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## MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 17-2021

**Subject: 2019 Waste Management Benchmarking Report**

**Date: Monday, April 19, 2021**

**To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee**

**From: Brad Whitelaw, Program Manager, Waste Policy & Planning**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to submit the annual 2019 waste management benchmarking review, which evaluates performance against the Blue Box program goals, objectives and targets established in WMPSC-C 1-2017, Niagara Region's 2016-2021 Blue Box Program Plan. This memorandum was delayed due to the length of time required by [Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority \(RPRA\)](https://rprra.ca/) (<https://rprra.ca/>) to verify the 2019 Blue Box Datacall results and post them to their website.

### Overview

The 2019 benchmarking report is comprised of three (3) key areas for performance measurement. For each measurement parameter, Niagara's target, the current value, and how it compares to the target and/or other municipal comparators, are described in Appendix A. The parameters reflect industry standard measurements for program or system performance, cost effectiveness and efficiencies. The performance and benchmarking results are summarized below.

#### 1. Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority Residential Waste Diversion Rate

Niagara achieved the interim waste diversion goal of 56% by 2016, and is now working towards achieving the 65% target. Niagara's 2019 diversion rate decreased slightly to 55% from the previous few years, but was still above the provincial average of approximately 50%. It was also higher than the average of the municipal comparator group (i.e. municipalities with a population greater than 250,000), which was approximately 52%. This measurement parameter and associated target will be revised once the new provincial diversion rate methodology is established.

## 2. Blue Box Recycling Plan Performance Measures and Targets

The Blue Box Recycling Plan goals, which align with Council's current target of 56% diversion by 2016 and 65% diversion by 2020, are to increase the diversion of residential Blue/Grey Box materials from disposal and extend the life of existing landfills. The performance results in support of program goals and associated objectives, which are measured by RPRA, include some of the following observations. Appendix A contains the full results.

- Niagara has achieved the 2019 RPRA related targets and is performing better than the comparator group and provincial average. The RPRA measures consist of:

RPRA Measure	Niagara Region	Comparator Group Average	Provincial Average
2019 Blue Box Residue Rate	7.8%	n/a	12.6%
2019 Net Cost per Tonne Marketed	\$291/tonne	\$392/tonne	\$450/tonne

- Niagara exceeded the 2019 Blue Box participation rate target, based on the results of the 2019 'Recycling Matters' curbside visual survey.
- The 2019 Blue Box set-out rate was not measured, as part of the 2019 'Recycling Matters' curbside visual survey. However, it is anticipated that the 2019 Blue Box set-out rate remained the same as the 2016 Blue Box set-out rate (1.5/hhld/week) as no program change had occurred between 2016 and 2019.

Curbside Waste Audit/Visual Survey Measure	Niagara Target	Niagara Actual
2019 Blue Box Participation Rate	82%	90%
2019 Blue Box Set-Out Rate	2.0/hhld/week	1.5/hhld/week (estimated)

## 3. Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (MBNC) Performance Measures

The subset of MBNC parameters that are related to cost effectiveness are used in this benchmarking review. Niagara was lower in cost than the 2019 MBNC comparator group average, in all areas:

<b>MBNC Performance Measure</b>	<b>Niagara Region</b>	<b>MBNC Comparator Group Average</b>
2019 Operating Cost for Garbage Collection per Tonne - All Property Classes	\$98/tonne	\$127/tonne
2019 Operating Cost for Solid Waste Disposal per Tonne - All Property Classes	\$91/tonne	\$99/tonne
2019 Operating Cost for Solid Waste Diversion per Tonne - All Property Classes	\$164/tonne	\$217/tonne
2019 Solid Waste Average Operating Cost per Tonne - All Property Classes	\$160/tonne	\$185/tonne

## **Conclusions**

Improvements to waste management programs and program performance have occurred over the last several years. Niagara has met the established targets or is performing better than its comparator group and/or provincial averages. Niagara has met the majority of the short-term targets established for 2019, and is trending toward meeting its longer term targets. The implementation of Niagara's policy change (i.e. EOW garbage collection) in Q4 of 2020 will have a positive impact on Niagara's waste diversion rate in future years.

These annual reviews are intended to ensure continuous improvement and that every effort is being made to ensure the waste management system is operated efficiently and cost-effectively.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A 2019 Waste Management Benchmarking and Performance Monitoring  
Report