

## Theme: Waste



Recycling containers at the Buckhorn Transfer Station.

### Where Are We Now?

Generating waste is a fact of life, and cannot be avoided. However there is no waste in nature, with all materials being recycled and recirculated within the ecosystem. How we handle the waste we generate has significant impacts and we can learn a great deal from nature, with many suggesting that our waste management practices need to better reflect processes found in nature.

Currently, the County of Peterborough diverts 42% of its waste from landfill, while the City of Peterborough diverts nearly 51% of its waste. The provincial target in Ontario for waste diversion is 60%, meaning that the Greater Peterborough Area still has work to do in terms of its waste diversion efforts. With both the City and County developing new Waste Management Master Plans, we are well positioned to implement the three Rs hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle and to improve our waste diversion rate over time.

## Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

**Our Goal:** We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

## How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Reduce the amount of waste we generate.
- Reuse materials wherever possible.
- Maximize diversion of materials from disposal as viable markets and technologies become available.
- Recover resources where possible.

### Priority Actions

- Identify and promote opportunities for the reuse or recycling of reusable goods and materials.
- Establish a curbside organic waste collection program.

*Note:* Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

## Toolbox Resources

- **Curbside Organic Waste Collection** – Develop and implement a municipal curbside organic waste collection program.
- **Quest for Less – School Waste Reduction Programs** – Teachers can book the Quest for Less Grade 1, 3 or 7 programs or the Earth Week School Challenge.
- **Waste Reduction Toolkit for Construction/Demolition Projects** - Develop and implement a 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy for your construction and demolition projects.
- **Backyard Composting** – Learn how to compost in your own yard.

## Sustainability in Action

- The Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey is making use of renewable energy in its waste diversion efforts, employing solar power to compact cardboard at the Buckhorn Transfer Station.
- The County of Peterborough operates five seasonal hazardous waste depots and the City of Peterborough operates a permanent hazardous waste depot on Pido Road, helping to keep toxic materials out of our landfills and ensuring their proper care and disposal. As an additional service, the City's depot offers used cans of paint, stains, and other reusable products for free to those that want them and can put them to good use.
- Peterborough Utilities Inc. (PUI) has an agreement with the City and County to install a landfill gas utilization facility at the Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility to use the methane generated from rotting garbage to produce 2MW of electricity.

## THEME: WASTE (A)

### Goal

We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

### Strategic Direction Supported

Reuse materials wherever possible.

### Priority Action

Identify and promote opportunities for the reuse or recycling of reusable goods and materials.

### Description

Often, items that still have a useful lifespan left but are no longer required or desired by their owners end up in our landfills, representing significant waste of resources and limiting the lifespan of these disposal facilities. By promoting existing re-use centres to community members and making the use of these facilities and the re-use of items easier, the serviceable life of products can be extended and landfill lifespan can be maximized. This project aims to increase the likelihood of community members re-using goods as an alternative to disposal.

### Activities

- Identify existing re-use centres (i.e., ReStore, thrift stores, freecycle, reboot Peterborough, online classifieds, etc.) and what items they accept
- Find partners and/or create centres to fill potential gaps in terms of what can be accepted at these centres
- Establish drop offs at municipal/First Nations waste sites (Landfills, Transfer Stations, MHSW depots, recycling depots) for reusable items
- Establish programs to allow for the re-use and exchange of item (e.g. “Leave it outs” days)
- Promote these avenues to community members as preferred alternatives to final disposal
- Explore possible synergies between businesses by connecting businesses whose waste outputs may be usable inputs for other businesses operations

### Toolbox Resources

- **Local Re-Use and Recycling Guide** – Utilize the local re-use and recycling guide to divert waste from the landfill
- **Bicycle Recycling Program** – Start a program to divert usable bikes from landfill and provide them to others in the community at no charge

### Potential Lead and Coordination

- Joint City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough

## Potential Partners

- First Nations
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Thrift Stores
- Townships

## Measures of Success

- Use of facilities
- Estimates of waste diverted

## THEME: WASTE (B)

### Goal

We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

### Strategic Direction Supported

Maximize diversion of materials from disposal as viable markets and technologies become available.

### Priority Action

Establish a curbside organic waste collection program.

### Description

Organic waste collection has been discussed and explored in the City of Peterborough and County of Peterborough in recent years. Organic materials make up roughly one third of the residential waste stream and collecting this through a curbside organics program would help to significantly reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill. By diverting these wastes, resources can be recovered and converted into compost.

### Activities

- Examine feasibility of establishing curbside organics collections program
- Develop and implement program

### Toolbox Resources

- **Curbside Organic Waste Collection** – Develop and implement a municipal curbside organic waste collection program
- **Quest for Less – School Waste Reduction Programs** – Teachers can book the Quest for Less Grade 1, 3 or 7 programs or the Earth Week School Challenge
- **Waste Reduction Toolkit for Construction/Demolition Projects** - Develop and implement a 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy for your construction and demolition projects
- **Backyard Composting** – Learn how to compost in your own yard

### Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough

### Potential Partners

- County of Peterborough
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Townships

## Measures of Success

- Implementation of curbside organics collection program
- Tonnage diverted
- Participation rates
- Use of generated compost