

Recycle Right Fact Sheet

WHY BOTHER RECYCLING?

- Recycling one tonne of paper saves approximately 17 trees. Making paper from recycled paper, rather than new wood fibre, also uses 43% less energy. If everyone in the Region of Peel put one sheet of paper a day into the recycling instead of the garbage, we would save 62,200 trees a year!

Sources: *Paper Recycling in Canada (1993)* by Jean-Luc Bourdages [http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp356-e.htm#\(44\)](http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp356-e.htm#(44)), Conservatree <http://conservatree.org/learn/EnviroIssues/TreeStats.shtml>

- Each year, Ontarians send 1 billion aluminum cans to landfill. Aluminum cans are made from metals found underground. Digging out and purifying metal impacts habitats, and can pollute the air, water, and soil. Reduce the need to mine metals by recycling your aluminum cans.

Source: *Waste Diversion Ontario* - http://www.wdo.ca/files/9713/7935/8851/CBCRA_Beverage_Container_Draft_ISP.pdf, *Can Manufacturer's Institute* - <http://w.cancentral.com/>

- In Ontario, only 47% of plastic beverage bottles are put in the recycling. As a result, Ontarians send 1.4 billion plastic beverage bottles to landfills each year. Do your part – Recycle your plastic bottles.

Source: *Waste Diversion Ontario* - http://www.wdo.ca/files/9713/7935/8851/CBCRA_Beverage_Container_Draft_ISP.pdf, *International Bottled Water Association* – <http://www.bottledwater.org/news/earth-day-2010-finds-weight-plastic-water-bottles-reduced-32-while-maintaining-very-small-envir>

- In Ontario, only 10% of drink boxes make it into the recycling. As a result, 450 million drink boxes are sent to landfills each year. Do your part – Make sure your drink boxes are emptied and put in the recycling bin, or better yet, bring a reusable bottle.

Sources: *Waste Diversion Ontario* - http://www.wdo.ca/files/9713/7935/8851/CBCRA_Beverage_Container_Draft_ISP.pdf, *Waste 360* - http://waste360.com/mag/waste_profiles/garbage_aseptic

WHY 'RECYCLE RIGHT'?

- Did you know that in Peel, 25% of waste tossed into recycling carts is in the wrong place? When garbage and food are thrown into recycling carts, it is more difficult and costly to sort recycling at Peel's facility. Garbage thrown into the recycling bin uses a lot more diesel gas and electricity to reach the same destination: the landfill. Recycling contaminated by garbage and food takes a tremendous amount of energy, resources and labour to sort through, and can damage the machines that help to sort the recyclables. Do your part – make sure garbage doesn't enter the recycling bin. Not sure if it's recyclable? Find out using the waste sorting tool at peelregion.ca/waste.

Source: *Region of Peel Public Works - Waste Division*

- When food is tossed in the recycling bin, it causes issues at Peel's recycling facility. It can jam up the machines that help to sort recycling, and can get moldy, creating a health issue for workers helping to sort waste. Food and liquids also contaminate recyclables, lowering their value and making them difficult to sell to recycling companies. If the recycling is too contaminated to be sold, it will need to go to the landfill. Do your part – Scrape out food into the garbage before recycling plastic trays or Styrofoam containers.

Source: *Region of Peel Public Works - Waste Division*

WASTE SORTING TIPS

- Plastic bottles can only be recycled when they are empty. Please make sure there is no water or liquid in your bottle before you recycle it. Just a reminder that bottle caps belong in the garbage.
- Ziploc bags and sandwich bags are recyclable – but only if they are clean and collected into one grocery bag. When the grocery bag is full of bags, tie it up and toss it into the recycling bin.
- For plastic bags to get recycled, they need to be collected and bagged in one grocery bag. Loose grocery bags cause lots of problems at Peel’s recycling facility by mixing in with paper, making it difficult for paper to be sold and recycled. Do your part by bagging your bags.
- Disposable coffee cups are NOT recyclable in Peel and belong in the garbage – Or better yet, bring a travel mug. At Tim Hortons, Starbucks, and Second Cup, you’ll also save 10 to 20 cents when you bring a travel mug!

Sources: Tim Hortons, Starbucks, Second Cup, Region of Peel Public Works - Waste Division

- Aluminum foil is NOT recyclable in Peel – Toss it in the garbage where it belongs. Or better yet, pack your food in reusable containers.
- Juice boxes belong in the recycling bin – but first they need to be emptied and the straw tossed into the garbage.
- Plastic forks and spoons are not recyclable – They belong in the garbage. Reduce waste by bringing a reusable fork or spoon to school instead.
- Chip bags belong in the garbage, as do granola bar wrappers and candy wrappers.
- Paper towels are not recyclable in Peel. At home, they can go in your Green Cart. At school, toss them in the garbage.
- Fast food wrappers used to package subs and sandwiches are NOT recyclable in Peel – Toss them in the garbage where they belong.

RESOURCES FOR SORTING WASTE IN PEEL

- Online sorting tool: peelregion.ca/waste
- Waste sorting posters for Peel schools: Learn more and order a school set at <http://www.peelregion.ca/conservation/teachgreen/resource.asp?rid=467>
- Recycle Right video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayBv8GHeh0U>