Managing our waste, together!
The MRC has been offering waste collection services for four years now. Whether the collections are for recyclables, leaves or Christmas trees, the participation of the citizens of Haute-Yamaska has been noteworthy.

To support community recycling efforts, your MRC last year broadened its range of services with the construction of two modern ecocenters. Located in Granby and Waterloo, these infrastructures are now at your disposal. If you haven’t already, I invite you to pay your first visit to these facilities and bring with you any materials that might be reclaimed or recycled.

Our ecocenters also accept Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). This type of waste very often comes from products that are used routinely around the house – we all have some. It is important not to dispose of them in the trash as they present a very real danger to the environment and public health: they can easily contaminate the soil as well as underground water sources.

I invite you to read this third edition of our Practical Guide to Waste Management, which contains more ample information about hazardous household wastes and other services that are available to you. Be sure to keep it handy for future reference.

One single phone number connects you to a dedicated staff that can answer any question about our various services. Don’t hesitate to call us so that, together, we can continue our efforts to reclaim our resources.

Pascal Russell
Warden, MRC de la Haute-Yamaska
Contents

Ecocentres .................................................................................................................. 4
Materials Accepted and Refused ........................................................................... 6
Addresses and Business Hours .............................................................................. 7
HHW – Hazardous Household Waste ................................................................. 8
Quick Reference mini-poster ................................................................................. 10
Recyclables ............................................................................................................. 12
Leaves and Christmas Trees .................................................................................. 14
Garbage and Bulky Waste ....................................................................................... 15
Wheeled Bins .......................................................................................................... 16
Waste Reducing Tips ............................................................................................... 18
Grass Cycling and Composting .............................................................................. 19
Ecocenters are secure sites where all citizens can dispose of various waste materials free of charge, for reclamation or recycling instead of landflling. Ecocenters also allow sound management of the hazardous household wastes found in the average home, to keep them from contaminating the environment.

How do ecocenters work?
The citizens each take their own waste materials to the ecocenter of their choice. They pre-sort them and deposit them in the appropriate containers, or as directed by the attendant.

“ If properly pre-sorted in your vehicle, your waste materials will be easy to drop into the right containers at the ecocenter! ”
Proper sorting makes reclaiming easy!

Why is it crucial to sort your materials before you get to the ecocenter?

1. Sorting at home will make your task easier once you get to the ecocenter.

2. Only sorted materials can be sent to specialized recyclers. Proper sorting means improved reclaiming.

3. In this way, the MRC and its citizens can significantly reduce the volume of waste that goes to the landfill.

What you need to know

- It is preferable to sort your materials into categories as you load your vehicle or trailer so that you can deposit each type of material in the appropriate place once you reach the ecocenter.

- It is not the attendants’ job to help citizens unload. If you think you are going to need help, plan to bring someone with you.

- Plan to wear safe shoes and clothing, and bring whatever equipment you will need to manually unload your waste materials (shovel, gloves, etc.).

- The barriers in front of the containers are there to prevent falls and will not be opened under any circumstances.

“The ecocenter is not a dump, it is a reclamation site. It does not accept garbage.”
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
Paints, solvents, batteries, paint strippers, compact fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, etc.
See pages 8 and 9 for more about HHW

Tree branches and trunks
Tree branches and trunks less than 1.5 m in length and 22” in diameter; natural Christmas trees without decorations

Yard waste
Leaves, sod, dried plants and weeds, mulch, etc.

Construction/Renovation/Demolition Waste
Wood (with or without nails, untreated with creosote), gyproc no more than 2.45 m (8’) in length, windows, doors, sinks, toilets, window glass, mirrors, ceramic ware, shingles, etc.

Metal
Iron, aluminum, empty paint containers, electrical wire, clothes lines, clothes hangers, baling wire, etc.

Granular materials
Stones, uncontaminated soil, rock, concrete (non-reinforced), brick, asphalt, etc.

Home Electronics and Appliances
Computers, printers and cartridges, televisions and VCRs, cell phones, cameras, small power tools and appliances, etc.

Tires
Automobile and bicycle tires without rims (48.5 inches or less)

Appliances Containing Halocarbon
Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.

Polystyrene (Foam)*
Uncontaminated polystyrene used in insulation or packaging.
* Material accepted as part of a pilot project, subject to change without notice.

Bulky Waste
Furniture, shower stalls, bathtubs, mattresses, swimming pools, patio umbrellas, toilets, infant seats, carpeting or linoleum rolled and tied, etc.

Fabric and Clothing

Please note that this list of accepted materials can change at any time.

