

2015 Ontario Residential Waste Diversion Rates

May 2017

Background

Each year, RPRRA receives reports from municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations (“municipal programs”) on the quantities of material diverted through each of their waste diversion programs. This data is submitted to RPRRA through the Municipal Datacall, along with financial data for the Blue Box Program.

RPRRA analyzes the information reported in the Datacall to calculate residential waste diversion rates for each reporting municipal program, municipal group, and the province overall. The practice used to calculate the residential waste diversion rate is “GAP” (Generally Accepted Principles)¹. Diversion tonnage is included for the following activities:

- Municipally-operated recycling activities:
 - Blue Box printed paper and packaging;
 - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE);
 - Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW);
 - Other recyclables (e.g., scrap metal); and
 - Used tires².
- Municipal organic processing activities (e.g., kitchen organics);
- A per capita³ allowance for provincial deposit systems based on beer, wine and spirits containers returned from the residential sector;
- An allowance for residential on-property management (e.g., backyard composting and grasscycling); and
- Municipally-operated reuse activities.

“Disposal tonnes” referenced in the spreadsheets include garbage and processing residuals from recycling and composting operations disposed at landfill or Energy-from-Waste facilities. The following formula is used to calculate the residential waste diversion rates:

$$\text{Diversion Rate} = \frac{\text{Diversion Tonnes}}{\text{Generation Tonnes}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Generation Tonnes} = \text{Diversion Tonnes} + \text{Disposed Tonnes}$$

¹ Generally Accepted Principles (GAP) for Calculating Municipal Solid Waste System Flow, Development of a Methodology for Measurement of Residential Waste Diversion in Canada, CSR (Corporations Supporting Recycling), November 2003.

² Diversion of passenger and light truck tires is estimated by a credit of 7.1 kg/capita.

³ A credit of 5.51 kg/capita is included for the return of residential beer, wine and spirits containers.

RPRA verifies the diverted and disposed material quantities reported through the Municipal Datacall. To ensure that residential waste diversion rates are calculated accurately and fairly amongst municipalities, RPRA adjusts material quantities reported by some municipal programs under certain circumstances. For example, RPRA makes adjustments where disposal tonnages are missing or where tonnages are significantly out of range relative to similar programs.

Analysis

The overall residential waste diversion rate in Ontario was 47.7% compared to 48.1% in 2014.

Between 2010 to 2015 the Ontario provincial diversion rate has increased overall from 43.9% to 47.7%, an increase of 8.7%.

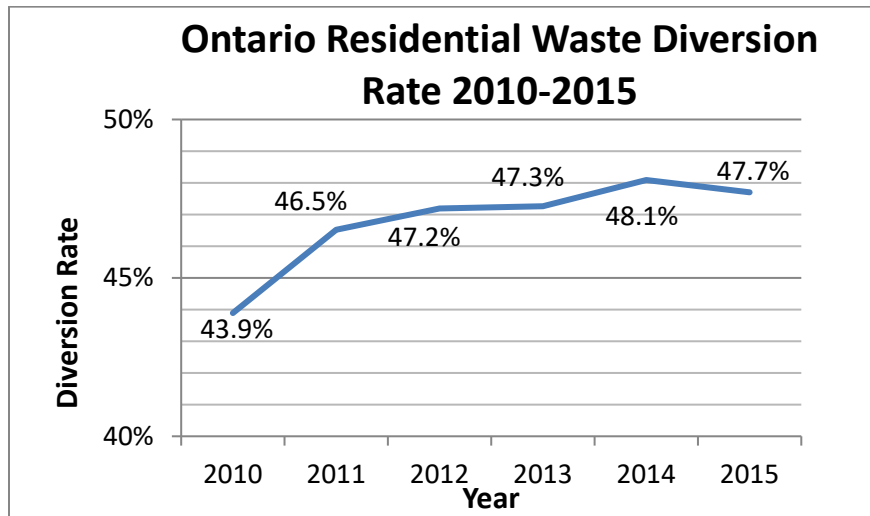


Figure 1: Ontario Residential Waste Diversion Rate 2010-2015

Organics and Blue Box materials continue to contribute most to residential waste diversion

In 2015, the diverted materials that contributed most to overall residential waste diversion efforts by weight were organics (40.3%) and Blue Box recyclables (46.5%), as illustrated in the chart below.

