# Nifty Ideas
# For Windy Dilemmas

## If your wheelie is tipsy: This is for you.

Not everyone has an ideal level surface to set out their bin and others are more susceptible to the wind. This handout was created to share ideas that other users like you have found to keep their wheelie bins upright until they have been collected.

We are always looking for innovation, so if you have ideas of your own worth sharing send them to us at

**info@bra.org**

BRA
Bluewater Recycling Association

**"Anyone who thinks leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day." Shira Tamir**

Making the decision to change the way we collect waste and recyclables was not one that was taken lightly. It took years of research and a battery of tests before we were convinced that it was an improvement for everyone that was worth the investment in the long term.

As part of the evaluation to switch our waste and recycling system to an automated style using wheelie bins we reviewed the container's ability to withstand strong winds because we are familiar with this concern in the rural area specially near the shores of Lake Huron. We have wind tunnel testing that demonstrates the ability to withstand 56 to 90 km/hr wind gusts depending on the size of the container and the face exposed. A look at the hourly records at Sarnia Airport in 2011 indicated that throughout the entire year on the hourly recordings the wind never reached 60 km/hr. We all know that we did have gusts of wind in excess of 60 km/hr in 2011 as brief as they may have been.

We cannot control the weather and we don't know any blue boxes that can withstand any winds close to 60 km/hr so we are sure the old system would not have performed better. There are a couple of suggestions we can offer in order to help with the problem as long as you understand that if mother nature decides to blow hard enough, it will tip your container.

**Bin Wind Resistance Test**

| km/hr | Small | Medium | Large |
|---|---|---|---|
| Front | 58.4 | 68.9 | 56.3 |
| Side | 60.5 | 63.9 | 75.6 |
| Back | 69.4 | 65.3 | 90.1 |

## Here are the tips:

1) When setting out your container, make sure it is on a level surface as much as possible.

2) Make sure the arrows point to the road and the wheels are away from the road.

3) Set out your container when full or nearly full. Breaking down boxes can give you the room you need.

4) Make sure the lid is closed at all times. Open lids act as a sail, facilitating a tip over.

5) If you have a railroad tie, log, or snowbank to rest the wheels of the container against it will prevent the roll away motion that facilitates tip overs from the gathering inertia.

6) Set the container within reach for collection but not right at the roadside. Our vehicle can travel on the shoulder of the road and we can reach up to 12 feet away. This placement away from the road may help with the fast moving heavy vehicles.

7) Bagging the waste inside the container helps stabilize the contents and in the event of a spill, it is easier to clean up.

8) On days where a wind advisory is in effect, avoid setting out your container(s).

On the opposite side you will find a collection of photos from local residents that have developed their own solutions to overcome the tipsy issues. These residents could not find level ground to set their bins. The additional support seems to keep the containers upright until collection. A simple t-bar, scrap lumber, or even a used hockey stick have made cleaning up, a thing of the past.

For more info please contact the Bluewater Recycling Association at
1-800-265-9799 • info@bra.org • www.bra.org

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