

Highlights of the 2011 Datacall Residential Blue Box Materials

Background

2011 was the tenth year WDO has been responsible for the Municipal Datacall. The following is a brief summary of the highlights from the survey of 2011 municipal activities for Residential Blue Box Materials.

Highlights

In 2011, there were 231 municipal residential Blue Box recycling programs participating in the Datacall, an increase of 8 from the 223 programs that participated in the 2010 survey. The 231 recycling programs serve 394 of the 444 municipalities, as well as 19 First Nations, in Ontario.

The following table provides a summary of 2005 to 2011 residential Blue Box marketed tonnes by material:

Material¹	2005 Tonnes	2006 Tonnes	2007 Tonnes	2008 Tonnes	2009 Tonnes	2010 Tonnes	2011 Tonnes	2010 to 2011 % Change	% of Total Blue Box
Printed Paper ²	456,519	498,845	500,083	533,652	436,335	487,684	508,269	4.2%	56.2%
Mixed Papers ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,423	27,767	50.7%	3.2%
Paper-Based Packaging ⁴	183,617	198,874	200,231	195,388	228,223	190,107	167,689	-11.8%	18.5%
Polycoat ⁵	2,568	2,731	2,876	3,957	10,609	5,257	4,956	-5.7%	0.6%
Aluminum ⁶	11,152	11,629	10,829	10,693	10,840	10,843	10,314	-4.9%	1.1%
Steel ⁷	33,638	34,754	34,066	34,138	33,384	31,237	30,800	-1.4%	3.4%
Glass ⁸	127,736	139,654	101,212	94,983	92,609	85,071	88,335	3.8%	9.8%
Plastic ⁹	46,083	51,492	53,201	56,717	58,214	58,621	66,720	13.8%	7.4%
Totals	861,313	937,979	902,498	929,528	870,214	887,242	904,850	1.98%	100%

¹⁾ Stewardship Ontario's material allocation method is subject to change. Caution must be taken for time series data comparisons for individual materials.

²⁾ Includes Newspaper, Household Fine Paper, Telephone Books, and Magazines and Catalogues

³⁾ Includes Mixed Fibres not included in Printed Paper and Paper-Based Packaging

⁴⁾ Includes Old Corrugated Cardboard, Old Box Board, and a portion of Residential Mixed Papers and Mixed Fibres Packaging

⁵⁾ Includes Gable Top Containers and Aseptic Cartons

⁶⁾ Includes Aluminum Food & Beverage Containers and Other Aluminum Packaging

⁷⁾ Includes Steel Food & Beverage Containers, Aerosols, and Paint Cans

⁸⁾ Includes Flint Glass, Coloured Glass, and allocations of Mixed Glass

⁹⁾ Includes PET, HDPE, Plastic Film, Tubs and Lids, Polystyrene and other Mixed Plastics

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From the time-series Blue Box tonnage data shown above, a number of trends are revealed for several material categories:

- The total tonnage of Blue Box materials increased through 2006, then generally declined until 2009 and increased marginally in 2010 and 2011;
- Printed Paper tonnages, accounting for more than half of the total Blue Box tonnes, increased markedly from 2005 to 2008; the recession was responsible for the dip in 2009. Tonnages are on the rise again in 2010 and 2011;
- Aluminum tonnages have remained generally constant from 2005 through 2011;
- Steel tonnages experienced modest growth until the recession in 2009. Tonnages have declined since then;
- Glass tonnages rose substantially until 2006/2007, when the LCBO introduced a deposit system on glass bottles. Since that time, less glass has been recovered in the Blue Box, as residents are directly returning bottles to the LCBO. Tonnages continued on a downward trend until 2010. There was a modest increase in 2011; and
- Throughout the 2005-2010 period, plastic tonnages increased modestly and then experienced a significant rise in 2011 due to an increase in mixed plastics.

Households with access to curbside collection and depot collection programs are summarized below:

Number of Households Receiving Service								
Type of Service	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2010 to 2011% Change
Curbside ¹	4,531,488	4,651,929	4,729,726	4,694,156	4,696,882	4,722,135	4,808,387	1.8%
Depot Only	221,303	230,239	254,140	245,922	215,812	213,047	204,794	-3.9%
Totals	4,752,791	4,882,168	4,983,856	4,940,078	4,912,694	4,935,182	5,013,181	1.6%

¹ May also have access to depot collection.

- In 2011, the number of households receiving curbside collection increased marginally; likewise, the number of households solely served by depot decreased.

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- 97.2% of households in Ontario have access to Blue Box recycling.
- 2011 household recovery rates for residential Blue Box Waste remained at 180 kilograms per household per year (kg/hhld/yr).
- Of the 231 reporting programs, a total of 86 programs have implemented bag limits to support waste diversion programs. Most bag limits are set between 2 and 4 bags per collection.
- Of the 231 reporting programs, a total of 108 programs have implemented some form of a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system for garbage set at curbside to support waste diversion programs. The most common cost is \$1 to \$2 per additional bag of garbage set out.

The following table summarizes the number of households that receive collection of items beyond the five basic Blue Box materials (newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans and PET):

Material	Number of Households Receiving Service			
	2010	2011	% Change	2011 Households Served as % of Total Households Reported
<i>Paper-Based Packaging</i>				
Corrugated Containers	4,934,909	5,012,664	1.6%	99.9%
Boxboard	4,929,148	5,008,618	1.6%	99.9%
<i>Polycoat</i>				
Gable Top Containers	4,559,124	4,723,538	3.6%	94.2%
Aseptic Cartons	4,484,604	4,666,677	4.1%	93.1%
<i>Metals</i>				
Aluminum Foil	4,828,564	4,925,584	2.0%	98.3%
Empty Aerosol Cans	3,956,065	4,188,663	5.9%	83.6%
Empty Paint Cans	4,301,177	4,389,850	2.1%	87.6%
<i>Plastics</i>				
HDPE Containers	4,916,215	4,998,067	1.7%	99.7%
Other Containers*	2,972,555	3,611,913	21.5%	72.1%
LDPE/HDPE Film	3,354,434	3,468,472	3.4%	69.2%
Tubs & Lids	4,749,955	4,847,285	2.1%	96.7%
Polystyrene Crystal*	2,082,657	3,042,287	46.1%	60.7%
Polystyrene Foam	2,968,504	2,389,253	-19.5%	47.7%

*There was a large increase in the number of households receiving collection of mixed plastic containers in 2011.