

Green Bin Program – Resident Information

The Town of Calmar has introduced a Green Bin (Organics) Program as of May 4, 2026, to help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and to support a more sustainable community. This program will allow residents to separate food scraps and other organic materials from regular household garbage.

What is the Green Bin Program?

The Green Bin Program is a waste diversion initiative that collects food scraps and organic materials separately from garbage. These materials are processed into compost instead of being sent to landfill. This approach is greener and is saving the town and the residents money at the same time.

Why is the Town Introducing a Green Bin Program?

- To significantly reduce landfill waste
- To support environmental sustainability
- To reduce increasing waste disposal costs (waste cost more than organics at the landfill)
- To align with growing provincial and regional waste-reduction practices

What Goes in the Green Bin?

Examples of commonly accepted items include:

- Food scraps (fruit, vegetables, meat, bones, dairy)
- Bread, pasta, and grains
- Paper towels and napkins
- Pizza boxes (soiled)
- Certified compostable bags and food-soiled paper products
- Pet waste
- Yard and plants waste (Grass clippings and leaves)

What Does NOT Go in the Green Bin?

- Plastic bags or packaging
- Metal, glass, or aluminum
- Diapers or hygiene products
- Household hazardous waste
- Cat litter

How does the Program Works?

Residents will place accepted organic materials into the green bin for collection on scheduled pickup days (every Mondays from May to the end of October). Collected material is taken to a processing facility where it is turned into compost instead of landfill waste.

What do I do if I have more organic than the bin can hold?

Should residents have extra grass clippings, leaves, and branches, they can bring them to the organic depot located at the public workshop (5301 44 Avenue). The material cannot be placed in plastic bags. Simply dump the material in the designated areas. Alternatively, residents can also start producing their own compost or bring their extra material directly to the landfill.

What do I do if my bin goes missing or if it breaks?

It is the same as your garbage bin. If it breaks or goes missing, please contact the Town to make arrangements to get a new one. It is important to note that the bins have a serial number, and they are associated with a specific property. They shouldn't be used elsewhere.

Odour, Pests, and Winter Use

Residents often ask about concerns related to odours, pests, and winter conditions. Simple practices such as using compostable liner bags, freezing food scraps until collection day, and regularly rinsing bins will help keep the system clean and manageable year-round. Ensuring that the bin gets collected each week in the warmer months even though it may not have a huge amount of material is also a great practice to minimize issues related to odour and pest attraction.

Costs and Community Benefits

There is **no additional cost** for this program. In fact, it has **lowered the cost of the waste management contract**, as the tipping fee for organic material is **less than that of regular waste**. For residents, this program will also reduce cost as there is no need to purchase plastic bags for the grass clippings and the leaves. They can be placed directly into the green bin.

Learn More

To learn more, you can visit the Town's website or simply call the town office at 780-985-3604.