



Oxford County

2020 Waste Diversion Achievements Year End Report

March 31, 2021

Summary

As part of the annual Municipal Datacall Best Practices (BP), municipalities are required to present a Blue Box BP activities monitoring report to Council annually. Information contained within this report will be used to complete the Datacall due in April 2021.

This report includes performance monitoring metrics for all County funded waste management programs and all material types and population sectors. The municipal datacall focuses on residential diversion rates only. Therefore, direct data comparison between historical municipal datacall reports and the information contained herein may not match. This report provides a much clearer and more holistic view of all of the County's diversion programs.

The main method of assessing the County's diversion performance is the residential diversion rate. This is defined as the amount of residential waste captured for recycling as a percentage of the total amount of residential waste generated. The total waste generated includes blue box materials collected at the curb and dropped off at the transfer stations, garbage and large articles collected at the curb, and residential garbage dropped off at transfer stations within the County. It also includes waste captured through diversion activities such as the recycling of brush, leaf and yard waste, electronics, tires, household hazardous waste, scrap metal, bulky Styrofoam, film plastic and the residential component of construction and demolition materials. The diversion rate has been increasing since 2008 and is estimated to be approximately 57% for 2020, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Oxford County Residential Diversion Rate

County Diversion Rate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
County Residential Diversion Rate	60%	59%	59%	57%	57%

While Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) sector waste is not captured under the provincial Blue Box program, the County does collect waste from this sector if they comply with the requirements of the residential curbside collection program. It is not possible to calculate a meaningful IC&I diversion rate because the data collected from the IC&I sector only represents material handled by the County and does not take into consideration the amount of waste and recyclable material handled by the private sector.

Individual Program Analysis

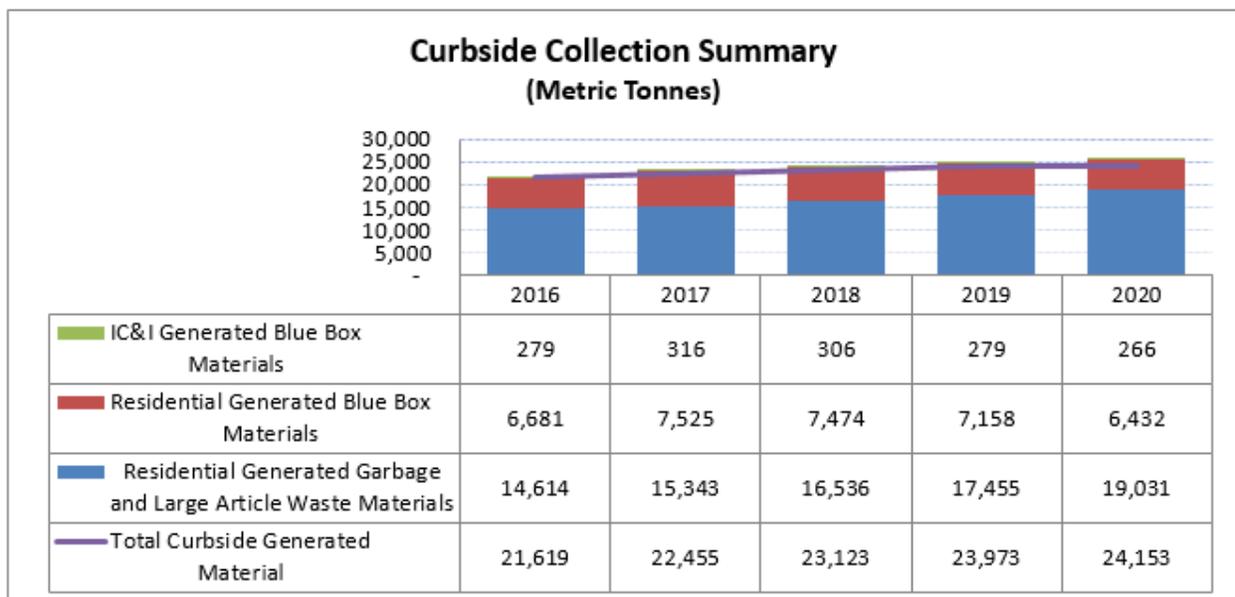
Curbside Collection Programs

Curbside collection programs operating within the County in 2020 consisted of three different collection programs. The City of Woodstock provided garbage collection weekly, bi-weekly recycling collection with weekly cardboard collection in the business core areas. Six of the municipalities had weekly co-collection of garbage and single stream recycling, and the Township of South-West Oxford had a six business day schedule for the co-collection of garbage and single stream recycling.

