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Feb 7, 2024 · 50 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1755361622363636173](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1755361622363636173)

Coming up at 6 pm, we're live from the Waste Innovation Resource Centre for a special meeting of council. What are we talking about? The Politico preview:



City Council Preview – What's on the Agenda for the Meeting on Febru...

Garbage. How often do you think about it? Well, at this meeting of council, the topic is unavoidable because not only is this special meeting and workshop of city council all about solid waste coll...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/01/26/city-council-preview-whats-on-the-agenda-for-the-...>

Mayor Guthrie has called the meeting to order.

Note: Part of the meeting tonight will involve a tour of the facility. In will be in-camera, because "technically" the public can't all take the tour, but there will be a motion to disclose what happened on the tour since it involves nothing super secret.



Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.

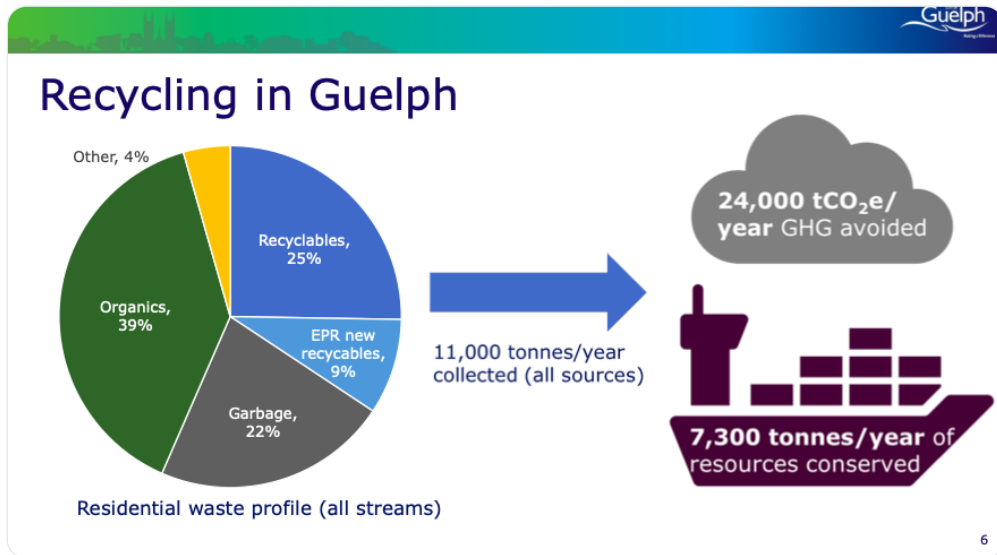
We now get into the one topic: Transition Plan Overview and Safety Overview. DCAO Jayne Holmes says that they want to highlight this because it's an expected high-quality service for the city, and there are some changes coming.

The coming producer responsibility changes to the blue box program is the biggest change to waste collection since the City added compost and changed to bin system. Aside from blue

box, other aspects of waste collection are facing big changes.

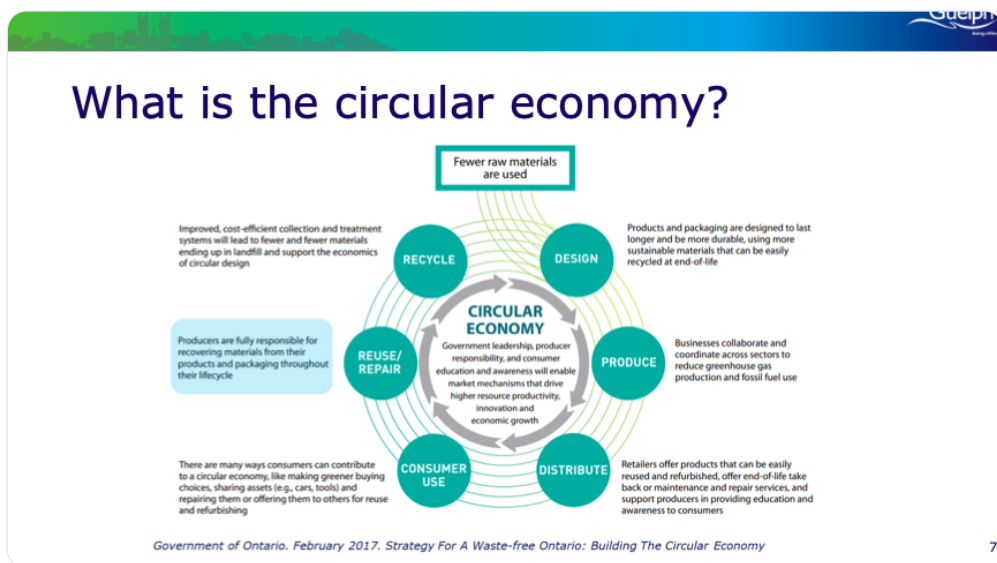
Chad Scott, Manager of Logistics and Site Operations, starts with a safety orientation. Just letting us know where the washrooms are and what the fire plan is.

