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Service Area Expansion Approved by MOE

A recent approval by the Ministry of Environment will allow the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) to provide processing services to additional communities throughout Ontario. The Centre recently received written approval from the MOE allowing us to accept organic and recyclable material from all of Ontario. The Centre's Certificate of Approval previously only allowed material from within Renfrew County.

Since opening in 2002, the OVWRC has frequently received requests or inquiries from Municipalities outside Renfrew County to accept recyclable material. Recognizing the need for processing capacity throughout Ontario, the Centre made application to the MOE to expand our service area.

The Centre's [Material Recycling Facility](#) is currently operating below capacity, which means there is available space for other communities to send us their recyclables. If Municipalities can deliver their material to us we will process it. The Centre would like to expand to a two shift operation over the next year or so. We currently, process just over 6,000 tonnes per year and could easily manage double that tonnage. There is an opportunity to process more material and maximize the capital investment made by our Partner Municipalities. The OVWRC is aware that many communities are faced with limited landfill space and the Centre is willing to assist Municipalities to increase diversion from their own landfills. Currently, there is no charge to drop recyclable material at the Centre and Municipalities can contact the Centre for details on acceptable material and the sorting requirements.

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it Recyclable? Can it be Composted? Or is it Garbage?

Peat Pots

These pots are made from recycled paper and can be planted along with your plant as they are biodegradable, but if you choose not to do that, you can dispose of them in your Green Cart.

Soil & Fertilizer Bags

Empty plastic bags that hold soil, fertilizer, compost, peat moss, manure and other garden/lawn products are not recyclable and belong in the regular garbage.

Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22nd and is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth's environment. More than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity. Earth day has grown so much that celebrations take place throughout the whole month of April, also known as Earth Month.

How are you celebrating Earth Day? Here is [Earth Day Canada's Top 10 Actions to Help the Environment](#):

1. **Park it** - Leave your car at home for a day (or a week or a month) and try walking, or biking. If work is too far away to walk, take public transit or carpool. *One city bus eliminates the emissions of 40 cars.*
2. **Shut Down** - Turn off the lights, the computer and the TV when they are not in use. *Using only highly efficient and money saving appliances can reduce the electricity consumption of an average household to one tenth of the US average.*
3. **Where's the Beef?** - Try eating meat-free at least one day a week. *A meat-based diet requires seven times more land than a plant based diet. Livestock production is responsible for more climate changes gases than all the motor vehicles in the world.*
4. **Eat it** - Choose foods produced organically, locally and in season. *Support your regional farmers & farming industry: buying locally and in season is better for the environment than buying foods that have been shipped hundreds of kilometers to your local markets.*
5. **Let it Rot** - Put a composter in your backyard or use your green bin to reduce household waste. *Composting organics has two key benefits: it reduces the amount of waste going to landfills and when added to your garden, helps nourish soil and plants.*
6. **Don't be Idle** - Turn off your car's engine if stopped for more than 10 seconds. *If every driver of a light duty vehicle avoided idling by five minutes a day, collectively, we would save 1.8 million litres of fuel per day, almost 4500 tonnes of GHG emissions and \$1.7 million in fuel costs each day (assuming fuel cost are 95/L).*

7. **Keep your Eye on the Temp** - Set your thermostat above room temperature in the summer and below room temperature in the winter. – *For each degree you adjust, you can save five percent on your utility bill and one per cent on energy use.*
8. **Bright ideas** - Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). *A CFL uses only 25 per cent as much energy as an incandescent bulb and last 10 times longer.*
9. **Don't Dump It – Blue Box It!** - The simple act of recycling has more impact on the environment than the average Canadian thinks. *The amount of wood and paper North Americans throw away each year is enough to heat five million homes for 200 years.*
10. **Tell Someone** - *Tell someone what you're doing to make the world a better place. Support the cause. Encourage them to get involved too!*

Celebrate Earth Day every day, not just April 22nd.

The OVWRC E-Newsletter is published by the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.

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