

2015 Non-Blue Box Recyclables Trends (Residential)

February 2017

Introduction

Each year, RPRA 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 RPRA through the Municipal Datacall.

The reports include data from 163 municipal programs on the quantity (in tonnes) of non-Blue Box or other 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 their municipal depots. The information in this report highlights trends in the diversion from landfill of these “other recyclables” or “non-Blue Box recyclables” in Ontario in 2015 and over the past five years. The data used to generate this analysis comes from the [2015 Non-Blue Box Recyclables \(Residential\) spreadsheet](#).

Analysis

Municipal recycling programs collected 138,694 tonnes of non-Blue Box recyclables in 2015. This represents a 1.4% increase over 2014 and an overall 1.2% increase since 2011.

However, this growth in recycling is actually understated, due to changes in the Datacall reporting of used tires and reusable materials that took effect in the 2012 Datacall.

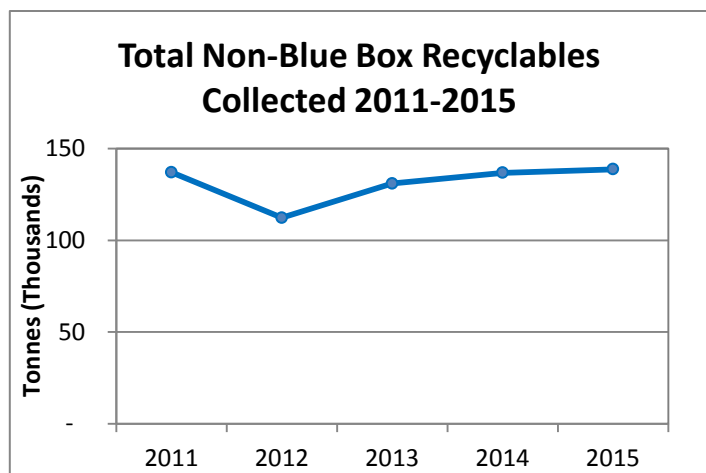


Figure 1: Total Non-Blue Box Recyclables Collected 2011-2015

Starting in 2012, municipalities have allocated 7.1 kg per capita diversion for Passenger and Light Truck tires, compared to the previous reporting of actual tonnes of residential tires collected at municipal collection sites only.

Reusable material diverted from landfill is no longer reported with non-Blue Box recyclables in the Datacall. It is now included in calculations of the overall residential diversion rates. The graph on page 1 does not include tonnages for used tires and reusable materials since 2012, due to the Datacall reporting change.

The heavier materials such as wood, brick and C&D waste have represented recyclables tonnes for the past five years, including 2015 (63.2%), as shown in the chart to the right.

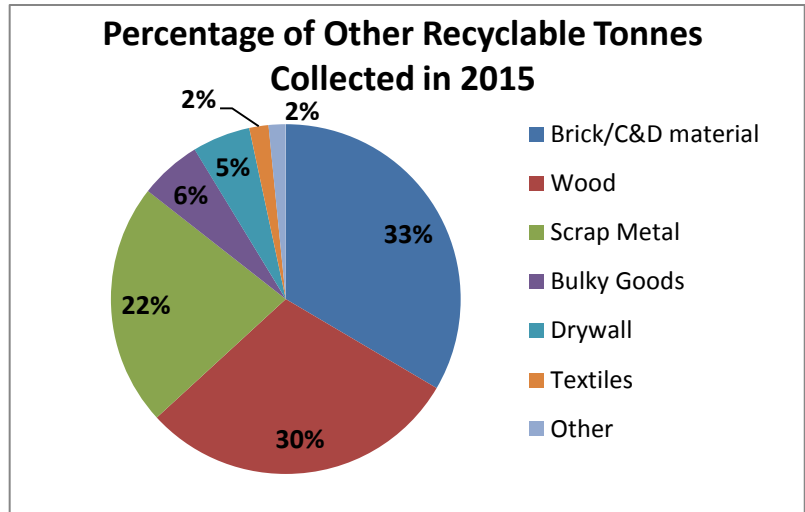


Figure 2: Percentage of Other Recyclable Tonnes Collected 2015

The graphs below illustrate the tonnages for each category of other recyclables in the last five years. Most materials have experienced an increase in tonnages collected since last year: Wood (+2.2%), Scrap Metal (+5.1%), Drywall (+3%), and Textiles (+3.2%). The exceptions to this trend are “Bulky Goods”, which decreased by 3.8% and “Brick and Other C&D, which decreased by 9.4% in 2015.

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, wood, and to a lesser extent, drywall.

