



The Ajax Green Living Guide

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sustainableajax.ca



AIR



ENERGY



FOOD



NATURAL ASSETS
& HABITAT



TRANSPORTATION



WASTE



WATER



GET INVOLVED



RESOURCES

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Ajax Green Living Guide. This helpful resource provides useful tips and information to help reduce your environmental footprint. From water conservation to waste reduction, this guide offers simple actions you can take today to help sustain Ajax as a vibrant community.

Inside you will find information on:

- Improving Air Quality
- Energy Conservation
- Gardening & Compost
- Healthy Yards
- Trees
- Active Transportation
- Reducing Waste
- Water Conservation & Quality
- Sustainable Shopping
- Town of Ajax environmental events

Thank you for choosing to learn more about green living in Ajax. Together we can work towards achieving a sustainable and prosperous future.

What does sustainability mean?

The most common definition of sustainability comes from *Our Common Future* (the Brundtland Report):

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Sustainability is important to ensure that we have and will continue to have water, materials, and resources to protect human health and our environment.

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Since the Town of Ajax was incorporated more than 60 years ago, the Town has been on a “sustainability journey” to ensure a high quality life for residents. The Town understands that “sustainability” is a journey, not a destination.

To help guide us, the Town developed Ajax – A Journey to Sustainability, an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) that directs us to our centennial anniversary in 2055. This living document provides a framework of key actions vital to sustaining Ajax as a vibrant and resilient community balancing our environmental, social/cultural and economic needs.

Download the ICSP at www.ajax.ca.



Watch Ajax’s Sustainability Journey video at www.ajax.ca.

Indoor Air Pollution

Indoor air pollution is often present in most indoor spaces including homes, schools, stores and offices. There are two types of indoor air pollution – **chemical and biological**.

Natural Air Pollution

- Animals (hair & dandruff)
- Bacteria
- Fungi
- Mould
- Pollen
- Small insects (dust mites)
- Viruses

How to prevent it

- Control the moisture in your home – the Canadian Lung Association recommends that you keep the relative humidity between 30-50%. This can be achieved by using an air conditioner, a dehumidifier/ humidifier & growing indoor plants.
- Ensure your heating and cooling appliances are maintained and filters are replaced regularly.
- Allow fresh air to enter your home – open windows and doors.
- Clean and dust your home regularly.

Chemical Air Pollution

- Cleaning agents such as toilet cleaners, carpet shampoos & disinfectants
- Pesticides
- Scented personal care products such as deodorant & cologne
- Tobacco
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in building materials & furnishings

How to prevent it

- Avoid cleaning products with hazardous symbols. Instead, opt for products that are non toxic.
- Purchase building materials & furnishings that state no or low VOCs). Many low or no VOC products including paints, adhesives, carpet and vinyl are available at local hardware stores.
- Avoid smoking inside your home. This ensures that harmful chemicals such as nicotine and carbon monoxide are reduced inside your home.



Smog

Smog is air pollution caused by fumes and particles released by vehicles and industry. These fumes react with the sunlight and produce a gray haze known as smog. High levels of smog can be harmful to people and the environment.

How can you help reduce smog?

Reducing the number of vehicles on the road is the best way to reduce smog. Here are some helpful tips:

- Walk, cycle or take public transit.
- Hybrid, plug in hybrid and electric vehicles are great alternatives to gas and diesel fuelled vehicles.
- If you do have to drive make sure you plan ahead; try to fit multiple trips into one longer trip. This will reduce the number of kilometres you drive, amount of pollution released and dollars spent on fuel.
- Carpool; sharing a vehicle can reduce travel costs, traffic and make a trip more enjoyable.



Eco Driving Tips

- Drive your car to warm it up – most cars need only 15 to 30 seconds to warm before being driven.
- Limit the use of air conditioning.
- Ensure your tires are properly inflated.
- Gradually brake and then accelerate.
- Remove excess weight such as roof racks and heavy trunk items.
- Regularly maintain your vehicle.
- Carpool.
- If stopped for more than 60 seconds – turn the engine off.

Stationary Equipment (Lawn Mowers, Trimmers etc.)

Did you know?

- On average, running your gas powered lawn mower for an hour produces as much greenhouse gas as driving for four hours.
- Lawn mowers and other gas powered tools release pollutants that contribute to smog.

What you can do to help

- Switch your gas powered mower to a manual push or electric mower.
- Don't cut your grass on days of poor air quality or 'Smog Days'. Poor air quality often occurs on hot, dry summer days.
- You can check the air quality in your area by visiting www.airqualityontario.com.

Anti-Idling By Law

The Town of Ajax has an anti-idling bylaw that limits vehicle idling to less than two minutes.

Residents are encouraged to turn off their vehicle engines while waiting in parking lots, and drop-off zones. When an infraction occurs, a fine will be issued to the driver.

Exemptions

Extreme weather conditions (below -10°C and above 30°C), providing assistance on an emergency scene, engine requirement for on-board equipment (wheel chair hoists), waiting at traffic signals and mechanical diagnostics.

Idle Free Zones

Idle free zones have been established around Ajax. These zones remind drivers that Ajax is an idle free community.

The campaign also works with:

- Local schools to eliminate idling vehicles on school grounds.
- Transit companies at drop-off zones.
- Local businesses to assist with internal anti-idling policies.

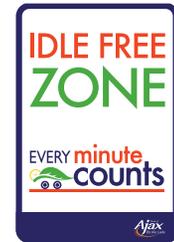
Green parking spaces

A number of spaces at Town facilities are reserved for "Green Vehicles" to encourage and promote fuel efficient vehicles on our roads. These preferred spaces can be used on a first-come first-serve basis for either hybrids, plug-in hybrids, or fully electric vehicles.

