

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **County's Textiles Collection program returns June 7 to 18**

**Midhurst/May 31, 2021** – In June, the County of Simcoe is bringing back its curbside collection program for clothing and textiles to help divert these materials away from landfills. During this two-week program, running June 7-18, the County will collect clean, dry, and odour free clothes from households including those that cannot be re-used.

Simcoe County residents will have received pink plastic bags for clothing and textiles in the mail throughout May. The collection will occur between June 7 and 18. Pick-up will take place on your regular collection day during your clothing collection week. To determine your exact collection date, and for more information on other special collection days, download the Simcoe County Collects app. The app is available free of charge from the App Store and Google Play. Information is also available on [simcoe.ca/dpt/swm](http://simcoe.ca/dpt/swm).

As with regular waste collection, pink clothing bags or clear plastic bags containing clothes and textiles should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Bags must be sealed and weigh less than 20 kgs. Items must be clean, dry and odour free. Further detail on solid waste management programs, including the clothing pick-up, are available online at [simcoe.ca/dpt/swm](http://simcoe.ca/dpt/swm).

Acceptable materials include:

- Clean clothing including torn, unfashionable, stained, and missing buttons or broken zippers
- Towels, linens and pillows
- Coats and outerwear
- Hats, belts and scarves
- Purses, backpacks, sleeping bags and luggage
- Shoes, socks and mittens in pairs (wrap with elastic to hold together)

The County continues to encourage residents to donate usable clothing and apparel whenever possible. North Americans send over 10 million tonnes of clothing to landfill annually, 95 per cent of which could have been reused or recycled. Despite local donation programs, approximately 85 per cent of unwanted textiles end up disposed of in County Waste Management sites, which is equivalent to 37 kg of textiles annually. The purpose of this collection program is to collect clothing and textiles that wouldn't otherwise be passed on, including those items with stains, tears and broken zippers which are not suitable for donation. During the last Textiles Collection in 2019, the County collected 122 metric tonnes of clothing.

Collected clothing and textiles are sent to a facility for sorting/grading. Some materials are sent for reuse in Ontario and overseas while other materials are made into rags and acoustic fill. Ninety-eight per cent of material collected is able to be reused/recycled. For more information on our clothing collection, visit [www.simcoe.ca/clothingcollection](http://www.simcoe.ca/clothingcollection).

A reminder also that the County will be collecting electronics during a two-week period from June 21 to July 2. Information about this program was communicated in the Spring Managing Your Waste and will be shared through media and social media in mid-June as a reminder.

*Please note, this program does not apply to residents of the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia.*

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at **[simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca)**.

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