

# LESSONS LEARNED ADVANCING CE IN YORK REGION

PPG CELC FACILITY TOUR

APRIL 14, 2026

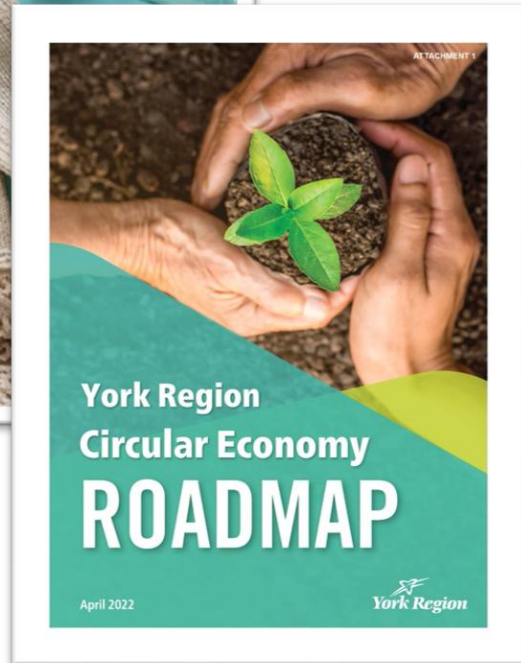


# YORK REGION

Also known as The Regional Municipality of York, 1.3 million residents call York Region home, making it one of the largest municipalities in Canada. Our geography – which is comprised of about 1,800 square kilometres over nine different municipalities – is as beautiful, interesting and diverse as our people.

