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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Works
Report: #2024-INFO-73
Date: November 8, 2024

Subject:

2023 Waste Management Annual Report

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides a summary of the 2023 Waste Management Annual Report.

2. Background

2.1 The Waste Management Annual Report summarizes the previous year's waste management activities and program outcomes. The report also provides information on potential waste management program changes considered by the Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) or the Province of Ontario (Province).

2.2 The Waste Management Annual Report is submitted to the MECP and made available to the public on the Region's [webpage](#) and the Durham York Energy Centre [webpage](#)

3. Summary of Residential Waste Managed

3.1 In 2022, the Region managed 228,635 tonnes of residential waste through curbside, multi-residential and Waste Management Facility programs. A total of 105,123 tonnes were actively diverted from disposal through the Region's diversion programs such as Green Bin Organics, Blue Box Recycling, Leaf and

Yard Waste or Other Programs (electronics, tires, re-use and household hazardous waste). Details of these programs are provided in the 2023 Waste Management Annual Report.

Table 1: 2023 Durham Region Waste Management Tonnages

Material	Tonnes
Garbage	123,502
Green Bin Organics	33,510
Blue Box Recycling	38,315
Leaf and Yard Waste	27,101
Other Diversion	6,207
Total	228,635

- 3.2 The Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) is responsible for compiling and verifying municipal waste diversion rates in Ontario. With the transition of responsibility for the Blue Box Program to producers of the material and the delay in RPRA reporting years, 2022 was the last year the Region of Durham provided data under the datacall submission. Durham Region's final RPRA calculated diversion rate was 62 per cent in 2022, the highest diversion rate in the Urban Regional category.
- 3.3 Residential waste generation in 2023 was consistent with 2022 waste generation rates. COVID-19 lifestyle changes no longer impact waste generation rates as they did in 2020 and 2021.

4. Long-term Waste Management Plan Progress

- 4.1 The overall goal of the Region's Long-term Waste Management Plan is to divert as much material as possible from garbage, minimize the need for disposal and recover resources, including energy, from the remaining waste.
- 4.2 The Region adopted new metrics to measure its progress in reducing waste generation, including declining per capita garbage generation and an increase in Green Bin tonnage metrics. The Waste Plan established 2018 as the baseline year for measurement to avoid pandemic-related impacts on these metrics. In

2018, 173.2 kilograms of waste and 41.2 kilograms of source separated organics were generated per person. In 2023, the Region generated 163.9 kilograms of waste per person, trending down from elevated pandemic levels and the 2018 baseline. Source separated green bin organic generation remained constant in 2023 at 44.5 kilograms per person. Five-year trends for these metrics are illustrated in Figure 1.

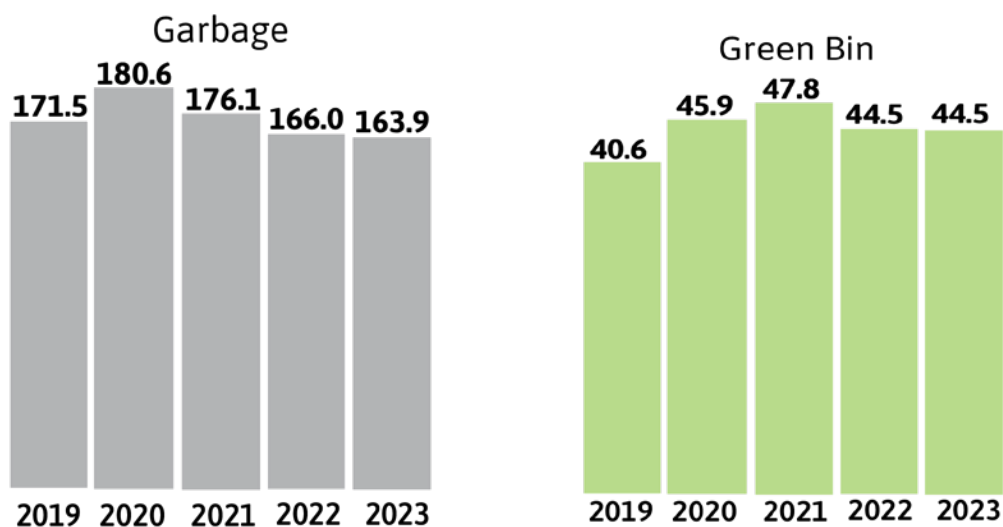


Figure 1: Per Capita Garbage and Green Bin Generation (kg/person)

4.3 Additional details on the 2023 progress toward implementing the Five-Year Action Plan 2022-2026 are provided in the Annual Report. The current five-year Action Plan is in place until 2026 and is focused on short-term goals, allowing time to evaluate and revise the long-term goals to meet the Region's changing needs.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Regional Municipality of Durham operates comprehensive programs for the responsible management of residential waste materials, in addition to multi-residential collection services, community collection events, and the operation of waste management facilities. The 2023 Waste Management Annual Report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the Waste Management Division. Table 1 provides details on the tonnages collected and managed by the Regional Municipality of Durham in 2023, while Figure 1 provides the data on new waste metrics identified in the Long-term Waste Management Plan.

5.2 For additional information, contact: Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management, at 905-668-4113, extension 4102.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By:

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Commissioner of Works