



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 15, 2016
Report No. - Re:	PW-24-16 - 2015 Year End Waste Management Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. PW-24-16 re: "2015 Year End Waste Management Report" be received for information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- The amount of garbage generated per capita was 151 kg/year in 2015.
- The overall waste diversion rate was 59 per cent.
- Blue Box and Green Cart tonnes remained consistent.
- Yard Waste was down significantly from the previous year as the tonnes collected in 2014 were a direct result of the December 2013 ice-storm.
- New waste collection contracts were secured.
- The construction of Cell 3 East was completed at the Halton Waste Management Site. Construction was delayed two years due to the success of Halton Region's waste diversion programs.

Background

Each year Council is informed of the amount of waste material that is managed and diverted from landfill as a result of programs and services provided by Halton Region. This report summarizes factors that impacted the 2015 diversion rate.

Discussion

2015 Waste Generation and Diversion Rate

While Halton Region's population grew by 2.4 per cent in 2015, the per capita garbage rate declined from 157 kg/year in 2014 to 151 kg/year in 2015. Overall the weight of total waste material managed (including landfilled and diverted) also decreased by approximately five per cent.

The residential waste diversion rate based on tonnes of material was 59 per cent (Attachment #1) and trends are showing that waste diversion programs are being maintained.

Blue Box Recycling

The weight of Blue Box materials collected decreased by just over one per cent from 2014 to 2015. The decrease in tonnes is due to market-place changes in material composition or "light weighting" (i.e. changing glass containers to plastic or using less plastic material in bottles). This trend to use lighter materials in packaging results in less Blue Box tonnes however, the volume of Blue Box material continues to increase (approximately 23 per cent since 2009). Blue Box participation at the curbside continues to be high with 94 per cent of households placing recyclable material for weekly collection.

Yard Waste

As expected, yard waste tonnes dropped in 2015 compared to 2014 by about 23 per cent. The main reason for the decline was the absence of storm brush material that was a factor in 2014 following the December 2013 ice-storm. The drier fall season also contributed to the decrease in tonnes.

Green Cart Organic Waste Diversion

The Green Cart program continued to be implemented at multi residential locations in 2015. A total of 85 apartment buildings are currently on the program with additional buildings being added each week, including all new apartment buildings.

The curbside Green Cart program has a Region-wide participation rate of 65 per cent. While this is a slight decline from previous years, this has not resulted in an increase in the amount of food waste being disposed of as garbage. Recent campaigns to draw attention to the amount of purchased food being wasted, or unused, is having an impact on the amount of material collected through the Green Cart program. This is a good news story as it reduces costs and promotes greater awareness for consumers.

New Waste Collection Agreements

In 2015 new solid waste collection agreements were awarded for services commencing in April 2016. The agreements aligned waste collection services to continue the positive impact Halton Region's waste diversion programs have achieved in extending the landfill lifespan and turning waste material into resources that become recycled products and valuable compost.

Halton Waste Management Site

The tonnes of material landfilled at the Halton Waste Management Site decreased by over four per cent between 2014 and 2015. Curbside garbage contributed to 87 per cent of all landfilled material in 2015 and is the main influencing factor in landfill rates.

In 2015 the construction of Cell 3 East was completed providing Halton Region with continuous landfilling capacity estimated for the next five to seven years at the current rate of fill. Each new cell provides extended leachate collection infrastructure and increased landfill area. The construction of Cell 3 East was deferred by two years due to the positive impact of waste diversion programs. At the close of 2015, only 40 per cent of the maximum permitted volume of the landfill was consumed. As landfilled material quantities have declined for several years in a row, the impact on landfill life remains positive, conserving available space through sustained diversion initiatives and deferring capital expenditures.

Bill 151 Waste-Free Ontario Act

Over the past several years, a number of waste diversion initiatives have been implemented by Waste Diversion Ontario which includes:

- Ontario Tire Stewardship,
- Ontario Electronic Stewardship,
- Municipal Hazardous Special Waste Program (Orange Drop).

These programs provide increased accessibility and availability for residents to dispose of waste material at locations and facilities across the province. The Province in 2007 also expanded the deposit return program for beer bottles to include wine and liquor bottles. Halton residents are participating in these waste diversion programs, however as these materials are not received through services administered by Halton Region, the total actual tonnes and volume of waste material diverted by residents cannot be determined.

In November 2015, the Province introduced Bill 151 the *Waste-Free Ontario Act*. The overall goal of the Act as summarized in Report No. PW-05-16 is to introduce producer responsibility that will place the necessary means and structures to ensure material introduced into the waste stream can be properly recycled or composted and diverted from landfill. If approved and passed into legislation, it is anticipated that there will be

more and expanded opportunities to divert waste and beyond the services that have been traditionally provided by municipalities. Following the outcome of the Province's decision with respect to Bill 151, Halton Region will begin developing the next five year Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Conclusion

The declining garbage generation rate per capita confirms Halton Region's residents are continuing to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill each year. Through the efforts of residents, Halton Region continues to be a leader in waste diversion and at the current garbage generation rate the landfill lifespan continues to be extended out to between 2042 and 2046.

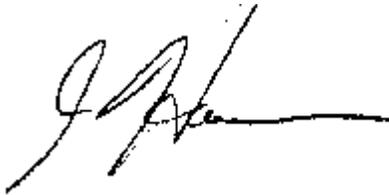
FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Rivers CET
Director, Waste Management and Road
Operations



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 – Residential Waste Diversion Report (tonnes)