
MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 30-2019

Subject: 2018 Waste Audit Results

Date: Monday, August 26, 2019

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Lucy McGovern, Collection and Diversion Program Manager

This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with the waste audit results for the two Niagara Region facilities obligated to complete annual waste audits as a requirement of Ontario Regulation 102/94. In 2018, the Niagara Regional Headquarters facility in Thorold completed its fourth annual audit, and the Niagara Regional Police Services Headquarters in Niagara Falls completed its second annual audit.

Overview

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 102/94, a waste audit was conducted at the Niagara Regional Headquarters facility, located at 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, from November 30 to December 6, 2018. A second waste audit of the Niagara Regional Police Services Headquarters facility, located at 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls, was conducted from December 7 to December 13, 2018. The waste audits are intended to report on the status of the facilities with respect to current waste management practices and to calculate an overall waste diversion rate based on waste collected and material recycled and disposed by weight.

Diversion Rate vs. Capture Rates:

A *diversion rate* is the total quantity of waste that is diverted for reuse or recycling as a function of the total quantity of all wastes generated. While diversion rates are important to consider, the success of diversion programs can also be seen from the capture rates. A *capture rate* is the total quantity of a recoverable waste that is diverted for reuse or recycling as a percentage of the total quantity of a specific recoverable waste that is generated.

2018 Waste Audit Results:

1) Niagara Regional Headquarters:

The total annual waste generated by the facility was estimated to be 60,273 kg. Approximately 73.5 per cent of the total waste generated was diverted from disposal through recycling, composting and reuse, which represents approximately 44,282 kg

annually. The vast majority of diverted material (by weight) was mixed fine paper (including confidential shredded paper), corrugated cardboard, tissue/toweling and food waste.

The facility had an overall capture rate of 80.5 per cent. This indicates that the waste diversion programs are working well. When considering the capture rates of the individual waste streams, green bin organics at 63.2 per cent and blue box recyclables at 69.9 per cent, have the most room for improvement. Capture rates for grey box recyclables as well as Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment are very good at 92.1 per cent and 90.5 per cent respectively. Approximately 10,722 kg of potentially divertible materials are still being sent for disposal annually, and primarily consist of paper packaging and organic materials. See Appendix A for a table of results.

Positive results in the 2018 waste audit report include a 12 per cent reduction in waste generated at Regional Headquarters in 2018 than was seen in 2017. However, results also show that more recyclable and organic materials were disposed in the garbage stream in 2018 and reflects a decline from 2017 results as seen in the Appendix B infographic.

2) Niagara Regional Police Services (NRPS) Headquarters:

The total annual waste generated by the facility was estimated to be 45,998 kg. Approximately 70.1 per cent of the total waste generated is diverted from disposal through recycling, composting and reuse, which equates to 32,258 kg annually. This represents a four per cent (4%) increase over the 2017 results. The vast majority of diverted material (by weight) is confidential shredded paper, non-confidential paper and corrugated cardboard, which together total 50 percent of all collected materials.

The facility had an overall capture rate of 80.2 per cent. This indicates that the diversion programs are working well. When considering the capture rates of the individual waste streams, blue box recyclables at 54.2 per cent and green bin organics, at 55.4 per cent have the most room for improvement. Approximately 7,955 kg of potentially divertible materials are still being sent for disposal annually. See Appendix A for a table of results; and Appendix B for an infographic illustrating the composition of the garbage at the NRPS Headquarters building.

Continual Improvement Measures

Moving forward, the Region has identified a goal of 80 per cent waste diversion at each headquarters facility by the end of 2020. A number of continual improvement measures have been identified at each location to improve upon waste diversion and capture rate

results as we work towards this goal. Please refer to Appendix C for details of continual improvement activities.

Next Steps

The corporate Keen on Green Committee, together with supporting Niagara Region staff at both headquarters facilities, will continue to identify and implement initiatives to minimize waste and increase waste diversion. In addition to the implementation of the audit report recommendations listed in Appendix C, the Keen on Green Committee is also supporting the development of a potential Green Procurement Policy through the Region's Procurement Advisory Committee; is working towards reducing office paper use through collaboration with other Regional departments; will be investigating a ban on the purchase of specific single-use plastics at Regional facilities; and continues to expand the Desk-side Waste Diversion Program across all new eligible Regional buildings to more broadly promote the best practices that demonstrate the Region's commitment to waste reduction.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Lucy McGovern
Collection and Diversion Manager

Appendices

Appendix A	2017 & 2018 Waste Audit Performance Measures	Page 4
Appendix B	2018 Waste Audit Garbage Composition Infographics	Pages 5 - 6
Appendix C	Continual Improvement Activities	Page 7