

# EnviroGuide

Your environment...

home

work

play

community



[guelph.ca/environment](http://guelph.ca/environment)



# From the Mayor

## **Welcome to the City of Guelph's *EnviroGuide!***

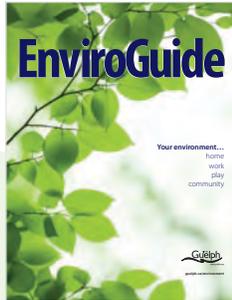
I am proud to be the mayor of a city that is known around the country for its environmental leadership, and I know many of you are proud of our reputation too.

Our city's slogan is "Making a difference." The environment is a key area where citizens can make a difference, by adopting sustainable practices and being conscientious stewards of the earth.

This guide provides a wealth of information and ideas to help you do just that. Home ownership presents a number of opportunities to boost sustainability – from the type of toilet you install, to the kind of garden you plant, and even to the way you wash your windows or vehicle. Many of these small changes can make a surprisingly big difference.

I hope you find this guide useful. I encourage you to keep it on file for reference, and share it with your friends and neighbours. Together, we can strengthen our community's environmental sustainability. It's one powerful way Guelph can make a difference, both at home and beyond our borders.

Karen Farbridge  
Mayor



# About the *EnviroGuide*

It has been said that we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

As a community, we share the responsibility of protecting and preserving our natural resources.

Guelph's *EnviroGuide* is full of information to help you and your family make environmentally friendly choices. It will introduce you to the many ways that you can understand, appreciate and enhance the ecology of your city and home.

**Here's what you'll learn about in Guelph's *EnviroGuide*:**

- protecting, preserving and enhancing Guelph's natural areas
- nature-related projects and activities that you, your family and friends can enjoy
- tips for using less water, fuel and energy
- City of Guelph programs and resources

Living in Guelph, you'll enjoy healthy green spaces, fresh air and clean water. Guelph's *EnviroGuide* can help you learn ways to protect these valuable natural resources.



# Contents

Environmental stewardship	4
Trees	6
Landscape	8
Water	12
Conservation	14
Transportation	16
Air	18
Waste	20
Rebates and Resources	22
Contacts	23

# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Guelph is proud of its long and distinguished history of environmental stewardship. Guelph continues to look for innovative solutions to protect our natural resources, prevent climate change and reduce pollution.

Guelph continues to be involved with developing, implementing and overseeing a number of ground-breaking environmental initiatives to ensure that current and future generations enjoy the same quality of life.

### Protecting Natural Features

Guelph's diverse and interconnected ecological systems work together to protect water sources, provide habitat for wildlife and support human health and recreation. For example, natural areas cleanse water before it enters our rivers and streams, reduce air pollution, help control soil erosion and flooding, and provide food and shelter for countless species of birds, mammals, insects and amphibians.

### Natural Heritage System

Guelph's natural heritage resources (rivers, forests, wetlands and wildlife habitat) must be protected much like we preserve the city's cultural heritage resources (historical buildings, people or events).

Preserving Guelph's Natural Heritage System is a fundamental principle of the City's Official Plan-Envision Guelph. The City recognizes that our quality of life is enhanced by the natural systems in our community.

Responsible management of our Natural Heritage System involves caring for our woodlots, streams, wetlands and rivers, and carefully managing adjacent lands..



### more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Planning & Building,  
Engineering and Environment**

T 519-822-1260 x 5616

E [planning@guelph.ca](mailto:planning@guelph.ca)

[guelph.ca/envisionguelph](http://guelph.ca/envisionguelph)

## Growing healthy trees

Trees are a beautiful and important part of a healthy community. Among other things, Guelph's trees help clean the air, offer shade, increase groundwater recharge and provide habitat for local wildlife. Guelph is committed to managing and maintaining a healthy mix of trees and shrubs throughout the city to create a sustainable urban forest.



### Planting and pruning

Guelph's Healthy Landscapes program can help you choose the right tree for the right spot in your landscape. As a rule, trees should be planted at least 3.4 metres (11 feet) away from your home to prevent roots from interfering with the building's foundation. Deciduous trees are best for the west and south sides of your home to provide shade from the sun, and evergreens are great for blocking the wind on the north and west sides.

Proper pruning is important for newly planted trees and can help keep a tree stay healthy as it grows. Improper pruning can damage and even shorten the life of a tree. Consult a certified arborist or, before you start to snip, take a course to learn how to do it yourself. Please do not prune trees in parks or public spaces.

