

Halton Region's Solid Waste Management Strategy

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Halton Region Council Report
November 2011

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Vision

The vision of the Solid Waste Management Strategy:

Halton Region will continue to be a provincial leader in waste diversion through the implementation of waste management programs that are socially, environmentally and economically responsible

Goal

The goal of this Solid Waste Management Strategy is:

To reach a waste diversion rate of 65 per cent by 2016

Initiatives

2012-2016

The following initiatives can be implemented between 2012 and 2016 and together would increase Halton's waste diversion to 65 per cent and increase the lifespan of its landfill an additional four years:

1. Enhance Promotion, Education and Outreach
2. Enhance Textile Communications
3. Enhance Multi-Residential Waste Diversion
4. Expand Special Waste Drop-off Day Events
5. Expand Blue Box Materials & Enhance Blue Box Capacity
6. Decrease Garbage Bag Limit & Introduce Bag Tags

Halton Region's Waste Management Services



HWMS

Halton Region owns and operates the Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS) which provides a number of different services including the only operating landfill in the Region, the Container Station for public drop-off of various recyclable materials and garbage, the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, the Paint Reuse Depot, and the Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Facility.

Opened in 1992, the HWMS is a well engineered and operated integrated waste management facility, used to augment the Region's progressive 3Rs programs. It took nearly ten years to site, design and build the HWMS.

The cornerstone of the HWMS is the landfill, accepting about 80,000 tonnes of waste annually and covering 53 hectares (131 acres).

Collection

Halton Region provides weekly Blue Box and GreenCart collection, and every other week collection of garbage to approximately 150,000 houses. Homes in the urban areas receive every other week collection of Yard Waste from spring to fall.

Approximately 30,000 units in over 500 apartment buildings receive weekly Blue Bin collection.

All 158 publicly-funded schools participate in weekly Blue Box and GreenCart collection.

Eight Business Improvement Areas in downtown cores receive weekly Blue Box collection.

All Town/City Halls, Community Centres/Arenas and Libraries receive weekly Blue Bin collection. Town Halls and some Central Libraries participate in weekly GreenCart collection.





Alternatives

Halton also hosts a number of Special Waste Drop-off Days throughout the year for the collection of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

In partnership with the four local municipalities, Halton operates 30 Battery Recycling Depots in community centres, libraries and other municipal facilities.

As a municipal partner in provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, Halton Region promotes businesses and non-profit organizations that “take back” materials for reuse, recycling or safe disposal.



Education

Recognized nationally for its waste management communication efforts, Halton has effectively engaged residents through a number of communication and outreach programs.

Since 2006, Halton Region has delivered over 1,000 educational workshops to nearly 120,000 people about the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle. Schools, non-profit organizations and other associations enjoy tours of the Halton Waste Management Site.



Why Develop a Solid Waste Management Strategy?

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 Solid 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 of a Solid Waste Management Strategy that is reviewed and updated every five years.

Its 2006-2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy guided Halton Region through several significant program changes, resulting in an increase in residential waste diversion from 42.6 per cent in 2005 to 57.4 per cent in 2010. That visionary plan oversaw the implementation of the GreenCart program and changed the collection service to weekly Blue Box and GreenCart, and every other week collection of Garbage, all of which have contributed to extending the Halton Waste Management Site's landfill lifespan.

2012-2016 Strategy Development

January & February 2010

The Joint Municipal/Regional Waste Management Committee (JWMC)—a citizen's advisory committee—provides a vision for updating Halton's Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Spring 2010

Halton Region undertakes the development of a Draft Solid Waste Management Strategy.

May 11, 2011

Halton Regional Council adopts the Draft Solid Waste Management Strategy (Council Report PW-19-11) and initiates public consultation.

May & June 2011

Halton Region holds four public open houses about the Draft Solid Waste Management Strategy. Three hundred and thirty residents completed an online survey, and 800 residents participated in a telephone survey about the Strategy and its proposed initiatives. Feedback is incorporated in this Strategy.