Did You Know?

The Town of Ajax has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6% in the community and 20% within the corporation by 2020.

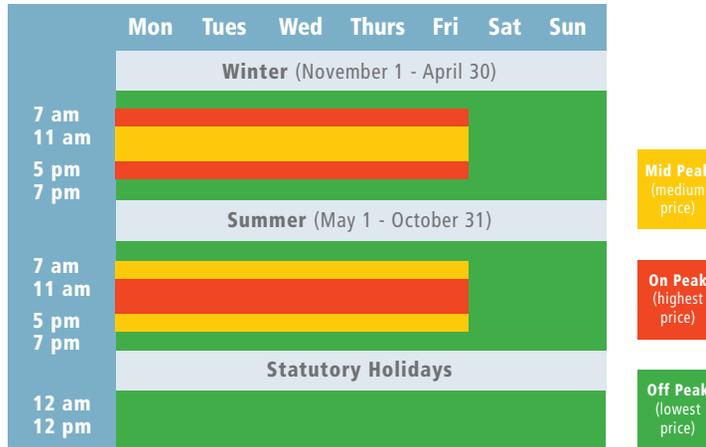
For more information visit www.sustainableajax.ca.



Smart Meter & Time of Use Rates

Smart Meters monitor your home or business electricity consumption and transmit this information to Veridian Connections, the electricity supplier for Ajax.

The price you pay for electricity depends on the time of day you use it. If you use electricity during periods of high demand, you will pay a higher rate. Using electricity outside of peak periods will result in lower energy costs.



Did You Know?

A **Watt Meter** can be loaned to Ajax Library card holders for a period of three weeks. Simply connect each appliance to the Watt Reader monitor and determine the operating cost by the day, week, month or even the entire year!

Tips for Saving Energy in Your Home

Heating & Cooling

- Insulate your attic to prevent hot and cold air from escaping.
- Ensure all windows have firm seals that don't allow for any drafts.
- Install a programmable thermostat at home.
- Regulate the temperature in your home according to the season and the time of day: in winter 18°C at night and 20°C during the day, in the summer 23°C at night and 25°C in the day.
- Plant deciduous trees around your home to provide shade and aid in cooling in the summer and warming in the winter.
- Use ceiling or mobile fans rather than turning on the air conditioner.
- Turn down heat and turn off air conditioning at night or when not at home.

Home Appliances

- When washing your laundry: Use cold water not warm or hot.
- Wash full/large loads.
- Consider a high efficiency front-loading washer.
- Hang dry clothes instead of using an electric or gas dryer.

Electronics

- Always unplug battery chargers when not in use.
- Keep audio-video equipment, such as computers, TVs, DVD players and stereos on a power bar and turn-off when not in use.
- Never overload a plug socket.

In the Kitchen

- Fill up the dishwasher instead of hand washing.
- Turn off the drying feature on the dishwasher.
- Use an electric kettle versus a stove top kettle.
- Use a toaster oven or microwave versus a conventional oven, or turn your oven off a few minutes before cooking is completed.
- Keep your refrigerator & freezer dust-free.
- Keep your freezer at -18°C.
- Keep your refrigerator at 4°C.
- When purchasing appliances, check the EnerGuide rating and look for the Energy Star logo.

Lights

- Switch to LED or CFL bulbs.
- Install dimmer switches.
- Turn off the lights when leaving a room.



EnerGuide is a Government of Canada initiative that rates the energy consumption and efficiency of appliances, heating equipment, ventilating equipment, new homes & personal vehicles.



The Energy Star trademark is an international standard for energy efficient products. When purchasing electronics, appliances & lighting look for this blue logo.



Energy Resources

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA)

The OPA offers many incentive programs to help reduce energy consumption around the home and in small businesses. Visit www.saveonenergy.ca.

Veridian Connections

The Town of Ajax's utility distributor for electricity. For billing and distribution information visit www.veridian.on.ca.

Natural Resources Canada

Administers the EnerGuide Program for comparing the energy efficiency of many products. For more information visit www.nrcan.gc.ca/energiguide.



FOOD

Community Gardens

A community garden is a public space where people come together to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. These gardens promote the growth of local organic produce and provide the tools for people to learn how to grow and sustain their own food. They are also community hubs, providing a place for the community to connect.

St. Andrew's Community Garden

Located on Exeter Rd., behind St. Andrew's Community Centre, the community garden opened in 2011 and is managed by two volunteer coordinators and a garden committee.

For more information contact: ajaxcomgarden@gmail.com

Backyard Food Gardens

Growing food in your backyard has many benefits:

- Lowers the cost of your groceries by providing fresh and organic food on your table.
- Reduces the environmental impact created by the transportation of food to grocery stores.
- Provides a cost effective hobby that is both educational and enjoyable.
- Encourages you to experiment with your meal creations.

Container Food Gardens

You don't have to have a large backyard to grow your own food. Container gardens are becoming very popular and require very little space.

Tips for successful container gardening:

- Consider the location and the amount of light.
- Select pots based on the size of the plant and the depth of the soil needed for roots.
- Grow what you want to eat!

Backyard Composting

Producing compost in your backyard has many benefits:

- Decreases the amount of waste being put at the curbside.
- Improves soil structure making soil more efficient at holding water and nutrients.
- Saves you money on fertilizers and compost.

Did You Know?

Food and yard waste break down and produce methane in landfills. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide and is a contributor to climate change.



St. Andrew's Community Garden

What You Need To Compost in Your Backyard

Compost bin or pile

Most gardening stores have a great selection of composting bins ranging from open crates to closed rotating units. You could try building your own out of pallet wood. Just ensure that your unit is rodent proof!

