

Sort It–Western: Recycling & Waste Management Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Sort It-Western program?

Sort It-Western is a mandatory waste management program that allows residents to sort their waste into two streams; using clear bags for garbage, and transparent blue bags for recyclables. Residents can place them at the curb or roadside as part of their regular collection service.

2. When will the program start?

WRWM will begin implementing the program in July 2018. The roll-out dates and/or timeline by sub-region follow below. An update announcement will be made for sub-regions that do not have a confirmed launch date yet.

- Communities serviced by the Wild Cove (North/South Bay of Islands, Corner Brook to Pasadena) and St. George’s Facilities (Bay St. George areas) – **July 16, 2018**
- Burgeo area – **August 2018**
- Long Range (Norris Point to Bellburns) – **August 2018**
- Southwest Coast (Port aux Basques area) – **September 2018**
- Deer Lake and White Bay South areas – **October 2018**

3. Why do we need Sort It–Western?

The new program will help us achieve our 50% waste diversion goal by increasing the amount of recyclables and hazardous waste that we divert from our landfill. When everyone does their part to reduce, reuse and recycle, we generate less garbage.

4. Will household collection schedules change with the launch of the Sort It - Western program?

Contact your municipality or Local Service District Committee for collection routes and schedules.

5. Why are clear garbage bags mandatory?

Using clear bags reduces the amount of recyclables and hazardous materials going into our landfills. It also improves the safety of our collectors, enabling them to see contents in the bag that may cause injury.

6. What can go in the blue recycling bag?

A complete list of materials that will be accepted for recycling will be made available to the public closer to the program launch. WRWM’s website will also be updated. Information will also be available through social media, radio, print and television. Residents will receive an information kit by mail which will include bag samples and a coupon.

7. How will privacy issues be addressed?

Two small, non-transparent bags (privacy bags) are allowed in each clear bag (for the disposal of sensitive materials). Privacy bags should be non-transparent and no larger than 54.9 cm x 58.4 cm (21.6 in x 23 in). Any color 'kitchen catcher' style bag or paper bag is acceptable as a privacy bag. Privacy bags must be placed in the clear garbage bag on collection day. Residents may also place their clear bag into a solid garbage can for added privacy if it is included in their community's collection policy. Please contact your municipality or Local Service District Committee for collection details.

8. Can I use a plastic grocery bag as a privacy bag?

Yes, you can use a retail grocery bag, also known as a 'single use bag' as privacy bag.

9. Where can I buy clear garbage and blue recycling bags?

Stores have been notified of the new program and should be stocking shelves with blue recycling bags and clear garbage bags in time for the program launch.

10. When should I stop buying black garbage bags?

Based on the date when *Sort-It Western* will launch in their sub-region, residents can decide when they should stop buying black garbage bags. Residents can switch to clear bags any time they're available in stores.

11. What do I do with the black/green bags that I have?

We recommend using leftover black and green bags for storage or when returning beverage containers to the local green depot. They can also be donated to charities and churches that may need them (for clothing storage and shipping, etc.).

12. Is there a bag limit for curb/roadside collection?

Please check with your municipality or Local Service District Committee for collection details.

13. Is composting part of the program?

At this time composting is not a part of *Sort It-Western*. Organic waste can be placed in the clear garbage bag. Residents and businesses can compost organic waste in a backyard compost bin or by participating in a community composting program. Information about how to compost is available at: <http://rethinkwastenl.ca>.

14. What do I do with household hazardous waste?

Currently, residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at the Wild Cove and Bay St. George waste disposal sites free of charge. This service will be provided at all WRWM transfer stations once they open.

15. Where do I bring old electronics?

Currently, WRWM has a free electronics waste recycling service available at the Wild Cove and Bay St. George transfer stations. Old computers, printers, cell phones and other unwanted electronics can be dropped off at both transfer stations during regular operating hours. This service will be provided at all WRWM transfer stations once they open.

16. What happens to residents who don't participate in the *Sort It - Western* program?

We understand there will be a period of transition as the program launches. We know that public education is critical to achieving success and we have developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn how to properly sort their waste.

Over time, households that are not compliant with the *Sort It - Western* program, may have their waste rejected. Please contact your municipality or Local Service District Committee for additional details.

17. Will the Green Depot beverage program continue?

Yes. Residents can continue to collect their beverage containers and bring to their local green depot for refund. Please note that although many of these items can be placed in the blue bag and processed through our program, **glass bottles cannot be recycled** through our program and should be brought to your local green depot to be recycled.

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