

Highlights of the 2012 Datacall Residential Blue Box Materials

Background

2012 was the eleventh year of the WDO Municipal Datacall. The following are the highlights from the annual survey of 2012 municipal recycling programs for Residential Blue Box Materials.

Highlights

In 2012, there were 230 municipal residential Blue Box recycling programs participating in the Datacall. The 230 recycling programs represent over 400 of the 444 municipalities (over 99% of Ontario's population), as well as 18 First Nations, in Ontario.

This table provides a summary of 2006 to 2012 residential Blue Box marketed tonnes by material:

Material ¹	2006 Tonnes	2007 Tonnes	2008 Tonnes	2009 Tonnes	2010 Tonnes	2011 Tonnes	2012 Tonnes	2011 to 2012 % Change	% of Total Blue Box
Printed Paper ²	498,845	500,083	533,652	436,335	487,684	508,269	493,966	-2.8%	55.3%
Mixed Papers ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,423	27,767	22,998	-17.2%	2.6%
Paper- Based Packaging ⁴	198,874	200,231	195,388	228,223	190,107	167,689	169,413	1.0%	19.0%
Polycoat ⁵	2,731	2,876	3,957	10,609	5,257	4,956	5,657	14.1%	0.6%
Aluminum ⁶	11,629	10,829	10,693	10,840	10,843	10,314	11,208	8.7%	1.3%
Steel ⁷	34,754	34,066	34,138	33,384	31,237	30,800	30,825	0.1%	3.5%
Glass ⁸	139,654	101,212	94,983	92,609	85,071	88,335	87,224	-1.3%	9.8%
Plastic ⁹	51,492	53,201	56,717	58,214	58,621	66,720	71,634	7.4%	8.0%
Totals	937,979	902,498	929,528	870,214	887,242	904,850	892,924	-1.3%	100.0%

¹) Stewardship Ontario's material allocation method is subject to change. Caution must be taken for time series data comparisons for individual materials.

²) Includes Newspaper, Household Fine Paper, Telephone Books, and Magazines and Catalogues

³) Includes Mixed Fibres not included in Printed Paper and Paper-Based Packaging

⁴) Includes Old Corrugated Cardboard, Old Box Board, and a portion of Residential Mixed Papers and Mixed Fibres Packaging

⁵) Includes Gable Top Containers and Aseptic Cartons

⁶) Includes Aluminum Food & Beverage Containers and Other Aluminum Packaging

⁷) Includes Steel Food & Beverage Containers, Aerosols, and Paint Cans

⁸) Includes Flint Glass, Coloured Glass, and allocations of Mixed Glass

⁹) Includes PET, HDPE, Plastic Film, Tubs and Lids, Polystyrene and other Mixed Plastics

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From the time-series Blue Box tonnage data shown above, a number of trends are apparent:

- The total tonnage of Blue Box materials slightly decreased (-1.3%) in 2012 from 2011. Printed Paper tonnages, accounting for more than half of the total Blue Box tonnes, increased in the two years after the large drop in 2009, but saw a 2.8% dip in 2012.
- Aluminum tonnages have remained quite constant from 2007 through 2011, with a notable (8.7%) increase in 2012.
- Steel tonnages experienced modest growth until the recession in 2009. Tonnages had declined slightly for two years, and then 2012 was stable;
- Glass tonnages rose substantially until 2006/2007, when the LCBO introduced a deposit system on glass bottles. Since that time, less glass has been recovered in the Blue Box, as residents are directly returning bottles to the LCBO/Beer Store. Tonnages declined slightly (-1.3%) from 2011 to 2012.
- Throughout the 2005-2010 period, plastic tonnages increased modestly and then experienced a significant growth (7.4%) in 2012.

Households with access to curbside collection and depot collection programs are summarized below:

Number of Households Receiving Service								
Type of Service	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2011 to 2012% Change
Curbside ¹	4,651,929	4,729,726	4,694,156	4,696,882	4,722,135	4,808,387	4,816,618	0.2%
Depot Only	230,239	254,140	245,922	215,812	213,047	204,794	229,464	12.1%
Totals	4,882,168	4,983,856	4,940,078	4,912,694	4,935,182	5,013,181	5,046,082	0.7%

¹ May also have access to depot collection.

- In 2012, the number of households receiving curbside collection increased very slightly; the number of households solely served by depot increased by a greater factor.
- 97.2% of households in Ontario have access to Blue Box recycling.
- 2012 household recovery rates for residential Blue Box Waste decreased slightly (-1.7%) from 180 kilograms per household per year (kg/hhld/yr) to 177 kg/hhld/yr.
- Of the 230 reporting programs, a total of 94 programs have implemented bag limits to support waste diversion programs. Most bag limits are set between 2 and 4 bags per collection.
- Of the 230 reporting programs, a total of 119 programs have implemented some form of a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system for garbage set at curbside to support waste diversion programs. The most common cost is \$1 to \$2 per additional bag of garbage set out.

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The following table* summarizes the number of households that receive collection of items beyond the five basic Blue Box materials (newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans and PET):

Material	Number of Households Receiving Service			
	2011	2012	% Change	2012 Households Served as % of Total Households Reported
Paper-Based Packaging				
Corrugated Containers	5,012,664	5,040,679	0.6%	99.9%
Boxboard	5,008,618	5,037,526	0.6%	99.8%
Polycoat				
Gable Top Containers	4,723,538	4,904,364	3.8%	97.2%
Aseptic Cartons	4,666,677	5,037,526	7.9%	99.8%
Metals				
Aluminum Foil	4,925,584	4,968,481	0.9%	98.5%
Empty Aerosol Cans	4,188,663	4,338,213	3.6%	86.0%
Empty Paint Cans	4,389,850	4,406,091	0.4%	87.3%
Plastics				
HDPE Containers	4,998,067	5,010,179	0.2%	99.3%
Other Containers	3,611,913	4,705,439	30.3%	93.2%
LDPE/HDPE Film	3,468,472	3,887,156	12.1%	77.0%
Tubs & Lids	4,847,285	4,886,726	0.8%	96.8%
Polystyrene Crystal	3,042,287	3,056,312	0.5%	60.6%
Polystyrene Foam	2,389,253	3,224,864	35.0%	63.9%
Glass				
Clear Glass	4,955,339	4,996,736	0.8%	99.0%
Coloured Glass	4,952,525	4,537,151	-8.4%	89.9%

*Please note this table was updated as of October 18, 2013, to correct a discrepancy.