Location

Selecting a shady and slightly damp location will ensure your compost gets off to a good start. Dig a few inches into the ground and add some brown materials such as sticks and twigs to allow air to seep up through the composter.

Food for your compost

In order to produce good compost, it is crucial to feed it the right balance of materials. A composter needs a good mixture of carbon and protein. These two ingredients are commonly known as Browns & Greens. The ratio should be 30 Browns : 1 Green.

Browns (Carbons)	Greens (Protein)
Small stems & twigs	Vegetable Scraps
Shredded paper products (newspaper, cardboard)	Coffee grinds & tea bags
Dry Leaves	Green Leaf clippings
Sawdust	Herbivore manure
Pine needles	Grass Clippings

Compost should be ready to use after three-four months but this depends on the materials added and the temperature. Keeping your compost heap damp (not drenched) and warm, will optimize breakdown, turning the pile every few months will also allow oxygen to aid in the decomposition of the material.

Small Space Composting

Outdoor space is not a requirement if you are interested in composting. There are many ways that allow you to compost indoors.

- **Vermicomposting** – This type of composting uses worms to break down the materials and produce high quality compost. A small container under the sink makes it an easy way to compost your food scraps all year round.
- **Indoor Composting Units** – Mini units have been created that use electric heat and aeration, as well as non electric units that require the addition of microbial bacteria.



FOOD

Pollinators

A pollinator is an animal that collects pollen from one plant and crosses it with another. Without pollinators, many plants would not be able to reproduce.

Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bats are all pollinators. According to scientists, pollinators are said to be responsible for at least 80% of Canada's food supply and, without them, many of our foods wouldn't grow.

Many pollinators are decreasing in population; this is as a result of habitat decline – particularly natural meadow & grasslands, increased use of pesticides and disease.

What You Can Do to Help Pollinators

- Plant a pollinator garden.
- Plant native plants.
- Choose plants that flower at different times of the year to provide year round food.
- Leave plants to die back in the winter, for pollinators to hibernate in.
- Avoid pesticide use.
- Pesticides should only be used as a last resort, removing pests by hand or by encouraging natural predators helps protect the pollinating species.
- Install a butterfly box. Small boxes with thin slits, butterfly boxes provide a winter home for adult butterflies to hibernate.
- Install a solitary bee nursery, usually consisting of small hollow pieces of wood that provide space for bees to lay their eggs.
- Providing a bee nursery mimics the natural twigs and reeds that female bees require to lay their eggs.

Did You Know?

- That there are over 800 different species of bees in Canada.
- Solitary bees do not live in a hive and are unlikely to sting you as they only have themselves to defend.



Town of Ajax Waterfront Meadow

Meadowscaping

The Town is committed to helping secure our food system and maintaining the population of our pollinators. Around Ajax you will notice large areas of native grasses and flowers. This type of horticulture is known as meadowscaping. Meadowscaping recreates meadows that have grown naturally in this area and thus reintroduces suitable habitat for our pollinator animals.

In addition to supporting pollinators, meadowscaping can also help the environment by:

- Intercepting precipitation, which helps reduce flooding and erosion.
- Improving water quality in our creeks and Lake Ontario.
- Recharging groundwater.
- Providing habitat for wildlife.
- Providing recreational opportunities.



FOOD

What is a Healthy Yard?

A yard that is good for the environment is a healthy yard. There are a number of ways that you can ensure your yard is a healthy yard.

Native Plants

Native plants have evolved within the Town and are well-suited for local conditions; temperature, precipitation and soil quality. Planting native plant species brings several benefits:

- Easy to care for and require less water and fertilizer.
- Provides food and homes for native insects and animals.
- Forms part of a natural, balanced ecosystem.
- Adds colourful, textural beauty to your landscape.

Native Wildflowers, Shrubs & Grasses

Wildflowers

Anemone	Little Bluestem
Aster	Prairie Blazing star
Black Eyed Susan	Purple Coneflower
Cardinal Flower	Smooth Penstemon
Common Milkweed	Stiff Goldenrod
Evening Primrose	Swamp Milkweed
Fireweed	Trillium
Fleabanes	Vervain
Giant Hyssop	Wild Bergamot
Golden Alexander	Wild Columbine
Golden Rod	Wild Senna
Joye Oie Weed	Wild Strawberry
Lance Leafed Coreopsis	Woodland Sunflower
Lavender Hyssop	Yellow Coneflower

Grasses

Annual Rye	Fringed Brome Grass
Autumn Bent Grass	Indian Grass
Bottle Brush Grass	Little Bluestem
Canada Wild Rye	Sand Dropseed
Creeping Bentgrass	Tall Manna Grass
Culvers Root	

Shrubs

Bush Honeysuckle	Round Leaved Serviceberry
Choke Cherry	Staghorn Sumac
Elderberry	Swamp Rose
Juniper	Wild Red Raspberry
Low Bush Blueberry	Winterberry
Red Osier Dogwood	



Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a low, landscaped area that is designed to accept, clean and infiltrate stormwater runoff from your property. Water infiltration into the ground could take several hours depending on the soil type.

- Place your garden at least 3m from your home's foundation and 2m from all property lines.
- Choose a variety of plants that can tolerate very wet and very dry conditions, planting in layers of mulch, soil and gravel to allow for proper infiltration.
- Choose a location in partial or full sunlight.
- Rain gardens should not interfere with the existing swales (low level, moist land) on your property.
- Ensure that the location and construction of your rain garden does not adversely affect your property or your neighbour's property.

Container Gardening

Container gardening is growing food and native plants in containers instead of directly in the ground. This approach is great for residents who live in apartments, condos or townhouses.

