.

In 2025, optimization activities continued at the Oshawa Waste Management Facility, while planning also began for improvements at the Brock and Scugog Waste Management Facilities. These upgrades will help the facilities better serve a growing population and increase demand for convenient, accessible services.

Overall, these projects support the Region's long-term goals by improving efficiency, easing traffic flow, expanding diversion opportunities, and enhancing the overall customer experience.

Vehicles Visiting The Facility



Oshawa
Waste Management Facility
221,006

Scugog
Waste Management Facility
63,165

Brock
Waste Management Facility
19,643

Clarington
Special Waste Depot
(Household Hazardous Waste only)
7,935

Pickering
(private Household Hazardous Waste site only)
5,393

Total Site Visits: 317,142

2025

Waste Management Facilities	Tonnes of Recycling	Tonnes of Leaf & Yard Waste	Tonnes of Other Diversion	Tonnes of Garbage
Oshawa	288	1,008	2,301	17,072
Scugog	161	797	1,201	3,726
Brock	40	601	495	3,236
Total	**489**	**2,406**	**3,997**	**24,034**

Electronic Waste

Durham Region offers residents a network of drop-off facilities for electronic waste, including the Region's Waste Management Facilities in Oshawa, Scugog, and Brock. In addition, curbside collection programs for electronic waste are available in Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Pickering, Scugog, and Uxbridge. In Whitby, electronic waste is collected through bulky item curbside pickup, while in Oshawa it is treated as regular waste, with residents encouraged to bring their electronics to any of the Region's Waste Management Facilities. Furthermore, many multi-residential buildings also receive electronics collection services from the Region.

2025 Electronic Waste Collected by Source

Waste Management Facilities
324 tonnes (87.3%)

Multi-Residential Buildings
13 tonnes (3.5%)

Curbside Collection
27 tonnes (7.3%)

Events
7 tonnes (1.9%)

371 tonnes

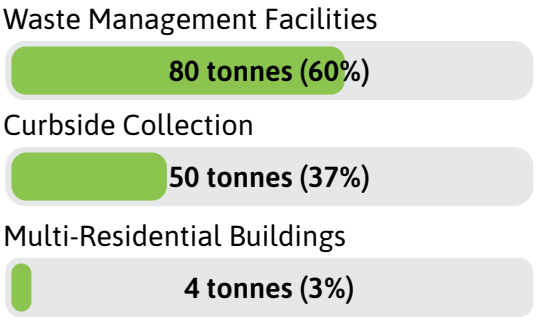


Battery Collection

Durham's battery collection programs remain a key initiative in maximizing battery recovery and preventing the release of hazardous materials such as mercury, cadmium, and other harmful metals into the environment. The program offers multiple convenient collection options, including twice-annual curbside pickup, drop-off receptacles in multi-residential buildings, and collection services at the Region's Waste Management Facilities.

In Ontario, household batteries are carefully collected and processed through recycling systems that support resource recovery, conserve valuable materials, and protect the natural environment from contamination.

2025 Batteries Waste Collected by Source



134 tonnes



Durham Region is proud to be recognized as a recipient of the 2025 Leaders in Sustainability Awards by Call2Recycle Canada. The Leaders in Sustainability Awards honour organizations that demonstrate outstanding environmental leadership through the responsible management of end-of-life batteries and measurable contributions to Canada's circular economy.

Tonnes of Other Diversion

Textiles
61 tonnes

Drywall
115 tonnes

Electronics
324 tonnes

Porcelain
153 tonnes

Scrap Metal
626 tonnes

Tires
514 tonnes

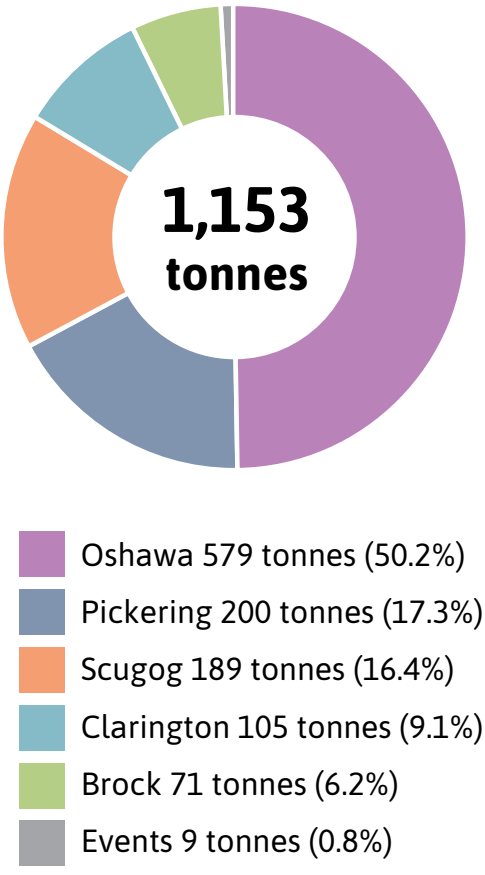
Wood
2,204 tonnes

Hazardous Waste Collected	Tonnes
Paint (latex and alkyd)	374
Motor Oil	322
Batteries (single-use and rechargeable)	19
Automotive Batteries	61
Propane Tanks and Cylinders	51
Aerosol Containers	31
Other Materials	295