### Share a drink with the trees

Newly planted trees (less than three years old) can become stressed in warm, dry weather. Guelph urges you to water any newly planted tree that is close to your home or place of business. A simple way to water trees is with two 20-litre (five-gallon) buckets of water once a week. Drill small holes in the bottom of each bucket, set them next to the tree and fill them with water. Water will slowly seep through the holes to the tree's roots.

### Mulching and moisture

Placing mulch around your trees can also help water get down to its roots. Place five to seven centimetres (two to three inches) of mulch on top of your soil and around your trees. Top it up each year, but be careful not to over-apply, as this creates a thick layer that water and air cannot penetrate.

Keeping young trees hydrated is important to their survival, but soaking the ground around their root system can be more damaging than beneficial. Over-watering causes leaves to yellow or drop.

## CHANGE at home

Before you plant a tree, get great advice from Guelph's Healthy Landscapes Program. Be sure to register your tree as part of the City's urban forest at [guelph.ca/trees](http://guelph.ca/trees).



## Guelph's Tree By-law

Damaging or destroying any tree measuring at least 10 centimetres in diameter at 1.4 metres above the ground on private properties 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) or larger is regulated under Guelph's Tree By-Law. Trees on lots smaller than 0.2 hectares are to be cared for by residents and property owners.

If you plan to remove a tree that is regulated by the by-law, you will require either a certificate of exemption or a permit. You will be asked to provide information regarding the tree proposed to be removed including things such as, but not limited to, the reason for removing the tree and a plan showing the tree's location.

### more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Healthy Landscapes**  
T 519-822-1260 x 2107  
E [healthylandscapes@guelph.ca](mailto:healthylandscapes@guelph.ca)  
[guelph.ca/trees](http://guelph.ca/trees)

**Tree permits**  
T 519-822-1260 x 5616  
E [planning@guelph.ca](mailto:planning@guelph.ca)



## Healthy landscapes, healthy communities



### did you KNOW

Get great advice for your lawn and garden with Guelph's Healthy Landscapes program. Your free visit from a landscape advisor can help you choose trees, shrubs and plants that will thrive in your yard, minimize water use and control weeds and pests, naturally.

### Native landscaping

Native plants are hardy and require less maintenance and water to keep them looking their best. These trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses are very attractive to wildlife, and they have had thousands of years to adapt to our climate and to the pests/predators that feed on them.

Many nurseries offer native plants and can help you select species that are likely to thrive in your garden or landscape. Never take a native plant from its natural area.

Certain ornamental plants, while attractive, can be difficult to contain in your landscape. They can spread to nearby natural areas and threaten native plants. If you live near or next to a natural area, please take extra care and avoid introducing invasive or alien plants.

### Some species to avoid include:

- Norway maple and all its varieties
- Scot's pine or scotch pine
- Tartarian honeysuckle
- Black locust
- Japanese knotweed
- Chinese or Siberian elm
- European white birch
- Barberry
- Buckthorn
- Purple loosestrife
- Periwinkle
- Goutweed
- Reed canary grass



## Natural pest control

The use and sale of non-essential and cosmetic pesticides for outside use is prohibited in the province of Ontario. To manage insects, diseases or weeds in your garden, design your yard to discourage them naturally by:

- selecting plants well-suited for your climate zone, soil type and sun conditions as less stress to the plants creates fewer problems
- providing an appropriate food source, water and shelter to encourage beneficial insects to your yard
- digging out weeds and their roots by hand and pouring boiling water on weeds that are growing between patio stones, etc.

## Maintaining a healthy lawn

### Mowing tips:

- set the mower blades between 5 to 7.5 centimetres (2 to 3 inches) high to promote deeper roots, minimize moisture loss and crowd out weeds
- remove only one-third of the grass blade when you mow to ensure that the lawn can continue to efficiently feed itself
- leave the cuttings and they'll release nutrients back into your lawn
- mow over leaves and leave them on the lawn in the spring and fall in order to provide nutrients to the soil and help cover bare spots to prevent weeds
- over-seed in the spring and fall with the correct seed mixture to keep your lawn lush and healthy

### Water wisely

When it comes to watering your lawn, decide at the beginning of the season to either water consistently throughout the season, or let your lawn go dormant as conditions turn hot and dry.

A light sprinkling can often do more harm than no water at all. Water slowly, deeply and less often in order to encourage deeper, more vigorous root growth. This may not keep the lawn from going dormant, but it will ensure that it survives the dry periods.

Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater for use on your lawn and gardens. Make sure the rain barrel has a screened lid to keep out leaves, debris and mosquitoes.

Excess thatch can cause water to simply run off your lawn. Dethatch if thatch is more than 1.2 centimetres (0.5 inches) thick.



