

Cambridge Recycling Facility



Site Overview

The WM Cambridge Recycling Facility is a state-of-the-art recycling facility supporting Ontario's transition to a standardized Blue Box recycling system.

Developed in partnership with Circular Materials, the facility helps process residential recyclables collected from communities across Ontario and supports the province's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

Together with WM's Greater Napanee Recycling Facility, the Cambridge site is part of nearly \$300 million invested to help strengthen Ontario's recycling infrastructure.

The facility officially opened in 2025 and has the capacity to process up to 160,000 metric tonnes of recyclable material annually.

What Happens Here

Residential recyclables collected from Ontario households arrive at the facility mixed together and are sorted into individual material streams that can be marketed and used in the manufacture of new products.

Built to support Ontario's evolving Blue Box recycling system, the facility uses a combination of skilled employees, advanced equipment, automation, optical sorters, artificial intelligence systems and quality control processes to recover valuable recyclable materials efficiently and accurately.

From arrival through sorting and baling, materials typically move through the facility in approximately 10 minutes before being prepared for shipment to recyclers and manufacturers across North America.

Supporting Ontario's Recycling System

The Cambridge Recycling Facility helps support Ontario's transition to a standardized Blue Box system under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). By increasing processing capacity and using advanced sorting technologies, the facility helps recover recyclable materials, reduce contamination, and return valuable resources to the circular economy.



Cambridge Recycling Facility



Recycling by the Numbers



Materials can move through the recycling process in approximately 10 minutes.



The facility uses approximately 19 optical sorting units, including AI-assisted technology.



Recyclables are sorted into 17 commodity streams for recycling and manufacturing markets.



Materials move through multiple mechanical and optical sorting stages before being baled for shipment.

Education & Community Engagement

The facility supports public education and community awareness by helping residents better understand what happens after recyclables leave the curb.

In addition to processing recyclables, the facility features a dedicated Education Centre designed to make recycling more transparent and accessible. Through interactive exhibits, virtual facility tours, AI-powered learning tools and hands-on activities, students, community groups and visitors can explore how recycling works, why contamination matters, and how everyday choices support resource recovery and the circular economy.