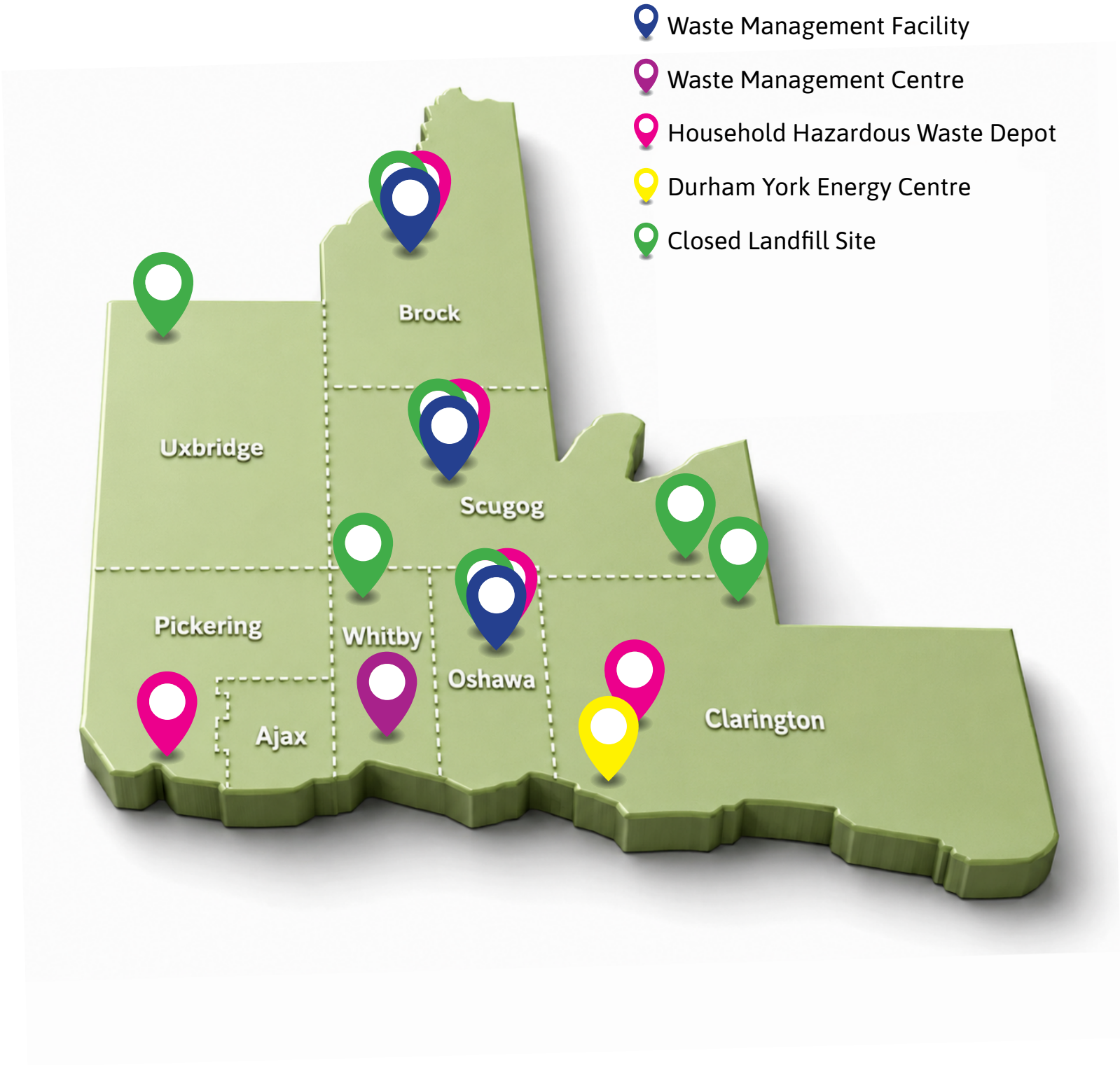
Hazardous Waste

The Region provides residents with safe and responsible options for disposing of household hazardous waste. Drop-off locations are widely available, including Waste Management Facilities in Oshawa, Scugog and Brock for added convenience. In addition, the Region operates a hazardous waste depot in Clarington and partners with a privately operated site in Pickering to provide free disposal services. All collected materials are either recycled or processed through licensed contractors, ensuring they are handled safely and in accordance with high environmental standards.