## CHANGE at home

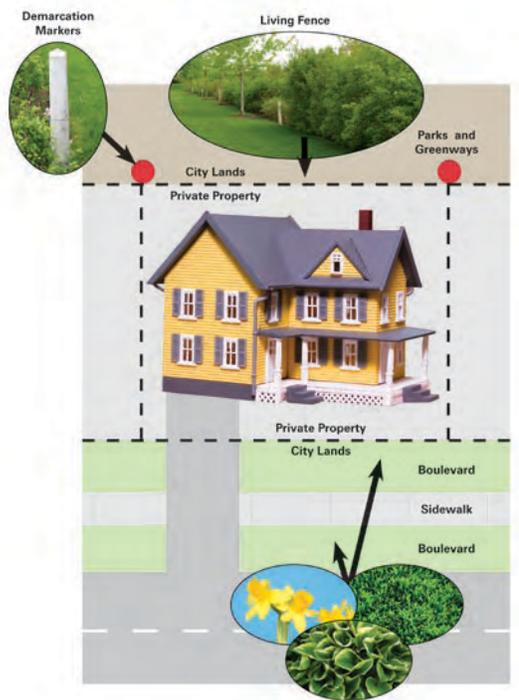
- consider replacing annual plants with hardy plants and shrubs that require less water
- consider planting drought-resistant and drought-tolerant plants that will need water to establish themselves in the first year and in extended periods of drought
- use a rain gauge in your lawn and garden to tell you how much rain has fallen and when you need to water
- use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems and direct water to the roots slowly so the soil can absorb it

### more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Healthy Landscapes**  
T 519-822-1260 x 2107  
E [healthylandscapes@guelph.ca](mailto:healthylandscapes@guelph.ca)  
[guelph.ca/healthylandscapes](http://guelph.ca/healthylandscapes)

# LANDSCAPE



## Buffers and boundaries

Guelph neighbourhoods are conceived and designed with a tremendous amount of thought and planning. In many cases, they include naturalized zones or landscape buffers between residential lots and city parks, stormwater ponds, wetlands and other sensitive areas.

The City of Guelph owns these public spaces and works to ensure all city lands are used for their intended purposes. Doing so has a great number of health and environmental benefits for the entire community.

## Living fences

Property boundaries between parks, green spaces or natural areas and private residences may be defined with living fences rather than chain-link or wood fences. A living fence is a plant border composed of native tree and shrub species arranged in groupings on City property next to the property lines. In addition to plantings, an attractive recycled plastic composite bollard (post) is installed on City land, just next to the property line, at intervals of 30 metres or three lots, whichever is less or at a change in direction of the property line.

As living fences naturalize and mature they create a hedgerow that defines property limits, provides privacy screening for residents, creates some habitat for wildlife and adds visual interest to the surroundings.

Please do not add or remove plants from the living fence.

## Encroachment

When someone interferes with public spaces it is considered an encroachment and it is prohibited under the City's by-laws. It may seem harmless, but encroachments can impact both natural and man-made systems and cause significant problems.

To ensure the health of Guelph's shared public spaces, please report any of the following encroachment activities:

- grass cutting on City land, whether maintained or naturalized
- dumping on City land (grass clippings, garden debris, or other refuse)
- removal of or additions to living fences
- planting, pruning, cutting and/or removing of plants on City land
- expansion of yard areas including gardens, decks, sheds, retaining walls and fences

### more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Legal Services**  
T 519-822-1260 x 2279  
E [realty@guelph.ca](mailto:realty@guelph.ca)



## Landscaping for wildlife

Regardless of where you live, you can turn even the smallest yard into a wildlife haven with a little time and careful planning. Any wildlife you wish to attract will require four basic elements: food, water, shelter, and space. They usually look for shelter during the birthing season; pregnant females need to find a safe place to have their young. During the fall, animals seek a safe place to hunker down for the winter. You can bring wildlife to your doorstep by providing these necessities right in your own backyard.

### A few things you might consider include:

Plant native shrubs that produce seeds or berries such as Serviceberry, Grey Dogwood, Red-Osier Dogwood, Alternate Leaved Dogwood, Staghorn Sumac, Elderberry, High Bush Cranberry, Nannyberry and Chokecherry.

Provide shelter by planting native trees such as Red Maple, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Bur Oak, White Oak, White Spruce, Eastern White Cedar and Eastern Hemlock.

Combine trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants to increase the diversity of wildlife that will be attracted to your yard.

Backyard wildlife can benefit from material you may consider waste – often the smallest yard can make room for a brush or stone pile, an old log, tree stump or birdhouse, to make your yard more attractive to a number of birds, small mammals, toads and salamanders.