September 2011

The JWMC endorsed the final 2012-2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy.

November 16, 2011

Halton Regional Council adopts the 2012-2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy (Council Report PW-71-11).



2012-2016 Initiatives In Detail

The following initiatives can be implemented between 2012 and 2016 and together would increase Halton's waste diversion to 65 per cent:



Enhance Promotion, Education & Outreach

Increased promotion and education strategies proposed include using social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and blogging; developing a "waste less" campaign; developing multi-media tools such as videos for Halton's website; and reaching diverse communities through targeted communications.

Rationale

A survey conducted in 2010 for Halton Region indicates the three most popular methods of communication with residents include newspaper (27 per cent), email (23 per cent), and website (22 per cent). Social media is also becoming a requested way to communicate with residents.

Halton Region's immigrant population has increased 17.1 per cent from 2001 to 2006, higher than the provincial average of 6.6 per cent. Developing communications to diverse communities could increase participation and reach residents who don't speak or read English as their first language.



Enhance Textile Communications

Expand the promotion of existing textile diversion options for materials such as reusable clothing, to capture more of the available material. Cost will be incorporated into the enhanced promotion, education and outreach budget.

Rationale:

The average household garbage bag in Halton Region contains 7 per cent textile materials.



Enhance Multi-Residential Waste Diversion

Enhancing Blue Bin recycling and introducing GreenCart composting will reduce an apartment's garbage. Other strategies include engaging volunteer community ambassadors, and developing tenant/landlord recycling pledges. Costs include GreenCart bins and operations.

Rationale:

The average apartment garbage bag in Halton Region contains 19 per cent Blue Box material, and 43 per cent GreenCart material.

Currently, there are approximately 500 apartment buildings in Halton Region. This number will increase as Halton Region implements its Regional Official Plan Amendment 38 (ROPA), which will see the proportion of new high density dwellings increase by 0.6 per cent per year to 2030.

Expand Special Waste Drop-off Days

Introduce three additional Special Waste Drop-off Days in areas not serviced by a permanent drop off centre such as the Halton Waste Management Site or a future Community Recycling Centre.

Additional drop off events will make it more convenient for residents to drop off household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

Rationale

In 2010, Halton Region conducted four Special Waste Drop-off Days, one in each Local Municipality. Approximately 3,000 vehicles dropped off 61 tonnes of household hazardous waste and 75 tonnes of electronic waste for recycling and safe disposal. The average household garbage bag in Halton Region contains 1.1 per cent household hazardous waste and 1.1 per cent electronic waste. At the curb, 3 per cent of residential bulk waste is electronic waste that has been incorrectly placed out for disposal.

Expand Blue Box Materials & Enhance Blue Box Capacity

Expand the list of acceptable Blue Box materials to include other plastic materials, empty aerosol cans, and empty paint cans.

Rationale

The average household garbage bag in Halton Region contains 13 per cent Blue Box material. Providing larger or additional Blue Boxes may result in more of these materials being captured in the Blue Box for recycling.

The average household garbage bag in Halton Region contains 16 per cent other plastic materials. New recycling markets are being developed for additional plastic materials and types. Newer processing technology can more easily sort these plastics at the recycling facility.

Decrease Garbage Bag Limit & Introduce Garbage Bag Tags

Decrease the garbage limit to three bags/cans of garbage every other week. If residents wanted to place additional garbage at the curb, they'd need to purchase "bag tags" at the cost of \$1 to \$2 per tag from various municipal facilities.

Rationale

At six bags/cans of garbage every other week, Halton Region currently has the highest garbage limit in the Greater Toronto Area.

Eighty per cent of all houses are placing three bags or less of garbage at the curb every other week for collection.

The average household garbage bag in Halton Region contains 13 per cent Blue Box material, and 23 per cent GreenCart material. Reducing the garbage bag/can limit may encourage residents to divert those materials away from the garbage and into the Blue Box and GreenCart.