2025 Hazardous Waste Collected by Site



Waste Management Facility Locations in Durham Region



Garbage

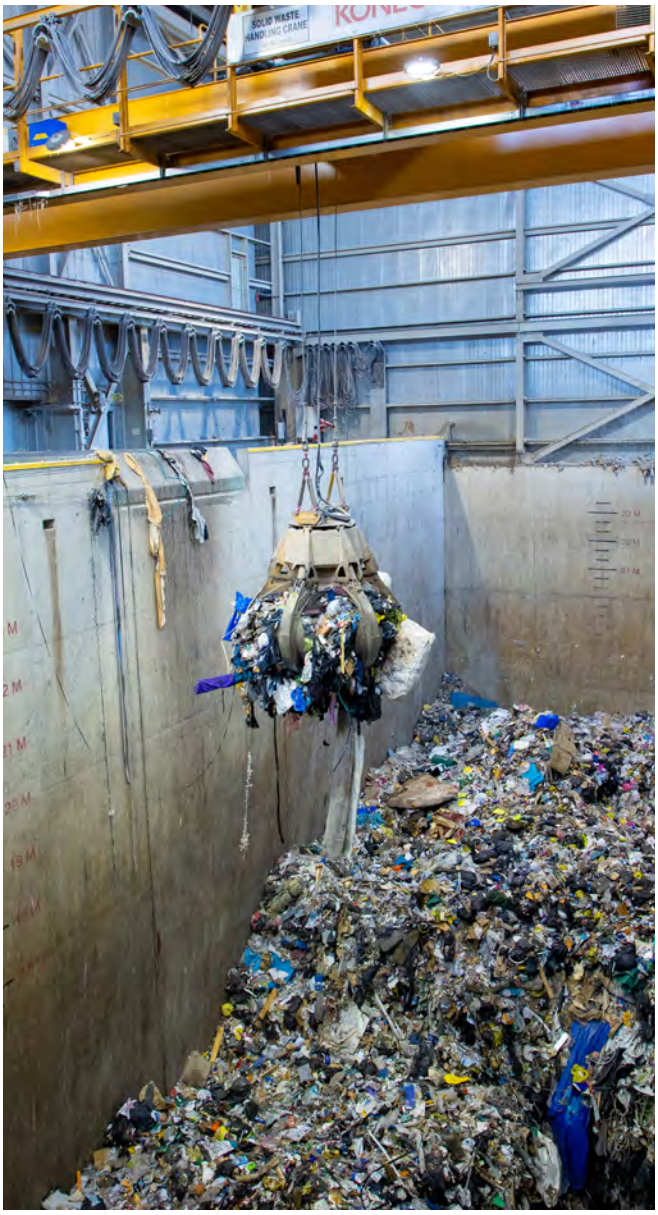


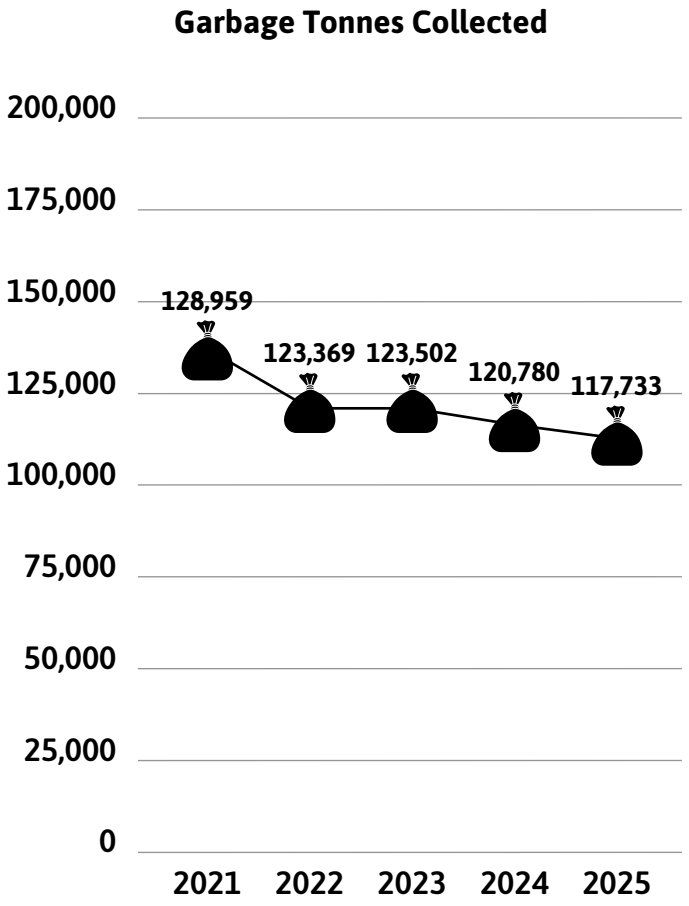
In 2025, thanks to the everyday efforts of our residents and their participation in our diversion programs, Durham Region collected a total of 117,733 tonnes of residential waste, including curbside collection, multi-residential buildings, and waste received at our waste management facilities. While population growth continues across the region, the decrease in total tonnage indicates that residents are actively using diversion programs, helping reduce the amount of material requiring disposal and driving overall waste levels down.

The Region of Durham carried out an automated garbage cart collection pilot involving around 700 households in the Township of Scugog and Town of Ajax during 2024/2025. The goal was to better understand the impacts of automated cart collection on the residents, Region, and collection contractors.

Throughout the pilot, waste staff and collection contractors worked closely together to monitor operations, respond to resident concerns, and gather useful data. This information helped guide future decisions about waste collection services across the region.