Remember to regularly clean and maintain your bird feeders, bird baths and habitat boxes.

Sometimes sharing our environment with wildlife is a challenge, particularly when a newly planted flower bed is eaten by a late-night visitor or a family of small animals moves into the attic. By using simple and humane solutions we can co-exist in peace with these amazing survivors who deserve our compassion and respect.



## Guelph water: ours to conserve, ours to protect, ours to enjoy.



### CHANGE at home

#### Greenways

To help Guelph's stormwater management systems work correctly, avoid obstructing water flow through greenways.

#### Groundwater protection

Take measures to prevent spills. Just one litre of motor oil can contaminate up to two million litres of our groundwater supply.

Dispose of hazardous materials at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot.

#### Follow the yellow fish road

Through the Yellow Fish Road™ program, community volunteers paint yellow fish symbols near storm drains. Storm sewers lead to rivers, lakes and streams, and the yellow fish is designed to remind people to dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly—not down the drain.

#### Guelph water on tap

Use a refillable container for drinks on the go. Look for the Blue W symbol in local shops and City facilities where you can refill your water bottle.

### Groundwater

Guelph is one of the largest cities in Canada to rely solely on groundwater. Guelph's drinking water is safe and exceeds all provincial and federal drinking-water-quality guidelines. The community shares the responsibility of protecting and conserving Guelph's groundwater resources.

### Drinking water source protection

Activities on land can affect the quality and quantity of Guelph's drinking water sources. If contaminants like gasoline, antifreeze, motor oils, paints, solvents or household cleaners spill on the ground, they could potentially pollute Guelph's drinking water, creeks and wetlands. The cleanup can be extremely difficult and costly.

Studies have identified areas where Guelph's water sources are most vulnerable to contamination and the activities that could impact Guelph's drinking water. These activities include:

- storing sewage in a septic system
- handling, storing and applying non-agricultural source material (biosolids), pesticide, commercial fertilizer, road salt
- handling and storing fuel, organic solvents, dense, non-aqueous phase liquid
- establishing, operating or maintaining a waste disposal site
- storing snow

The City of Guelph is taking inventory of properties where these activities are taking place as part of its proactive plan to protect drinking water sources. If these activities occur on your property, please contact the City of Guelph.

### in an EMERGENCY



If a spill occurs on the ground or in a creek

Province of Ontario

**Ministry of Environment, Spills Action Centre**

**T 1-800-268-6060**



## Stormwater management

In a natural landscape, stormwater from rain or melted snow soaks into the land, is absorbed by trees and plants or evaporates into the air. In an urban setting, most stormwater travels over roads and driveways into our rivers and waterways. Unfortunately, while this water travels it may pick up pollutants such as dirt, oil, fertilizers, grass-clippings, pet waste, litter and sediment. These pollutants can accumulate in our waterways very quickly, wreaking havoc on our natural environment.

Heavy rainfalls and large snow melts can increase the amount of pollutants in the waterways and cause flooding and property damage.

## Guelph manages stormwater to control flooding and reduce pollution in rivers and waterways.

Stormwater is collected within the City's storm pipe system and carried to various stormwater management ponds or infiltration systems. The ponds treat the stormwater and release it slowly into our waterways in an effort to mimic natural conditions.

## Maintaining ponds in your neighbourhood.

The City of Guelph inspects the stormwater ponds annually and performs repairs when necessary. Regular maintenance on the ponds includes removing grass, debris, invasive plants and vegetation without the use of pesticides. Grass-cutting is kept to a minimum near ponds to maintain a natural environment.

In addition to the regular annual maintenance, every 10-15 years the City must remove accumulated sediment from the ponds. This removal is invasive but necessary to allow the pond to function as designed.

## CHANGE at home

### Outside water use program

Guelph has three levels of outside water use that affect residential properties:

**Level 0 blue** – careful use

**Level 1 yellow** – reduce outside use

**Level 2 red** – reduce and stop non-essential use

Program levels are triggered by dry weather and diminished water storage and supply, and are enforced by the City of Guelph.

### Be waterwise at home

Use a commercial car wash that has proper drains and filters and can use less water than your hose or a bucket.

Put a shut-off nozzle on your hose and fix any leaks in fittings.

Sweep driveways and walkways rather than using a hose.

Use a solar blanket to cover swimming pools when not in use.

Use a bucket and squeegee to wash windows rather than using a hose.

Position your sprinkler to avoid patios, driveways and walkways and avoid over-watering.

Direct downspouts toward the roots of shrubs or trees.

Use a rain barrel to collect roof runoff and reuse rainwater in your garden.

