



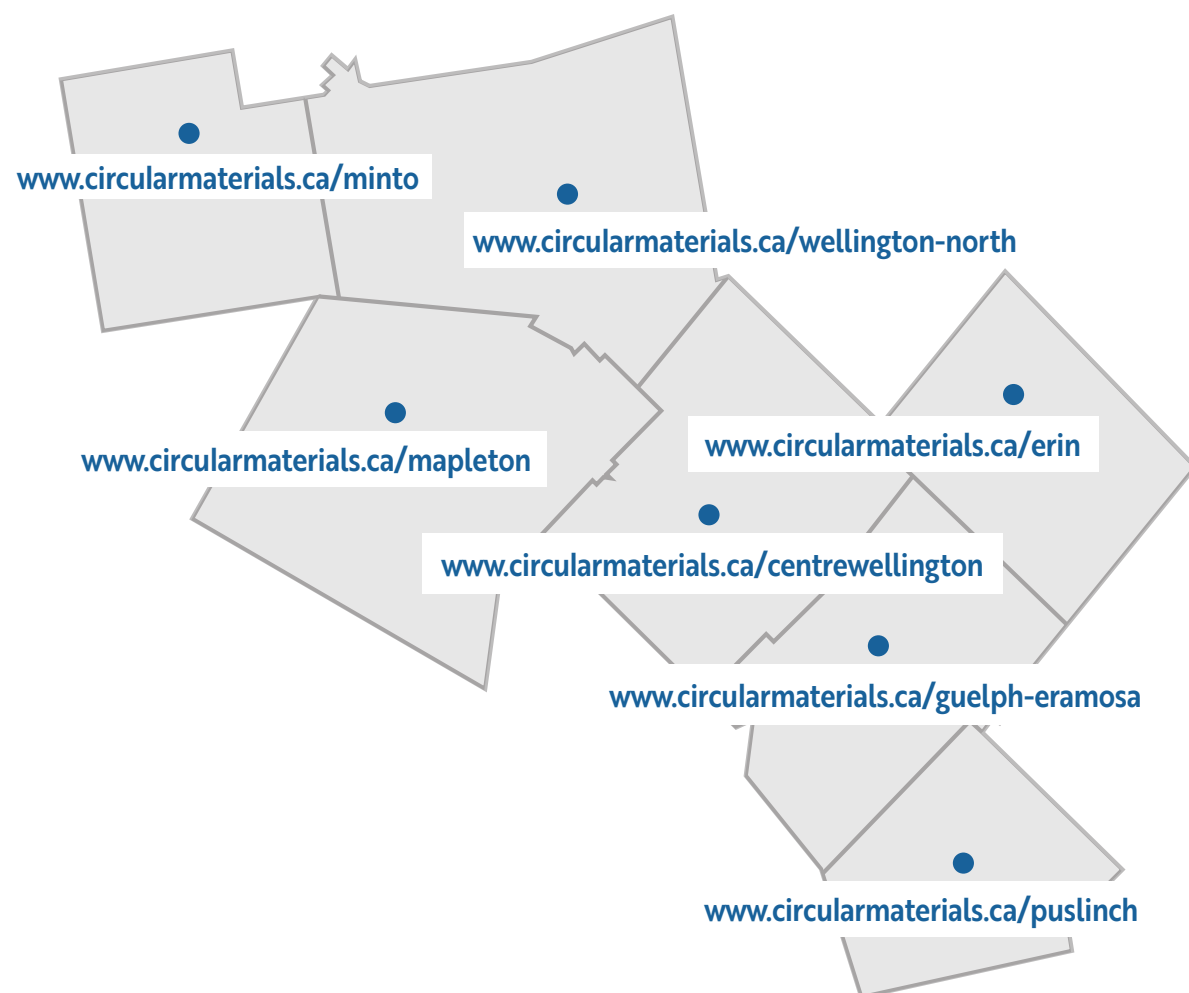
Residential Recycling Carts

collection starting in August

Circular Materials is now responsible for implementing and managing the residential recycling system in Ontario



Circular Materials has municipality-specific web pages. Visit yours for information and service updates.



Q Why is this change happening?

A Circular Materials is making these changes throughout Ontario on behalf of producers of packaging.

Q What is changing with my recycling service?

A A number of changes are coming as Wellington switches to the new recycling cart system including the frequency of collection and that you will no longer need to sort recyclable materials.

Q Where do I find more information about the new carts and cart collection system?