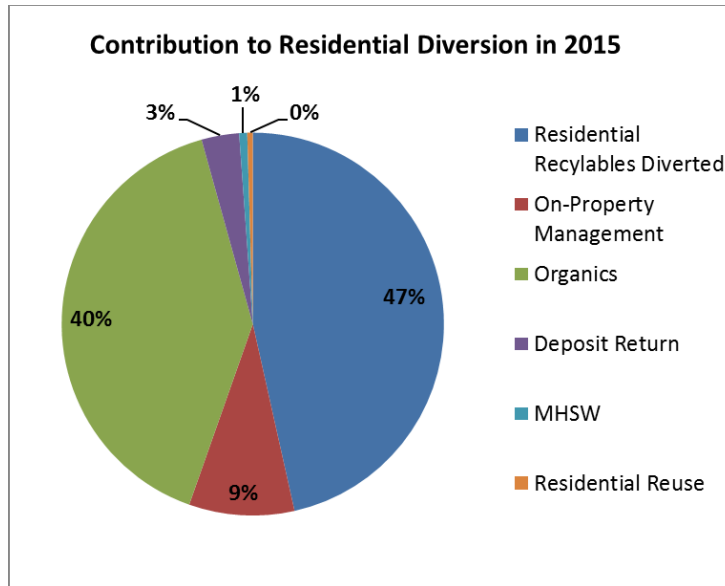


Figure 2: Contribution to Residential Diversion in 2015

Wide range in municipal residential waste diversion rates and tonnages

In 2015, the residential waste diversion data reported to RPRA by 243 municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations resulted in residential waste diversion rates ranging from a low of 4.7% to a high of 64.3%. The overall provincial residential waste diversion rate was 47.7% in 2015.

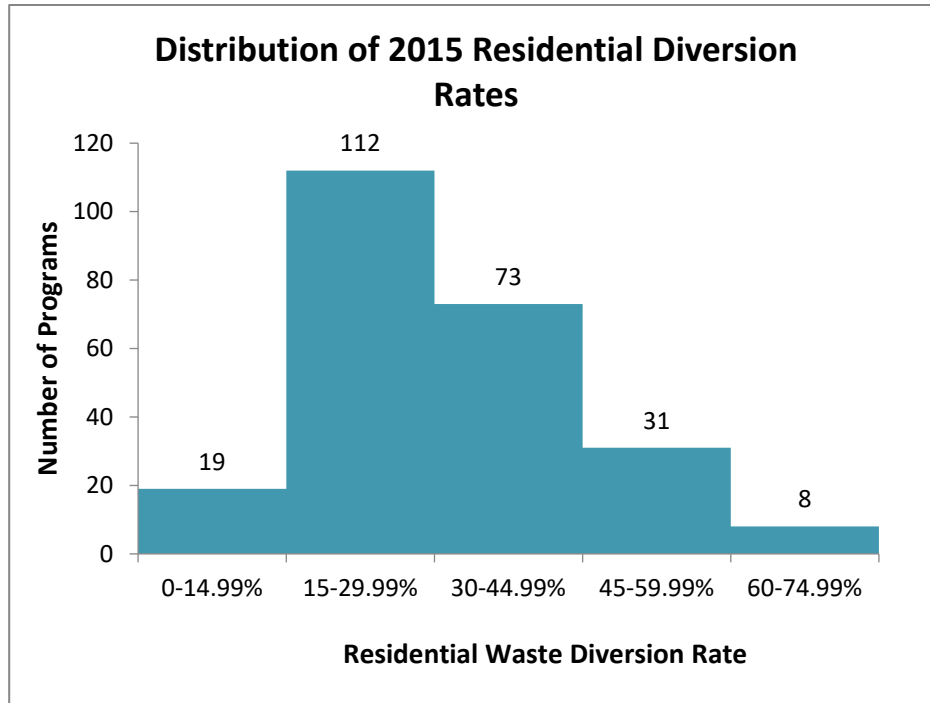


Figure 3: Distribution of 2015 Residential Diversion Rates

[Ontario residents continue to increase diversion and create less waste](#)

In 2015, Ontario residents diverted over 2.3 million tonnes of residential waste or 14% more residential waste than they did 5 years ago, and generated 367 kilograms of residential waste per person, which represents a decrease of 1.1% compared to 2009.

For detailed reports, please follow the link:

- [2015 Residential Waste Diversion Rates](#)

*Note that the report is organized into three formats:

- Alphabetical
- Municipal Grouping
- Diversion Rate

Criteria to determine the municipal groups are available [here](#).