### Be water wise near stormwater ponds

Obey all posted signs, stay on trails and keep pets out of the area; no swimming, skating or fishing is permitted.

Dispose of trash, yard waste and pet waste properly.

Avoid disturbing the areas surrounding the stormwater pond.

Avoid sending swimming pool discharge or toxic substances into the pond or storm sewers.

Report beaver or other animal activity.

Do not plant trees in the area without City approval.

Avoid using synthetic fertilizer or pesticides.

## more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Engineering Services**

T 519-822-1260 x 5604

E [engineering@guelph.ca](mailto:engineering@guelph.ca)

[guelph.ca/stormwater](http://guelph.ca/stormwater)

# CONSERVATION

## Be water wise...

On average, people living in Guelph use less water per person per day than people living in other places in Ontario and the rest of Canada.\* In fact, Guelph's population has increased by 19 per cent since 1999, but the city's water consumption actually decreased by 20 per cent over the same period.



This city is serious about saving water. By the year 2025, Guelph's goal is to use 20 per cent less water—10,600,000 litres—per day than we used in 2006. You and your family can help Guelph reach its water conservation goals by following the 3 R's of water conservation:



### 1 Reduce everyday water use

- turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth
- cut your shower time from 10 minutes to five minutes to save 45 litres of water per day
- match the water level on your washing machine to the size of the load and only wash full loads of laundry

### 2 Retrofit your old water-guzzling appliances and fixtures with new water-efficient ones

- an average family of three can save more than 50,000 litres of water per year by switching to a high-efficiency toilet\*
- install a low-flow shower head
- install a high-efficiency Energy STAR®-rated washing machine that uses 40 per cent less water and 50 per cent less energy than traditional top-loading machines
- check for water and energy conservation rebates at [guelph.ca/rebates](http://guelph.ca/rebates)

### 3 Repair leaks

- check your faucets, toilets and any other fixtures regularly (a tap that drips every second will fill a bathtub 16 times in just one month) and learn how to detect a leak using your water meter at [guelph.ca/water](http://guelph.ca/water)

\*City of Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy Update (2009)

### did you KNOW ?

Guelph residents used an average of 210 litres of water per person per day in 2009. Are you a water-saver or a greedy guzzler? Visit [guelph.ca/waterconservation](http://guelph.ca/waterconservation) to see how your water footprint measures up.

# and energy smart



Save money, reduce air pollution and lower your greenhouse gas emissions by using less electricity, natural gas and fuel. Here are a few ways you can save energy in your home:

- proper insulation and air-sealing can reduce heating and air conditioning costs by up to 15 per cent (these are the biggest energy expenses in most homes)
- install a programmable thermostat and use it to lower the heat by a few degrees at night and when you're away or turn off the air conditioner when you leave for the day
- set your water heater to 55°C (130°F) (water heating is the second highest energy expense for most homes)
- wash laundry in cold water and hang it to dry
- look for the Energy STAR® symbol when shopping for new appliances to find more energy-efficient products
- replace your old refrigerator (a 15-year old refrigerator uses twice as much power as a new Energy STAR®-rated model)
- switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs that use up to 75 per cent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs

Source: Natural Resources Canada, Ontario Ministry of Environment

## Generating energy at home

If you've already insulated, upgraded your furnace, changed your thermostat and switched your light bulbs, consider generating your own energy to offset a portion of your energy bills or generate income:

- install a solar heating system for your pool or domestic hot water
- install solar photovoltaic panels or install a small wind generator in order to participate in Ontario's feed-in tariff (MicroFIT) program and sell the power you generate

## CHANGE at home

Get more information about water and energy conservation rebates at [guelph.ca/rebates](http://guelph.ca/rebates) or see the references and resources section in the back of this *EnviroGuide*.

## did you KNOW ?

### Guelph's Community Energy Initiative

Guelph is committed to using and managing energy better than we have in the past. You can help meet the goals of the Community Energy Initiative by making better energy choices in your home and your mode of transportation. Over the next 20 years, Guelph's goals are to:

- use less energy in 25 years than we do today
- consume less energy per capita than comparable Canadian cities
- produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions per capita than the current global average

## more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Community Energy**  
[guelph.ca/energy](http://guelph.ca/energy)

Ontario Power Authority  
**MicroFIT program**  
[ontariopowerauthority.on.ca](http://ontariopowerauthority.on.ca)

## Driving change

Guelph is planning and building better transportation systems designed to move people and goods in, out and around the city as efficiently and safely as possible.



### Greener ways to get around Guelph

Finding greener ways to get around is also called transportation demand management (TDM). TDM lowers traffic congestion, reduces air pollution and improves community health and well-being by encouraging people to walk, bike, use public transit or carpool rather than driving alone.

