



## Solid Waste Master Plan

### Plan directeur des déchets solides

# A new solid waste master plan for the City of Ottawa

The City is developing a new Solid Waste Master Plan (Waste Plan), to be completed by early 2022. The plan will guide how we manage solid waste over the next 30 years.

The Waste Plan will establish the strategic direction for the management of waste from:

- Curbside residential households
- Multi-residential buildings
- Parks and public spaces
- City facilities
- Partner programs and other non-City waste

While 2052 may seem far in the future, it is not. Things like building a new landfill, expanding processing capacity for organics (compost), and exploring new technologies, can take 10-15 years to plan and implement.

Developing a Waste Plan will allow Ottawa to consider policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at reducing, reusing, and recycling, and managing the waste that remains, all in a strategic way that incorporates the priorities and concerns of residents and stakeholders.

This document provides an overview of the waste management system today, as well as key planning considerations for the future.

## What's happening now?

### Residential waste

The City of Ottawa is responsible for the collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of residential waste from 294,000 curbside homes and 1,700 multi-residential properties every week.





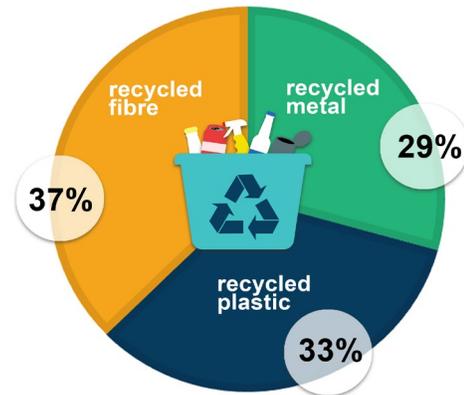
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#### Recycling

- Approximately 85% of Ottawa residents in curbside homes use the City's recycling programs.
- Residents recycle 75% of all blue bin material and 79% of all black bin material. But that means up to **25% of recyclable material in Ottawa is going to the landfill instead of the blue or black bin.**
- In 2019, 61,500 tonnes of recycling was collected from curbside homes and multi-residential properties. This resulted in \$6.7 million of revenue for the City.

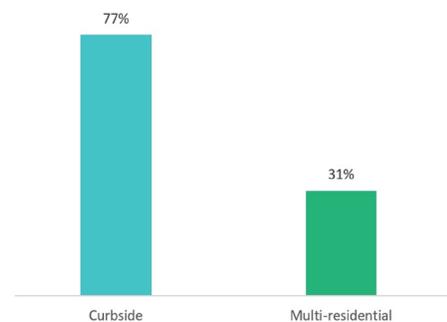
#### Ottawa's recycling revenue



#### Organics

- More than 50% of the City's waste is made up of material that could be diverted from the landfill through the green bin program.
- The green bin program was fully rolled out to curbside households in 2010. Since then, the City has collected more than 600,000 tonnes of organics.
- The compost has been used in various ways, like to fertilize farmer's fields and for animal bedding.

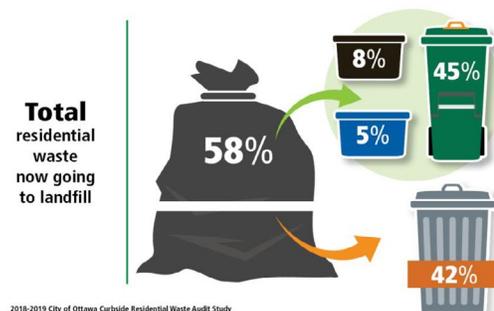
#### Green bin use in Ottawa



Did you know we have several other **diversion programs** such as: Household Hazardous Waste, the Take it Back! Program, and the Yellow Bag Program?

#### Garbage collection

- **Only 42% of what is thrown in the garbage is "actual garbage". The remaining 58% could be diverted from landfill through the City's recycling and green bin programs.**
- All garbage collected by the City is brought to Trail Waste Facility for landfill disposal. It primarily accepts curbside residential waste, but also accepts waste from the general public and some waste from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and Construction and Demolition (C&D) sectors, including City facilities.





