

# Region offers tips for use of new GreenCarts

The Region is offering those living in the organics collection pilot project areas a few tips for using their new GreenCarts during the holiday season.

The one-year test run is happening throughout Halton and involves hundreds of Campbellville-area homes, which are having their food scraps picked up at the curb in a GreenCart — a container that's like a recycling box with a lid and handle for curbside collection.

A 'Kitchen Catcher', which is a small container to scrape kitchen scraps in to, has also been provided.

The Region suggests that residents:

- Add newspapers, flyers, tissues and soiled paper towels to the GreenCart to decrease the moisture in the cart, which will reduce the possibility of pests.

- Put meat and fish waste into a paper bag and freeze it until collection day to minimize odour, keep the container clean, reduce flies and keep pests away.

- Use paper bag liners that are designed for collection of household organics, which are available from local retailers. Call the Region or check out Halton's Web site at [www.region.halton.on.ca](http://www.region.halton.on.ca) for a complete listing of retailers.

- Wash the Kitchen Catcher, which is dishwasher safe, and rinse the GreenCart using a mild detergent or white vinegar/water solution to help minimize odour and keep the container clean.

- Sprinkle a small amount of powdered garden lime, baking soda or powdered laundry detergent (no bleach) in the GreenCart, which will also help to minimize odours.

By collecting organic material in

GreenCarts, residents are removing it from the garbage and sending it for composting, which will help to extend the lifespan of Halton's landfill.

It's expected additional houses will be

added to the GreenCart program each year, hopefully leading to a Halton-wide implementation by 2009-10.

While Halton currently has a landfill diversion rate of over 40 per cent, it's

anticipated the organics collection will help raise that number to 60 per cent — a number the Ministry of the Environment has proposed to reach province-wide by 2008.

**FROSTBITE**  
 Do You Know What To Do?  
 01 Cover the affected area.  
 02 Handle the area gently and never rub the skin as this may cause further damage.  
 03 Warm the area gently by immersing the affected part in water that is warm and comfortable to the touch. Continue to warm the part until it warms and feels fine.  
 04 Change the affected area with a dry sterile dressing.  
 05 Ensure that the affected part does not become frozen again.  
 06 Call the paramedic or doctor as soon as possible.  
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## On-line service matches carpoolers

Local residents searching for someone to carpool with can now cruise the Internet to find who they're looking for.

The Region has joined in on the Smart Commute initiative — an on-line ride matching service that connects Halton residents who want to carpool.

Smart Commute's Web site, [www.smartcommute.ca](http://www.smartcommute.ca), works like a searchable database of classified ads. Commuters create a login and fill out information about their commute, such as time, origin and destination.

Then, the system automatically searches the database to find the closest possible match. Commuters can also add various preferences to help them find a carpool that best matches his or her needs. Preferences could include whether they can drive or not, will or won't travel with smokers and if they would only like to ride with others of the same gender.

"Halton Region is responsible for 312 kilometres of Regional roads," said Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline.

"This new ride matching program is only one part of the Smart Commute initiative and has the potential to reduce single occupant vehicle trips within the GTA by up to 15 per cent."

The Smart Commute travel demand management initiative is a component of Halton Region's Transportation Master Plan that focuses on providing Halton residents with alternative choices to single occupancy automobile travel.