The pilot has been extended as the Region moves towards broader implementation of automated cart collection. The Region has completed the procurement process for collection services in Brock, Clarington, Scugog and Uxbridge with cart-based collection included in the upcoming contract beginning April 1, 2028. For Ajax and Pickering, the new collection contract starting July 1, 2030, will also include automated cart collection.





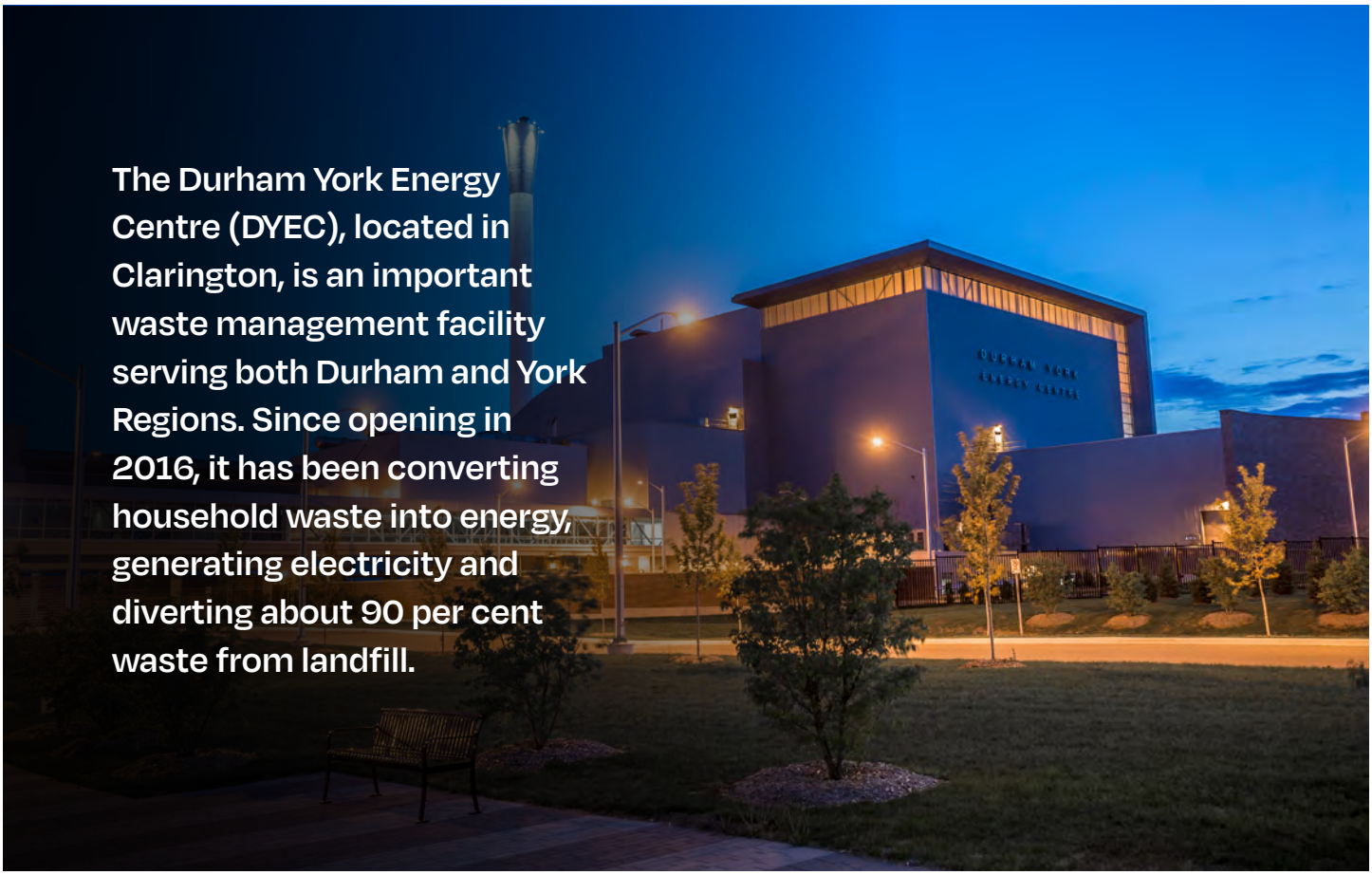
117,733
tonnes in 2025

▼ 8.7%
from 2021

Garbage Tonnes Processed

Destination		Tonnes
Energy-from-waste	Durham York Energy Centre	109,090
	Bypassed to another EFW facility	2,752
Landfill		5,891
	Total Waste	**117,733**

Durham York Energy Centre



In 2025, the DYEC processed 140,000 tonnes of waste and generated 116,762 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity, enough to power approximately 10,000 homes for one year. This electricity is supplied into the provincial grid, helping support a more sustainable regional energy supply.

Over the past five years, the facility has generated a total of 708,693 MWh of electricity, reflecting its ongoing contribution to Ontario's energy needs and its role in advancing the principles of the 5Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) to maximize waste diversion.

The DYEC also supports material recovery by extracting metals from processed waste. In 2025 alone, 3,647 tonnes of metals, including aluminium and steel, were recycled. This is roughly equivalent to the amount of metal used to build about seven commercial aircraft, such as a Boeing 737. Recovering and recycling these materials helps reduce the need for virgin resources and supports the conservation of natural materials.