### Your sidewalk misses you. Walk your children to school.

Twenty per cent of all rush-hour traffic is made up of people doing the school run. When you walk, there's one less car on the road adding to the chaos and pollution. In fact, your child is exposed to up to seven times more pollution inside a car compared to walking on the sidewalk.

Walking together to school gives you and your child some exercise and an opportunity to discuss traffic rules and safety. Children who walk to school arrive in a calmer frame of mind, ready to cope with the work of the day. Do you need a better reason? Learn more at [guelph.ca/walktoschool](http://guelph.ca/walktoschool).

A school safety patrol program is operated by Guelph Police and recruits middle-school-aged children to help younger children walk safely to school and cross busy streets. The City of Guelph also has a joint program with schools to provide adult crossing guards where required.

When walking is not feasible, school boards often provide bus service. Children are also eligible for discounted bus passes, if you choose to send your child on Guelph Transit.

### did you KNOW

Guelph Transit provides fully accessible conventional transit service and specialized mobility service.

All Guelph Transit conventional buses are equipped with an easy-to-use bike rack. You can ride, rack and roll—travel virtually anywhere in the city.

You can visit [transitpass.ca](http://transitpass.ca) to learn how you can claim your monthly transit pass as a non-refundable tax credit.



## Share the road, cycle safe

Every day, people travel across the city to get to work or school or to shop or to visit. Most of those trips are less than five kilometres, but only one per cent of those daily trips are on bicycles. The Bicycle-Friendly Guelph Initiative is working to make cycling safer and more convenient. Get the Guelph cycling map, safety tips and learn the rules of the road at [guelph.ca/bike](http://guelph.ca/bike).

## Public transportation

Guelph Transit is making it easier and more convenient than ever to travel using public transit. Guelph Transit can take you where you want to go: to downtown and other major shopping destinations, to recreation centres, to parks and trails, and to school and work.

Based on the recommendations from the Transit Growth Strategy, new routes and service schedules will be introduced and a new transit terminal will open on Carden Street in downtown Guelph this year (2011). The transit terminal will be one of the main transfer points for people travelling on Guelph Transit, and will improve connections between the city's transit system and GO Transit, Via Rail, and Greyhound.

Get connected with Guelph Transit online at [guelphtransit.ca](http://guelphtransit.ca) where you'll find the latest route and schedule information, service advisories, bus fares and more.

## Carpooling

Ride-sharing is a great way to get to work while getting to know your co-workers. You'll save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ease traffic congestion and avoid parking problems.

Start a carpool at your workplace. Put a map up in your office or lunchroom and have people indicate where they live and when they come to work. Gather those people who live near each other and have them make a plan to share the driving.



### more INFO



**City of Guelph**  
Guelph Transit  
T 519-822-1811  
E [transit@guelph.ca](mailto:transit@guelph.ca)  
[guelphtransit.ca](http://guelphtransit.ca)



## Keeping the air clean



### Make a difference during smog season

Everyone can make an effort to reduce activities that contribute to smog during the summer months (smog season). In Guelph, residents and businesses are urged to use less electricity and avoid unnecessary car travel, in order to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

### CHANGE at home

#### Here's how you can make a difference:

- use public transportation or carpool with co-workers
- walk or ride your bicycle, as long as smog levels are not too high
- try a manual push or electric lawnmower
- consider a more fuel-efficient or electric hybrid vehicle

### more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Community Energy Initiative**  
[guelph.ca/energy](http://guelph.ca/energy)

Province of Ontario  
**Ministry of Environment**  
[ene.gov.on.ca](http://ene.gov.on.ca)

### did you KNOW ?

One minute of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

Speeding increases your car's fuel consumption. At 120 km/h, your fuel consumption could be as much as 20 per cent higher than at 100 km/h.

A well-maintained car runs better and pollutes less. One poorly tuned vehicle can emit as much pollution as 20 properly tuned vehicles.

# Have fun in fresh air

## Parks

Take time to explore Guelph's parks and trails. You'll find beautiful trees, plants and gardens, fun play areas and sports fields, stunning heritage features and over 1,000 hectares of parks and natural open spaces.

Use Guelph's interactive recreation map at [guelph.ca/recreation](http://guelph.ca/recreation) to find splash pads, sports fields, picnic shelters, leash-free zones and more. The map can also help you find public swimming pools, arenas, community centres, and other recreation and culture activities in your neighbourhood.

