

Keen on Green 2022 Waste Audit Update

**Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
Lucy McGovern, Collection & Diversion, Program Manager
June 26, 2023**

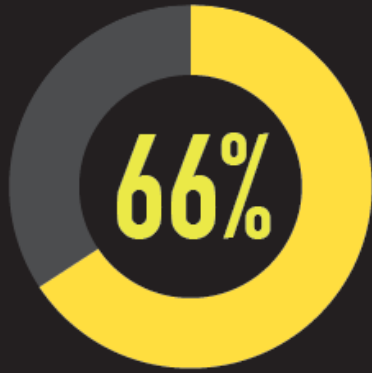
Keen on Green Mandate

- Keen on Green is a multi-departmental committee with the goal to identify and implement initiatives to minimize waste and increase diversion at Regional facilities.
- The committee is dedicated to promoting current practices that demonstrate the Region's commitment to waste reduction.
- Committee members meet at least four times annually and support waste diversion efforts within its scope and capability at all Regional buildings.

Waste Audits

- O. Reg. 102/94 requires that large office buildings with greater than 10,000 m² of office space complete an annual composition waste audit.
- The Regional HQ and the NRPS HQ are the two Region buildings requiring annual audits
- Waste audits began at Regional HQ in 2015 and at NRPS HQ in 2017
- Annual audits are completed by a third party in the November/December timeframe each year
- All audit work and committee initiatives are funded through the Waste Management operations budget

2022 Waste Audit Results



Niagara Region Headquarters has a waste diversion rate of 66 per cent.

This is 2 per cent lower than the last time a full waste composition audit was completed in 2019.