Durham and York Regions are proposing to increase the DYEC's annual waste processing capacity from 140,000 tonnes to 160,000 tonnes to better support a growing population and provide greater operational flexibility. While overall residential waste tonnage has been decreasing, it still exceeds the facility's current processing capacity, requiring some material to be managed at other licensed facilities.

The Regions continue to move forward completing the necessary documents and studies to support an amendment to the Environmental Compliance Approval for the increased processing capacity. Increasing capacity would help manage fluctuations in waste volumes, reduce reliance on external facilities, and support more consistent operations and energy generation.

Key Facts About the Durham York Energy Centre



- 100 per cent publicly owned by Durham and York Regions.
- Accepts only household residential waste from Durham and York Regions.
- Processes up to 140,000 tonnes of waste annually (with plans to expand to 160,000 tonnes).
- Recovers and recycles metals from the processed waste.
- Recovers thermal energy from waste and converts the energy to electricity to power the facility and approximately 10,000 homes annually.
- Reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill by approximately 90 per cent.
- Negative pressure is maintained to contain odours inside the building by drawing outside air into the building and using the odorous air in the combustion process thereby capturing and destroying odours.
- Ash residue from the combustion process is repurposed as daily cover at landfills.
- Adheres to a strict environmental monitoring program to ensure emissions remain well below regulatory limits.

Durham Region is exploring opportunities to recover and use thermal energy from the Durham York Energy Centre through a proposed district energy system serving the future Courtice Transit-Oriented Community. The initiative would support low-carbon community development, improve energy efficiency, and help advance regional climate and sustainability objectives. Work continued in 2025 to refine the business case and evaluate implementation approaches.

Landfill Perpetual Care

Durham Region is taking action to manage potential impacts from its historic landfill sites.

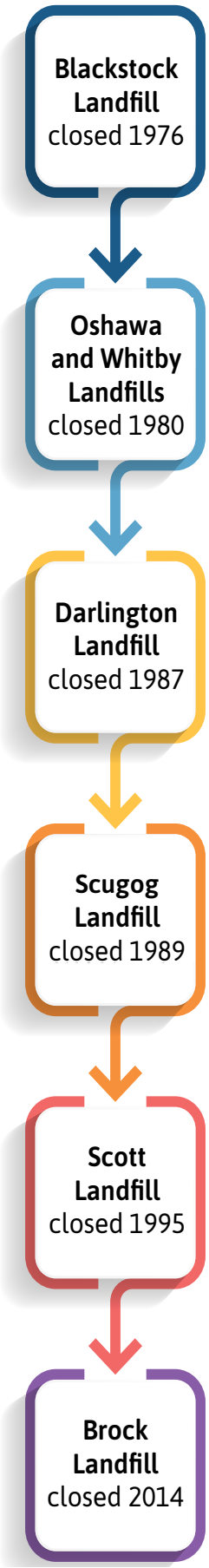
The Region is responsible for the long-term care and management of seven landfill sites located across the area. These sites were originally owned and operated by local municipalities before the establishment of the Region of Durham in 1974.

The Region works in collaboration with the Province, Regional Council, and other stakeholders to monitor potential environmental impacts from these sites, ensure the infrastructure is properly maintained, and maintain compliance with environmental standards and regulations.

Each year, Durham Region prepares and submits annual reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review. The monitoring activities include surface and groundwater monitoring, well maintenance, seep repair, gas monitoring, soil erosion control, and site grading and landscaping. Beyond routine monitoring, the Region is actively implementing measures to minimize potential environmental impacts associated with the historic sites under its management.

The Region is currently evaluating methods to reduce the environmental impacts of closed landfills while also exploring options to transform these sites for future community use. One such method is landfill mining, a process in which materials are excavated from landfills and sorted for reuse or disposal according to modern standards. This process offers several benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing leachate impacts on groundwater quality, diverting materials that were not previously separated for recycling, recovering energy from reclaimed waste, and potentially eliminating the need for long-term groundwater monitoring.

In 2019, Durham successfully completed landfill mining at the closed Blackstock landfill site in the Township of Scugog, excavating a total of 4,796 tonnes of waste. Additionally, in 2022, the Region implemented a pilot project for an alternative landfill bio cover system at the Oshawa Landfill.



