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**MEMORANDUM****WMPSC-C 7-2019****Subject: 2015/2016 Waste Composition Study Results****Date: Monday, February 25, 2019****To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee****From: Brad Whitelaw, Program Manager, Policy and Planning**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to the Councillor Information Request made at the January 8, 2019 Public Works Committee meeting to provide information respecting what constitutes the 36% of non-recyclable and non-compostable materials in the garbage bags collected between 2015 and 2016, as described in Report PW 3-2019.

**Background:**

AET Group was retained by Niagara Region to complete the 2015/2016 Waste Composition Study (Study). This Study involved conducting four seasonal, two-week waste audits of curbside garbage, recycling and organic materials collected from 170 low-density residential (LDR) households across Niagara region, between July 2015 and April 2016.

**Survey Results:**

Based on the results of this Study, it was determined that the average Niagara LDR household's garbage container contained the following:

- 49.80% was “**Green Bin Organics**”, which included the following materials:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Percent</b>
○ <b>non-food organic waste</b> (e.g. pet waste, tissue/towelling, etc.)	19.00%
○ <b>avoidable food waste</b> (e.g. leftover bakery, meat, fruit, vegetables)	18.30%
○ <b>unavoidable food waste</b> (e.g. vegetable and fruit peelings, fats, oils)	12.50%

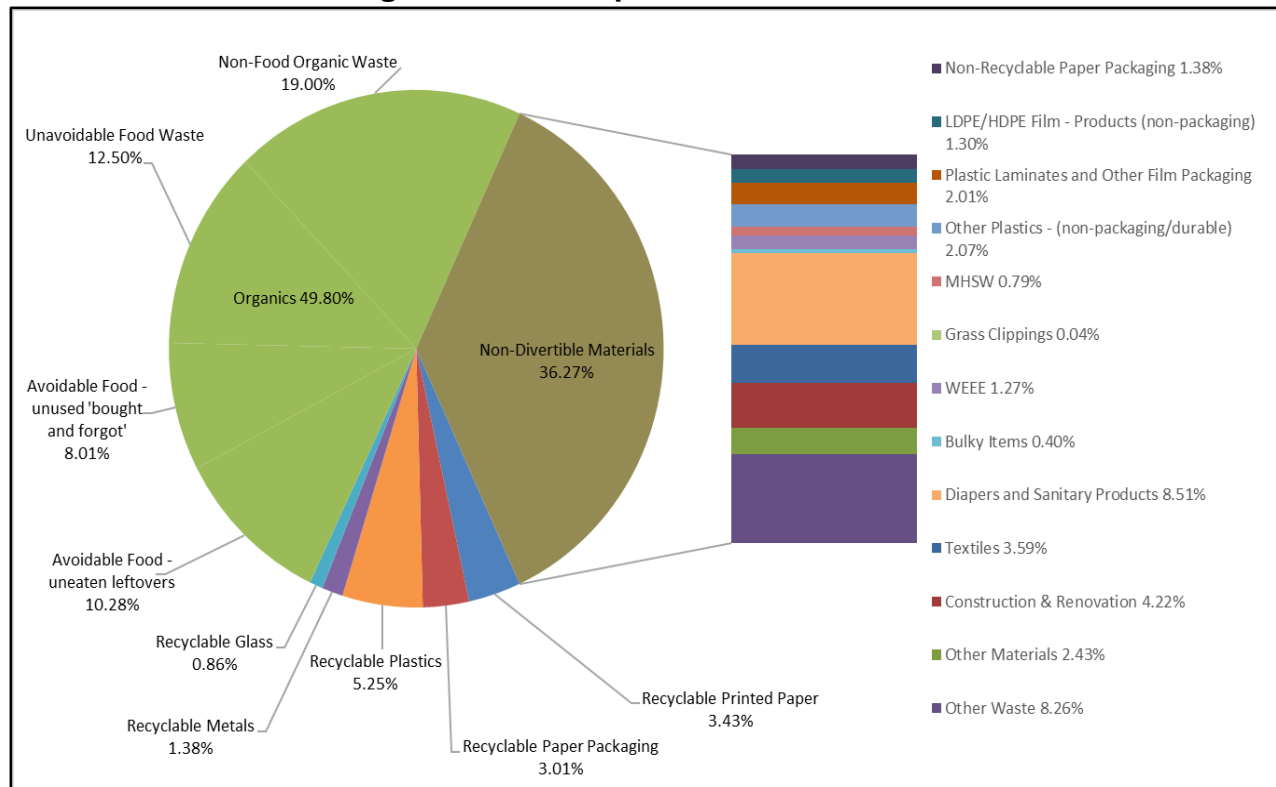
- 13.93% was “**Blue/Grey Box Recyclables**”, which included the following materials:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Percent</b>
○ <b>recyclable plastics</b> (e.g. pop/water bottles, margarine tubs, etc.)	5.25%
○ <b>recyclable printed paper</b> (e.g. newspapers, fine paper, etc.)	3.43%
○ <b>recyclable paper packaging</b> (e.g. cereal/tissue boxes, cardboard, etc.)	3.01%
○ <b>recyclable metals</b> (e.g. aluminum and steel food/beverage cans, etc.)	1.38%
○ <b>recyclable glass</b> (e.g. clear and coloured food/beverage containers)	0.86%

- 36.27% was “**Non-Divertible Materials**”, which included the following materials not acceptable in the Region’s curbside recycling or organics collection programs:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Percent</b>
○ <b>diapers and sanitary products</b> (e.g. feminine hygiene products)	8.51%
○ <b>other waste</b> (e.g. vacuum bags, furnace filters, non-recyclable fast-food containers, etc.)	8.26%
○ <b>construction/renovation waste</b> (e.g. wood, plaster, etc. These materials are divertible at Region’s Drop-off Depots)	4.22%
○ <b>textiles</b> (e.g. clothing, shoes, mats, drapes, etc. These materials are divertible at Region’s Drop-off Depots or at charitable organizations)	3.59%
○ <b>other materials</b> (e.g. coffee pods, steel baking trays, ceramics, glass dishes, window glass, rubber tubes and hoses, etc.)	2.43%
○ <b>other plastics (non-packaging/durable)</b> (e.g. tubs, toys, etc. These materials are divertible at Region’s Drop-off Depots)	2.07%
○ <b>plastic laminates and other film packaging</b> (e.g. chip bags, cereal liners, pasta bags, etc.)	2.01%
○ <b>non-recyclable paper packaging</b> (e.g. multi-layer paper/plastic, paper ice cream cartons)	1.38%
○ <b>LDPE/HDPE film products (non-packaging)</b> (e.g. freezer bags, sandwich bags, food wrap, etc.)	1.30%
○ <b>Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)</b> (e.g. telecom equipment, small home appliances, and other electronics. These materials are divertible at Region’s Drop-off Depots)	1.27%
○ <b>Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW)</b> (e.g. batteries, oil, MHSW liquids, etc. These materials are divertible at Region’s MHSW Depots)	0.79%
○ <b>bulky items</b> (e.g. carpets, mats, small furniture, etc.)	0.40%
○ <b>grass clippings</b> (These are divertible at Region’s Drop-off Depots or through grasscycling)	0.04%

## Overall 2015/2016 Garbage Stream Composition



A copy of the complete Study is included as Appendix 1.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Brad Whitelaw, BA, CIM, P.Mgr, CAPM  
Program Manager, Policy and Planning

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2015/2016 Waste Composition Study