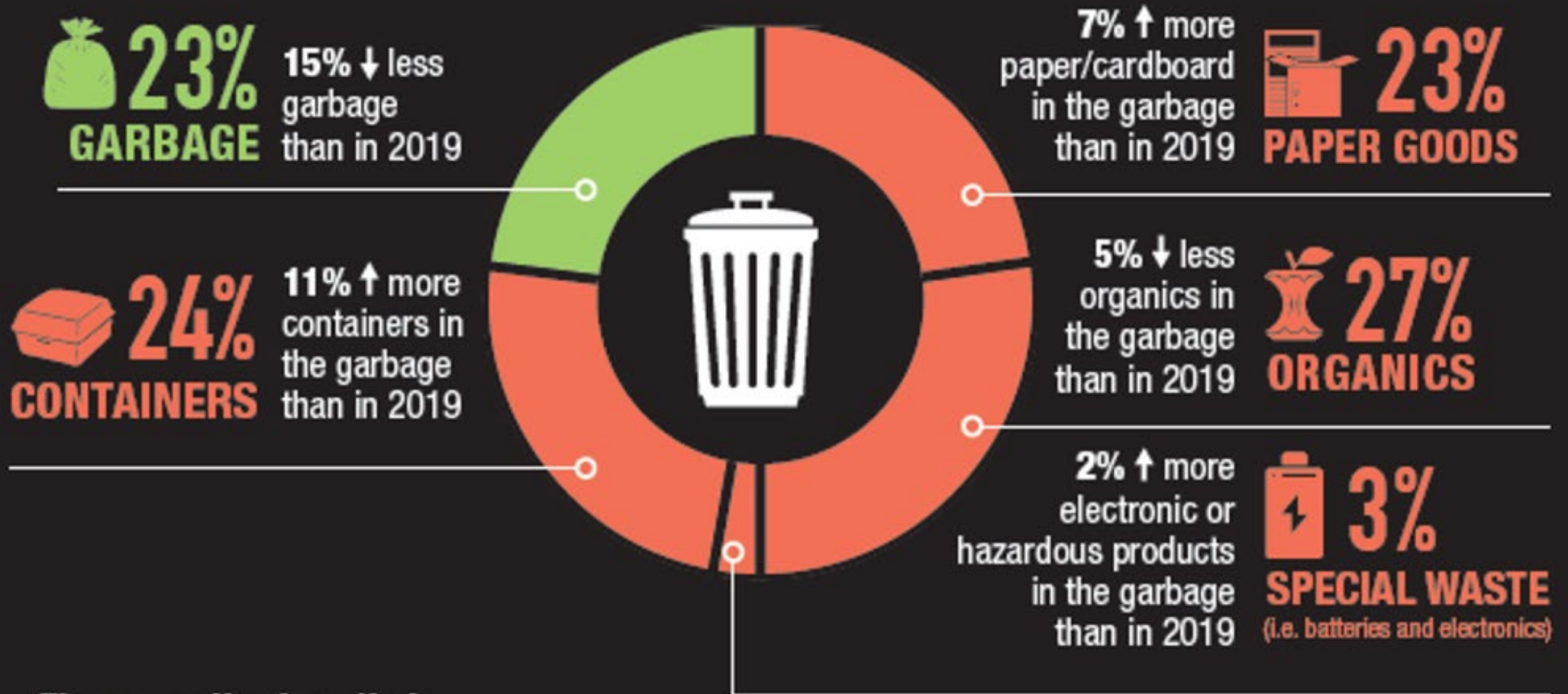


Niagara Region Police Services headquarters has a waste diversion rate of 53 per cent.

This is 20 per cent lower than the last time a full waste composition audit was completed in 2019.

Regional HQ 2022 Waste Audit Results

Percentage of Material Found in Garbage

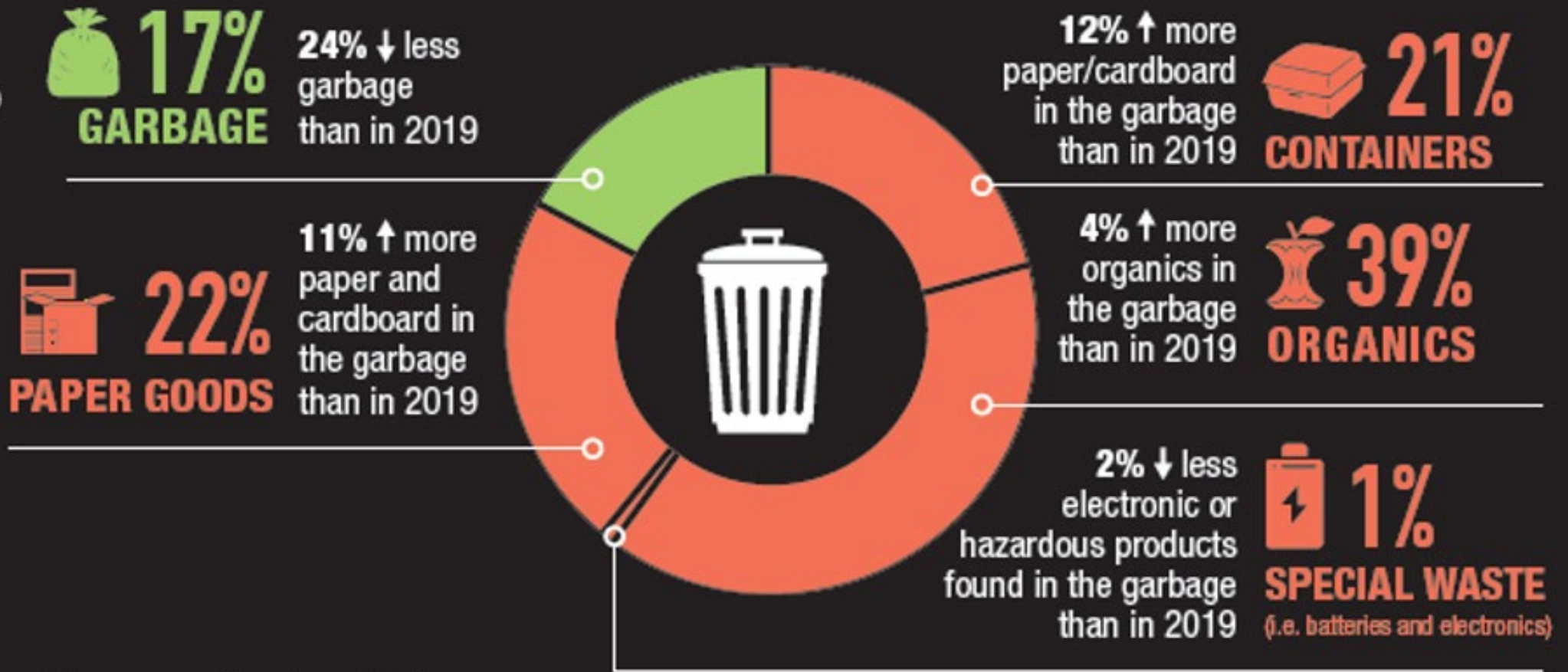


These results show that:

- **77 per cent** of the materials found in the garbage should have been kept out of the landfill through existing waste diversion programs
- We are throwing away more recyclable and compostable material in the garbage than actual garbage

We can do better. Keen on Green asks you to sort and separate your waste properly.

Percentage of Material Found in Garbage



These results show that:

- **83 per cent** of the material found in the garbage should have been kept out of the landfill through existing waste diversion programs
- We are throwing away more recyclable and compostable material in the garbage than actual garbage

We can do better. Keen on Green asks you to sort and separate your waste properly.

Regional HQ 2022 Waste Audit Recommendations

- Overall need to increase awareness of existing diversion programs and improvements to source separation efforts
- Implement Hazardous & Special Products awareness to areas disposing of such waste (i.e. gel ice packs)
- Implement E-waste collection for small electronics recycling
- Increase awareness regarding coffee cups and coffee pods, as these are not accepted in recycling or organics streams. Promote use of low waste coffee practices such as drip-coffee in the building and reusable mug use.

Regional HQ 2022 Waste Audit Recommendations

- Increase awareness of proper W/WW lab disposal of plastic and glass items into recycling streams at the Environmental Centre
- Increase awareness through employee and contracted cleaner education programs with brief training, posters or notices distributed to cleaning staff
- Collect all waste in clear plastic bags instead of black plastic bags to allow for monitoring of waste collection and to ensure separated waste streams are disposed into the correct containers

NRPS HQ 2022 Waste Audit Recommendations

- Overall need to increase awareness of existing diversion programs and improvements to source separation efforts as follows:
 - Relaunch the Desk-side Waste Diversion Program to provide desk-side waste diversion kits to all office staff and refresh promotion and educational material
 - Review existing sorting stations throughout building to optimize convenience for staff and full availability
 - Remove all solitary waste bins. Ensure that all waste bins are attached to or close to sorting station to offer full diversion options.
 - Relaunch the IRIS Keen on Green page to reinforce improved waste management practices and make resources easily available
 - Rally support from top management and request that the waste diversion message is cascaded down to all staff

NRPS HQ 2022 Waste Audit Recommendations

- Implement additional sorting stations in the Detention Area as this area was identified as having one of the largest quantities of divertible materials.
- Hazardous & Special Products awareness to the Forensic Lab area disposing of such waste (i.e. medical lab waste)
- Increase awareness regarding molded pulp paper, paper towel and tissues to clarify that these products belong in the green bin
- Increase awareness around coffee cups and coffee pods, as these are not accepted in recycling or organics streams. Promote use of low waste coffee practices such as drip-coffee in the building and reusable mug use.

NRPS HQ 2022 Waste Audit Recommendations

- Increase awareness through employee and contracted cleaner education programs with brief training, posters or notices distributed to cleaning staff
- Collect all waste in clear plastic bags instead of black plastic bags to allow for monitoring of waste collection and to ensure separated waste streams are disposed into the correct containers

Keen on Green Committee Initiatives

- Desk-side Waste Diversion Program (rolled out at both HQs in 2017)
- Caught Ya' Being Green Recognition Program
- Battery Recycling Program
- Choose to Reuse – Disposable Cup Avoidance Campaign
- Paper Towel Composting Program
- Office Supply & Binder Reuse Program
- Office Supply & Toner Recycling & Awareness Programs
- My Fridge is Your Fridge – Food waste & packaging disposal awareness
- Plastic Gift Card Recycling Program
- eWaste Recycling Program for small accessories
- Working with Procurement to create a Green Procurement Policy