To dispose of other materials not listed in this guide, please refer to the Bottin Vert [green directory] on our website at www.haute-yamaska.ca
## Ecocenter Business Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GRANBY ECOCENTER</th>
<th>WATERLOO ECOCENTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGH SEASON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL TO NOVEMBER</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER TO MARCH</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOW SEASON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL TO NOVEMBER</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER TO MARCH</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 7 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 6 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 6 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Hours are subject to change without notice. For current schedule, go to [www.haute-yamaska.ca](http://www.haute-yamaska.ca).

You must arrive at the ecocenter 30 minutes (car) to an hour (trailer) before closing, to have enough time to unload your materials. A load that arrives at the last minute may be turned away.

**ID and proof of residence required!**
The ecocenter services are free for all citizens of the MRC de La Haute-Yamaska. A photo ID, as well as proof of residence (recent and valid) in the area, are required.

For information 450 378-9976, ext. 2231
[www.haute-yamaska.ca](http://www.haute-yamaska.ca)
HHW: Hazardous and Common!

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) are products in common use around the house. They are hazardous to the health and to the environment. Thrown in the trash or poured down the drain, they contaminate the soil as well as surface and ground water sources.

Take your HHW to one of our two ecocenters, in their original container or in a clearly-marked closed container. They will be safely recovered, and then recycled or reclaimed.

HHW can be recognized by the pictograms on their labels:

- CORROSIVE
- FLAMMABLE
- POISONOUS
- EXPLOSIVE
EXEMPLES OF HHW accepted

In the kitchen:
• Oven cleaners
• Metal cleaners
• Fondue fuel
• Liquid drain cleaners
• Scouring powders
• Floor and furniture waxes
• Cleaners containing ammonia
• Smoke detectors and thermometers (they contain mercury)

In the basement and closets:
• Paints, stains, varnishes, wood preservatives and solvents
• Batteries
• Compact fluorescent bulbs and fluorescent tubes
• Solvent-based glues
• Wood strippers
• Rat poison

In the garage or garden shed:
• Chemical fertilizers
• Pesticides
• Pool and spa chemicals
• Car batteries
• Used oil, fuel oil, containers and filters
• Gasoline
• Propane tanks
• Pressurized containers and aerosols
• Antifreeze
• Antigel

Do you know why they are hazardous?
Certain products in common use are HHW, but we don’t always know why they are hazardous:

Batteries
contain heavy metals, such as lead, nickel and zinc, that are reactive and corrosive.

Compact fluorescent bulbs
contain mercury.

Small electronic devices
(MP3 players, cell phones, tablets, etc.) also contain heavy metals, as well as chemical compounds called flame retardants. Special care must therefore be taken with these small objects of daily life. They are convenient and useful... but far from harmless! Never dispose of them in the trash. Instead, take them to an ecocenter.
MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE
to Recycle, Reuse & instead of throwing away!

Services Within your reach!

1. Recyclables Collection
   - PAPER AND CARDBOARD: Newspapers and magazines, paper sheets and flyers, paper bags, cardboard boxes and rolls, gable-top milk and juice cartons, Tetra Pak type containers.
   - PLASTIC: Bottles, containers and clear packaging marked #1 through #5, as well as #7, caps and lids, bags and plastic wrappers.
   - GLASS: Bottles and jars, regardless of colour.
   - METAL: Aluminum containers and foil, aluminum bottles and cans, tin cans, caps and lids.

2. Grasscycling and Composting
   - GRASSCYCLING: Leave grass clippings on the ground after mowing; this is known as grasscycling. It is an excellent way to feed your lawn!
   - COMPOSTING: If you have enough space, you can compost your garden waste and table scraps!

3. Special Collections
   - Leaves and garden waste (flowers, stalks, etc.)
   - Natural Christmas trees

MORE INFORMATION ON pages 12 and 13
MORE INFORMATION ON page 19
MORE INFORMATION ON page 14

To dispose of other material not listed in this guide, please refer to the Bottin Vert [green directory], on our website.
MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE to Recycle, Reuse & Reclaim instead of throwing away!

Only waste that you were unable to dispose of otherwise ultimately. This waste is headed for the landfill. In our efforts as a society to reduce and reclaim waste, it is important to optimize all available resources and throw out as little as possible.

For more information, contact us at 450 378-9976, ext. 2231 or visit our website at www.haute-yamaska.ca

---

**Bulky Waste Collection**

**METAL BULKY WASTE**
Refrigerators, freezers, hot-water heaters, etc.

**NON-METAL BULKY WASTE**
Upholstered furniture, mattresses, carpets, etc.

**Ecocenters & HHW (HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE)**

**Paints, solvents, batteries, aerosols, etc.**

**YARD WASTE**
Wood, branches, leaves, etc.

**CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION**
Lumber, windows, gyproc, toilets, window glass, ceramic ware, shingles, etc.