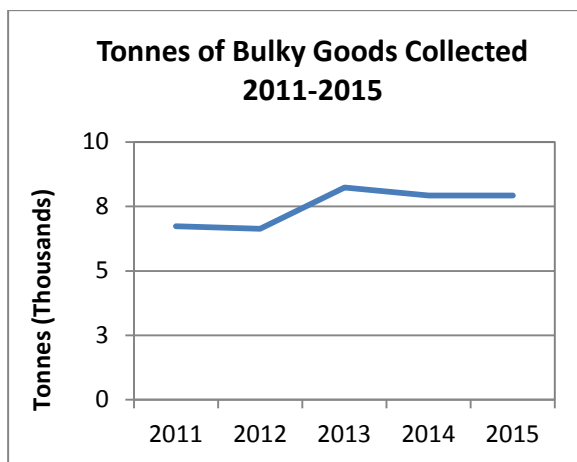


Figure 3: Tonnes of Bulky Goods Collected 2011-2015

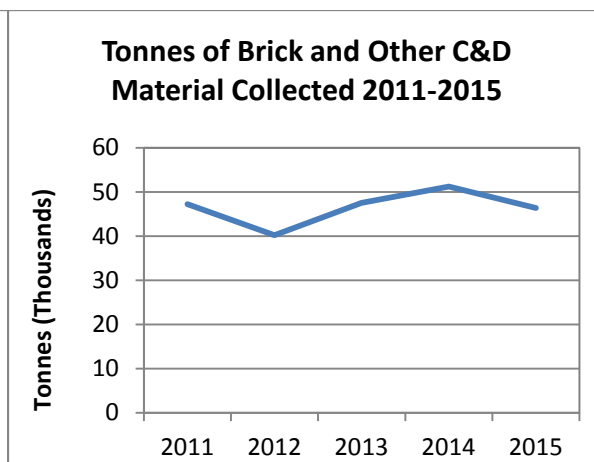


Figure 4: Tonnes of Brick and other C&D 2011-2015

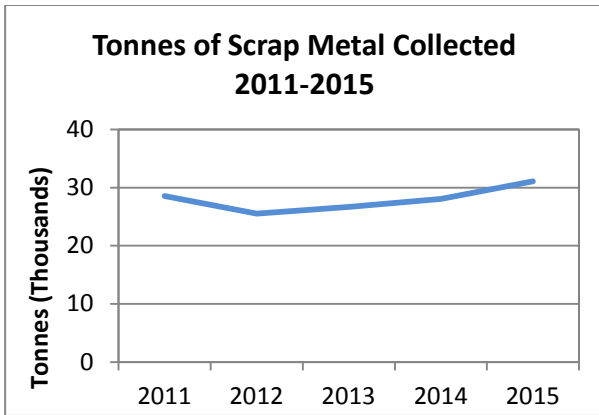


Figure 5: Tonnes of Scrap Metal 2011-2015

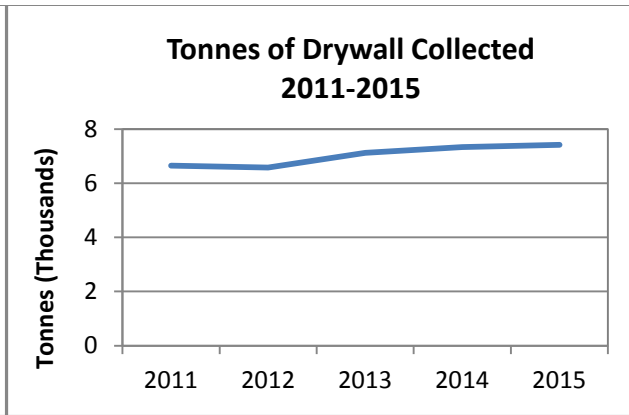


Figure 6: Tonnes of Drywall 2011-2015

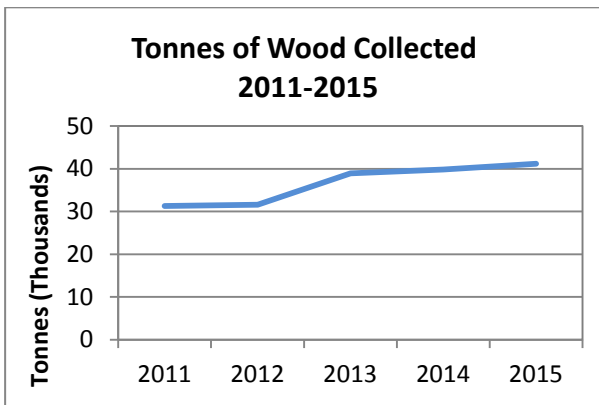


Figure 7: Tonnes of Wood 2011-2015

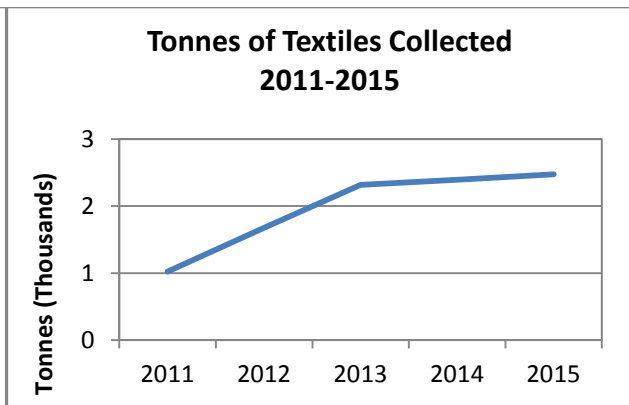


Figure 8: Tonnes of Textiles 2011-2015