A Circular Materials has created a web page specifically for the cart programme change in Wellington County: circularmaterials.ca/wellingtoncountycarts and/or visit your specific CM township/ town web page (see map).

Q Who do I contact if my recycling is not collected?

A To report a missed recycling collection and for information on what can be recycled, please contact WM (Waste Management). canresidential@wm.com or 1-800-561-1655.



SPRING /SUMMER 2026

Solid Waste News

A friendly newsletter from the County of Wellington Solid Waste Services Division

2025

Annual Report Highlights

Every spring, the Solid Waste Services (SWS) Division produces an annual report that highlights work undertaken in the year prior and summarizes our progress in accomplishing goals set out in the SWS Strategy.

Protecting the air, water and land through environmentally sound practices guides decisions on solid waste management services and delivery. Guiding principles of SWS focus on:

- Excellent customer service
- Effective and efficient financial management
- Environmental stewardship

Quick Fact
152 tonnes of mattresses were diverted from landfill in 2025. Mattresses are delivered to Try Recycling in London Ontario for deconstruction. 85% of the mattress components are diverted.

Customer Service Highlights

The residential blue box programme was transitioned to full extended producer responsibility on July 1, 2025. SWS and Communications Department staff worked diligently to ensure that residents had clear instruction and direction through the changes.

SWS staff visited the majority of businesses in the County to explain the new recycling programme. Downtown businesses were offered curbside cart collection, and all businesses were offered a minimum fee exemption card if they were delivering blue box materials to a County waste facility.

As of April 2026 the business recycling cart collection programme has been expanded to businesses in all 14 of Wellington's largest urban areas. Visit wellington.ca/bbtransition to learn more.



Environmental Stewardship

In 2025 diversion programmes were established to capture and divert mattresses, shingles, and drywall at all County waste facilities.

These expanded diversion opportunities are expected to add an additional 4 years of landfill life to the County's sole landfill site.



SWS staff continue to work with stakeholders to establish an efficient and cost-effective leachate treatment system for Phase II of the Riverstown Landfill site.

Financial

Implemented \$10 minimum fee at all County waste facilities on January 1, 2025, adopting a similar fee system to most comparable communities. This change helped facilitate the strategic direction of expanding and enhancing landfill diversion opportunities at waste facilities.

Launched electronic scale software and installed license plate cameras at all sites. This change provides more efficient customer processing at sites and reduces the number of weigh bills required to be manually entered into tracking software.

Quick Fact
SWS staff visited 1,849 businesses to explain the new recycling programme. A total of 479 recycling carts and 453 exemption cards were distributed to businesses in 2025.





ROOTED IN
Service
POWERED BY
Community

Jack Benham Pollinator Sanctuary

On Friday May 22, Wellington County Council and members of the community joined County staff in recognizing the selfless contributions of lifelong Damascus resident and naturalist, Jack Benham.

His public service record and commitment to bettering his community is well-established and has inspired others to follow his lead in volunteering.

In 2018 the Grand River Conservation Authority honoured Jack with the Grand River Watershed Award in recognition of "outstanding environmental work", and in 2024 Jack received the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Now in 2026, Wellington County has named this pollinator sanctuary in his honour.

Located on the old Arthur landfill site, Jack and his team of volunteers created a beautiful and serene pollinator sanctuary. They planted trees, wildflowers, and established pollinator habitats to create a naturalized space that actively promotes conservation.

Thank you for all of your efforts Jack!



National Public Works Week

2026 was another busy National Public Works Week for Wellington County's Engineering Services Department.

Once more we started the week off with a roadside cleanup, followed with the very popular Touch-A-Truck event at our childcare facilities, and attended the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival.

New this year, we were excited to recognize some significant improvements at two sites managed by SWS. The Elora waste facility had its official grand opening and the former Arthur landfill site has had a makeover as well. Read more about these events in this newsletter!



Elora Waste Facility

Upgrades Complete

As part of the National Public Works Week events, SWS was pleased to showcase the significant site improvements at the Elora Waste Facility that will serve residents for years to come. Opened up to the public in March, the site had final touches put on in May with a top coat of asphalt.

Among the improvements, residents familiar with the site may notice: an expanded drop-off area for improved unloading and traffic management, a new scale house with dual scales, a completely new retaining wall and Household Hazardous Waste building, and space allocated for diversion of new materials such as mattresses, drywall, and shingles.



SWS Community Outreach and Events

Come and see SWS in the Community in July!

- July 1** Summerfest Canada Day - Erin
- July 11** Multicultural Festival - Fergus
- July 30** Party in the Park - Rockwood