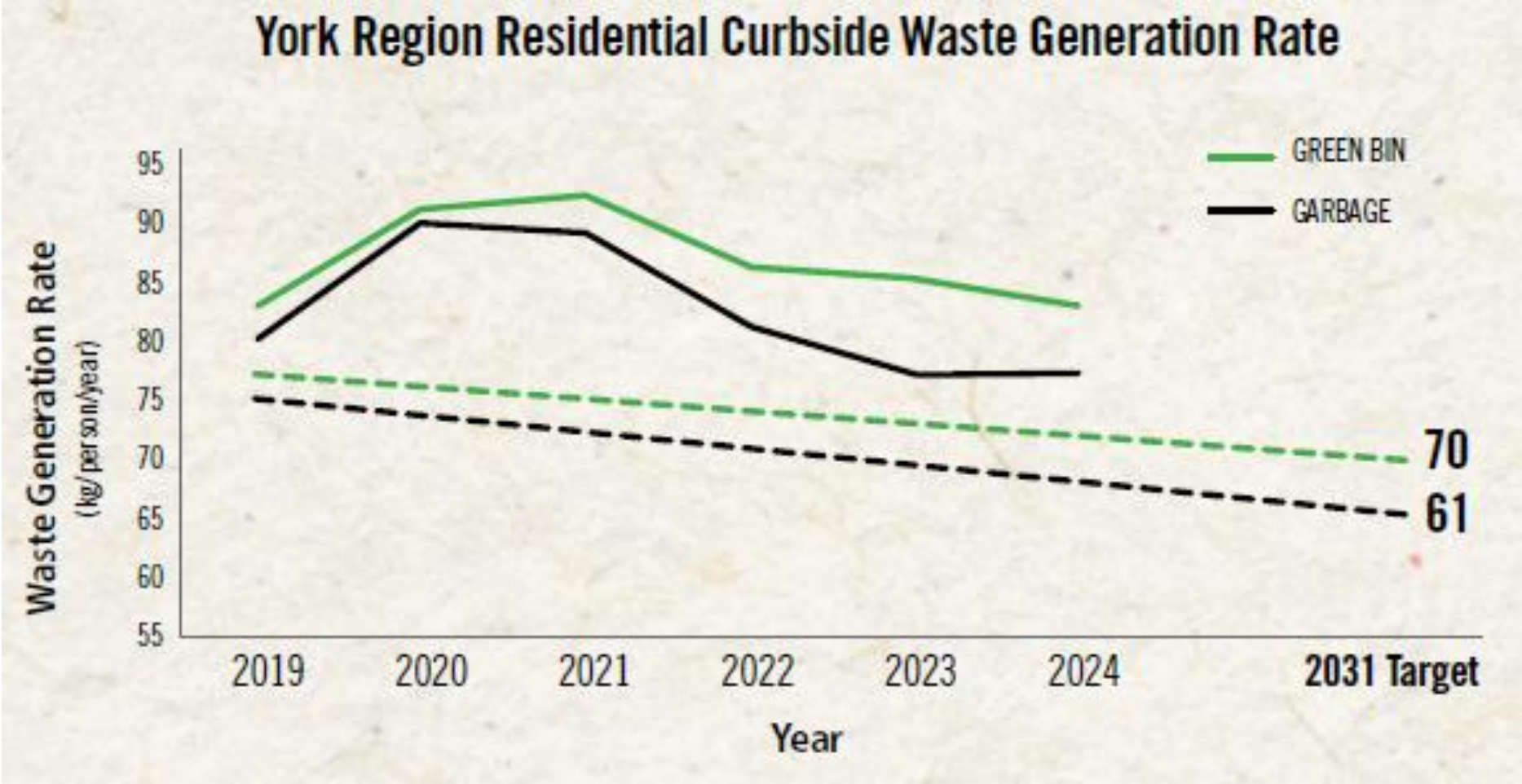


# YORK REGION'S INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



- Guided by the SM4RT Living Waste Management Master Plan and Circular Economy Roadmap
- Serves over 400,000 households
- Jointly operated by York Region and local municipalities
- Guided by the 4Rs waste hierarchy:
  - Reduce
  - Reuse
  - Recycle
  - Recover

# SM4RT LIVING VISION: “A WORLD IN WHICH NOTHING GOES TO WASTE”



# 2025 AT-A-GLANCE

In 2025, York Region managed over 360,000 tonnes of waste from local municipal curbside collection, including garbage, organics, recycling, yard waste and public depot diversion programs.



**117,920**  
tonnes  
**RESIDUAL WASTE**  
Sent to energy-from  
waste facilities



**106,252**  
tonnes  
**GREEN BIN  
ORGANICS**  
Processed



**50,500**  
tonnes  
**BLUE BOX  
RECYCLING**  
Marketed



**43,481**  
tonnes  
**LEAF AND YARD  
WASTE**  
Composted



**1,687**  
tonnes  
**DEPOT  
DIVERSION**  
Recycled



**1,265**  
tonnes  
**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
Properly disposed



**770**  
tonnes  
**ELECTRONIC  
WASTE**  
Recycled



**1,478**  
tonnes  
**TEXTILES/  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
Reused or repaired

**90%**  
**DIVERSION FROM  
LANDFILL**

# WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMMING – 2025 METRICS



- 9 events
- 423 participants
- 58% repair success rate



- 4 Lenderies
- 842 items
- 6,988 circulations & renewals



## Recycle to Ride

- 1,030 bikes rescued
- 656 bikes refurbished and redistributed to the community



- 5 Good Food Challenge weeks hosted with local libraries
- 3,109 residents engaged in activities

**ADVANCING CE — LEARNINGS FROM  
LEVERAGING COMMUNITY APPROACHES**

# INVESTMENTS IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS MULTIPLY EFFORTS

Leverage the resources, infrastructure and expertise of others to achieve your goals.

## Case study: The Lendery

- First partnership with Markham Public Library; grand opening in 2019
- Additional partnerships with three more library systems up to 2024
- Outcome: the concept spread, with the remaining five libraries opening their own



	2024	2025
# of items	474	842
# of circulations/ renewals	3,919	6,988

# OTHERS ARE WILLING TO DO THE WORK - THEY JUST NEED HELP

Provide capacity through resources, tools, supports and/or funding to help others implement initiatives.

Case study: The Circular Economy Initiatives Fund

- Non-profits complete community-driven, innovative projects reducing residential waste and advancing local CE
- Outcomes: over 20 projects funded and \$360,000 awarded since 2021



*Results of some projects that took place in 2025*

# PARTNERS USUALLY WANT TO HELP SCALE UP INITIATIVES

Don't be afraid to ask for support; they might be willing to contribute funds.

## Case study: Cost-sharing Repair Cafe

- Typical scope is 9-12 Repair Cafes a year
- Local municipal partners offered to cost-share and increase the number of events in 2026
- Outcome: Added up to an additional 10 events, funded by municipal partners



# EMPLOYEES ARE PEOPLE TOO

Some CE initiatives are really simple to start in the workplace.

Some examples at York Region:

- Swap and Share table
- Leadership book library
- Dish library
- Clothing swap
- Battery collection
- Educational resources



**SWAP & SHARE**  
SHARE YOUR ITEMS HERE

1. Make sure your item is in good reusable condition
2. Do not leave behind any broken items
3. Feel free to take any other items on the table for your own use
4. Claim all items by Friday at 3 p.m., remaining items will be donated

York Region

**THANK YOU**

