



Oxford County

**2020 Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste System
Annual Report**

Submitted to

**Ministry of the Environment, Conversation and Parks
London Regional Office**

March 31, 2021

BRUSH, LEAF, AND YARD WASTE SYSTEM REPORT

Municipal Information

Oxford County is located in southwestern Ontario and is comprised of eight (8) local Area Municipalities. Oxford County is an upper tier municipality and is responsible for delivery of County-wide waste management services. The geographic area, census population, and household count of each municipality is presented in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Municipal Information

Municipality	Land Area km²	2016 Population	Household Count
Township of Blandford-Blenheim	382	7,399	2,965
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	242	7,129	2,967
Township of Norwich	431	11,001	4,063
Township of South-West Oxford	371	7,664	3,139
Township of Zorra	529	8,138	3,434
Town of Ingersoll	13	12,757	5,532
Town of Tillsonburg	22	15,872	7,647
City of Woodstock	49	40,902	18,581
Oxford County	2,040	110,862	48,328

Brush, Leaf, and Yard Waste System – Section 15(3)

Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Oxford County

Oxford County does not have a curbside food and organic waste collection program and supports the use of backyard composters and green cone digesters to handle residential organic waste. Table 2 summarizes the number of composters and green cone digesters sold and/or distributed to residents in 2020, showing that interest levels to manage this type of waste are high. Oxford County will be considering an organic waste collection program for potential future implementation to meet diversion targets established in the provincial Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.

Table 2: Number of Backyard Composters Sold in 2020

Details	Number Sold
Composters Sold Directly to Residents	328
Green Cone Digesters Sold Directly to Residents	335
Total Units Sold in 2020	663

Oxford County is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of inventory levels for the County's backyard composter program for all municipalities except for the City of Woodstock. The City of Woodstock purchases and distributes their own inventory, funded through the County.

All eight (8) municipal offices, as well as the Oxford County Administration Building and the Oxford County Waste Management Facility, sold composters for \$10.00 per unit which is \$20.45 below the original purchase price. Oxford County absorbed the difference between the purchase price and selling price for composters sold within the County. Green Cones were sold for \$40.00 per unit, which is \$52.00 below the original purchase price. The County sells additional accelerator powder for the Green Cone at \$4.00 per packet and the City of Woodstock sells the packets for \$8.00 per packet.

The County has been hosting a container sale event every other year on a weekend to promote the use of composters and green cones and make them more accessible for those working during the week. Some area municipalities will also host similar events for residents periodically. In 2020, all in-person events were postponed due to the pandemic.

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Educating Residents on Home Composting

Every composter sold in Oxford County contains instructions prepared by the manufacturer, on its use and benefits to a backyard garden. The County also promotes home composting through several outlets such as websites, digital and print advertisements, and presentations.

Oxford County's website contains information covering frequently asked questions and outlines the steps and best practices for producing compost at home. There are also indoor composting options listed on the website for residents living in an apartment who may not have access to a yard. Throughout the year, Oxford County circulates educational information through social media and print advertisements to help educate residents on composting opportunities.

Once a year, the County mails out an informational booklet to all residents. Information contained in the booklet is a simplified version of the information found on the County's website. The booklet is distributed to all residents living within the County except for residents of the City of Woodstock. The City of Woodstock also mails out an information booklet containing City related programs as well as promotes composting opportunities to their residents.

Upon request, the County will make presentations to local community or school groups promoting the benefits of home composting and how easy it is to do. This information is also shared during landfill tours offered by the Waste Management department. No school or group presentations were held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brush, Leaf, and Yard Waste Collection System – Section 15(4)

Oxford County funds 100% of the Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Program operating within the County. Due to various municipal agreements with some of the Area Municipalities, administration of this program may vary.

Quantity of Brush, Leaf, and Yard Waste Accepted or Collected

Table 3 identifies the amount of brush, leaf, and yard waste collected by each municipality in 2020. The COVID pandemic impacted the amount of material collected at the depots as more residents were home to complete yard work. Weigh scales are not available at these depots and, therefore, it is uncertain how much of the material indicated below is carry-over from material received towards the end of 2019.

Tonnage information for the materials listed below was derived from weigh scale tickets representing:

- Material received at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility
- Brush material processed at the Town of Ingersoll, Town of Tillsonburg, and City of Woodstock's brush drop-off depots as reported by the County's Brush Processing Contractor

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Table 3: 2020 Material Tonnages Collected by Municipality

Location	Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste (Tonnes)
Town of Ingersoll	2,600
Township of Zorra	850
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	1,480
Township of Blandford-Blenheim	1,030
City of Woodstock	7,700
Township of Norwich	2,300
Town of Tillsonburg	3,060
Waste Management Facility	1,727
Total	20,747

Amount of Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Transported to the County Compost Facility

In 2020, the County comingled the brush, leaf and yard waste and transported 20,747 tonnes of material to the County's Compost Facility.

Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Collection System

Oxford County operates eleven (11) municipal brush, leaf and yard waste drop-off depots located throughout the County, including at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility. Table 4 identifies the location and operating hours for each depot.

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Table 4: Brush, Leaf, and Yard Waste Depot Information

Municipality	Location	Hours of Operation	Staffing
Town of Ingersoll	80 Pemberton Street, Public Works Yard	24/7	Unmanned
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	18 Hendershot Street, Tavistock	24/7	Unmanned
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	104 Blandford Street, Innerkip	24/7	Unmanned
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	158 Loveys Street, Hickson	24/7	Unmanned
City of Woodstock	944 James Street	24/7	Unmanned
Township of Norwich	432594 Zenda Line, Springford	24/7	Unmanned
Township of Norwich	22 Phebe Street, Norwich	24/7	Unmanned
Blandford-Blenheim	895957 Oxford Road 3, Public Works Yard	24/7	Unmanned
Town of Tillsonburg	50 Newell Road	Monday-Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (October to March) 9:00 am – 8:00 pm (April to September)	Unmanned (Video surveillance)
Township of Zorra	783045 Road 78	24/7	Unmanned
Oxford County Waste Management Facility	384060 Salford Road	Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	Manned

These depots are open to both the residential and commercial sectors; all unmanned depots remained open during the COVID pandemic. Use of these depots are free and these depots service 48,328 households. These depots are operated solely by municipal forces and subsidized 100% by the County.

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Additionally, the Towns of Ingersoll and Tillsonburg and the City of Woodstock offer curbside collection of leaves during the fall months. The cost to deliver this program is covered by the respective municipality, as the County does not fund curbside collection of leaves. The County however does fund transportation of this material to the County's Compost Facility.

Collected brush, leaf, and yard waste from the municipal depots is brought to the County's Compost Facility. In 2020, collected material was transported to the County's Compost Facility located at 384108 Salford Road, Salford on a weekly basis during the months of April to November. The County covers 100% of the costs associated with transporting this material to the Compost Facility. This facility is not open to the public.

The Compost Facility operates under Ontario Regulation 101/94 Part V Section 34 – Permit to Rule and in accordance with the requirements set out in Part V of this Regulation – Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Sites. Once the material is received at the Compost Facility, it is immediately placed into windrows for composting where temperatures are taken and recorded in the County compost database.

To assist with the composting process, the material received is ground. This process has enabled the County to reduce the amount of residual waste generated from the entire process and allows for a more efficient and timely screening process.

Following regulatory requirements for windrow composting, the rows are turned at least five times at regular intervals, monitoring temperatures for 15 different days that achieve a temperature of 55 degrees Celsius as per Part V, Section 29 (4) and (5).

The operator will record the temperature readings, weather, date, windrows turned, as well as, general condition of the compost. The operator will also evaluate the facility and surrounding area for any issues pertaining to odour, dust, litter, and vermin. This information is recorded to assist operational staff with trouble-shooting issues pertaining to high or low moisture content, high or low windrow temperatures, material volume levels for each windrow, identifying the start date of the curing stage, and when grinding and screening activities can occur.

Records for the Compost Facility are stored electronically on the County's server and hard copies of the operator's findings during temperature taking are kept on-site at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility Site at 384060 Salford Road, Salford. Records are maintained for a standard 7-year period.

Once the compost has completed its curing stage, samples are taken for analysis using the sampling parameters set out in Ontario Regulation 101/94 Part V Section 16. Samples are sent to A&L Laboratory in London where a CQA Product Quality Test is performed. All compost produced in 2020 met the Provincial testing requirements and current CCME type A compost standards.

In 2020, 20,249 tonnes of finished compost was processed for end market..

Complaints Received and Responses Made

Oxford County received one complaint regarding the operation of the Tavistock brush, leaf, and yard waste depot. A resident living across from the depot raised a number of issues including dust, non-complaint material being dropped off, and material blowing across the road to his property. In response, temporary litter fence was installed to reduce material from blowing offsite. In 2021, the County plans to pave the site to reduce dust and will also be re-designing the bunkers to help contain the material. No complaints were received regarding the operations at the County owned and operated Compost and Brush facilities.