
MEMORANDUM

Subject: Recent Changes to Niagara Region's Waste Management Services and Programs as a result of COVID-19

Date: April 20, 2020

To: All Local Area Municipality Clerks

From: Catherine Habermehl, Director Waste Management Services

Waste Management is a visible service that affects residents weekly. As such, this memorandum and attached information are being provided to you for distribution to your Council members in case they receive questions from their constituents about the recent changes to Niagara Region's waste management services and programs, as a result of the COVID-19 situation. Niagara's changes to programs is comparable to other regional and municipal governments who have similarly either canceled or modified waste management services and programs.

Niagara staff have focused on striking a balance between providing essential services while protecting front-line workers; both Regional employees and contracted staff, when implementing these temporary service changes. In addition, the changes specifically related to the landfill sites were made to align with the April 3, 2020 State of Emergency declaration by Regional Chair Bradley and the 12 Area Mayors.

As you know, the current situation is fluid, and we are reviewing our programs / services daily and will continue to make the appropriate adjustments, as needed. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at catherine.habermehl@niagararegion.ca.

Respectfully submitted and signed by



Catherine Habermehl
Director, Waste Management Services

Encl.

Service changes at Niagara Region landfills during the COVID-19 pandemic

(As the current situation is fluid, please refer to Niagara Region's website at www.niagararegion.ca for regular updates)

State of Emergency

Niagara Region and Niagara's 12 local municipalities have jointly declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 to help protect the health of Niagara. We understand residents want to use their time at home to get started on their spring cleaning, however, landfill sites are open to focus on essential services. #stayhomeniagara

Landfill Service Changes

Landfill sites and drop-off depots are open for essential loads only:

- Collection vehicles
- Commercial / contractors (including farmers)
- Municipal vehicles
- Commercial / municipal brush
- Residential Household Hazardous Waste disposal
- Residential large household / bulky goods - one visit per month per license plate
- Residential move outs - limit to three trips per licence plate for the duration of the service changes for residents moving out of their homes

In order minimize non-essential trips in the community, restrictions have been put in place at out sites. Residents are permitted one trip, every two weeks, to dispose of the following:

- Leaf and yard waste, which is still being collected at the curb
- Grass clippings, but residents are being encouraged to grasscycle
- Oversize brush bundles, tree limbs

Expect Delays

THERE WILL BE DELAYS AT THE SITES due to the recent changes implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Limit the number of people on the drop-off pad
- Preferred methods of payment are debit and credit, using the tap option.

Recycling/Green Bin Distribution Locations Closed

- Use alternative rigid plastic containers. For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/waste

Other Waste Related Service Changes due to COVID-19 pandemic

Curbside Collection Requirements – Bag Garbage and Organics

- Place used tissues and other organic material, in paper bags or certified compostable bags. Bags must be tied before being placed in the Green Bin so they don't fall out.
- Garbage shouldn't be loose in garbage containers and should be bagged. Several smaller kitchen sized garbage bags may be used and placed inside a garbage container.

Large household item suspension

Curbside collection of large household item / bulk goods for single family homes and apartments with six units or less is suspended until May 30. This will prioritize regular curbside collection of waste, recycling and organics.

Residents are encouraged to hold on to their large household items until service resumes. For those who need to dispose of a large household item due to a residential move out, residents are restricted to one visit per month per license plate for the duration of the service changes. Be prepared to provide your address to confirm your property is eligible for this service. Large items brought to Walker Environmental, in Thorold, require a disposal fee.

Leaf and yard waste collection

Effective Monday April 13, 2020, only three (3) bags/cans of yard waste will be collected per collection day, per single family homes and apartments with 6 units or less. Residents may experience delays with leaf and yard waste collection so that front line collectors can prioritize the weekly collection of garbage, recycling and organics. Ripped leaf and yard waste bags must be re-bagged or placed in another container to ensure material can be collected.

Curbside Battery Collection

Battery collection originally scheduled for April 20-24 has been postponed until further notice.

Compost Giveaway

Compost giveaway originally scheduled for May 4-9 has been postponed until further notice.

For the most recent service changes related to COVID-19, visit niagararegion.ca/waste Information regarding Walker's drop off depot can be found at www.walkerind.com/brands/walker-waste-services/