- Make sure you choose containers made of materials that can withstand severe weather conditions.
- Consider a self-watering container- this reduces your personal efforts and ensures flowers & vegetables receive the water needed to flourish.
- Rotate the types of plants in the pot annually to ensure that soil quality remains high.
- Avoid non native plant and over-use of fertilizers.

Lawn Care

Lawns are one of the most common forms of landscaping in Canada and can be expensive to maintain. Residents spend hundreds of dollars a year on water, fuel and fertilizers. Not only does this put a strain on your pocketbook, it puts a strain on the environment.

Nourish the soil

- Apply Compost.
- Leave grass clippings where they fall.
- Soil test before you fertilize.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizer. This helps protect water quality in creeks and Lake Ontario.

Aeration

- Allows water and air to get under the top layer of grass and soil.
- Helps choke out dandelions and other weeds.
- Use hardy and drought tolerant seed mixtures.



Mow high with a sharp blade – don't cut the grass too short – maintain a height of at least 7cm.

- Shades out sun-loving weeds.
- Keeps soil cool and moist (less watering).
- Use a push mower (saves the cost of gas & electricity and reduces air pollution).

Water Wisely

- Early morning watering reduces evaporation.
- Monitor the amount of water on your lawn using a rain gauge.
- Grass needs on average 2.5cm per week of water.
- Use soaker hoses in garden beds to help prevent leaf rot and ensure root penetration.

Landscaping for Energy Efficiency

The placing of trees, shrubs and vines can dramatically change the climate surrounding your home. With careful placement you can reduce the need for heating and cooling your home, which not only saves you money but also reduces your homes contribution to air pollution and climate change.

Summer Shading

- Plant deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) on the south and west sides of your home.
- Large trees that shade the roof of your home can decrease the indoor temperature by up to 5°C.
- Shade your air conditioner. It does not have to work as hard to cool your home if it's cool.

Winter Windbreaks

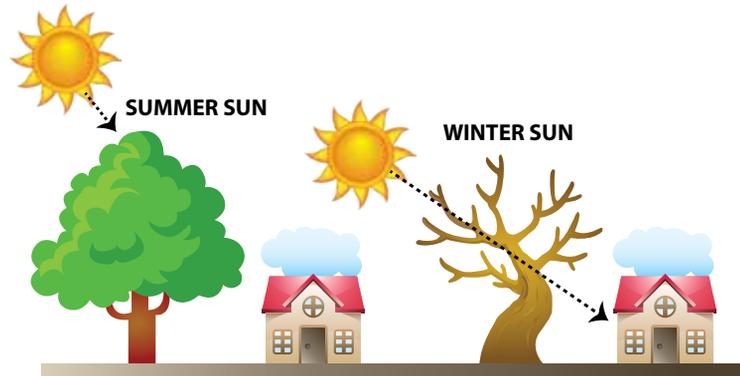
- Plant a row of tall evergreens on the northwest side of your home to block or reduce the speed of cold winter wind.
- Plant a small row of smaller evergreens about four feet from the north side of your home – this row acts as a layer of insulation.

Insulating Vines

- Help keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer.
- They should only be trained to grow up undamaged walls and away from wooden windows, sills and doors.
- These vines can also be trained to grow up trellises against walls.

Water Conservation

- Disconnect your downspout from a sewer line and direct rain water into a barrel or onto a permeable surface.
- Install rain barrels to reduce consumption of municipal water for lawns and gardens.



Trees

The urban forest is made up of all trees in the town, including the trees in your backyard, that line the streets and in public parks and conservation areas. Trees provide many environmental, health, social and recreational benefits.

19% of the Town of Ajax is covered with trees, helping to:

- Absorb air pollution.
- Offset climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases.
- Prevent soil erosion by holding soil in place and safeguarding our valuable soil.
- Protect our water cycle by filtering rainwater before it enters the groundwater system or our lakes & creeks.
- Provide habitat for local and migratory wildlife.
- Shade our homes, protect us from dangerous UV rays and save us money by keeping things cooler or warmer without heating and air conditioning.
- Beautify our town and provide a pleasant streetscape for residents & visitors.

Did You Know?

Ajax's trees store 2,484 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year – offsetting the carbon emissions of about 453 average passenger vehicles.

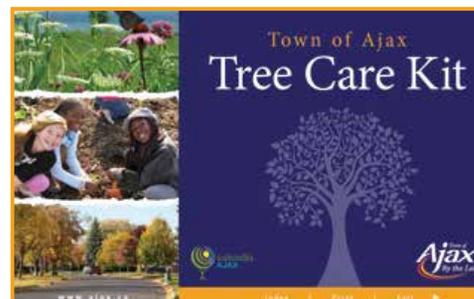
Tree Care Kit

The Town's Tree Care Kit is a great resource for residents who want to explore Ajax's urban forest and care for the trees on their property.

The tree care kit includes:

- Introduction to Ajax's Urban Forest.
- Made for Shade.
- The Landowners Guide to Controlling Invasive Woodland Plants.
- Trees are Good.
- Healthy Yards.
- Municipal Street Tree Information Sheets & Maintenance Guidelines (Street Tree Planting).
- Emerald Ash Borer.

Download the kit at www.ajax.ca.



Wildlife

Urban wildlife is the name given to animals that have been able to adapt to living in an urban setting. Ajax is fortunate to have many species present, from the American Toad to White Tailed Deer. Wildlife should be enjoyed from a distance and their natural habitat. Animals that you may see around the town include:

- Beavers
- Raccoon
- Coyotes
- Skunks
- Foxes
- Squirrel
- Canadian Geese
- White Tailed Deer

Tips to Protect Urban Wildlife & Avoid Confrontation

Never feed wildlife

- Feeding wildlife has negative consequences both for people and animals.
- Animals can become dependent on the food that is not naturally available to them.
- Animals can lose their natural fear of humans, often leading to conflict.
- Feeding animals can cause them to congregate in unnaturally large groups, posing a greater risk of spreading disease.
- Secure garbage & compost, only bring to curbside the morning of waste collection.