Diversion & Tax Impacts of Initiatives

2012-2016 Strategy Initiatives	Diversion (%)		Cost (\$ / \$100,000 CVA)
	Impact	Cumulative	Baseline Waste Management System Cost per \$100,000 CVA (2011)
Decrease Garbage Bag Limit & Introduce Bag Tags	3.0%	60.4%	\$1.03
Expand Blue Box Materials and Enhance Blue Box Capacity	1.6%	62.0%	\$0.44
Enhance Promotion, Education and Outreach	1.5%	63.5%	\$0.29
Enhance Multi-residential Waste Diversion	1.0%	64.5%	\$0.67
Enhance Textile Communications	0.30%	64.8%	\$0.00
Expand Special Waste Drop-off Days	0.20%	65.0%	\$0.04
Total Estimated Tax Impact			\$2.47

It is estimated the Halton Waste Management Site landfill lifespan will be extended an additional four years as a result of these six initiatives.

* Single family households are diverting 60 per cent of waste through curbside programs.

Bridging the 2012-2016 Strategy and Future Initiatives

Commencement of a Community Recycling Centre

While the Community Recycling Centre is not planned to open before 2016, the design, tendering and environmental approval process will be started. An additional permanent drop off centre will make it more convenient for residents to drop off additional waste materials for recycling or safe disposal. The Community Recycling Centre initiative will commence with a feasibility study to recommend ways for increasing convenience and access to drop-off services for residents and small businesses. The study will consider expanding hours of operation at the Halton Waste Management Site, entering agreements with private transfer stations or neighbouring municipalities, temporary facilities with limited hours of operation at Region-owned properties with a future consideration of a permanent facility similar to the Container Station at the Halton Waste Management Site.

Rationale

Today just under 500,000 people live in Halton and that number is expected to grow by nearly another 260,000 by 2031. Additional services will be required to support our residents.

Future Initiatives

The following initiatives could be implemented after 2016 and would increase Halton's waste diversion to 70 per cent:

Open Community Recycling Centre

To accommodate growth in the Region, open an additional multi-purpose drop-off centre similar to the Container Station at the Halton Waste Management Site to increase local options to drop-off material for recycling or proper disposal.



Launch Online Waste Exchange

Establish an online waste exchange program enabling residents to donate and exchange reusable goods with other residents. An online waste exchange may be more useful for residents who don't want to use existing tools due to concerns about the legitimacy of listed items or services.



Introduce Curbside Construction & Demolition Waste Collection

Start a call-in collection service for small quantities of household renovation materials such as carpet, drywall, wood, etc. for recycling. Many residents are unable to drive these materials to the Halton Waste Management Site for recycling.



Introduce "Toxic Taxi" for Collection of Household Hazardous Waste

Provide a call-in collection service for household hazardous waste. This would increase the accessibility of safe disposal for these materials for residents who are not able to access the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, Special Waste Drop-off Days, or future Community Recycling Centre.

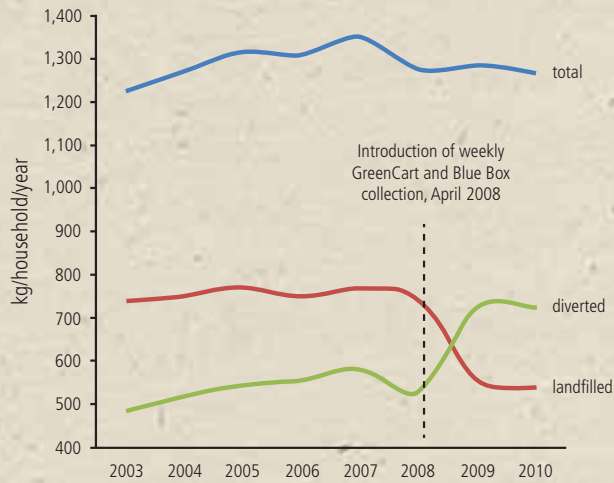


Support Public Space Waste Diversion

Work with local municipalities to install recycling containers in parks, along trails and public recreational facilities to capture recyclable material such as beverage containers. Providing the same level of recycling in public spaces as in the home, reinforces the recycling habits and awareness of residents.

