
MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 6-2019

Subject: Special Events Recycling and Organics – 2018 Program Results

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Emily Hughes, Waste Diversion Coordinator

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the 2018 Special Events Recycling and Organics (SER&O) programs to the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee. SER&O programs are available throughout the year to all community public events within the Niagara Region. These programs assist in diverting waste generated at public events from landfill, and reduce disposal costs for event organizers. The SER&O programs also increase public awareness of Niagara Region's waste diversion programs at community events, which can lead to improved waste diversion practices in residential homes. The Special Events Recycling program has been in place since 2005 and the Special Events Organics program began in 2013.

2018 Special Events Recycling Program

The 2018 Special Events Recycling program serviced events in all 12 local municipalities. Key highlights of the 2018 recycling program included:

- 180 events serviced compared to 200 events in 2017
- 25,355 kilograms of recyclables collected and diverted from landfill, a 35 per cent increase of material captured and diverted over 2017

2018 Special Events Organics Program

The 2018 Special Events Organics program serviced events in nine local municipalities. Key highlights of the 2018 organics program include:

- 98 events serviced compared to 112 events in 2017
- 23,524 kilograms of organics collected and diverted from landfill, a 28 per cent decrease from 2017

Eco-Defenders

Niagara Region continues to strengthen its partnership with Eco-Defenders, a local non-profit community group that provides waste sorting volunteers to events interested in maximizing their diversion efforts. The table below provides a couple of examples of the impact the Eco-Defenders volunteer group has had for events that utilized the group for the first time in 2018, to further reduce waste destined for landfill.

Eco-Defender Volunteer Group Impact						
Event Name	2017 Event Results *Did not have Eco-Defenders		2018 Event Results With Eco-Defenders		2017-2018 Diversion Increase	
	Recyclables (kg)	Organics (kg)	Recyclables (kg)	Organics (kg)	Recyclables (%)	Organics (%)
Jazz in the Park Niagara-on-the-Lake	103	181	128	301	24.2	66.3
Au Marche St. Catharines	0	37	15	52	100	40.5

Eco-Defenders have been trained by Niagara Region staff to properly sort event waste and improve the quality of organic and recyclable material generated from the events. Material diverted by Eco-Defenders is free of contamination, and minimal garbage is produced at these events resulting in reduced disposal costs for event coordinators. In 2018, Niagara Region partnered with the Eco-Defenders to service 12 events, an increase from the 10 events serviced in 2017. Niagara Region staff will work to expand their partnership with Eco-Defenders and other community stakeholders throughout Niagara in order to maximize waste diversion in 2019.

Program Costs

The 2018 total cost of the SER&O programs was \$29,245, a 44 per cent increase in the total program cost compared to \$20,344 in 2017. The total cost includes collection costs, processing costs, program supplies and promotional materials. The increase in cost was related to the purchase of additional recycling tools and a new Special Events Organics collection contract.

Additional recycling tools, including recycling carts and locks, were purchased in 2018 to replace worn and damaged tools, which accounted for \$5,685 in additional spending.

At the end of 2017, Niagara Region released a Request For Quote for a new Special Events Organics collection contract. Davidson Environmental successfully procured the two year contract. Although less organics tonnage was collected in 2018, there was an increase in cost for this service as a result of the new contract of just over \$3,000.

Diversion

The 2018 SER&O programs diverted 48,879 kilograms of waste from Regional landfills, which is roughly the same amount that was diverted in 2017 (48,729 kilograms). Although the number of events serviced in 2018 decreased by 10 per cent, the overall tonnage remained the same. This is primarily due to the increase in the number of Eco-

Defender events as well as recurring events that are familiar with the Region's program and have produced consistent tonnage.

Niagara Region staff reached out to all events serviced in 2017 to follow up on repeat service in 2018, however, not all of the events re-registered.

In 2018, Niagara Region staff placed additional emphasis on diversion training and coaching for event contacts and volunteers. The additional follow up with the event contacts helped to capture higher quality recycling and organic material, and reduced the instances of material mishandling. As a result, there was no significant contamination in the recycling and organic material, and only 477 kilograms (55 per cent less than 2017) of material from five events was sent to landfill during the 2018 SER&O season due to the mismanagement of the recyclables and organics at the event.

As of the end of January, more than 20 events have already requested SER&O services for the 2019 season.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Emily Hughes
Waste Diversion Coordinator

Appendices

Appendix A – 2018 Special Event Recycling and Organics Events

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