Bio cover Pilot



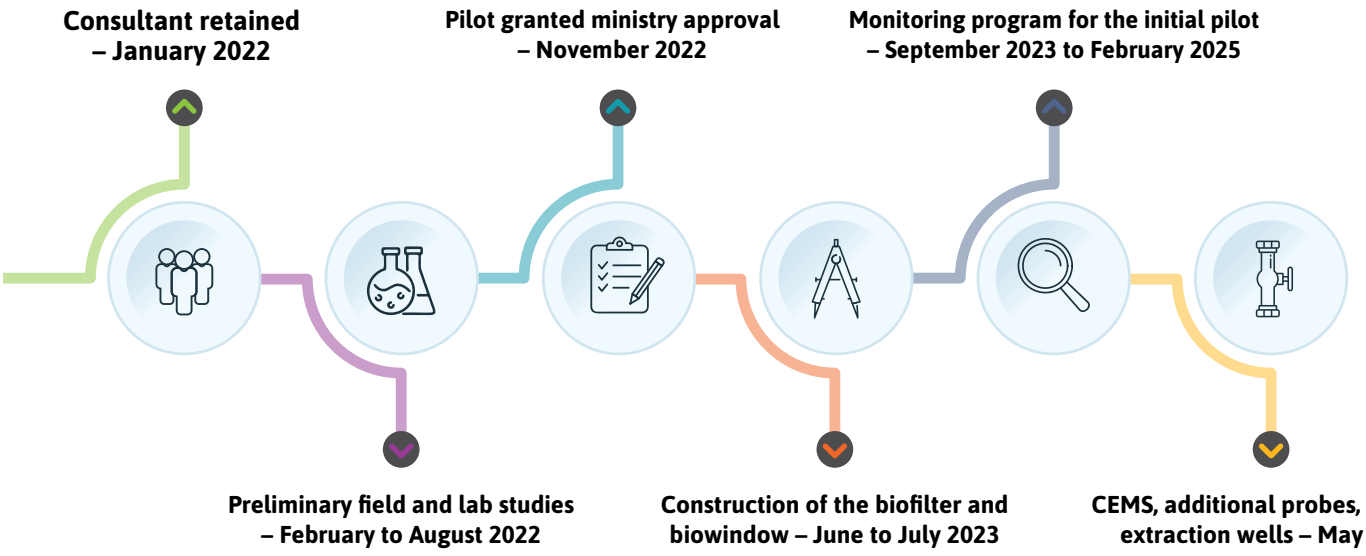
In 2022, the Region launched a pilot project at the Oshawa Landfill to test biofilter and biowindow technologies for reducing methane emissions. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas (GHG) that captures heat in the Earth's atmosphere and plays a significant role in global warming and climate change.

The system works by passing landfill gas through a layer of organic material that contains naturally occurring bacteria. The bacteria break down the methane and converts it into carbon dioxide, which has a much lower impact on global warming.

Phase One of the pilot project was completed in February 2025. According to results from the 2024 to 2025 summary report, the biofilter performed very well, consistently converting over 95 per cent of the methane, showing both strong efficiency and reliability.

Phase Two is set to begin in May 2026. This next stage will include installing a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS), adding more gas probes to create a detailed map of methane emissions across the landfill, and putting in additional gas extraction wells to direct more methane into the biofilter and improve its performance.

The data collected from both phases will be used to assess feasibility, inform future system design, and identify considerations for potential longer-term implementation.



Community Engagement



Durham Region supports waste reduction, reuse and diversion through a range of community outreach and public education initiatives.

In 2025, Durham Region strengthened its commitment to waste reduction through ongoing community outreach and education initiatives. Efforts focused on increasing public engagement and promoting sustainable waste management practices through consistent messaging, innovative outreach methods, and incentives delivered across multiple communication channels. Participation in major community events helped build awareness and encourage waste reduction behaviours.



Outreach emphasized the 5Rs (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover) while reinforcing changes to collection services, including the Blue Box transition to extended producer responsibility and the expansion of the Green Bin program. A key priority in 2025 was supporting the rollout of Green Bin organics collection in multi-residential buildings, alongside initiatives aimed at reducing food waste.





Conducted 32 additional Durham York Energy Centre presentations/tours, reaching **500 participants.**



Five library workshops were delivered, reaching over **100 participants.**



Staffed booths at six farmers' markets, engaging over **1,000 participants.**



Participated in two Watershed Festival events.



Engaged in five municipal community events, reaching over **2,000 participants.**



Spring and Fall Curbside Giveaway events



Reached over **4,000 Kindergarten to Grade 12 students** across Durham's school boards through presentations.



Delivered three in-person Durham York Energy Centre presentations/ tours to college students, engaging **60 participants.**



Hosted an open house at the Durham York Energy Centre for National Public Works Week, engaging approximately **200 participants.**



Eight Compost Giveaway Events drew more than **4,200 vehicles.**



Four Environment Day events saw **540 participating vehicles.**

Summary

Through active waste diversion programs, Durham Region helps reduce waste and recover valuable resources as part of a circular economy. We focus on sustainability by creating practical, cost-effective solutions that serve residents well and support environmental stewardship.



Progress Report

2022, 2023, 2024, **2025**, 2026



Summary Snapshot

Objective/Target
1A — Education
2A — Reduce Food Waste
2B — Reduce Waste
3A — Increase Organics Diversion
3B — By-Law Update
3C — Extended Producer Responsibility Transition
3D — Extended Producer Responsibility Advocacy
4A — Reduce Green House Gas Emissions
5A — Optimize Waste Management Facilities
5B — Increase Accessibility
5C — Closed Landfill Options

Objective 1

Engage with residents to build an understanding and awareness of the 5Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) and the Region's waste management programs and services.