Large article collection was performed once per year in all areas of the County except in the City of Woodstock and the Town of Tillsonburg. The City of Woodstock performs large article curbside collection two times per year with a limit of five items for each set out per property. In the spring of 2018, the City of Woodstock opened an EnviroDepot which also accepts bulky items; the City reduced their bulk item days once the depot opened. The Town of Tillsonburg does not have curbside large article collection, but rather, a transfer station operated year round.

The data presented in the chart below illustrates curbside collection program performance metrics for materials collected by the County, City of Woodstock, and the Township of South-West Oxford. The data illustrates that residential and IC&I Blue Box material tonnages appear to have decreased slightly in 2020 while residential garbage and large article waste has increased. One possible reason for an increase in garbage tonnage was that more residents were home during the COVID pandemic when the large article program was taking place and this may have attributed to higher participation rate in the curbside program while the Waste Management Facility was closed to the public for 48 days from March 21 to May 19.

Chart 1: Oxford County Curbside Collection Programs

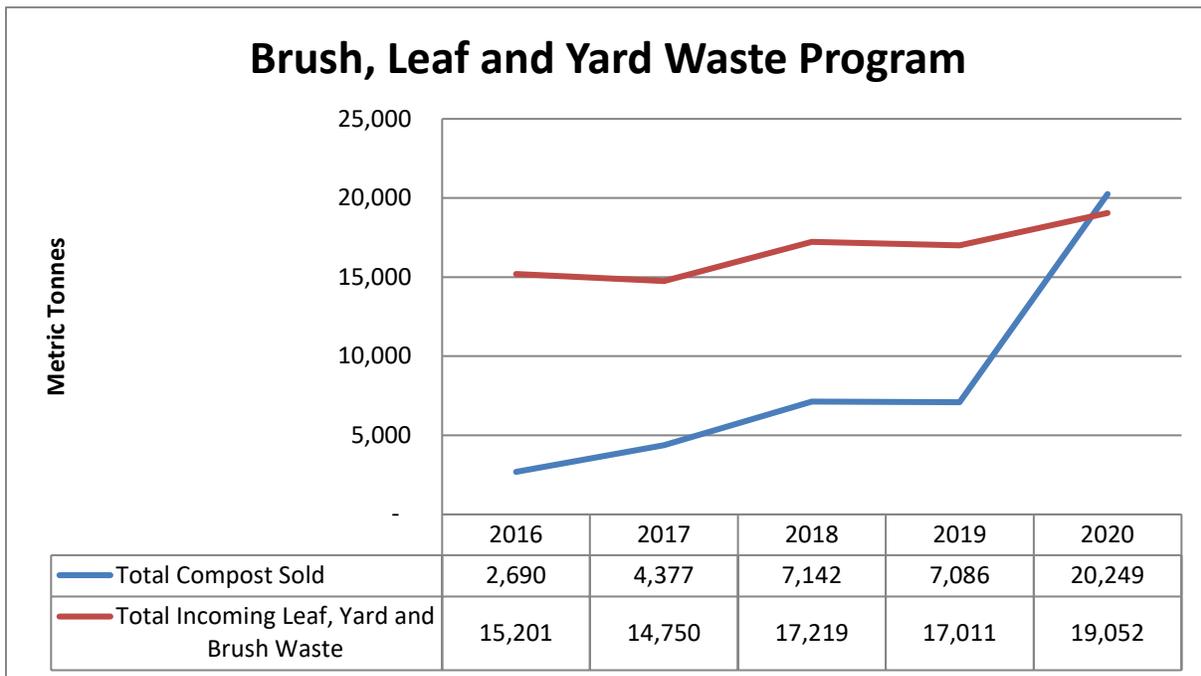


Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program

The County’s brush, leaf and yard waste program consists of eleven (11) municipal yard waste depots located throughout the County. Residents are able to drop their material off at these depots free of charge. The collected leaf and yard waste material is then transported to the County’s compost facility located east of the Waste Management Facility in Salford. Received leaf and yard waste material is placed into windrows for composting, with finished material marketed to local businesses. Collected brush material is either transported to the County facility or stored at one of two municipal sites: Woodstock and Tillsonburg. Brush material is ground and transported by the contractor to the County’s Compost Facility.

The Brush, Leaf, and Yard Waste Program is well used by the community as illustrated in Chart 2. Material fluctuations can be attributed to environmental factors as well as changing practices in material handling by area municipalities. The COVID pandemic impacted the amount of material collected at the depots as more residents were home to complete yard work. The County saw an increase in marketed material due to depot operations allowing more material to be transported to the County throughout the year as well as carry-over material from 2019.

