

**Biodegradable:** Material that will decompose or breakdown by a natural process.

**Charity:** The act of giving to those in need or to an organization that assists those in need.

**Cholera:** An infectious disease transmitted by contaminated water. It involves severe vomiting, diarrhea, collapse and is often fatal.

**Clay:** A reddish brown material found in the ground. When hardened it becomes firm and is used for construction products, such as bricks, wall and floor tiles, and landfill bases.

**Community Environmental Day:** A designated day for residents to deliver unwanted and hazardous items to a drop-off depot or a local park.

**Compost:** Decayed organic material used to improve soil conditions in gardens.

**Conservation:** The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife.

**Curbside:** The side of a road that is nearer to the curb where residents can leave their garbage, recycling and green bins for collection.

**Contamination:** The act of making something harmful or toxic.

**Decompose:** To cause something to be slowly destroyed and broken down by a natural process.

**Decomposition:** The act of decomposing.

**Disposal:** The act of getting rid of something.

**Donation Box / Drop Box:** A box in the community set-up by an organization to collect donated clothes and other household goods.

**Donation:** The act of giving something away without any expectations of money.

**Drop-off Depot / Community Recycling Centre:** A centre for the safe disposal of electronic, household hazardous, yard and renovation waste.

**Electronic Waste:** Unwanted electronic devices like televisions and computers; also called E-waste.

**Garbage / Waste / Trash / Rubbish / Litter:** Something that has no need, no use or no value.

**Garbage Collector:** A person hired to collect garbage.

**Household Hazardous Waste:** Items in the house that are hazardous to people, wildlife and the environment; includes household items that are corrosive, flammable, explosive and poisonous.

**Incineration:** A waste treatment process that involves the burning of organic substances contained in waste materials.

**Inorganic Waste:** Waste that cannot easily breakdown by a natural process.

**Landfill Site:** A site for the disposal of waste materials by burial; it is the oldest form of waste treatment; also known as a dump.

**Leachate:** Liquid that forms in a landfill site. If not collected, the liquid will contaminate the natural water sources in the area.

**Litter:** Things that have been thrown away and are lying on the ground in a public place.

**Metal Items:** Metal items that are too large and heavy for the garbage bin: includes appliances, barbecues (no propane tanks), bed frames, bicycles, furnaces, hot water heaters, metal bath tubs, storage sheds, etc.

**Methane Gas:** A greenhouse gas produced in a landfill site during the decomposition of the garbage.

**Midden:** A garbage mound consisting of organic waste, like ashes, bones, shells....

**Natural Resources:** The natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, water, forests, etc.

**Non-biodegradable:** Material that will not decompose by a natural process.

**Organic Waste:** Waste that can easily breakdown by a natural process.

**Oversize Items:** Things that would never fit in the garbage bin; includes box springs, car seats, furniture, lamps, luggage, mattresses, patio furniture, skis, toilets, etc.

**Plastic:** The first commercial plastic was invented by a Belgian-born chemist Leo Baekeland in 1909. Polymers made from a mixture of phenol and formaldehyde can be moulded into hard shapes when hot.

**Recycle:** To make something new from something that has been used before.

**Reduce:** To make less or become smaller.

**Repair:** The act of restoring or fixing something so it can be still used.

**Re-use:** The act of using something again.

**Soiled:** To make unclean. A paper plate with leftover food is soiled.

**Styrofoam:** A brand of plastic made from foam polystyrene.

**Thrift Store:** A store selling donated clothes and other household goods to raise funds to assist the community; includes Value Village and Salvation Army Thrift Store.