SEED

SUSTAINABLE • ENVIRONMENT • ENERGY • DESIGN

MARCH BULLETIN

Do you know aTRR has an Environmental Protection Policy*?

Yes, we do! The policy has a stated purpose:

> aTRR is committed to environmental responsibility across all areas of operation and project delivery. As an architectural practice, we aim to integrate sustainable design principles, reduce our ecological impact, and promote environmental stewardship in our internal operations and through our influence on the built environment.

It's not just a policy, instead, a shared responsibility. Across the studios, our teams are encouraged to bring forward ideas, challenge assumptions, and find new ways to reduce our impact!

WHAT IS aTRR'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY?

At aTRR, environmental responsibility isn't an afterthought, it's part of how we think, design, and operate every day. As an architectural practice, we're committed to embedding sustainable design principles into our work, reducing our ecological footprint, and using our role in the built environment to drive positive change.

Our environmental priorities include:

1. Energy efficiency
2. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction
3. Renewable energy integration
4. Sustainable resource management
5. Waste reduction
6. Water quality, consumption, and management
7. Air quality
8. Responsible chemical use
9. Biodiversity, land use, and deforestation

We meet all relevant environmental legislation and standards and aim to go beyond them wherever possible. This policy is regularly reviewed to stay aligned with evolving best practices.

Everyone at aTRR plays a role. We encourage our team to bring forward new ideas, challenge existing approaches, and continuously grow their understanding of environmental responsibility.

Blue Box Program, how it s done!

Cardboard Boxes



Examples:
Pizza boxes, direct mail boxes, moving boxes, shoe boxes

Please note:
Flatten boxes and reduce size to no larger than 60 x 60 cm

Boxboard



Examples:
Cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, rolls from toilet paper and paper towel

Please note:
To empty boxes and flatten with reduced size no bigger than 60 x 60 cm

Paper



Examples:
Flour bags, paper bags, notepads, white or coloured paper, magazines, gift boxes

Please note:
Empty, place shredded paper in clear plastic bag, tied. Remove plastic bag cover, rubber bands, rope hanles. Do not include soft or hard covered books/novels

How can we promote environmental stewardship in our internal operations?

Energy & Office Efficiency

- Turn off lights, monitors, and equipment at the end of the day; use sleep modes, motion sensors, and task lighting only when needed.
- Optimize heating/cooling by managing blinds, windows, and thermostat settings, and taking advantage of natural light.
- Reduce unnecessary energy use by unplugging idle devices and using efficient office settings.

Sustainable Practices & Waste Reduction

- Minimize paper use, reuse materials where possible, and follow recycling guidelines diligently.
- Purchase durable, recyclable, and high-recycled-content supplies, ideally local or Canadian-made.
- Reduce waste through bulk purchasing, returning unused samples, and choosing recyclable products.

Low-Carbon & Healthy Workplace

- Reduce emissions by using public transit, carpooling, or biking when possible.
- Support a healthier office with indoor plants, water-conscious habits, and green cleaning products.
- Explore small renewable options, such as solar-powered devices.

Collectively, these seemingly trivial actions are small steps that not only contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of the operation of aTRR and simultaneously enhance our well-being over time, they can also play a role in advancing towards a sustainable future.

Welcome Kelsey!



New S.E.E.D. Member!

We're excited to announce that Kelsey has joined SEED for the new season!

With her LEED Accredited Professional (AP) designation and specialty in interior design and construction, we're thrilled to have her on the committee.

Paper laminate packaging



Examples:
Pet food bags, food service paper bags, and plates

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue

Paper laminate containers



Examples:
Spiral cans, cookie dough package, ice cream containers, hot and cold beverage cups

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue, remove lids

Cartons



Examples:
Beverage cartons, juice and milk cartons, coffee creamers, soup and sauce cartons

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue, keep lids on (i.e. twist). Do not include alcoholic beverage containers



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Ontario Blue Box recycling program

Did you know Ontario has a new Blue Box recycling program as of January 2026?