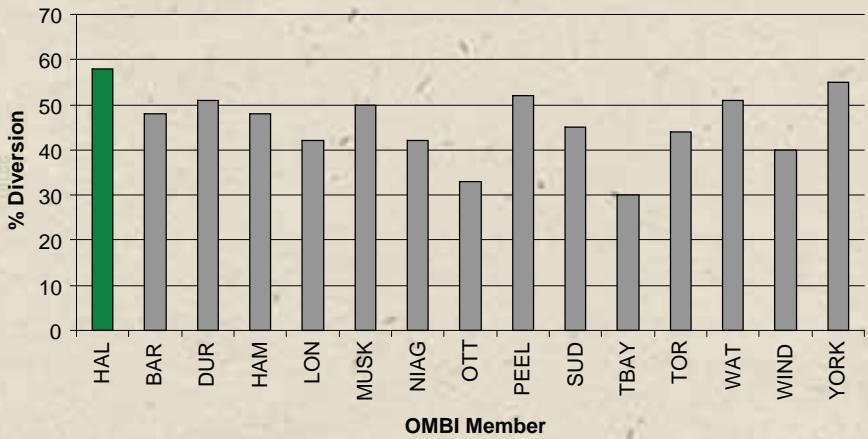


Halton Region's Waste Diversion Rates



Sources: 2002 – 2009 Regional Year-End Waste Management Reports; 2002 – 2009 WDO Program Information

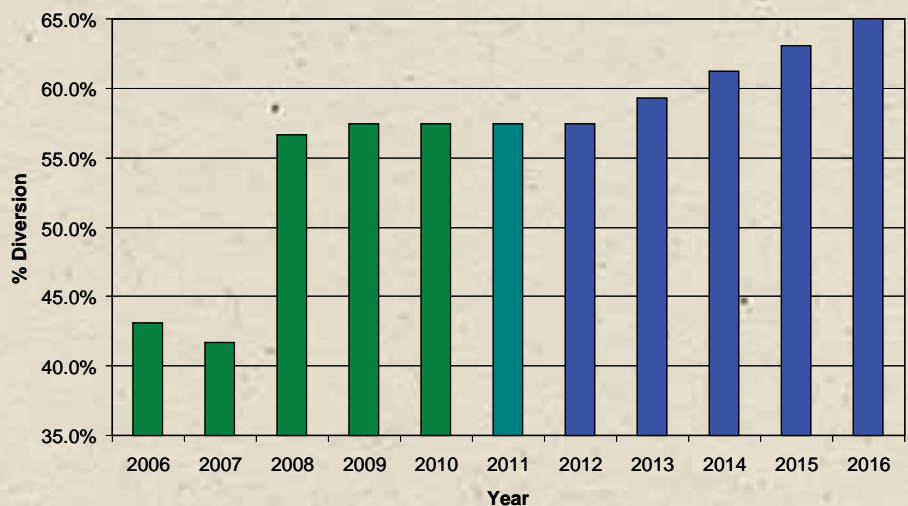
2009 Waste Diversion Rates (Ontario)



Source: 2009 Performance Benchmarking Report, Ontario Municipal CAO's Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI)

Halton's Waste Diversion Trend (projected to 2016)

Halton Region's Waste Diversion Trend (Projected 2011-2016)



The Regional Municipality of Halton serves more than 500,000 residents in the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville. Halton Region is committed to meeting the needs of its residents through the delivery of cost-effective, quality programs and services, including waste management.

Halton Region's integrated waste management programs are recognized internationally, and Halton is currently a waste diversion leader in Ontario.



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