**METAL**
Iron, Aluminum, empty paint cans, electrical wire, etc.

**GRANULAR MATERIALS**
Stone, concrete, bricks, uncontaminated soil, asphalt, etc.

**HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES**
Computers, televisions, cell phones, small power tools and appliances, etc.

**HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES**
Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.

---

**Garbage Collection**

For more information on pages 4 to 9

---

**MORE INFORMATION ON page 15**

---

**MRC**

La Haute-Yamaska
Prospère de nature

100% ÉCO

For more information, contact us at 450 378-9976, ext. 2231 or visit our website at www.haute-yamaska.ca
Materials accepted in the recycling bin

While recycling has long since become a daily habit, it is always good to refresh our memories regarding what is recyclable and what isn’t.

Review the following list to improve your recycling.

### PAPER AND CARDBOARD
- newspapers, flyers, magazines
- paper sheets, envelopes and paper bags
- books and phone directories
- cardboard rolls
- cardboard boxes
- egg cartons
- gable-top milk and juice cartons
- aseptic containers (Tetra Pak® type)

### PLASTIC
- Bottles, containers and packaging from food, beverages, cosmetics, personal grooming and household cleaning products, identified by one of these symbols:
  - Caps and lids
  - Bags and wrappers

### GLASS
- Bottles and jars, regardless of their colour

### METAL
- Aluminum containers and foil
- Aluminum bottles and drink cans
- Tin cans
- Caps and lids
REMINDER

Do not PLACE IN THE BLUE BIN

- Styrofoam
- Wood
- Crockery
- Building materials
- Batteries, paint, chlorine and other hazardous product containers
- Cardboard and paper soiled with grease

Tips for better recycling!

- Gather plastic bags together in a single bag. Do the same with shredded paper.
- Rinse out metal, rigid plastic and glass containers.
- Make more room in your bin by flattening boxes.
- Remove the flyers from the Publi-Sac bag.

What happens to materials that are not recycled?

When waste is not recovered and is sent to a landfill instead, it doesn’t just disappear!

Some waste materials take years to degrade, for example:

- Aluminum drink can: 200 to 500 years
- Tin can: 10 to 100 years
- Newsprint: 3 to 12 months
- Plastic bottle: 100 to 1000 years
Leaves

A small quantity of fallen leaves can be left on the ground or shredded with your lawnmower to provide a good source of natural fertilizer. If your lawn is completely buried in leaves, you can use them to amend your compost or you can use the MRC’s leaf collection service.

REMINDER:
• There are three leaf collections in the fall and one in the spring (check your calendar).
• Only dead leaves and garden waste (flowers, stalks, etc.) placed in paper leaf bags specially designed for this purpose will be picked up. These bags may be purchased in various stores around the region.
• Plastic lawn bags, biodegradable or not, are prohibited for these collections.
• Place leaf bags at least one (1) meter from your wheeled bins.

Christmas Trees

A special Christmas tree collection is scheduled for early January (consult your calendar). Your recycled Christmas trees will be turned into wood chips for landscaping use.

REMINDER:
• Remove all decorations from your tree or it will not be picked up.
• Do not stand your tree upright in a snow bank... The driver doing the collecting will not know it is for pickup! Rather, lay it on its side on the ground in a spot visible from both sides of the street.
• In the days preceding the collection, keep your tree under cover to prevent it from being buried in snow or frozen in the ice.
Garbage
Your grey bin should be your last resort!
Only objects that cannot go in your blue bin, or be disposed of during special collections or at the ecocenters or other recycling organizations, should find their way into your grey bin. Also note that some items are prohibited in your grey bin.

Not garbage!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prohibited IN THE GREY BIN</th>
<th>The best way TO DISPOSE OF IT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil, gravel and stone</td>
<td>At ecocenters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris from building construction, demolition, and renovation</td>
<td>At ecocenters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint, oil, grease and other hazardous products</td>
<td>At ecocenters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bulky Waste
Bulky waste collections are for disposing of objects that are acceptable as garbage but are too large to fit in your grey bin. For instance, furniture, carpets, mattresses, etc.

There are two types of bulky waste collections, one for metal bulky waste and the other for non-metal bulky waste (consult your calendar). However, note that you cannot put just anything out for pickup!

