

2012 Other Recyclables Trends (Residential)

January 10, 2014

Introduction

Each year, WDO receives reports from municipalities on the amounts of waste diverted through each of their waste diversion programs. These reports are submitted to WDO through the Municipal Datacall.

The reports include data on the quantity, in tonnes, of other recyclables (not including Blue Box waste) diverted from landfill in each year, including:

- Textiles;
- Bulky goods;
- Scrap metal;
- Drywall;
- Wood;
- Brick and concrete; and
- Other construction & demolition (C&D) material.

These materials are either collected from residents at curbside locations, or dropped off at municipal depots. Municipalities can recycle much of these wastes by sending them to facilities that use the materials to create similar or new products.

The information in this report highlights trends in the diversion from landfill of these ‘other recyclables’ in Ontario in 2012 and the previous five-year period. The data used to generate this analysis can be found in the 2012 Other Recyclables (Residential) spreadsheet, available on the WDO website at <http://wdo.ca/partners/municipalities/municipal-datacall/> [under “Program Highlights” and “Other Recyclables (Residential)”].

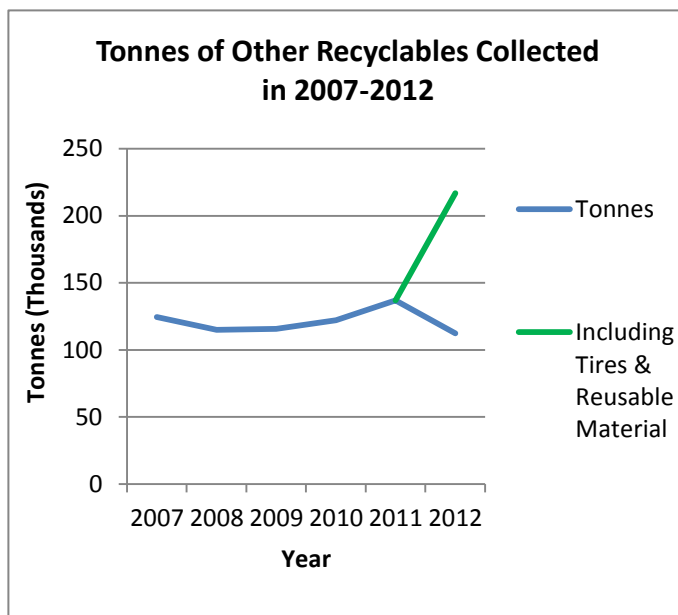
Analysis

Reporting method changed for ‘other recyclables’

Nearly 150 municipal recycling programs collected 112,282 tonnes of other recyclables in 2012. Although this represents an 18% decrease from 2011, the 2012 total no longer includes used tires and reusable materials. However, these materials are still being used by WDO to calculate the overall diversion rate.

If used tires and reusable materials had been included in the other recyclables category, as shown in the graph (right), the total tonnes of other recyclables collected would have been much higher in 2012.

WDO now allocates municipalities a 7.1 kg per capita diversion rate for Passenger and Light Truck tires, compared to the previous reporting by municipalities of



actual tonnes of residential tires collected at municipal collection sites only. Reusable materials are now reported by municipalities in another category.

Heavier materials, such as wood and C&D waste, represent the majority of the total other recyclables' tonnes, which has remained the trend over the past five-year period.

The graphs below illustrate the tonnes of each category of 'other recyclables' in the last five years. Most of the materials have either remained at similar levels, or have increased since 2007.

Though it is difficult to comment on the trends of each material in the five-year period due to many contributing factors, there are marked decreases in the amounts of construction materials, textiles and wood collected during the recession experienced in 2008 and 2009, that just recovered to 2007 levels in 2011 or 2012. However, this trend is not universal among these materials (i.e., quantities of scrap metal and bulky goods increased during the recession period).

