

Hamilton's 2026-2050 Solid Waste Management Master Plan

Each year, the City of Hamilton manages over 200,000 tonnes of waste, including garbage, green bin waste, yard waste, and other materials that can be diverted from landfill.

This updated Plan sets the direction for how waste will be reduced, reused, and managed over the next 25 years, considering environmental, social, and financial impacts.

Why this plan matters

- Keeps more waste out of landfill helping to extend the life of the Glanbrook landfill, the City's only active landfill
- Supports climate action by reducing emissions
- Improves waste services for residents
- Plans for population growth and future waste needs

What we're seeing today

- Residential waste diversion has levelled off
- Lower diversion in apartments and condos
- The City has limited capacity for processing green bin and yard waste
- Landfill capacity must be carefully managed



Did you know?

About 60% of material placed in garbage could be diverted using existing programs.

There is significant opportunity to increase diversion

Our Vision

"Hamilton's waste system will support waste reduction by working with the community to reuse materials, extend their lifespan, promote a circular economy, and recover resources through recycling and energy recovery - creating a cleaner, more resilient place to live, raise a child, and age successfully."



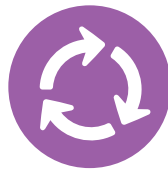
Responsibility for Waste

The City will maintain responsibility for managing waste generated within its boundaries.



The Role of the Glanbrook Landfill

The landfill plays a key role, and its lifespan will be extended through waste reduction and diversion.



Advancing a Circular Economy

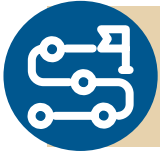
The City will promote waste reduction, reuse, and better use of materials.



Inclusive and Accessible Services

Waste services and education will reflect the needs of all communities.

What actions will be taken?



Tracking progress

Progress will be reported annually to the Waste Management Sub-Committee. The Plan will be reviewed every five years.

Short-term Actions (2026 to 2030)

will be initiated within the first five years of the Plan.
Some will continue beyond 2030.

- Develop a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Strategy
- Develop a Multi-Residential Diversion Strategy
- Support Repair Cafés and Sharing Libraries
- Review Curbside Bulk Item Collection Program
- Expand Community Centre Reuse and Recycling
- Review Inclusion of Grass Clippings in the Leaf and Yard Waste Program
- Consider Automated Cart Based Garbage and Green Bin Collection for Single-Family Homes
- Consider Bi-Weekly Curbside Garbage Collection
- Facilitate Curbside Diversion and Reuse Events
- Assess Renewable Energy from Organics
- Explore Mixed Waste Processing

Long-term Actions (2031 to 2050)

will be considered as the City monitors progress, refines programs, and responds to changing needs.

- Assess opportunities to integrate smart technologies into waste collection operations
- Investigate alternate approaches for public space waste containers
- Plan for, extend, and optimize long-term capacity at the Glanbrook Landfill

Enabling Initiatives

The Plan also includes enabling initiatives focused on education, outreach, policy, and enforcement to support participation, improve compliance, and strengthen the City's ability to track and report on progress.

What we're tracking	Targets		
	2030	2035	2050
Residential Waste Diversion Rate* (Residential waste diverted from landfill)	35%	40%	50%
Organics Capture Rate (Single-Family) (Food and organic waste placed in the Green Bin)	60%	75%	90%
Organics Capture Rate (Multi-residential) (Food and organic waste placed in the Green Bin)	33%	52%	70%
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Landfill (Emissions from waste at the Glanbrook Landfill)	Net zero by 2050		
Customer Satisfaction (Resident satisfaction with waste services)	80%	85%	90%

*Note: The diversion rate reflects only materials managed through City programs and no longer includes Blue Box recycling, which transitioned to producer responsibility on April 1, 2025.

Residents play an important role in reducing waste, increasing reuse, and making the most of Hamilton's waste programs.

Together, we can support a cleaner, more resilient Hamilton.