



## Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto Inc.

**Report to:** Member Co-ops  
**From:** Michelle Arscott, Advisor, Member Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2008

CHFT and the City of Toronto's Waste Management Office will host an information meeting at OWN Co-op on Friday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m. OWN Co-op is at 115 the Esplanade, at Market Street. It is one block west of Jarvis. This meeting is for co-op staff and management company staff. Interested members would be welcome.

### **Background**

On July 1, 2008 the City of Toronto will begin charging all residents for garbage pick-up. This includes Multi-Family residences such as apartment building and townhouses. Most townhouse co-op either have received or will soon receive new blue bins for recycling. Recycling for apartment buildings is a bit more complicated, but the City is committed to address this group.

Here are the things you need to know to determine how this will effect your budgets

- the cost of solid waste services will be removed from the property taxes
- the cost of the solid waste services will be billed directly to the co-op through a new Utility Bill (Water/Solid Waste)
- the bill will be sent to the same address that receives the water bill
- fees will be tied to the volume of waste produced i.e. more waste = higher fees
- there is unlimited recycling at no cost. This includes blue bin, organics, bulky items/durable goods.

At <http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/multi/pdf/calculator.xls> you can calculate the fees that you will be paying as of July 1, 2008. In order to run the calculator you must know the amount of garbage you put out monthly (in cubic yards) and the bin size you use.

Here is a list of tips that can help the co-ops keep these costs down

- only set out full bins (a co-op can save up to \$7,000 annually just by making sure to never put out half full bins).
- tune compactors to achieve 3:1 compaction ration
- provide adequate space for bulky waste

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- check the garbage bins regularly to make sure that recyclables are not in the bins
- provide adequate bin space for recyclables
- watch for non-residential waste in bins
- post recycling literature in the building
- encourage recycling among staff and residents
- find a “recycling champion” or a recycling committee within the co-op who will encourage more recycling from the members.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please confirm with Michelle Arcott at either 416-465-8688 extension 207 or [michelle@coophousing.com](mailto:michelle@coophousing.com).

The City will also be holding information meetings in the next few months. The dates and places will be announced soon. These meetings will be for members and Managers.