Waste Diversion Rate and Integrated Waste Management Plan

Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee


March 6, 2019
Definitions

- **Waste Diversion Rate** is the percentage of waste diverted from landfill.

- **Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS)** is the combination and interaction of programs/policies to reduce and manage waste.

- **Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP)** defines the community vision for waste management, and the strategies to optimize the interaction and integration between waste streams.

- **Preferred approaches** are the strategies in the IWMP.

- **Dual-stream** recycling refers to only two streams of recyclables collected and delivered for processing.
Summary

In 2006:
• waste diversion rate was 45%
• Council directed staff to develop an IWMP
• set a goal of 65% waste diversion by 2012

Between 2007-2009:
• Council approved IWMP with preferred waste management approaches and strategies

Throughout 2009-2011:
• Preferred approaches were researched, initiatives and implemented
  • Green bin program in 2009

In 2012:
• 65% waste diversion goal was not achieved
Summary

Between 2012-2015:
- Continued to implement/research preferred approaches
  - one-bag garbage limit
  - feasibility of dual-stream recycling system
  - feasibility of non-landfill options for garbage
- More enhancements to the IWMS

2015:
- Council reset waste diversion goal to 60% by 2018, and 65% by 2025
- Study indicates regional dual-stream Material Recovery Facility (MRF) as preferred design
- Waste Free Ontario Act is released and passed that will change operational and financial roles/responsibilities and lead into a full producer responsibility model
- Work to implement dual-stream recycling is paused
**Summary**

**Throughout 2015-2018:**
- Research to understand the implications of the new waste legislation
- More enhancements; redesigned communications, curbside battery collection, public depots, scrap metal bin, etc.
- Most preferred approaches have been implemented or pending approval
  - Recommendation to proceed with next steps to implement a dual-stream recycling
  - Non-landfill treatment options for garbage will be identified in next RFP
- 60% waste diversion goal was achieved in 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Diversion rate has peaked and flatlined
- New strategies must be developed as part of the IWMP to reach the 65% waste diversion goal by 2025
Waste Diversion Rate Data

**Historic Waste Diversion Rates (%)**

![Line graph showing historic waste diversion rates from 2006 to 2017. The graph indicates a trend of increasing diversion rates over time, with a peak around 2014 and a slight decline towards 2017.](image-url)
Waste Composition Data

Average Household Waste Generation

- Garbage (49%)
- Diverted Materials (51%)

The average home:
- Generates 665 kgs per year
- Diverts 337 kgs per year
- About 51% diversion
Putting Waste in it’s Place!

- Only 162 kgs of the 665 kgs per year is actually waste that should go to landfill
- 76% waste diversion rate is possible
New Strategy Options

These options are best suited for integration within the existing system:

1. Increase the cost of garbage bag tags
2. Explore full user pay options including a policy/program consideration for low income individuals
3. Prohibit the disposal of recyclables and organics in the garbage stream and enforce the use of clear bags for garbage
4. Reduce frequency of garbage collection from weekly to bi-weekly for most eligible properties. This option may allow for bi-weekly collection for yard waste
5. Limit the number of additional ‘tagged’ garbage bags
6. Reduce the number of “two bags of garbage” weeks
7. Increase the size of the blue and grey boxes
8. Mandatory use of green bins at multi-residential properties
9. Eliminate fees and charges for schools to participate in the green bin organics program
10. Provide two size options for green bins: 80 litre or 45 litre.
Next Steps

Throughout 2019-2020:

• continuing with ‘works in progress’ already included in the IWMP;

• consulting with the public to share goal, data and potential new waste management strategies;

• identifying the preferred strategies that will advance the City towards its goal of 65% waste diversion by 2025; and

• recommending the final plan for Council approval.

* Pending approval; may be proceeding with a dual-stream recycling program by July 1, 2021
Questions?

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