November

Waste Management Corner

By: Chrispin Ajedipe, Solid Waste Coordinator, Roads and Works Dept.

Understanding What Belongs in the Blue Box: Our Path Toward a Circular Future

Last month, I discussed the importance of recycling and how materials we often call “waste” can actually become valuable resources when managed properly. This month, I would like to focus on the specific materials that can be recycled, the everyday items that drive our circular economy and keep valuable resources in use.

These materials are based on the Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) list, the organization responsible for collecting and recycling materials on behalf of the producers who create them. You can view the full and most up-to-date list at: https://www.circularmaterials.ca/ON

Although our community is still in the process of transitioning to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, it is important to familiarize ourselves with this list now. When the transition is complete, understanding what belongs in the Blue Box will help us align with the new recycling system and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

Living the Grandfather Teachings Through Recycling

The Seven Grandfather Teachings; Respect, Love, Honesty, Wisdom, Bravery, Humility, and Truth, remind us how to live in harmony with all creation. When we recycle properly, we show **Respect** for the Earth and her gifts. When we take the time to clean and sort our recyclables, we act with Love for our community and future generations. And through **Wisdom**, we understand that what we take from the land should be given back through care and responsibility. Each item we recycle is a small act of gratitude, a step toward balance and sustainability. Our natural world is beautiful and generous, and it is our shared duty to help keep it that way.

In next month’s article, we will explore what belongs in the garbage and organic bins, and how proper sorting keeps our recycling system strong. Until then, continue to show your love for the environment, one recyclable at a time