Do not Touch Wildlife

- Handling wildlife causes stress and can put their lives at risk.
- Touching wildlife may cause them to protect themselves by attacking you and may cause you physical harm.

Wildlife Proof Your Home

Many species of wildlife are seeking shelter from the weather or to nest. Warm, hidden spaces, such as attics, underneath decks, chimneys and garages, often provide the habitat they are seeking.

- Seal any holes in garages, sheds & roofs.
- Invest in a chimney cap to stop wildlife from entering your home.
- Keep your barbecue clean and clear any drippings on the surface of your deck.

Please note, Ajax Animal Services does not handle wildlife concerns unless the animal is injured or is located on Town property.

For more information regarding wildlife, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources 1-800-667-1940 or visit www.mnr.gov.on.ca.



NATURAL ASSETS
& HABITAT

Active Transportation

Active Transportation (AT) refers to the use of any form of human-powered transportation to move around. Modes of travel considered AT include: walking or running, cycling, in-line skating, non-motorized wheelchairs, skateboarding and cross-country skiing.

There are a number of benefits associated with active transportation including:

- Improved overall health
- Increased accessibility
- Reduced negative environmental impacts
- Decreased strain on existing infrastructure
- Improved quality of life

The Town has done extensive work to ensure that our community has a connected network of on-road and off-road facilities that can be used. Currently, Ajax has over 28 km of on-street cycling facilities and 90 km of trails.

As a pedestrian or cyclist, there are a number of rules and practices that you need to know. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists need to be aware of their surroundings. For additional information about cycling safety and trail etiquette, visit www.ajax.ca/ata.

Public Transportation

Durham Region Transit (DRT) offers public transit service to every municipality in the Region. There are several bus routes that run through the Town and connect residents to key destinations in Ajax and neighbouring municipalities. DRT busses are equipped with bicycle racks to encourage cyclists to combine cycling with public transit trips. New to the DRT network is a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route along Highway 2, with dedicated lanes for regional busses. For more information, visit www.durhamregiontransit.com.

The Ajax GO Train station is located on Westney Road South, just south of Highway 401. Regular train service on the Lakeshore East line connects Durham Region residents with the City of Toronto. Trains run every 30 minutes, seven days a week. Sheltered bicycle parking is available at the Ajax GO Station allowing residents to combine active transportation trips with transit. GO Transit operates a number of bus routes with stops in addition to train service. Route and schedule information can be found online at www.gotransit.com.

Carpool Zone

Durham Region Smart Commute offers a program that links drivers with similar routes to arrange a carpool. Two people, sharing a 50 km (return) commute five days a week, will reduce environmental impacts and save each individual approximately \$54 on gasoline alone in one month (based on gas price of \$1.21/litre).

Anyone can sign up for the Carpool Zone program online at www.carpoolzone.smartcommute.ca.



Welcome Cyclists Network

Numerous local businesses have registered to be a part of the Ajax Welcome Cyclists Network. This program certifies and promotes bicycle friendly businesses that offer basic amenities to cyclists. All Welcome Cyclists businesses offer bike parking, washrooms, water refilling, and local cycling route information at no cost. The Town has provided each business with a basic bike repair kit. Look for the Welcome Cyclists logo in store windows. For a list of participating Ajax businesses, go to www.visitajax.ca.



E-Bikes

Power assisted bikes or e-bikes have a battery-powered electric motor that increases the amount of power to the wheels and reduces the amount of pedaling for the cyclist. All traffic laws that apply to bicycles also apply to e-bikes, therefore, e-bikes are not permitted to travel where non-motorized bicycles are not allowed, including sidewalks. Under the Town's Parks Bylaws, e-bikes are only permitted to be driven on roadways. They are not permitted to be driven on trails unless they are being propelled only by the operator without the assistance of the motor.

E-bikes must have a bell or horn and front and rear lights. Operators of e-bikes are not required to hold a driver's license, have their e-bike registered or plated or have motor vehicle insurance.



Bicycle Friendly Community

Providing residents with transportation options is a key component to building a livable, enjoyable community. The Town is dedicated to creating a safe, integrated network of active transportation facilities. Ajax is proud to be one of Ontario's first Bicycle Friendly Communities. This designation from Share the Road Canada, recognizes our extensive cycling network of dedicated bike lanes, shared-roadways and multi-use trails.





Household Garbage collection

Garbage collection is managed by the Region of Durham. Blue box and Green bin materials are collected weekly, and garbage is collected bi-weekly. For more information, visit durham.ca/waste.

Large Bulky Items

Bulky waste items can be collected by the Region of Durham on a bi-weekly basis, alongside regular garbage collection. There is a curbside limit of two (2) items per bi-weekly collection. No appointment is required for this service.

Garbage Bag Tags

There are no limits to the amount of recycling or green bin material that can be placed curbside. However, there is a four (4) bag limit on garbage bags for every two week pick-up. If you go over your limit of garbage bags then a garbage bag tag must be purchased. Several Town facilities sell tags. See the table below to determine your closest location.

	Garbage Bag Tags	Small Blue Bins	Large Blue Bins	Green Bins	Waste Collection Calendar
Town Hall 65 Harwood Ave.S.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operations Centre 800 Salem Rd. N.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ajax Community Centre 75 Centennial Rd.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
McLean Community Centre 95 Magill Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Audley Recreation Centre 1955 Audley Rd. N.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Electronic, Metal & Porcelain Waste

- Electronic waste such as computers, printers and cell phones can be collected by the Region of Durham for recycling.
- Large metal items such as fridges, dishwashers and patio furniture can also be collected by the Region of Durham for recycling.
- Porcelain materials such as sinks, toilets and bathtubs can be collected for recycling by the Region of Durham.