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#### Other waste services

As well as providing waste services for over 1 million residents, the City also offers waste services for numerous City facilities, parks and small businesses.



This represents approximately 9% of all residential waste generated in the Province of Ontario, according to a 2016 StatsCan report, and services will need to continue expanding as our population grows.



## Why does Ottawa need a new Waste Plan?

While the current diversion programs have gone a long way in extending the lifespan of our landfill, **at the rate we are going, the landfill will be full by 2041**. We also know that our population will continue to grow, and with that, more waste will be generated.

The benefits of a new Waste Plan include:

- Allowing us to understand, anticipate and plan for costs associated with meeting the needs of the City as the population continues to grow.
- Balancing environmental sustainability, community priorities, and financial responsibility when planning programs and policies.
- Considering new approaches to managing waste, such as the 5Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovery and Residual Disposal), which is an evolution of the traditional 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) approach to waste management.
- Identifying ways to improve our waste diversion from the landfill.
- Ensuring our complex waste management system is managed efficiently and effectively.

## Key planning considerations

In order to have meaningful conversations about what the City should include in the Waste Plan it is important to take into account some key considerations that will affect the scope and direction of the Plan.

These include:

- The role of federal and provincial governments in waste management in Canada and where municipalities fit in. The City of Ottawa can make changes to policies and programs to help meet targets and goals set by the Waste Plan, but new policies and amended by-laws need to align with changing federal and provincial waste management legislation, today and in the future.
- Changing lifestyle and demographic trends, and the challenge of single-use plastics.
- Ontario is shifting many recycling programs towards an extended producer responsibility (EPR) model. The goal of EPR programs is to make producers responsible for managing the products through their whole life cycle, from selection of materials to designing their end-of-life disposal. In Ontario, tires moved to EPR in January 2019 and it is anticipated that single-use batteries will move in July 2020, electronics in January 2021, household hazardous waste in July 2021, and blue box recyclables between 2023 – 2025. This is a major shift from municipal governments being responsible for the disposal/recycling of these products and may ultimately affect the impact municipalities can have on the management of these products in the future.
- The City is currently revising its [Official Plan](#), which provides a vision for future growth and development for the City. The Official Plan explores a number of policy areas that have potential impacts on waste management in the city, including urban and community design, sustainable transportation, climate and energy resiliency, and supporting rural economic development.



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- City Council recently approved the new [Climate Change Master Plan](#), that sets aggressive targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the community by 100 per cent by 2050 and from City operations by 100 per cent by 2040.

Overall, municipal waste management is very complex, and while the programs and services currently offered have managed to divert a significant amount of waste from landfill, we know that more needs to be done.

Given all of the changes at the provincial and federal level and interrelated Master Plans being developed at the municipal level, paired with City growth and development, Ottawa needs a Waste Plan to guide how it will move forward in continuing to deliver and enhance programs and services, while balancing the needs of the community, government requirements, and infrastructure upgrades in a socially, environmentally, and economically responsible manner.

### What is the process and timeline for the Waste Plan?

The Waste Plan will be developed in three phases over a two-year period, to align with the technical work that must be done.

#### Phase 1

*Completed in March 2020*

- Assessment of current system
- Review of provincial and federal legislation and programs
- Best practices review nationally and internationally
- Identification of emerging technologies for waste collection, processing, disposal and recovery
- Communications and engagement strategy

#### Phase 2

*In progress*

- Engage community and stakeholders to develop the vision, goals, guiding principles, and objectives of the Waste Plan
- Needs assessment over the next 30 years (short, medium & long term)
- Identify and evaluate options to meet needs using a weighted approach that balances social, environmental, and financial considerations

#### Phase 3

*Mid 2021*

- Fully-costed business case for the recommended options
- Draft Waste Plan and short-term implementation plan
- Consultation and finalization of Waste Plan and short-term and implementation plan
- Performance measures and monitoring and reporting requirements

For more information or further questions, please contact:

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