Chart 2: Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program

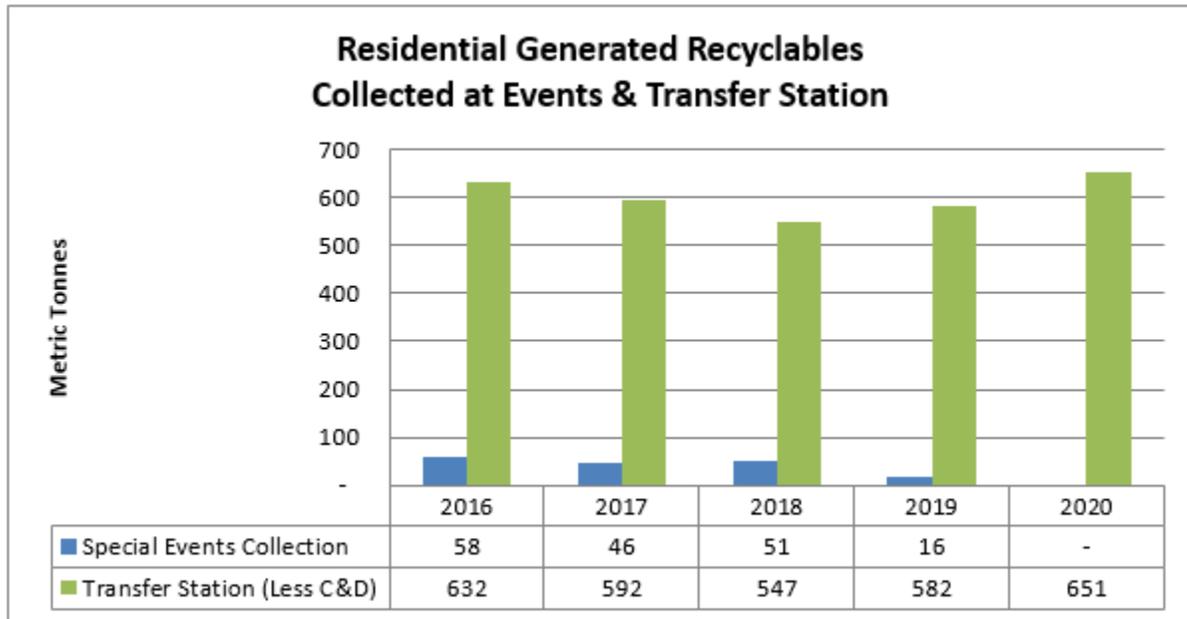


Note: Material may consist of residential and IC&I generated waste, however is recorded as residential generated waste.

Depots and Transfer Station Collection Program

The County has an active waste diversion program in place for the collection of construction and demolition materials, household hazardous waste, electronics, tires, scrap metal, bulk Styrofoam, and Blue Box materials. A new pilot program was implemented January 2020 to collect clean film plastic for recycling as this material was removed from the Blue Box program with the new contractors. The County offers these programs at a transfer station which is open year round.

Chart 3: Events and Transfer Station Collection Programs



Note: Construction and Demolition (C&D) was removed from this calculation to reflect a better material comparison between the various collection points.

Chart 3 shows that over the years, the transfer station collected more material than special collection events because it is open year round. This means that residents do not have to hold onto their waste material for a year, which contributed to the shift in attendance from event to the transfer station. Data collected by the Waste Management Facility’s scale software clearly shows that participants using the transfer station come from all areas within the County. Due to declining participation rates, the special waste collection events were discontinued in 2019 and material collected at the Waste Management Facility increased.

Construction and Demolition Material

For the past nine years, construction and demolition material has been banned from the Landfill and a separate depot at the Waste Management Facility has been available for material recycling. In 2020, the County diverted 5,772 tonnes of construction and demolition material from the landfill, above and beyond all of the other diverted material collected at the County’s facility.

Education Centre

The Waste Management and Education Centre at the Waste Management Facility opened in June of 2018. This net zero energy facility is designed to use solar panels to completely offset energy use of both the building and the landfill site itself. Not only does this building act as an administrative space for Waste Management staff, it also offers an educational component to both students and community members, with interactive displays that explore environmental sustainability, renewable energy and zero waste. Tours being offered which begin in the education centre where the guide will cover topics such as landfill operations, environmental impacts, and renewable energy of the building and diversion programs, followed by a site tour of the landfill. No school or group tours were held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

The County's waste management programs are performing well. Recycled material tonnages remain strong and the amount of garbage going to the landfill is decreasing. The County's overall residential diversion rate is projected to be approximately 57% in 2020. It is important to know that the percent diverted from landfill in Oxford County is considerably lower at 36% in 2020 because this calculation takes into consideration all residential and IC&I waste handle by the County. It should be noted that this percentage is calculated differently than RPRA (formerly WDO). The actual residential diversion number will be published by RPRA in November 2021.

While the programs are working well, there is always room for improvement and County Staff are continually seeking improvements and efficiencies.