These services are free of charge; and an appointment is required. For more information please visit, www.durham.ca/waste or call 1-800-667-5671.

Yard Waste

Leaf and Yard Waste Collection is offered seasonally by the Region of Durham. Please check your collection schedule to determine your pick up days.

www.durham.ca/DisposalTools/CollectionCalendar.aspx.

Leaves and small brush should be placed in a brown Kraft bag or a clearly labelled open top rigid container on your curbside. Please note, grass clipping are currently not accepted in leaf and yard waste.



Recycling Bins

Residents are encouraged to use two or more blue boxes to separate their recyclable material: one for papers and newspapers and another for containers.

Large blue bins, small blue bins and green bins are available for purchase at several Town facilities. Please note, the Town only sells new bins. Exchanges for damaged blue and green bins can be done through the Region of Durham at 4600 Garrard in Whitby or at one of our special community waste events.

Special Community Waste Events

The Town and Region often partner to host special waste events, such as compost giveaways, household hazardous waste and electronic collection days. For more information please visit www.sustainableajax.ca.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

HHW are items found in the home that have the potential to cause harm to people or the environment if disposed of incorrectly.

Items include:

- Antifreeze
- Car batteries
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Household batteries
- Motor oil & used oil filters
- Paints & paint thinners
- Pesticides & fertilisers
- Pool chemicals
- Pressurized cylinders (propane tanks)
- Syringes and needles

The Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program is an important waste diversion program managed by Stewardship Ontario. Under this program, companies that manufacture and market the HHW products are taking responsibility and sharing the cost of recovering left-over product or waste for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal.

Under the MHSW program, Orange Drop has been formed to provide Ontario residents with a free, safe and easy way to dispose of household products that require special handling. To determine the closest Orange Drop location for your HHW, visit www.makethedrop.ca.

Many of the Region of Durham Waste disposal sites also accept household hazardous waste. If the waste is 100% HHW, disposal is free. For more information on Region of Durham disposal locations please visit www.durham.ca/waste.

Litter & Illegal Dumping

When someone deliberately dumps waste on public or private property without consent, they are dumping illegally. This includes the disposal of residential waste in bins located on public property. Cleanup of dumping costs taxpayers money and the culprit can be fined up to \$5,000 under the Clean Community By-law, BY-LAW NUMBER 130- 2012.

Community Cleanups

The Town works hard to ensure that the community is a litter free environment. However, support from residents, schools and community groups is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to organize a community litter pick the Town can supply bags, gloves, and garbage collection.

For more information, contact Operations & Environmental Services at operations@ajax.ca or by calling 905-683-2951.



WASTE

Where does our water come from?

Ajax is fortunate to be located on the shores of Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario is the 14th largest lake in the world, and is one of five Great Lakes. The Great Lakes support 20% of the world's accessible freshwater. Lake Ontario provides most of Ajax's drinking water. This lake also allows for recreation, farming and manufacturing to take place in the area. Many threats face Lake Ontario, including decreased water levels, climate change, chemical pollution, algae & bacteria growth, loss of natural habitat and invasive species. It is very important to conserve and protect the quality of our water supply.



WATER

Water Conservation

In Ajax, water from Lake Ontario and other sources undergoes a strict purification process before it reaches our taps. This process requires the use of energy, water and chemicals. We can reduce the amount of water that needs to be purified and conserve resources by collecting rainwater.

Rain barrels

Rain barrels store rainwater that runs off of the roof of your home.

Rain barrel benefits:

- A reduced need to use municipal water to water your garden.
- Water bill savings.

- Having an excellent source of non chlorinated water for garden beds, pots & hanging baskets (if your barrel is slightly elevated and has a spigot, a hose can use gravity to feed water to your lawn).
- Reducing water runoff during a storm.

Rain barrel tips

- Select a rain barrel that is able to collect all the rain from your home (available from your local home improvement store).
- Ensure that there is a fine mesh screen on the top of your rain barrel to prevent insect and debris getting into your rain barrel.
- Ensure your rain barrel has an overflow system, which should be directed away from your house's foundation and your neighbour's.
- Place the rain barrel under your down spout.
- Raise your rain barrel off the ground if you wish to use gravity to water your lawn (ensure that the platform is secure and safe for children and animals).
- Drain your rain barrel before each rain event to allow for full capacity storage.
- As temperatures begin to drop, drain your rain barrel and turn it upside down to avoid cracks from freezing water.



Courtesy of TCRA



Choosing tap water over bottled water.

Tap Water Facts

- Tap water is accessible and more sustainable than bottled water.
- In Durham Region, your tap water is safe to drink. It continuously exceeds the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards set by the Ministry of the Environment.

Bottled Water Facts

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has endorsed a resolution urging all municipalities to phase out the sale of bottled water, and over 50 municipalities in Ontario have implemented restrictions on bottled water.
- Bottled water is more costly than tap water. Environment Canada states that 1,000 litres of tap water costs \$1.26, while the same amount of bottled water costs \$1,500.
- It takes about three litres of water to manufacture a one litre plastic bottle.
- A significant amount of energy is used to create, ship and recycle plastic bottles.
- An estimated 650 million used plastic bottles enter landfills each year.

Town of Ajax Initiatives

- Town meetings are bottled water free.
- Bottled water is no longer sold from vending machines and concessions at the Ajax Community Centre and Sportsplex.