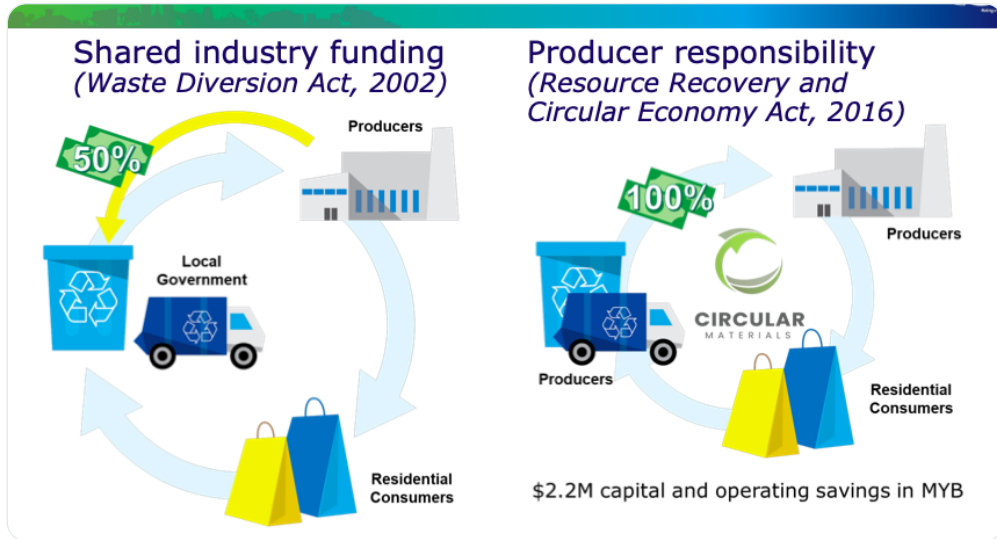
Next, Heather Connell, Manager of Business and Technical Services. Here's what recycling in Guelph looks like:



This year marks 30 years since the construction of material recovery facility. We did used to have the highest diversion rate in the province, but now were just keeping pace with other municipalities. Diversion rates were stagnating, so a change was needed.

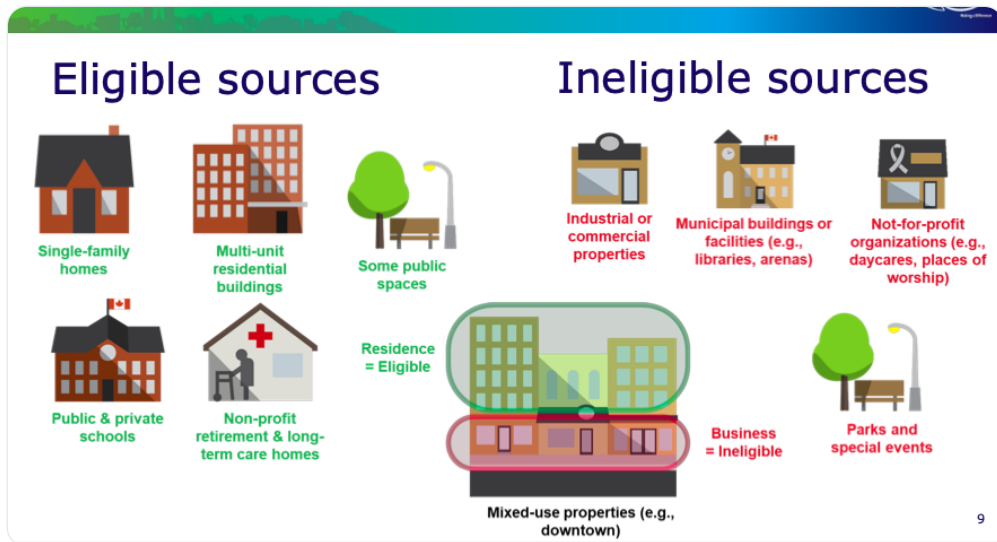
That's where the circular economy and the new producer-responsible model comes in. They're 100% responsible for costs. Who are the "They". Just about any brand you can think of.





