

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

When and why did the CCF shut down?

On June 24, 2018, the City stopped accepting green bin material at the CCF and began the process of a voluntary and temporary shutdown of the operations in response to odour complaints.

What caused the odours?

The City and its operations contractor have completed their investigations into the causes of the odour experienced in June 2018. Both the City and its operations contractor have submitted these investigative findings to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review.

How long was the CCF closed?

The CCF has been closed for approximately seven months. The CCF stopped accepting green bin material on June 24, 2018 and will restart operations on February 4, 2019.

How much green bin material will the CCF be processing when it restarts? Is it the same amount as before the shut down?

The initial start-up of the CCF will be limited to approximately 20,000-annual tonnes, which is down by 66% from the 60,000 annual tonnes the facility was processing in the summer of 2018.

Initially, the CCF will operate under limited capacity, but following the approval of the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) amendment, and the installation of capital upgrades, the CCF will be able to operate at an annual processing capacity of 40,000 tonnes.

How can the City be sure the issues with the CCF have been fixed?

In order to restart the CCF, the City and its operator have made a number of improvements and adjustments to the operations and site procedures include:

- ▶ Reducing the process capacity of the CCF to one third the original design
- ▶ Accepting and processing only green bin material from the City of Hamilton and not from other municipalities
- ▶ Eliminating the use of the curing building and curing compost either in the main processing building or offsite at a third-party processor
- ▶ Temporarily banning grass and leaf and yard waste in the Green Bin program starting in April 1, 2019
- ▶ Additional operational performance monitoring including implementation and monitoring of additional key performance indicators
- ▶ Hiring a third-party company to patrol the surrounding neighbourhoods for air quality impacts

What can I do if I believe I can smell the compost facility?

Residents looking for more information about the re-opening of the CCF or who would like to report a concern about air quality in their neighbourhood related to the CCF can contact the City at ccfhamilton@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546 CITY.

What is the City doing moving forward to ensure that the odours won't return?

Moving forward, the City will be upgrading the equipment in the CCF. The City's recommended plans for these upgrades were submitted to the MECP for review and approval. The following upgrades will be made to the CCF:

- ▶ Installation of an acid scrubber to assist in the removal of ammonia generated by the composting process;
- ▶ Extension of the bio-filter exhaust stack from 30 metres to 50 metres; and
- ▶ Installation of a carbon filtration system to assist with the treatment of odours.

How can I help ensure the CCF is operational and not causing odours?

To assist in re-starting the facility, the City is asking residents to stop using their green bin for leaf and yard waste including grass clippings. Removing leaf and yard waste will help green bin material turn into compost more efficiently. Leaf and yard waste can be made into compost more naturally and for less money at Hamilton's separate outdoor composting area.

How do I dispose of my yard waste including grass?

- ▶ Leaf and yard waste should go in a brown paper bag or in an open top rigid reusable container, preferably marked with a City of Hamilton yard waste sticker.
- ▶ You can pick up your free leaf and yard waste sticker at any Hamilton Recreation Centre or Municipal Service Centre.
- ▶ Another option is to try grasscycling by leaving your clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings provide food for worms, which will naturally aerate your soil. They add nutrients back into the soil to help make your lawn healthy and green.

What happens to my yard waste when collected? Where is taken?

Grass and leaf and yard waste can be made into compost more naturally and for less money at Hamilton's separate outdoor composting area.