

Textile Recovery at Multi-residential Properties

Lucy McGovern, Niagara Region

Background

- In Niagara, textiles account for 3.6% of the residential garbage stream.
- Results in 0.22 kg/hhld/week, which totals 1,913 MT of textiles/year.
- Many local non-profits accept textiles.
- Collection boxes located at all five of Niagara's landfills (2017 – 6.8 MT)
- Textiles also accepted at both of Niagara's re-use depots.
 - 64% reused
 - 26% recycled
 - 10% landfill



Potential Impact on Local Charities

- In Niagara there are many non-profit organizations with multiple locations that participate in textile diversion programs.
- CDA also has 30+ Clothesline Drop Box locations across the Region.
- Non-profits depend on textile donations as a prime revenue source.
- If the Region were to begin a curbside collection program with a private entity, this would negatively impact non-profits.
- Best course of action is to work with non-profits to increase textile recycling.



Recommendations

- Update the Region's P&E to include expansion of the list of acceptable textiles for diversion
- Continue to connect local, smaller non-profits with larger non-profits to establish a fulsome and sustainable textile recycling program.
- Work with local charitable organizations to implement a multi-residential building textile collection pilot for interested properties.



Procurement & Legal Agreements

- We sought out to award the work to multiple, eligible non-profit organizations.
- RFPQ was preferred process based on desire to work only with registered non-profits, offering multiple awards and maintaining a simpler document.
- Charitable organizations often have fewer resources to respond to complex RFP evaluation processes.
- Single stage process based on the simplicity of the work and the revenue neutral/zero cost pilot.



Procurement & Legal Agreements

- Drawback of RFPQ is there is a two year limit on the work. Options after the two year pilot ends are:
 - Re-issue the RFPQ for a future two year timeframe
 - Write a report to Council requesting a single source approval of the extension
- Evaluation of the RFPQ was solely on non-financial items.
- Developed a roster of three qualifying charities.
- Legal agreements and insurance documentation completed.
- Non-profits could decide to work with a private entity to complete the work, however the agreement and insurance had to identify the non-profit's name and not the private entity only.



What is included?

Accepted

TEXTILES

- Accessories and bags
- Clothing (all types)
- Curtains
- General household textiles (towels, blankets, sheets)
- Shoes and boots
- Sleeping bags



Building Recruitment

- Contacted multi-residential properties that have already successfully participated in other Region diversion programs.
- Explained the program details:
 - Indoors only
 - Gently used & damaged textiles
- Non-profits were assigned buildings in most equitable way possible. Equal number of units rather than by municipality alone.
- Non-profit can decline a location if they wished.



Building Site Visits

- Site visits are being held at each site with the building contact, the non-profit representative and Region representation.
- Agree to location and placement of collection container.
- Indemnity agreement signed by building contact if required.
- Discussion about initial collection frequency and method.



Non-Profit's Responsibilities/Deliverables

- Supply and maintain the collection bins and required staff.
- Deliver new bins to designated buildings within two weeks of request.
- Empty all material from bins within 24 hours of request and leave surrounding area free of all material.
- Check collection bins each time they are serviced or emptied to ensure they are in good condition.



Non-Profit Responsibilities/Deliverables

- Work with the Region on a communication and education program for the residents.
- Affix the Region's logo to the collection bins to ensure co-branding of the program.
- Provide quarterly reports to the Region on the total weight of the material collected from each participating site.
- If requested, provide informational open houses with the building lobbies to help promote the collection program to building residents.



Promotion & Education



Recycle YOUR TEXTILES

Your Donation Bin is Located:

Niagara Region

waste info line 1-800-594-5542
niagararegion.ca/waste

Don't trash your old clothes and textiles
If your textiles cannot be reused, they will be recycled!

WHAT'S ACCEPTED?
All gently used and damaged clothing and textiles, including materials that are ripped, torn, stained or unmatched. All donations must be free from mildew and hazardous contaminants such as grease or oil.

ALL CLOTHING
Active wear, bathing suits, bathrobes, coats, dresses, jeans, pants, parkas, shirts, skirts, socks (single or pairs), sweaters, t-shirts, undergarments, uniforms.

HOUSEHOLD
Bedding, bibs, blankets, comforters, cushions, curtains, oven mitts, pillows, rags, sewing fabric and scraps, sheets, sleeping bags, stuffed toys, towels, wash cloths.

ACCESSORIES
Backpacks, belts, gloves, hats, jewellery, mittens, purses, scarves, ties, toques.

FOOTWEAR
Boots, cleats, dress shoes, high heels, running shoes, slip-ons, slippers, loafers, sneakers, sandals.

WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTED?
Household items such as lamps, dishes, furniture and electronics are not accepted.

Recycle YOUR TEXTILES

Don't trash your old clothes and textiles
If your textiles cannot be reused, they will be recycled!

A new textile recycling program is now available in your building.

Help your local charitable organization:

Your donation bin is located:

Acceptable Material:

- ALL CLOTHING**
Active wear, bathing suits, bathrobes, coats, dresses, jeans, pants, parkas, shirts, skirts, undergarments, uniforms.
- HOUSEHOLD**
Bedding, bibs, blankets, comforters, cushions, curtains, oven mitts, pillows, rags, sewing fabric and scraps, sheets, sleeping bags, stuffed toys, towels, wash cloths.
- ACCESSORIES**
Backpacks, belts, gloves, hats, jewellery, mittens, purses, scarves, ties, toques.
- FOOTWEAR**
Boots, cleats, shoes, high heels, running shoes, slip-ons, slippers, loafers, sneakers, sandals.

What's NOT Accepted:
Household items such as lamps, dishes, furniture and electronics are not accepted.

*All donations must be dry and free from visible and hazardous contaminants such as grease or oil-ripped, torn, stained and unmatched materials are accepted.


















For more information call the waste info line at 906-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542
niagararegion.ca/waste

Niagara Region

Recycle YOUR TEXTILES




If your textiles cannot be reused, they will be recycled!

ACCEPTED TEXTILE ITEMS:

 shirts	 pants	 coats	 bathing suits	 sweaters	 socks and underwear
 pillows	 sheets and comforters	 towels	 curtains	 sleeping bags and blankets	 stuffed toys
 backpacks	 belts	 hats and gloves	 jewellery	 purses	 ties and scarves
 running shoes	 boots	 high heels and dress shoes	 sandals	 cleats	 slippers

All gently used and damaged clothing and textiles, including materials that are ripped, torn, stained or unmatched. All donations must be free from mildew and hazardous contaminants such as grease or oil.

What's NOT accepted?

 lamps	 dishes
 furniture	 electronics

If this bin requires service please contact:

Niagara Region

Lessons Learned

- Ensure non-profit organization knows that containers may be placed in garbage/recycling rooms.
- Ensure bins fit in the available rooms.
- If collection containers are carts, ensure they are a different colour than those in your municipal programs.
- To avoid pile-ups of unwanted materials, ensure all parties know that the program is not for small appliances and furniture.
- Divide equitably by number of building units versus by number of buildings.



Next Steps

- Contact buildings that were hesitant to participate in Phase 1 to share success to date and determine any renewed interest.
- Survey participating buildings six months after implementation to determine benefits.
- Continue to promote in multi-residential promotion and education (i.e. Newsletter).
- January 2019 - Begin calls at new buildings for Phase 2 of the pilot.



Questions?

Lucy McGovern

Collection & Diversion Operations, Niagara Region

lucy.mcgovern@niagararegion.ca

1-800-863-7215, x-3558

