

Ontario's Blue Box Program Plan supports the various municipal recycling programs that operate across the province. There is significant diversity among municipalities across the province, as well as in the recycling programs provided by those municipalities.

Recognizing this diversity and the need to evaluate and compare program effectiveness and efficiency, municipalities and associations participating in the Datacall have been placed into municipal groups. In 2006, and subsequently in 2012, the Municipal Industry Program Committee (MIPC) revised the municipal groups to ensure that:

- the delineation of the population and population density criteria between groups was complimentary so that the full range of population densities and populations fit into groups; and
- programs in 'depot' groups that had implemented reasonably wide-scale curbside collection services were placed in 'curbside' groups.

Following completion of the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Datacalls, municipal groups for programs reporting a shift from depot service to curbside service were also adjusted.

To ensure equity and transparency, municipal groups are based on two primary and two secondary criteria:

- Primary criteria
 - Population
 - Population density
- Secondary criteria
 - Location (north or south)
 - Type of service (curbside or depot)

In order to ensure that population and population density data were comparable, 2011 census data as reported by municipalities were utilized for municipal groups for the 2011 Datacall.

For programs with population less than 50,000 and a population density less than 4 residents per hectare, the municipal groups have been further subdivided based on:

- geographic location into 'North' and 'South' as defined by O. Reg. 101/94; and
- type of service into depot only and curbside (which may also include depot).

The following municipal groups will be utilized for comparing effectiveness and efficiency of programs based on data compiled in the 2011 Datacall.

1 - Large Urban

- Population greater than 250,000
- Population density greater than 4 residents per hectare

2 - Urban Regional

- Population greater than 250,000
- Population density less than 4 residents per hectare

3 - Medium Urban

- Population between 50,000 and 250,000
- Population density greater than 3 residents per hectare

4 - Rural Regional

- Population between 50,000 and 250,000
- Population density less than 3 residents per hectare

5 - Small Urban

- Population less than 50,000
- Population density greater than 4 residents per hectare

6 - Rural Collection North

- Population less than 50,000
- Population density less than 4 residents per hectare
- Located in the “North” as defined by O. Reg. 101/94
- Provide curbside collection service of Blue Box materials to at least 30% of households

7 - Rural Collection South

- Population less than 50,000
- Population density less than 4 residents per hectare
- Located in the “South” as defined by O. Reg. 101/94
- Provide curbside collection service of Blue Box materials to at least 30% of households

8 - Rural Depot North

- Population less than 50,000
- Population density less than 4 residents per hectare
- Located in the “North” as defined by O. Reg. 101/94
- Provide only depot collection service or a combination of depot and curbside collection with less than 30% of households receiving curbside collection of Blue Box materials

9 - Rural Depot South

- Population less than 50,000
- Population density less than 4 residents per hectare
- Located in the “South” as defined by O. Reg. 101/94
- Provide only depot collection service or a combination of depot and curbside collection with less than 30% of households receiving curbside collection of Blue Box materials