



The Regional Municipality of Halton

Report To:	Chair and Members of the Planning and Public Works Committee
From:	Jim Harnum, Commissioner, Public Works
Date:	June 11, 2014
Report No. - Re:	PW-27-14 - 2013 Year End Waste Management Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. PW-27-14 re: “2013 Year End Waste Management Report” be received for information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- In 2013, the overall waste diversion rate increased to 58.1 per cent from 57.3 per cent in 2012 and the residential household diversion rate increased to 62 per cent from 61 per cent in 2012.
- Ninety-five per cent of residential households placed three bags or less of garbage curbside.
- Waste generation declined 10 kg/capita to 417 kg/capita/year.
- Blue Box tonnes increased four per cent, GreenCart tonnes increased six point five per cent and multi-residential Blue Box diversion increased three per cent.
- Material landfilled at the Halton Waste Management Site decreased four per cent.

Background

The Halton Waste Management Site is a valuable resource that should be conserved for use by future generations. One of the Conditions of Approval for the Site was to form the Joint Municipal/Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee with a goal of reducing, recycling and reusing waste so that there will be very little waste remaining to be landfilled. The Committee achieves this goal through the development and implementation of a Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Each year Council is informed on the progress of the amount of residential waste material diverted from landfill as a result of the waste management services and programs provided by the Region. This report also summarizes some of the initiatives and events that impacted the 2013 diversion rate.

Discussion

2013 Diversion Rate

Halton's overall waste diversion rate increased to 58.1 per cent from 57.3 per cent in 2012 (Attachment #1). Residential household diversion was approximately 62 per cent based on the materials collected at the curbside and diverted at the home (e.g. backyard composting), up from the 61 per cent reported in 2012.

The positive change to the diversion rate is attributed to the three key 2012-2016 Waste Management Strategy initiatives implemented by Halton Region in 2013:

- Decrease Garbage Bag Limit and Introduce Bag Tags
- Expand Blue Box Materials and Enhance Blue Box Capacity
- Enhance Multi-Residential Waste Diversion

As a result of these key initiatives, Halton residents placed more waste material in the Blue Box and diverted more organic waste through the GreenCart program. This led to an increase to the residential waste diversion rate, a reduction in overall waste generation per capita, as well as a measurable decrease in the amount of material landfilled at the Halton Waste Management Site.

Decrease Garbage Bag Limit and Introduce Bag Tags

In April 2013, the Region implemented the Garbage Bag Limit and Bag Tags Program (Report PW-52-12) reducing the curbside limit of garbage to three bags/cans bi-weekly with a maximum of an additional three bags with garbage tags. The program has shown to have a positive impact on waste diversion in that residential curbside garbage decreased by almost four per cent, Blue Box increased by almost four per cent and GreenCart organics increased by 6.5 per cent.

Implementation of the program was successful and the total calls received in 2013 (including requests for garbage tags) represented less than one per cent of all households. Also, participation studies show that 95 per cent of households are placing three bags or less curbside on their scheduled collection day.

Expand Blue Box Materials and Enhance Blue Box Capacity

In 2013, the "What's New in Blue" campaign commenced with the addition of new materials to the Blue Box that included more plastics, such as clam shell packaging and plant pots and trays; empty metal paint cans; and spiral bound cardboard containers. As well, larger 22 gallon Blue Boxes were provided to Halton residents through a series of truck load giveaway events. A total of 40,000 Blue Boxes were given out over 12 event days. The larger Blue Boxes are now the Region's standard to provide increased recycling capacity. As noted above, this has shown to have a positive impact with an increase in Blue Box tonnes by almost four per cent in 2013.

Enhance Multi-Residential Waste Diversion

Staff continued outreach to townhouses and multi-residential buildings in 2013. Staff provided promotion and education materials, assessed waste collection systems and provided increased recycling and organics capacity as required. As a result, Blue Box materials collected from multi-residential locations increased by almost three per cent in 2013.

Overall Waste Generation in 2013

The volume of waste material received and managed through the various Region services and programs, on a per capita basis, has been declining over the past several years. In 2013, the total waste generation reached an all-time low of 417 kg/capita/year, 10 kg/capita/year less than in 2012. Curbside garbage generation also continued to decline, while Halton's population increased by approximately 2.5 per cent.

Halton Waste Management Site

Material landfilled at the Halton Waste Management Site decreased by four per cent in 2013 from 2012. The main contributor to the decrease was the decline in curbside garbage, which represents 88 per cent of the materials landfilled each year. In general, materials collected through the container station also decreased in 2013 showing a total decline of five per cent and a decrease in total traffic of two per cent.

Conclusion

With the implementation of the Garbage Bag Limit and Bag Tags Program, expanded Blue Box material and enhanced Blue Box capacity, and enhanced multi-residential waste diversion, combined with a continuing decrease in waste generation per capita, the Region is well positioned to achieve the goal of 65 per cent waste diversion by 2016, extending the landfill lifespan by an additional four years. At the current rate of 58.1 per cent diversion, the landfill lifespan is extended out to between 2040 and 2044.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Waste Management programs are included in the Council approved annual Operating Budget and Business Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO HALTON REGION'S 2011-2014 ACTION PLAN

Key Action

Initiate the recommendations of the 2012-2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Key Initiative

Minimize the impact of solid waste on the environment by increasing waste diversion through reduce, reuse and recycle.

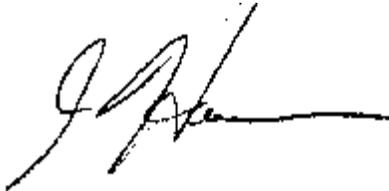
Priority Area

Waste Management – Plan and implement an integrated and sustainable waste management system of collecting, processing and disposing municipal solid waste that incorporates the principle of reduce, reuse, recycle and resource recovery.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Rivers CET
Director, Waste Management Services



Jim Harnum
Commissioner, Public Works

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

Rob Rivers
David Miles
Shirley McLean

Tel. # 8289
Tel. # 8288
Tel. # 8235

Attachments: Attachment #1 – 2013 Waste Diversion Report