

Automated Collection Program History

The blue box was introduced in Ontario in 1981 to collect five materials and instill the concept of recycling into everyone's daily life. It has been an undeniable success. Today, as we attempt to collect some 17 materials, the blue box has outgrown itself and a new system is needed to continue to drive recycling.

This system is automated collection which was first introduced in 1969 and refined during the last decade. An automated collection program consists of a special collection vehicle equipped with a mechanical arm that collects waste materials set out by the customers in a specially designed bin.



Why Automated Collection?

Solid waste collection work can be unpleasant, backbreaking labour, often in extreme weather conditions, with plenty of offensive odours. In addition to reducing the risk of work-related injuries for our people and improving work conditions, the use of standardized wheeled bins offers several benefits for you:

- 1. Residents benefit with having bins that are up to six times the capacity of the blue box that facilitates and encourages more recycling.
- 2. The fixed wheels make hauling them to the curb a lot less work than before.
- Using bins with lids helps to keep water, ice, and snow from set-outs, which helps to control the water contamination and helps sorting.
- 4. Discourages scavenging of valuable materials.
- 5. Using bins can improve neighborhood aesthetics —uniform containers often eliminate unsightly set-outs.
- Blowing litter can be reduced because containers with lids are more resistant to being tipped over or torn apart by dogs, raccoons, crows, etc.
- 7. Containers with lids can help control odour and vector concerns associated with keeping recyclables or residential solid waste for longer periods of time.
- 8. In urban areas, bins are collected on both sides of the street. No more "neighbourly" trash.
- 9. You will no longer have to purchase a blue box or a waste container if receiving co-collection service.
- 10. The potential to reduce your cost if collection frequency is reduced because of the additional capacity of the bins.



Wheelie Bin & Collection Information

Automated collection truly upgrades the level of service that is provided to residents. Fixed lid, wheeled bins not only provide a uniform appearance on collection day, they also reduce blowing trash, odours, animal scavenging and health concerns. Gone are mismatched containers, bags and other unsightly set-outs. Residents are saved the hassles and expense of providing their own containers. Many communities find that automating refuse collection can also drive recycling efforts because of the bin capacity and ease of use resulting in lower costs.

What About Overflow Materials?

Most customers find that 96 gallons of capacity is more than sufficient, but there might be exceptions such as after moving, parties, or spring cleaning where you may find yourself with additional materials.

For that reason and for others where a bin may not be feasible, convenience depots will be established in the community where materials can be recycled at your convenience.