So savings for the City? Sure, but the assets of the MRF have been depreciated so any savings will end up reinvested for upgrades. Regulations are still pending about what happens to assets under the producer-responsible model.

Eligible Vs Not Eligible.



Upside? Harmonisation. You can throw out the same stuff in the same stream no matter where you are in Ontario. And more stuff will be eligible for recycling here in Guelph.

New materials

In 2026, recycling will be **harmonized** across Ontario for the first time

This change could **reduce garbage to landfill by 30%** with proper sorting

| Blue is for Recyclables | Green is for Organics | Grey is for Garbage |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Do not use bags. Recyclables must be placed loose in blue carts or bins.</p> <p>Paper Pizza boxes, Egg cartons, Drink boxes</p> <p>Cardboard and boxboard, Paper bags, Paper and books</p> <p>Plastic Plastic bottles, containers, tubs and lids, Plant pots, trays and flats</p> <p>Metal and glass Glass bottles and jars, Metal cans, Aluminum foil, plates and trays</p> | <p>Do not use plastic bags. Use certified compostable bags or paper bags only.</p> <p>House plants and flowers, Fruits and vegetables</p> <p>Paper towels/ tissues, Food scraps and coffee filters</p> <p>Dairy products, Pet waste</p> <p>Paper soiled with food, Grain products</p> <p>Meat and bones</p> | <p>Clear bags only. Items can also be loose.</p> <p>Coffee cups/pods, Plastic straws, cutlery and plastic plates</p> <p>Plastic toys, ceramic dishes and drinking glasses, Dryer lint, cotton swabs and dental floss</p> <p>Diapers and hygiene products, Styrofoam packaging</p> <p>Plastic bags and plastic film, Chip bags/ candy wrappers</p> <p>Take-out drink cups, Non-fluorescent light bulbs</p> |

These changes will take effect in Guelph in January 2025. Full transition done by 2026.

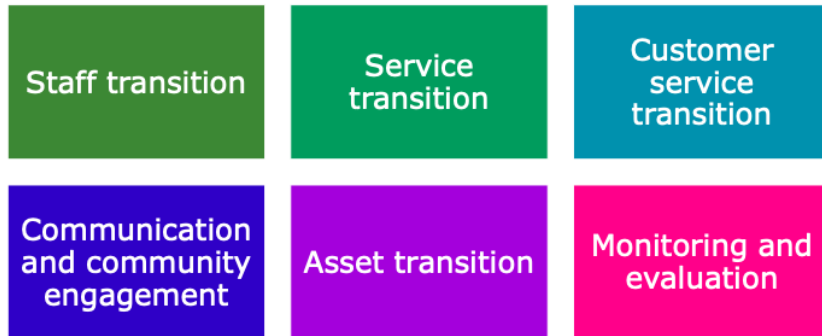
Timeline

| 2024 | 2025 (January 1 on) | 2026+ (January 1 on) |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Pre-transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition planning and implementation | <p>Transition year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular Materials collects Blue Box Eligible sources already served by City only Guelph MRF ceases processing Depot required Ineligible and eligible material may be mixed | <p>Full implementation period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials list expands All eligible sources served No depot required No mixing of ineligible and eligible material |

Rob Reid, Project Manager with Solid Waste Resources, will now go over the transition details.

The six-part transition plan. Guelph is highly invested, so there's a lot for Guelph to work through over the next year.

Transition Planning



On staffing, these are the goals:

Ongoing discussion with CUPE

Align vacancy, attrition/retirement, and growth needs

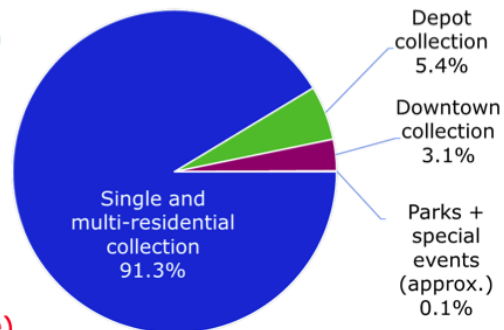
Retain talent by maximizing retention of skilled and trained staff

Maintain business performance up to the transition date

Service areas: (Not the purple slice, which is downtown. It's going to be tough to sort out because there's residential and non-residential there).