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target A Increase public engagement on the 5Rs through partnerships, increased accessibility, and different media.	Work with schools to provide educational content for youth.
	Increase Waste app subscribers and explore the possibility of including donation locations on the app.
	Launch a dedicated web page on Reduction and Reuse.
	Digital and/or in-person educational opportunities for all residents.
	Evaluate more languages for publications, and promotional and educational materials.
	Transition to myDurham 311 for residents to obtain waste information.

Legend

- **Projected to meet or surpass target**
- **Projected to be near target**
- **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)
- **Complete**
- **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Progress since 2018 2018 school engagement: 41 schools		• Presentations to over 4,000 Kindergarten to Grade 12 students across Durham's school boards. • Continued pilot for in-person education sessions at DYEC for grade six students. • Participated in the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Children's Watershed Festival for grade four students. • Participated in Durham Districts School Board Watershed Festival for grade six students. • Participated in CLOCA Great Lakes Student Conference. • Three in-person DYEC presentations/tours for college students. • School engagement activities: Over 85 schools.
Progress since 2018 2018 app subscribers: 50,000		• 2025 new app subscribers: 15,240 • All time app subscribers: 169,566
New initiative (no baseline)		• New web page launched with linked resources. • Includes Textile Recycling Donation Site locator. • Joined Circular Innovation Council's Share, Reuse, Repair Hub
Progress since 2018		• 32 in-person Durham York Energy Centre presentations/tours, reaching 500 participants. • Held an Open House at the DYEC for National Public Works Week, engaging approximately 200 participants. • Staffed booth at six farmers markets. • Delivered five library workshops. • Participated in several community events.
New initiative		• Waste app available in different languages. • Multilingual website using Google translate. • School program activity book available in French.
New initiative		• Waste management call centre transitioned to myDurham 311 December 2022.

Objective 2

Reduce the quantity of waste we create.

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target A Support residents in making behavioural changes to reduce food waste.	Continue the Buy it, Eat it food waste reduction campaign.
Target B Support residents in making behavioural changes to reduce the amount of waste generated.	Reduce quantities of waste materials generated, such as textiles and single-use plastics.
	Develop waste audit program to measure progress.

Legend

 **Projected to meet or surpass target**

 **Projected to be near target**

 **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)

 **Complete**

 **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Less avoidable food waste in the Green Bin program. Baseline reduction targets to be determined with implementation of regular waste audits.		• Initial waste audits completed in 2022. • Baseline for avoidable food waste will be determined in seasonal audit program. • 2026 audit data will be used as baseline for multi-residential organic stream.
Progress since 2018 2018 garbage generation rate: 173.1 kilograms garbage disposed per capita.		• 2025 garbage generation rate: 150.3 kg garbage disposed per capita. • Future audits will focus on quantities of textiles and single use items in the garbage. • Promoted spring and fall Curbside Giveaway Days.
New initiative		• Audit program refined in 2023 with implementation in 2024. • Seasonal audits, 100 households. Waste composition audits took place in June 2025 and planned for February 2026. • Three multi-residential complexes to be included in 2026.

Objective 3

Increase diversion of waste from disposal and support the circular economy.

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target A Increase diversion of organics from disposal.	Build the Mixed Waste Pre-sort and Anaerobic Digestion Facility.
	Enhance the Green Bin program for single-family residences.
	Encourage backyard composting.
	Expand collection services to Regional facilities and consider service for municipal and institutional facilities (e.g. school boards).
Target B Revise by-law 46-2011 to reflect changes to collection and processing programs.	Revise by-law to reflect new Extended Producer Responsibility programs and include a section on mixed waste pre-sorting.
	Explore options for collecting waste in mid-to high-density developments.

Legend

 **Projected to meet or surpass target**

 **Projected to be near target**

 **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)

 **Complete**

 **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Increase Green Bin organics diversion from disposal up to 10% by 2026. 2018 baseline: • 41 kilograms Green Bin organics collected per capita. • 50 kilograms of food waste in garbage per capita.		• Project cancelled due to significant and continuing inflation in 2021/2022. Action will be re-evaluated in the next five year action plan. • 13-year contract for processing source-separated organics began July 1, 2024.
		• Enhanced curbside Green Bin program launched July 1, 2024.
		• Promoted backyard composting at numerous public events including local farmers' markets in Ajax, Pickering and Whitby, NPWW Open House, and Durham's Climate Change Roundtable Fall Forum. • Held a backyard compost and green bin workshop during Earth Week at the Whitby Library (Rossland Branch). • Backyard composters sold through online sales portal and at the Waste Management Centre.
		• Efforts on this action are on hold and will be re-evaluated in the next five year action plan.
Existing by-law 46-2011		• Revisions to the by-law for council were approved by Council in 2024.
		• Servicing high-density developments is underway in the Pickering/Ajax contract, included in the 2028 Clarington/Township's collection contract, and will be standard in all future contracts

Objective 3 (Continued)

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target C Develop a plan that supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs.	Work with producers to understand how programs will be rolled out and the impact on the Region.
	Education campaigns to inform residents of changes to programs.
	Transition the programs to producers.
	Investigate ways to reuse or recycle Household Hazardous Waste not covered under regulations.
	Determine best options for Material Recovery Facility and equipment when no longer needed by the Region.
	Evaluate possible changes at waste management facilities to adapt to Extended Producer Responsibility regulations.
	Consider options to continue to provide recycling collection service to ineligible sources.

