



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Durham Region expands Blue Box program; more plastics accepted**

**WHITBY, ON** – Beginning April 8, The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department’s Blue Box collection program will accept clear plastic, including take-out food and drink containers, egg cartons and berry and bakery trays for recycling.

“Thanks to recent market developments and advancements in recycling and sorting technology, Durham Region is excited to add clear plastic food container recycling to our Blue Box program,” says Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director of Waste Management. “This program will help divert plenty of trash from landfill every year, bringing us closer to our goal of 70 per cent diversion.”

Known as “rigid clear plastics” or “PET clamshell containers,” newly accepted items include:

- Molded plastic bakery trays and cake domes (including the black base).
- Clear plastic fruit and vegetable containers and baskets, such as berry trays.
- Clear plastic egg cartons.
- Single-serve yogurt, fruit and pudding cups.
- Clear cold drink cups and lids, such as iced coffee and smoothie containers.
- Plastic take-out food containers, such as roasted chicken containers (including the black base).

“Many food items we consume every day are packaged in this plastic,” says Craig Bartlett, Manager of Waste Operations. “After they are recycled, the materials are used to produce a variety of new products, such as lumber for outdoor decking, carpeting, fleece jackets and T-shirts. Durham residents should feel proud for helping protect the environment by recycling.”

Durham residents can use the “Know Before You Throw” tool at [www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca) to easily search items if they are unsure whether or not they are accepted in the Blue Box. Currently, 94 per cent of Durham Region residents participate in the Blue Box program. For more information about Durham Region’s Blue Box program, visit [www.durham.ca/bluebox](http://www.durham.ca/bluebox).

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