Service transition

- Curbside collection (Eligible)
- Multi-residential collection program (Eligible)
- Depot collection (Not required after 2025)
- Special events (Ineligible)
- Parks (Ineligible)
- City facilities (Ineligible)
- Downtown (IC&I is ineligible)



Customer Service! The goal is to keep things as easy as possible for people.

Focus on customer experience

In-person, phone, online

Service Guelph and Environmental Services - Business Services Division

“No wrong door” approach, educate and refer to Circular Materials for future

Engagement Plan:

Communication and community engagement

- Key messages
 - Celebrate our leadership and move to circular economy
 - City is no longer operating this service
 - Garbage, organics, and yard waste continue
 - Blue Box service levels stay the same
 - IC&I sector not part of new system
- 2025
 - Focus on **service changes**
 - Timing depends on Circular Materials timelines
- 2026
 - Focus on **materials list changes**

Asset Transition

- The fate of the MRF is to find new homes for assets
- Will transition the some 50k containers to the new provider

Finally, after everything is transition, there will be monitored to follow the effectiveness.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Waste composition inspections and audits
- Scales transactions
- Blue Box program performance data from regulator
- Customer service metrics
- Financial performance and budgeting



So questions? Gibson asks about the savings. Cameron Walsh, Division Manager of Solid Waste Resources, says \$2.2 million is net annual savings, but they do anticipate that materials will migrate out of the grey bin, and there will be some savings there.

Gibson asks if more recyclables means bigger blue bin. Reid says that if the program is working they will look at increases. Walsh adds that they will have talk to the new provider about getting new bins.

Gibson asks about savings for residents. Walsh says there's market pressure to incentivise optimisation so that the price comes down over time. Producers now responsible for total life cycle costs.

Caron asks if its possible that we can increase compost stream with compostable packaging. Reid says many compostable packaging is not necessarily compatible on an industrial scale, there's no regulation, which might change.

Caron asks about construction and demo waste, that used to be 30% of landfill. Reid says it's technically recyclable, but not covered in these regs, but a big opportunity for innovation. Landfill space is disappearing in Ontario so we need innovation.

Caron notes that there are 5k residential spaces on U of G campus, will be bring that into this process? Walsh says he's worked with U of G on cafeteria waste as for campus they won't go right in and the regs are clear that it counts as institutional.

Caron asks about Circular Materials, the company taking over. Reid says CM emerged as a non-profit and is chaired by the major brands. There is reporting and auditing mechanisms, but they do have a free hand for their operation.

Caron asks what happens if there's no market for the material. Reid says they have to meet targets, they can't incinerate it or dump it or just get rid of it.

Goller asks who's collecting recycling from City facilities on July 1, 2026? Reid says that the City will need to find a new provider. So that's an additional cost? Reid says that City facilities are already largely serviced privately.

Goller asks about how many trucks the City will have after transition. Scott says about 25% of the fleet right now is earmarked for collecting recycling.

Walsh says that the savings have already been factored into the multi-year budget forecast. Goller says it will still be nice to know how much less we're spending for waste collection.

O'Rourke asks for a refresh about why council went this route. Reid notes that Circular Materials is collecting in the County too, and there was no assurances that the City would get a contract for the long-term. It also made sense with producer being responsible and not the City

Gibson repeats Goller's point that any opportunity to show the residents value, and a net reduction in cost, no matter how small, is something worth promoting. Holmes notes that there is a comprehensive comms plan.

