

Data Report #4

2014 Non-Blue Box Recyclables Trends (Residential)

January 21, 2016

Introduction

Each year, WDO receives reports from municipal recycling programs (municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations) on the amounts of materials diverted under each of their waste diversion programs. This information is submitted to WDO through the Municipal Datacall.

This report includes data on the quantity (in tonnes) of non-Blue Box recyclables diverted from landfill each year, including:

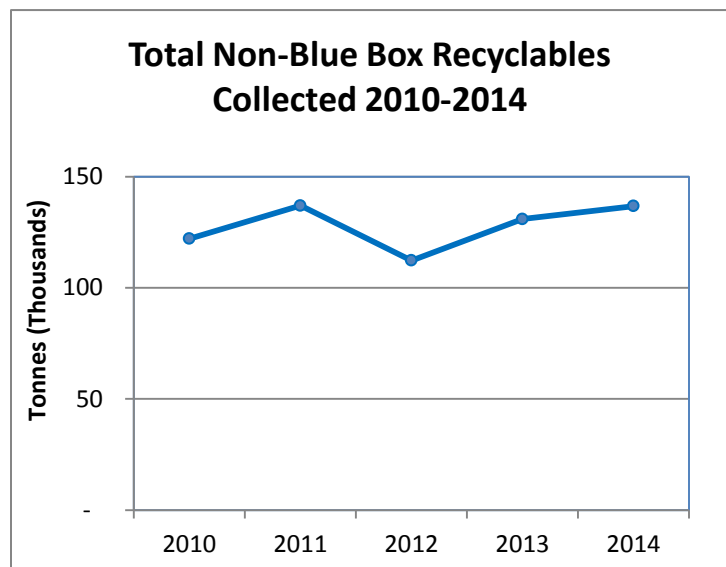
- Textiles;
- Bulky goods;
- Scrap metal;
- Drywall;
- Wood;
- Brick and concrete; and
- Other Construction & Demolition (C&D) material.

These materials are either collected from residents by curbside pick-up, or dropped off by residents at municipal depots. Municipal programs recycle these materials by sending them to facilities that use this material to replace virgin materials in the creation of new products.

The information in this report highlights trends in the diversion from landfill of these “other recyclables” or “non-Blue Box recyclables” in Ontario in 2014 and over the past five years. The data used to generate this analysis comes from the [2014 Non-Blue Box Recyclables \(Residential\) spreadsheet](#).

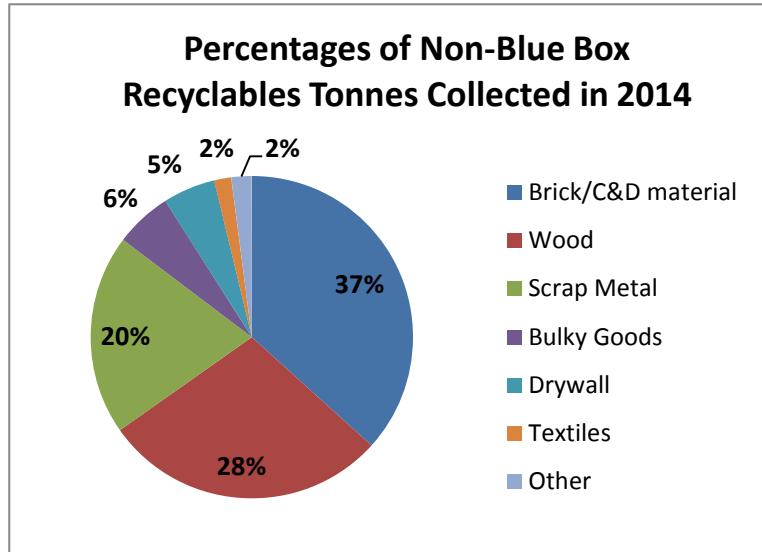
Analysis

Over 150 municipal recycling programs collected 136,754 tonnes of non-Blue Box recyclables in 2014. This represents a 4% increase over 2013, and an overall 12% increase since 2010.



The heavier materials such as wood, brick and C&D waste represent the majority (65%) of the total non-Blue Box recyclables tonnes for the past three years (see chart to the right).

The graphs below illustrate the tonnages for each category of other recyclables in the last five years. Most materials have experienced a slight increase in tonnages collected since last year: Brick and Other C&D (+8%), Wood (+2%), Scrap Metal (+5%), Drywall (+3%), and Textiles (+3%). The exception to this trend is "Bulky Goods", which decreased by 4% in 2014.



The increases in non-Blue Box recyclables collected might be attributed to increased promotion and awareness of the residential non-Blue Box recyclables accepted by each municipal program. While the majority of these materials are found in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector, the Datacall reports only the residential portion of these materials.

Although it is challenging to comment on the trends for each material in the last five years due to many contributing factors, it is apparent in recent years that municipal programs have been expanding the recycling of non-Blue Box materials, including textiles, bulky goods, and to a lesser extent, drywall. Meanwhile, scrap metal tonnages reported by municipal programs have been decreasing, likely due to scavenging and some residents opting to take this material directly to private companies to earn revenue.