If you have ever wondered "Can I recycle this?", or been confused by different recycling rules from one municipality to another, the new Blue Box recycling program is made to solve exactly that.

The province new Blue Box program is based on the approach called **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, in which producers are financially and operationally responsible for the end-of-life management of the materials that they supply to consumers, such as packaging goods and paper products. In another words, the companies that sell you packaged goods and paper products now manage the collection, sorting and recycling or disposal of the cans, boxes and bags that go into your bin.

The goal of the new program is to improve recycling and create a stronger **circular economy,** a system where materials stay in use instead of becoming waste in landfill.

In short, under the new Program:

- the **Producers (the companies that make packaging)** will run and pay for the entire Blue Box program.
- **all Ontario residents** will follow the same recycling rules.
- **more materials will be accepted**, including items previously considered garbage, such as plastic containers, flexible plastics, foam packaging, metal containers, aluminum, foil, trays, and glass.

Ontario is not unique in adopting the EPR approach in recycling, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory have their own EPR regulations.

In Ontario, Circular Materials is the organization that is responsible for implementing and managing the new EPR recycling system. You can find out more about EPR and recycling in Ontario here:

www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario/

We can all help support aTRR's Environmental Protection Policy by taking this small step in the office everyday by **Recycling!**

Recycling is important because it conserves finite natural resources, saves significant energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and limits pollution from landfills and incineration. It supports a sustainable circular economy by turning waste into new products, thereby reduces the need for raw material extraction.

Flexible plastic packaging



Examples:
Dry cleaning bags, newspaper & flyer packaging, overwrap on paper towels, coffee bags, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, plastic gift bags

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue

Foam packaging



Examples:
Meat trays, takeout containers, cups, plates, bowls, foam packaging for products

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue. Remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays.

Metal



Examples:
Food cans, metal lids, cookie/coffee/tea tins, beverage cans, aluminum foil, pie plates, frozen food trays, aerosal containers

Please note:
Empty and free from food residue, ball up aluminum foil. Empty and keep lids on for aerosol containers.

Still Sounds complicated?

Not to worry! We have prepared a flyer to demystify the new Blue Box Program for everyone in this Bulletin, just post it near your Blue Bins as a handy reference!

Happy recycling!

Ontario Blue Box Program
Recyclable Material List

- Paper & Fibre
- Plastics & Foam
- Metal
- Glass
- Cardboard Boxes
- Boxboard (cereal, function cartons)
- Paper Laminate Packaging
- Paper Laminate Containers

- Coffee Cups
- Black Plastics
- Glass
- Chip Bags

- No larger than 60x60 cm

Preparation

- Empty completely
- Rinse if needed
- Keep lids on bottles & cans
- Flatten cardboard
- No larger than 60x60 cm

Paper & Fibre

Notes
- Place shredded paper in tied clear plastic bag
- Separate plastic covers

Examples
- Notepads
- Folders
- Greeting Cards
- Gift Boxes

Paper Laminate Packaging

Notes
- Empty and free from food residue
- Remove rope handles from bags

Examples
- Pet food Bags
- Food Service Bags
- Plastic/Paper Plates

Notes
- Empty and free from food residue
- Remove lids

Examples
- Spiral Cans
- Cookie Dough Package
- Ice Cream Containers
- Hot and Cold Beverage Cups

Notes
- Empty and free from food residue
- Remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays

Examples
- Meat Trays
- Takeout Containers
- Plates, Bowls

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **S.E.E.D. Quarterly Presentation**
  Robert Bateman School Renewal
  Coming Soon





Alex

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES & BUILDING TECHNIQUES EXPERT



Benny

LEED EXPERT & COMMITTEE COORDINATOR



Bryce

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION EXPERT

Thank you

The S.E.E.D. Committee is made possible thanks to the contributions of our internal SMEs and the aTRR team office-wide.

Stay tuned for the next Bulletin!



Dave

BIOMMICRY, ICE & SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS EXPERT



Eleanor

RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE HUB & PR LEAD



Elif

CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE & ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIVE DESIGN EXPERT



Kelsey

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Kinga

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