

Data Report #5

2014 Ontario Residential Waste Diversion Rates

April 21, 2016

Background

Each year, WDO receives reports from municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations (“municipal programs”) on the quantities of material diverted through each of their waste diversion programs. This data is submitted to WDO through the Municipal Datacall, along with financial data for the Blue Box Program.

WDO analyzes the information reported in the Datacall to calculate residential waste diversion rates for each reporting municipal program, municipal group, and the province overall. The practice used to calculate the residential waste diversion rate comes from Generally Accepted Principles, or “GAP”¹. Diversion tonnage is included for the following activities:

- Municipally-operated recycling activities:
 - Blue Box printed paper and packaging;
 - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE);
 - Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW);
 - Other recyclables (e.g., scrap metal); and
 - Used tires².
- Municipally-operated composting activities (e.g., kitchen organics);
- A per capita³ allowance for provincial deposit systems based on beer, wine and spirits containers returned from the residential sector;
- An allowance for residential on-property management (e.g., backyard composting and grasscycling); and
- Municipally-operated reuse activities.

“Disposal tonnes” referenced in the spreadsheets include garbage and processing residuals from recycling and composting, operations disposed at landfill or Energy-from-Waste. The following formula is used to calculate the residential waste diversion rates:

$$\text{Diversion Rate} = \frac{\text{Diversion Tonnes}}{\text{Generation Tonnes}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Generation Tonnes} = \text{Diversion Tonnes} + \text{Disposed Tonnes}$$

WDO verifies the diverted and disposed material quantities reported in the Municipal Datacall. To ensure that residential waste diversion rates are calculated accurately and fairly amongst municipalities, WDO adjusts material quantities reported by some municipal programs. For example, WDO makes adjustments where disposal tonnages are missing or where tonnages are significantly out of range relative to similar programs.

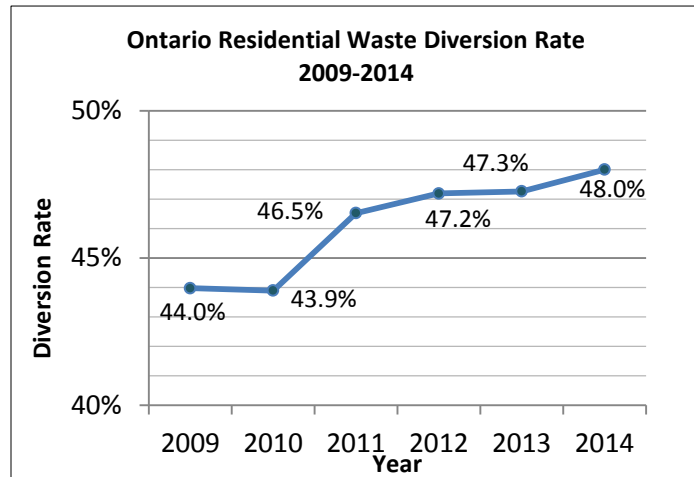
¹ Generally Accepted Principles (GAP) for Calculating Municipal Solid Waste System Flow, Development of a Methodology for Measurement of Residential Waste Diversion in Canada, CSR (Corporations Supporting Recycling), November 2003.

² Diversion of passenger and light truck tires is estimated by a credit of 7.1 kg/capita.

³ A credit of 5.51 kg/capita is included for the return of residential beer, wine and spirits containers.

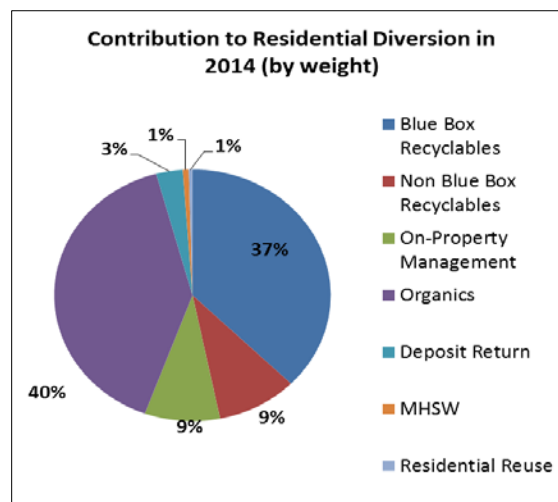
Analysis

The overall residential waste diversion rate in Ontario rose, very slightly, by 1.5% in 2014 compared to 2013 (48.0% versus 47.3%). This rate has increased by over 9% since 2009 (48.0% versus 44.0%).



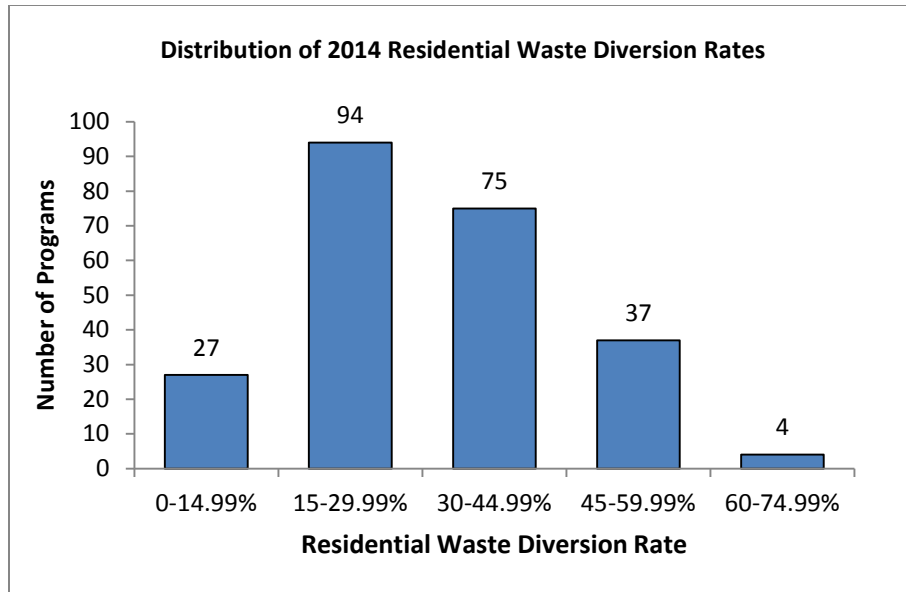
Organics and Blue Box materials continue to contribute most to residential waste diversion

In 2014, the diverted materials that contributed most to overall residential waste diversion efforts by weight were organics (40%) and Blue Box recyclables (37%), as illustrated in the chart below.



Wide range in municipal residential waste diversion rates and tonnages

In 2014, the residential waste diversion data reported to WDO by 237 municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations resulted in residential waste diversion rates ranging from a low of 6.8% to a high of 66.5%. This is consistent with ranges reported in previous years. The overall provincial residential waste diversion rate was 48.0% in 2014.



Ontario residents continue to increase diversion

In 2014, Ontario residents diverted almost 2.4 million tonnes of residential waste or 14% more residential waste than they did 5 years ago.

For detailed reports, please follow these links:

1. [2014 Residential Waste Diversion Rates by Municipal Program \(Alphabetical\)](#)
2. [2014 Residential Waste Diversion Rates by Municipal Group](#)
3. [2014 Residential Waste Diversion Rates by Municipal Program \(by Diversion Rate\)](#)

Criteria to determine the municipal groups are available [here](#).