Not bulky waste!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prohibited AS BULKY WASTE</th>
<th>The best way TO DISPOSE OF IT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debris from building construction, demolition, and renovation, including windows, cabinets, etc.</td>
<td>At ecocenters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags and boxes of garbage, or items destined for the garbage</td>
<td>Landfill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branches piled pell-mell</td>
<td>Non-metal bulky waste collection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instructions for Wheeled Bins

Pay special attention to the instructions below. They will help you manage your waste efficiently and ensure that it is picked up!

Where and how to position your bins?

- To reduce the risks of breakage when the truck empties your bin, position the handles and wheels towards the house.
- To facilitate mechanical lifting, leave at least 1 m of space between each bin. Also, place each bin at least 1 m from any obstacle (pole, fence, mailbox).
- Do not place the bin in front of a legal parking space on the street; if a car is parked there when the truck goes by, your bin will not be emptied.
- Garbage left next to the grey bins will not be picked up. Bins that are overloaded or have lids that will not close will not be emptied.

Position your blue bin in the same way as the grey bin.
When to put them out?
After 7 p.m. the night before and before 6 a.m. on the day of the collection.

Maximum weight
The bins cannot be lifted if they weigh more than 90 kg (200 pounds). Do not put soil, cement, stones or other materials of this type in your bins; in any case these are prohibited in the garbage bin.

Don’t block the sidewalk!
Think about people who use a cane, crutches or a wheelchair to get around, not to mention those who are visually impaired. Placed on the sidewalk, your bin becomes an obstacle for them.

And in winter?
After a snowstorm, it may be difficult for the trucker to empty your bin. Pay attention to elements that are likely to hinder the mechanical lift, such as snowbanks or parked cars. In fact, if your bin isn’t full, you might choose to hold off until the next collection. Do not place your bin on the sidewalk, as this could hinder pedestrian traffic as well as snow removal and sanding operations.

Your blue bin is no longer sufficient?
Does your blue bin overflow even when you take the time to break down your boxes? Call us at 450-378-9976 ext. 2231 to get a second bin, or to replace your current 240 L bin with a 360 L bin.

In case of breakage
The MRC repairs or replaces blue bins, which are its property. The grey garbage bin is the responsibility of the individual citizen. Replacement wheels and lids may be purchased from certain retail stores.

Moving?
Leave the recycling bin behind when you move. The blue bin is linked to the address.

What about dumpsters and recycling containers?
- Do not place bulky items (mattresses, furniture, etc.) near your building’s recycling containers or dumpsters, as this makes it impossible to lift them. Instead, bulky waste items must be placed at the curb the night before the monthly collection (consult your calendar).
- Keep container lids closed, to keep rain and snow out.
- Requests for new containers must be made through the building superintendent or landlord.
Garbage overflowing? There is a simple, logical solution: reducing at the source. If we consume responsibly, there will be less garbage to process and dispose of. The easiest waste to manage... is the waste we don’t produce!

Before we purchase a new product, we should ask ourselves these questions: Can we do without it? Can we borrow it? Is there a version that is less damaging to the environment?

- **Opt for products with little or no packaging.** Choose bulk products, family-sized packages, or concentrates. Packaging accounts for up to 50% of the garbage in our landfills.

- **Borrow equipment or devices** that you only need for a short period from a friend or a neighbor.

- **Rent, rather than buy equipment** that is used infrequently, for instance rug shampooers and floor sanders.

- **Check the toxicity level of the item** and, as much as possible, buy the one that will not generate any Household Hazardous Waste when it is used or disposed of.

“By changing our habits and consuming responsibly, we will generate less waste! Let’s apply the principle of source reduction and make a difference... because reducing waste is taking action!”
Grasscycling

Eco-Mowing: Simple as 1-2-3!

Don’t throw out your grass clippings, grasscycle them instead. Just leave them on the lawn when you mow. The clippings break down in under 48 hours and become invisible. To accelerate decomposition, you can outfit your mower with a mulching blade, sold at hardware stores. Grasscycling is one of the simplest and most efficient ways of protecting the environment. So, there is absolutely no reason to put your grass clippings in the trash anymore.

Composting

Composting is easy!

For information on starting your own compost pile at home or tips on how to make composting easier, visit www.haute-yamaska.ca

Odours?

If you follow the recipe, your compost pile will not smell. If there are odours, it’s because the ratio of kitchen scraps to brown materials is too high, or there is no longer any air circulation. Increase the volume of brown materials or aerate the pile more, and the odours will disappear.

Tree branches

Rent a wood chipper to effortlessly transform branches and shrubs into wood chips. Use them to mulch your flower borders and garden beds, or add them to your composter.
“In Haute-Yamaska, the environment is our greatest asset”