## Pets and parks

In most areas, pets must be kept on a leash and under control. Dogs must be licensed, and all pet owners are required to stoop and scoop pet waste. Certain parks include designated leash-free areas and sports fields at certain times of the day and year are considered leash-free. To find a leash-free area, visit [guelph.ca/parks](http://guelph.ca/parks). When a dog is off-leash it must remain under control and close to its handler (within sight and earshot), respond to voice commands, and be prevented from approaching within one metre of people and other animals.

## Trails and routes

Whether on foot, bike, or mobility-assisted device, there are appropriate trails and routes for you to use. There are also many kilometres of on-road bicycle lanes and routes that complement off-road trails.

## When using the Guelph trail network, please keep the following points in mind:

Take only pictures, and leave only footprints. Please don't remove flowers, plants, trees, or shrubs. Don't leave litter behind, and clean up any litter you find to set an example for others.

In natural areas like Preservation Park, stay on the trail so you won't damage sensitive areas or disturb plants and wildlife.

Share the trail. If you are cycling or running, please yield right-of-way to walkers. Cyclists should always stay on designated trails and use a bike bell to warn walkers as they approach.

While attractive as fuel wood, fallen trees, branches, and logs are better left on the forest floor. They will decompose and provide food and shelter for the wildlife and insects, and will return nutrients to the soil.

Do not disturb the wildlife. During the spring and summer months, animals are breeding and rearing their young. They are often more sensitive to disturbance during these times, and may become aggressive.

If you see dangerous trail conditions or activities, contact the City of Guelph.



## did you KNOW ?

### Guelph is planning a pollinators park

Picture a green space full of beautiful flowers and plants that attract certain insects and birds. Bees, beetles, butterflies and other insects fly through leaves and petals taking pollen from one plant to the next, and pollinating the plants throughout the park.

We rely on pollinators for about one-third of the fruits, vegetables, grains and seeds we eat as these foods come from flowering plants that need pollinators.

A local community group called Pollination Guelph is raising funds to create the world's largest pollinator park right here in Guelph!

Learn more about the importance of pollinators at [pollinationguelph.ca](http://pollinationguelph.ca).

## more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Operations**

T 519-837-5628

E [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca)

[guelph.ca/parks](http://guelph.ca/parks)

## Be a good sort

Canadians produce more garbage per person than just about any other country in the world. The average person in Ontario generates a whole tonne of trash every year.

Waste creates major environmental impacts including habitat destruction, natural resource depletion, energy consumption and pollution. With our planet in crisis, responsible waste management has become even more important for each of us to consider.

So what's the solution to our waste woes? Most experts agree: there is no easy solution – but reducing the amount of waste we generate is the first step.

Waste reduction not only cuts the amount of waste produced, it saves money and conserves the resources and raw materials that go into making new things. Waste reduction means buying only what you need and making smarter choices about what you buy, such as environmentally friendly products.

Reusing and recycling are two more methods for decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Reusing involves finding a new use for items other than their original intention. Consider, for instance, whether the item is reusable, refillable, rechargeable, repairable, or shareable.

Buying products that contain recycled materials and recycling them yourself, are great ways to reduce waste. Guelph residents are “good sorts”, recycling around 10,000 tonnes of recyclables annually.

Please remember: each of us has tremendous personal power to reduce the amount of waste generated. It's time to do our part and make a difference. If not you, then who?

### Home composting

Composting is nature's way of recycling – breaking down organic material into a nutrient-rich soil additive that can be used in gardening and landscaping. Composting can also reduce the amount of household garbage by 30 per cent.

There are many different ways to compost at home. The most popular is the pre-manufactured backyard composter, but there are drum composters, cone composters, homemade composters and just plain heaps!

Residents can purchase a composter year-round at the Waste Resource Innovation Centre.





## Special collection programs and services

### Bulky item collection

Large items, such as furniture and appliances, are not collected at the curb.

You can:

- bring large items to the Waste Resource Innovation Centre (WRIC) and pay the appropriate disposal fee
- purchase a bulky item ticket from the WRIC, ServiceGuelph (at City Hall), Operations, West End Community Centre, Victoria Road Community Centre or Evergreen Seniors Community Centre and call 519-767-0598 to arrange for pick-up

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Household Hazardous Waste such as batteries, cleaners and solvents, and fluorescent light bulbs must be brought to the HHW depot for safe disposal.

### Paint+ Reuse Program

The Paint+ Reuse Program is one earth-smart initiative that helps ensure useable products don't go to waste. This seasonal program runs from spring to fall at the WRIC, next to the HHW depot, where residents can donate unused paints and stains, or pick up products free of charge.

### Electronic recycling

Guelph residents can drop off televisions, monitors and electronic waste free of charge at the WRIC year-round.