Legend

- **Projected to meet or surpass target**
- **Projected to be near target**
- **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)
- **Complete**
- **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Successful transition to EPR in 2024		• The Region's Blue Box program transitioned to EPR July 1, 2024.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Expanded community outreach and education initiatives with a focus on promoting the 5Rs (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover) and the changes to the Region's collection services, including Blue Box transition to EPR and the expanded Green Bin program.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Blue Box program was the last municipal diversion program to transition to Extended Producer Responsibility. • The Region's Blue Box program transitioned to EPR July 1, 2024.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Ongoing process of investigating new diversion opportunities.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Contract to lease of Material Recovery Facility to third party executed in 2022. • Lease expires 2030, and options for the building/ property beyond that date are currently under evaluation. • Feasibility study for a transfer station began in 2025 as a potential option.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Ongoing discussions in 2025.
New initiative (no baseline)		• Negotiations with Circular Materials in 2023 allow for continued Blue Box collection in the Business Improvement Areas until the end of 2025. • Blue Box materials accepted free of charge at all Waste Management Facilities as part of 2026 Budget.

Objective 3 (Continued)

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target D Advocate for the expansion of Extended Producer Responsibility programs and increased materials management.	Continue participation in waste management committees, advocacy organizations and industry associations.
	Continue to participate in consultations for Federal and Provincial waste management changes.

Legend

 **Projected to meet or surpass target**

 **Projected to be near target**

 **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)

 **Complete**

 **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Existing participation		• Durham Region continues to be an active participant in MWA, RPWCO, AMO and W2RO and contributes to advocacy efforts of these organizations.
Existing advocacy efforts		• Participation continued in 2025.

Objective 4

Support the Region's greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation efforts.

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target A Develop initiatives to offset or reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste.	Explore opportunities to convert contracted collection vehicles to alternative fuels.
	Explore opportunities to convert biogas to renewable natural gas at facilities owned by the Region.
	Identify methodologies to capture greenhouse gas emissions avoidance resulting from waste diversion.
	Analyze how to better recover energy resources from waste operations.

Legend

 **Projected to meet or surpass target**

 **Projected to be near target**

 **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)

 **Complete**

 **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Aligned with the Region's Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Actions taken to reduce the Corporate GHG emissions to 40 per cent below 2019 levels by 2030 (and 100 per cent below 2019 levels by 2045).		• Renewable Natural Gas vehicles required in the new Ajax/Pickering collection contract. Contract commenced July 1, 2024. • Incorporated into 2025 tender documents for Clarington/Townships. Considered standard contract language going forward.
		• Mixed Waste Pre-sort and Anaerobic Digestion project cancelled. Action will be re-evaluated for next five year action plan.
		• Effects on this action continue and will be reevaluated in the next five year action plan.
		• District Heating initiative that includes DYEC waste heat is being led by other Regional divisions, Waste Management support as needed.

Objective 5

Protect or improve water, land, and air quality in Durham Region.

Targets	Action to Achieve Target
Target A Optimize waste management facilities.	Develop options to improve traffic flow and renovate the Oshawa Waste Management Facility (WMF).
	Develop actions to improve waste sorting levels at waste management facilities in general.
Target B Increase accessibility to waste management programs and services.	Investigate improving convenience for users of the waste management facilities.
	Assess physical accessibility of all waste management facilities.
Target C Explore options to reduce environmental impacts of closed landfills and their potential for future community use.	Evaluate outcome of pilot project at Oshawa Landfill for an alternative landfill cover system.

Legend

 **Projected to meet or surpass target**

 **Projected to be near target**

 **Projected to not meet target** (external factors may contribute)

 **Complete**

 **Future reporting period**

Baseline Measurement	Status	Summary of Progress
Existing waste management facility operations and annual actions to optimize operations at Oshawa WMF.		• Continue to advance plans for the optimization of the waste managment facilities.
Existing waste management facility operations and annual actions to optimize operations.		• Included in optimization detailed design for Oshawa WMF.
Existing waste management facility hours and signage and changes to operating hours and physical accessibility of WMFs.		• New bin identification signage at Oshawa waste management facility.
		• Region's Facilities Division completed Accessibility Audit at Oshawa waste management facility and assessed compliance with AODA, making recommendations for improvement. • Accessibility to be considered in design of the improved facility. • Staffing and operating hours to be updated post-construction at Oshawa WMF.
Existing closed landfill perpetual care program and annual progress toward implementing alternative landfill cover.		• Bio cover pilot began in 2023 at the Oshawa landfill site. • Monitoring started in August 2023 and will continue until February 2025. • Initial monitoring results show an approximate decrease in methane concentration of 90 per cent. • The performance of the bio cover will be evaluated to determine if a full-scale bio cover system should be constructed.



DURHAM REGION

Waste Management Services
durham.ca/Waste

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 311 (within Durham Region) or 1-800-372-1102.