



July 31, 2025

## **Termination of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) Blue Box Collection- January 1, 2026**

The Province of Ontario is changing how the blue box program operates. Instead of the government managing recycling, producers of blue box materials (like plastic bottles and cardboard boxes) will now be fully financially and operationally responsible for the blue box program. However, this new model only incorporates blue box material generated through residential sources and excludes blue box material generated through industrial, commercial or institutional sources (IC&I).

All municipalities in Ontario, including Peterborough County will be out of the recycling business as part of this change. Under the new regulations, the potential costs for Peterborough County to manage recycling for all IC&I properties across the County is not viable.

### **What this means**

Peterborough County is discontinuing collection of blue box materials from IC&I properties that are not eligible for participation in the provincial program effective January 1, 2026. You are receiving this letter because your business/organization is considered a non-eligible property.

**If your business/organization is currently participating in Peterborough County's blue box program you will no longer receive blue box collection as of January 1, 2026.**

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## Next steps

You will need to make alternate arrangements to properly dispose of recyclable materials, either independently, in partnership with other businesses and with or without the support of a contractor. Below is a non-comprehensive list of possible service providers. Please call the individual business to learn about their programs and pricing.

Please note that Peterborough County does not endorse or vouch for any of these service providers.

Contractor	Phone Number	Website
Emterra Group	1-905-336-9084	<a href="https://www.emterra.ca/">https://www.emterra.ca/</a>
Waste Connections	1-844-708-7274	<a href="https://www.wasteconnectionscanada.com/">https://www.wasteconnectionscanada.com/</a>
Miller Waste	1-800-465-5914	<a href="https://millerwaste.ca/">https://millerwaste.ca/</a>
GFL Environmental	1-866-417-2797	<a href="https://gflenv.com/">https://gflenv.com/</a>

We understand this may be a frustrating change. If you have any questions, there is a frequently asked questions document with this letter for your reference. If your question is not answered you can reach out at the contact information below.

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## **Non-Eligible Sources Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why did I receive this letter?**

The province has moved the blue box program to producer responsibility. This moves responsibility of funding and operating the blue box program to producers of packaging, paper, and similar products.

The new blue box program applies to residential and other eligible properties including schools, and non-profit long-term care and retirement homes, but excludes non-eligible sources such as businesses, places of worship, municipal buildings, daycares, commercial farms, charities, and campgrounds and trailer parks.

These types of properties will not receive blue box collection funded by the producers under the new blue box program.

The County of Peterborough currently provides curbside recycling collection for approximately 550 non-eligible source properties funded by our taxpayers. County of Peterborough will no longer be providing this service starting January 1, 2026.

Your address was identified by our collection contractor and through surveys County staff completed in 2024 as a non-eligible source location which is currently using the County's recycling program for the blue box material generated from your property.

### **What is a non-eligible source/ is my property a non-eligible source?**

Non-eligible sources include:

- Businesses (retail, grocery, offices, food service, restaurants, gas bars, marinas)
- Places of Worship (church, synagogue, mosque, temple, community centre within a church)
- Municipal Buildings (library, community centres, arenas, municipal offices, shelters)
- Daycares (within a church, within a school, in home, stand alone)

- Charities (not-for-profit, charity events)
- Commercial farms (farm operation, barn, office)
- Campground/trailer park without seasonal residents

Further explanation:

Unless the property is some sort of residence where people live (home, seasonal home, not for-profit long-term care/retirement home), or a school it is considered non-eligible.

If the property is mixed (ex. A property that has apartments over a restaurant/business, or a commercial farm with a house on the same property) the blue box material generated from the residence is eligible and will be collected by producers but any blue box material generated from the non-eligible portion will not be eligible (not collected) by producers.

### **Why can't Peterborough County continue collecting recycling from all IC&I locations?**

All municipalities in Ontario, including Peterborough County will be out of the recycling business as part of the transition to producer responsibility. Under the new regulations, the potential costs to Peterborough County to manage recycling for all IC&I properties across the County is not viable.

We understand that times are difficult financially for everyone right now. This change has been mandated by the province and Peterborough County must keep in mind all taxpayers.

### **How can I continue to recycle at my business?**

Your organization will need to arrange to properly dispose of the recycling yourselves or make arrangements with a private contractor to collect the 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 Peterborough County does not endorse or vouch for any of these service providers.

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### **Who can I contact to share concerns about this change?**

If you would like to contact the province to advocate against this change, you can always connect with your local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) or the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Peterborough County staff will continue to advocate to the province that IC&I properties should fall under the producer responsibility legislation.

### **What do I do with my business's blue boxes/carts?**

Peterborough County will not retrieve any blue boxes/carts. You may repurpose these as you wish.

### **Will there be any changes to garbage collection?**

No. This change will not impact your garbage collection.

### **Other Resources**

Peterborough County's Economic Development and Tourism Division provides valuable resources and networking opportunities to grow your business. Contact [ecdev@ptbocounty.ca](mailto:ecdev@ptbocounty.ca).