- Water fountains at community centres are being fitted with bottle filler attachments.
- New parks and facilities include provisions for access to municipal water.
- Facility users and special event patrons are encouraged to bring reusable containers.
- The sale of bottled water at special events is being phased out.

What you can do to help

- Be a role model for others by choosing tap water over bottled water.
- Fill a reusable container for use at your desk, in the gym and on the go.
- Keep meetings and special events bottled water free.
- Let your family and friends know about the Town's "Tap into it!" program.



Watering your Lawn

Grass in our climate, requires only 2.5 cm or 1" of water per week, including rainfall to remain healthy. Moderate lawn watering is equally important to the health of your lawn. Remember, just 2.5 cm per week and your lawn will THRIVE!

Odd and Even Day Lawn Watering

The Region of Durham enforces odd - even day lawn watering during the months of May through September under the Regional Water System Bylaw.

- If your house number is odd, water only on odd calendar days.
- If your house number is even, water only on even calendar days.
- Monitor the amount of water on your lawn using a rain gauge.

Water Quality Protection

The quality of water is impacted by the amount of metals, bacteria, sediment and minerals present in the water. Many of these contaminants are released into the water as a result of household, industrial and agricultural practices.

Tips for water quality conscious cleaning:

- Avoid every-day use of anti-bacterial soaps. They destroy both beneficial and harmful bacteria when released into the environment. Regular soap works just as well for normal cleaning purposes.
- Avoid use of skin cleansing and cosmetic products containing plastic particles. The tiny pieces of plastic bypass water treatment plants and are being consumed by aquatic creatures in our lakes and creeks.

Algae growth

Algae blooms in freshwater lakes are caused when there are enough nutrients to cause the algae organism to grow. These nutrients usually consist of phosphates and nitrates. Phosphates and nitrates enter the water ways as a result of chemical use such as fertilizers, detergents and household cleaners.

To reduce algae growth:

- Avoid using fertilizers as they contain large nutrients that encourage algae growth.
- Choose phosphate-free detergents, soaps, and household cleaners.
- Use a commercial carwash; they are required to treat wastewater, and many also filter and recycle their water.
- Pick up pet waste to avoid rain carrying nutrients into the water system.

West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito - borne illness that can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.

The following simple steps can be taken to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites in and around your home:

- Remove unused objects, garbage and refuse that might collect stagnant water (tires, plastic bags, etc.).
- When not in use, turn over items such as wading pools, recycling boxes, wheelbarrows and small boats/canoes.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Cover when not in use.
- At least once per week, drain water that collects on pool covers and in window boxes, flower pots, etc.
- At least once per week, change water in wading pools, bird baths and pet food/water dishes.
- Aerate ornamental ponds.
- Cover rain barrels with a fine mesh or screen.
- Do not wash grass clippings or leaves down roadside catch basins.
- Turn compost over on a regular basis.
- Keep roof gutters clean and unclogged.

This information was obtained from Durham Region Department of Health for more information, contact:

Durham Region Health Department, Environmental Help Line, 905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613, or visit www.durham.ca.



WATER

Emptying your Pool

Draining your swimming pool results in large amounts of water being released. This can release chemicals such as chlorine into the environment or potentially flood property.

Tips for emptying your pool

- De-chlorinate your pool before emptying.
- Always empty your pool on a dry day.
- Ensure water is released onto permeable surfaces for natural infiltration.
- Never let pool water drain or migrate onto your neighbour's property.

Disconnected down spout

One of the easiest ways to improve and protect water quality is to disconnect the downspouts* from the roof. Downspouts can be directed into a storage tank (a rain barrel or rain harvesting tank) to be used later, or onto permeable surfaces, such as lawns to infiltrate naturally. In older parts of the town, some downspouts may be connected to the sanitary sewer, this increases the possibility of a sewage back-up in a major rain event.

*Note before disconnecting your downspout make sure that overflow will not discharge onto a hard surface (driveway, walkway etc) or surface that will adversely affect your property or your neighbours'. For more information, visit www.riversides.org/rainguide or www.trca.on.ca.

Did You Know?

The Town of Ajax is one of the few communities in Canada recognized as a *Blue Community* for our position that "water is central to all human activity".

For more information on how you can protect stormwater check out the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Brochure at www.ajax.ca.

The Region of Durham is responsible for treating and supplying water to your home. The Region also treats the waste water that leaves your home. For more information regarding water services & billing contact

The Region of Durham

PO Box 623,
101 Consumers Dr.
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Tel: 905-668-7711

Fax: 905-666-8826

Email: info@durham.ca

Website: www.durham.ca



The Sustainable Shopper Logo Directory

Selecting products that are the most sustainable requires the shopper to evaluate the product for the following:

- What materials is product made of?
- Where was the product made?
- What does the product require to work – can it be repaired if damaged?
- How will the product be disposed of at the end of its life?

Below is a directory of recognized, trusted and third-party endorsed labels:



The Forest Stewardship Council logo is found on products worldwide that come from sustainably managed forests or recycled material.



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative logo (SFI) is an international standard for products that contain wood fibers from one or more of the following: recycled content, SFI certified forest, fibers from non controversial sources.



A product showing the Bullfrog Powered logo would have had the equivalent energy consumed in its manufacturing stage matched with the generation of electricity by renewable sources such as solar and wind.



The Foodland Ontario logo is used to identify food products made from ingredients grown in Ontario.



This logo is found on certified products that meet The Organic Products Regulation and contain at least 95% organic ingredients.



This standard is awarded to companies that practice sustainable forestry, ensure workers are safe, protect community resources and support eco tourism.



A product with this label means that Fair-trade Standards including economic, social and environmental criteria have been met. This standard supports sustainable development for small scale producers and farmers.



The Biodegradable Products Institute logo confirms the product as being compostable. Liners for household organics must bear this logo to be accepted in the municipal green bin program.