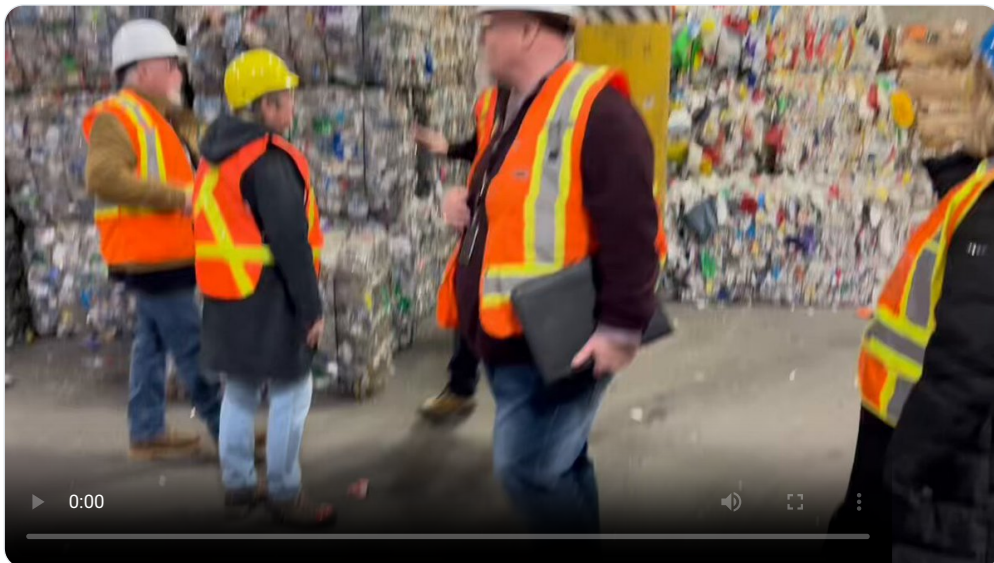
So let's get ready to tour! Goller/Caron move waiving of confidentiality for closed session, and it passes. Stay tuned for updates from the tour....



Stop #1: The MRF...



That's before processing. This is after.



Fun fact: There are about 150k containers in the City, about 50k are part of the turnover. Interestingly the City does not have enough space to store them all so they use storage containers to make sure they don't fill with water in the winter and rain.

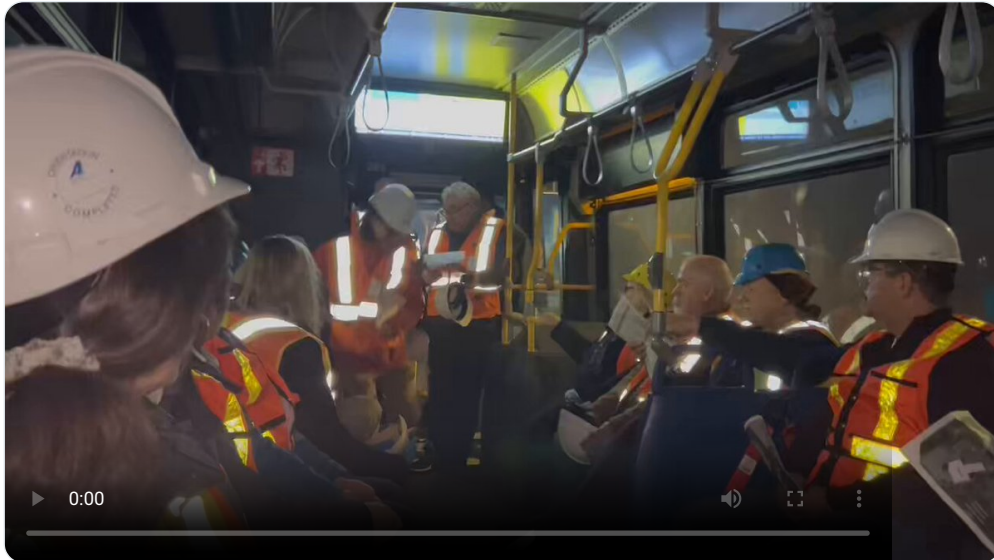
Stop #3: The Public Drop-Off. Also, no plans to ditch hazardous waste collection here.



Stop #5: The Scales!



Next Stop: The Transfer Station.



Fun fact: The City collects from about 14k carts per day from around 10k homes.

Electric garbage trucks? Staff have taken one for a test drive, they also looked at a hybrid one. It is always something that they're looking at as they're replacing equipment due to age.

O'Rourke asks about seeing the bread crumbs of the budget b/c they only get 10 days.

Holmes says with big projects like the ops centre, staff will bring that separate. They can also pull the big investments during budget to put them on council's radar.

We've returned to the administrative building's board meeting room. Council will now lift us from closed session for a final Q&A.

Council moves out of camera. Guthrie thanks staff for the tour and offers a round of applause.

I guess there's no further Q&A because Guthrie just adjourned the meeting. Be up bright and early for the State of the City tomorrow!



@threadreaderapp unroll please.

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