### Public waste drop-off

Residents can drop off large items, waste and recyclables at the WRIC. Disposal fees apply for some items.

## more INFO



City of Guelph  
**Waste Resource Innovation Centre**  
T 519-767-0598  
E [wetdry@guelph.ca](mailto:wetdry@guelph.ca)  
[guelph.ca/wetdry](http://guelph.ca/wetdry)

## CHANGE at home

### Everyday waste reduction

- carry reusable cloth bags when shopping
- use a travel mug for beverages on the go
- compost your garden and kitchen waste at home
- avoid purchasing disposable products
- donate clothing, furniture and other items that can be used by someone else
- take a 'litterless' lunch
- use glass or plastic containers for food leftovers
- avoid products with excess packaging or buy in bulk



### Things to remember when taking out the trash

Waste must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day, and no earlier than 7 p.m. the night before your collection day. Non-compliant waste must be removed from the curb by 7 p.m. on your collection day.

During the winter, place your waste in the mouth of your driveway or a spot shoveled from the snowbank. Waste must not be placed on top of snowbanks.

# REBATES AND RESOURCES

## Water conservation rebates

### Royal Flush Toilet Rebate Program

Replace up to two old, inefficient toilets with a City of Guelph-approved high-efficiency model and get a \$75 rebate. Save up to 10 litres of water with every flush.

### Smart Wash Washing Machine Rebate Program

Front-loading washers use about 40 per cent less water and 50 per cent less energy than top-loading models. Replace your old top-loading washing machine with a new front-loading Energy STAR®-rated model and get a \$100 rebate.

### The Great Humidifier Rebate Program

Replace your old, inefficient furnace-mounted humidifier with an approved, water-efficient model and get a \$30 or \$70 rebate.

### Floor Drain Retrofit Rebate Program

Replace a water-primed floor drain with a waterless floor drain trap device in your home and get a \$60 rebate.

### Rainwater Harvesting System Rebate program

Install an approved rainwater harvesting system in your home and get a \$2,000 rebate.

### Greywater Reuse System Rebate Program

Install an approved greywater reuse system in your home and get a \$1,000 rebate.

## Energy conservation rebates

Saving water saves energy too. In fact, pumping and treating the City's water makes up about 25 per cent of the City's energy bill. Lower your own energy bills by taking advantage of energy conservation rebates from local utilities.

### Electricity Rebates from Guelph Hydro and the Ontario Power Authority

- [guelphhydro.com](http://guelphhydro.com)
- [ontariopowerauthority.ca](http://ontariopowerauthority.ca)

### Natural Gas Rebates from Union Gas

- [uniongas.com](http://uniongas.com)

## Popular City of Guelph services and resources

### **ServiceGuelph**

519-822-1260  
[guelph.ca/serviceguelph](http://guelph.ca/serviceguelph)

### **Building Services**

519-822-1260 x 5615  
[guelph.ca/building](http://guelph.ca/building)

### **Community Energy**

519-822-1260 x 2079  
[guelph.ca/energy](http://guelph.ca/energy)

### **Healthy Landscapes**

519-822-1260 x 2109  
[guelph.ca/healthylandscapes](http://guelph.ca/healthylandscapes)

### **Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment**

519-822-1260 x 5616  
[guelph.ca/environment](http://guelph.ca/environment)

### **Parks Design and Maintenance**

519-837-5628  
[guelph.ca/parks](http://guelph.ca/parks)

### **Waste Resource Innovation Centre**

519-767-0598  
[guelph.ca/wetdry](http://guelph.ca/wetdry)

### **Water Services**

519-837-5627  
[guelph.ca/water](http://guelph.ca/water)

## Local and regional transportation

### **Guelph Transit**

519-822-1811  
[guelphtransit.ca](http://guelphtransit.ca)  
[facebook.com/guelphtransit](https://facebook.com/guelphtransit)  
[twitter.com/guelphtransit](https://twitter.com/guelphtransit)

### **Bicycle-Friendly Guelph**

[guelph.ca/bike](http://guelph.ca/bike)

### **GO Transit**

1-888-GET ON GO  
[gotransit.com](http://gotransit.com)

### **Greyhound**

1-800-661-TRIP  
[greyhound.ca](http://greyhound.ca)

### **Via Rail**

1-888-VIA RAIL  
[viarail.ca](http://viarail.ca)

## City of Guelph

### **City Hall**

1 Carden St.  
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260  
TTY 519-826-9771  
[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

[facebook.com/cityofguelph](https://facebook.com/cityofguelph)  
[twitter.com/cityofguelph](https://twitter.com/cityofguelph)



[guelph.ca/environment](http://guelph.ca/environment)