

TORONTO TAKES THREE STREAMS TO DIFFERENT LEVELS

Roulston, Lorraine

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To service multifamily units as well as institutions, the Greater Toronto Area tests organics collection containers installed two-thirds in the ground.

IN AN initiative to boost participation rates - and to expand three-stream collection service beyond single family households - metropolitan Toronto is rolling out a program to install deep collection units at small to medium sized apartment buildings, retirement centers, nursing homes, schools and neighborhood parks.

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) includes the city of Toronto and surrounding municipalities such as Peel, Markham, Durham, Halton, and others that have their own waste management programs.

Starting with a pilot in 2002 (see "Multifamily Organics Separation Pilots in Toronto," November 2002), the City of Toronto has been testing a deep collection container system - known as the **Molok** Deep Collection Containers - with separate units for organics, recyclables and trash. The tests are being conducted at a multifamily housing unit and another building. For the past 10 years, this in-ground collection approach is reported to be working successfully in Europe.

CONDUCTING PILOT TESTS

The Village of Winston Park in Kitchener, Ontario is a retirement complex northwest of Toronto, where the **Molok** containers are being used. In nearby Georgetown, a nursing and retirement complex of 70 one-bedroom units, has three **Molok** containers to separate mixed waste, cardboard, and household paper (presently used by staff only). Hopefully, areas that include retirement units as well as townhouses for seniors could be utilized by all able residents.

Beginning the pilot tests in 2001, an older four-story condominium building in Toronto's east end had three **Molok** containers installed by the city. They are situated in a corner of the parking area. Residents, who formerly placed garbage at their back doors for pick-up, now drop all types of food residuals (including meat and fats), wilted flowers and tissues in the bin for organics. All paper, bottles etc. go in the bin listing accepted recyclables, and any items deemed as garbage are put into the third bin. As these residents cannot compost in their own yards, or are included in Toronto's Green Bin organics collection program, they embrace the idea knowing that their unwanted food scraps will be made into compost. The **Molok**'s use at the condominium has also increased its recycling rate - reaching a 60 percent overall diversion rate with recycling and organics combined.

Each round container with its attractive wood siding and sealed lid sits 40 percent above and 60 percent below ground level where the cooler temperature effectively controls any odors. Lids self close by gravity leaving no room for urban wildlife. When the levels of the bins approach their capacity, they are emptied. Deep Clean Waste Services, a collection company started by Mark Hills of **Molok**'s North American division, to service these units in the GTA, uses a collection truck equipped with a custom-built 30 cubic yard dump box on a chassis that was stretched to accommodate the box and the Fassi crane. The crane lifts the reusable bags; the bottom of each bag is opened onto the truck bed, dropping a large disposable inner plastic bag into the box. The floor of the box is slightly raised toward the end and sealed with a rubber gasket to prohibit leakage. The truck is also equipped with a vacuum system that is used to remove residual liquid from the bottom of the **Molok** well as required.

The filled bags are taken to their separate destinations. Organics are delivered to the Dufferin Organics Processing Facility in Toronto, a centralized composting facility; recyclables end up at Toronto's Commissioner Street recycling depot where they are sorted and processed; garbage is hauled to a Michigan landfill site.

Deep collection systems also have potential at neighborhood parks and sites that host events such as fun

runs and concerts. Creative thinking within a community could even partner two or more groups, such as a school adjacent to an arena or strip mall.

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