This logo is given to agriculture products that meet United States Department of Agriculture Organic criteria.



This program is run by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Items with this logo are deemed to be 20% more water efficient than the standard product that achieves the same result.



This label confirms that all the materials present in a product were processed without the addition of chlorine.



The ISO 14001 standard is given to companies that implement an environmental management system to monitor and continue to reduce their environmental impacts.



This standard is monitored by Environment Canada. Products and services that are less harmful to the environment meeting environmental standards confirmed by an external auditor can display this logo on the product.



This symbol shows that the product may contain recycled content or can be recycled. However, you should not conclude that it is recyclable in your municipal waste system.

Get Involved!

The Town of Ajax and its partners host many green events throughout the year including workshops, film nights and seminars. For a complete listing, visit www.sustainableajax.ca.

Green Living Days

Ajax Green Living Days is held every April as a multi-day event to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd and to help promote environmental awareness.

Earth Hour – Lights out Ajax!

Earth Hour is an annual international lights-out event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) that takes place in late March.

Earth Hour has become a global movement that envisions a greener, cleaner world where:

- Renewable energy outweighs fossil fuels.
- Economic needs are balanced with ecological needs.
- We can all have access to fresh air, clean drinking water and natural resources no matter where you live.
- Urgent action on climate change is a priority for individuals, governments and companies.
- The health of our planet is ensured now and for generations to come.

For more information check out www.earthhour.org.

Ajax in Bloom

Ajax in Bloom is a celebration of civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation. Each spring, residents, businesses, and schools are invited to nominate the gardens they believe will become the best in Town.

Trailfest

In early June, the Ajax Transportation and Trails Committee and the Town organize the annual Trailfest event. Residents can participate in cycling and walking activities, and take advantage of bike tuning workshops and other active transportation activities.

Special Waste Events

Through partnerships with local municipalities, the Region hosts many community waste events throughout the year including the Compost Give Away, E-waste Collection and Hazardous Waste Collection.



GET INVOLVED

Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee

The Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) serves as an environmental advisory body to Council. The committee is made up of 7-12 members who reside in Ajax. EAC members meet on a monthly basis and provide comment and expertise on the preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural environment within the Town of Ajax in order to improve the quality of life for all residents. The committee also reviews recommendations to Council on policies, programs and regulations that impact the environment.

Members of EAC serve on a four year term, which is concurrent to appointed term of Council. The Town of Ajax invites interested and qualified residents to apply for appointment to various Citizen Advisory Committees. Advisory Committees play a valuable role in the Town of Ajax as Council relies on its committees to provide insight and recommendation on emerging issues, policies and programs. To learn more, visit www.ajax.ca.



Environmental Advisory Committee Mandate:

- **To promote the preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural environment in the Town of Ajax.**
- **To assist the Town of Ajax, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority with the implementation of community projects.**
- **To examine and comment on Town policies relating to environmental issues; and**
- **To assist with public outreach and education regarding environmental issues(e.g. Ajax Green Living Days, Waste Reduction, etc.)**



RESOURCES

Utilities

Electricity

Veridian Connections

Veridian Connections Inc,
5 Taunton Rd. E.,
Ajax, Ontario, L1T 3V3

Customer Service Tel: 905-427-987

24hr Outage Tel: 1-866-579-6819

Website: www.veridian.on.ca

Gas

Enbridge Gas

Enbridge Gas Toronto (Head office),
500 Consumers Road,
North York, Ontario, M2J 1P8

Customer Service Tel: 1-877-362-7434

Fax: 1-888-711-1211

Emergency Tel: 1-866-763-5427

Email: customer-care@enbridge.com

Website: www.enbridgegas.com

Water

The Region of Durham

The Region of Durham Headquarters,
605 Rossland Rd. E. - P.O. Box 720,
Whitby, ON L1N 0B1

Billing Enquiries Tel: 905-666-6211

Email: waterbilling@durham.ca

**Watermains Leaks, Water meters
& Sewage Tel:** 905-683-1471

Conservation Authorities

Central Lakes Ontario

Conservation Authority (CLOCA)
is responsible for the Lynde Creek
Watershed and can be contacted by:

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Office,

100 Whiting Ave.,
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3T3

Tel: 905-579-0411

Fax: 905-579-0994

Email: mail@cloca.com

Website: www.cloca.com

Toronto and Region

Conservation Authority (TRCA)
is responsible for the Carruthers,
Duffins and the Waterfront.

TRCA Customer Service

5 Shoreham Drive,
Downsview, Ontario M3N 1S4

Tel: 416-667-6295

Fax: 416-667-6271

E-mail: customerservice@trca.on.ca

Website: www.trca.on.ca

Government

Provincial

Ministry of Natural Resources

Natural Resources Information Centre,
300 Water Street,
Peterborough, ON, K9J 8M5

Tel: 1-800-667-1940

Fax: 1-705-755-1677

Email: mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca

Ministry of Environment

Macdonald Block,
Suite M2-22 - 900 Bay Street,
Toronto, ON, M7A 1N3

Tel: 1-800-565-4923

Fax: 416-325-3159

Email: picemail.moe@ontario.ca

Website: www.ene.gov.on.ca

Regional

The Region of Durham

PO Box 623, 101 Consumers Dr. Whitby,
ON L1N 6A3

Tel: 905-668-7711

Fax: 905-666-8826

Email: info@durham.ca

Website: www.durham.ca

Municipal

The Town of Ajax

65 Harwood Ave. S.
Ajax, ON L1S 2H9

Tel: 905-683-4550

Website: www.ajax.ca



sustainable AJAX

Town of Ajax Sustainability Partners

