



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY WASTE & RECYCLING REPORT 2013-2014

[Introduction](#)

The principles of waste reduction and diversion continue to drive the university's waste and recycling programming. Queen's is committed to reducing, reusing, and recycling waste material generated by its operations. This year, the university tendered its solid waste collection and disposal services and has partnered with GFL Environmental. GFL is responsible for collecting and disposing of all the university's waste and recycling streams and providing detailed reporting on the associated weights. So far this year, Queen's has seen a 6% drop in its diversion rate due to an increase in the volume of waste being generated on campus.



Waste Diversion Programs

Mixed Recycling

The University's multi-pronged recycling programming continues to include two core recycling streams: cans, glass and plastic and mixed fibre (paper & cardboard). Cans, glass and plastics recycling remained the same as last year at a weight 320 MT while mixed fibre saw an increase of 70 MT for a total weight of 600 MT. Combined, these recycling streams account for over 900 MT of the university's waste diversion.



Source: <http://queensu.ca/gazette/content/queens-rolls-out-new-compost-program-during-waste-reduction-week>

Education and Outreach

The university continues to seek out opportunities to educate and inspire its audience to reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials in support of campus waste reduction/diversion. This year the university outfitted the John Deutsch University Centre (JDUC) with colour coded recycling stations in an effort to streamline the sorting process for campus users. The university's recycling program is very similar to the municipality and as such has adopted the same colour coding for its containers; blue - cans, glass, plastic, grey – mixed fibre, green – organics, black – waste.

In March 2014, the Sustainability Office coordinated a waste audit in the JDUC.

E-waste

Queen's has had an electronic recycling program in place since 2005. This year, the university contracted with a new electronic recycling service provider, Greentec. Staff and faculty can submit an on-line request to Physical Plant Services to pick up their unwanted electronic items. The Campus Computer Store is also an OES approved public drop-off for electronic items. Items are collected on a weekly basis and sent to Greentec for recycling. This year, the university recycled 34 MT of electronics through its ewaste program.



Scrap Metal

The university participates in a scrap metal collection program. The campus has a roll-off bin on campus to collect scrap metal on a routine basis. Special bins are brought in as necessary when departments have large amounts of scrap metal for disposal. In 2013-14, the university's scrap metal program recycled over 70 MT of metal materials.

Leaf & Yard Waste

The Grounds department continues to dispose of campus leaf and yard waste at the local Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC). In 2013-14, approximately 87 MT of leaf and yard waste was diverted from landfill through this program.

Organics

The University's organic waste collection program focuses on collecting food waste from the kitchens of the campus dining rooms, retail outlets and office lunch room spaces. This year, the university diverted 180 MT of organic waste through the organics program, an increase of 100 MT over last year.

Grease

Food Services continues to collect grease from its kitchen operations. This year, they sent 14 MT of grease to Rothsay for recycling.

Books (Better World Books)

Better World Books is a self-sustaining, for-profit social enterprise that collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives locally, nationally and around the world. Over the past year, the campus has recycled 2 MT of books from landfill.

Furniture Reuse (Freecycle@Work)

The furniture reuse program serves as a waste diversion tool to reduce the number of reusable items going to landfill. The university continues to use Freecycle to not only reduce the number of items sent to landfill but also to cut down on costs associated with relocating, off-site storage and, repurchasing.



The university typically diverts approximately 10 MT of furniture from landfill each year, saving the university an estimated \$100,000 through reuse.

Hazardous Waste

The University also collects a variety of hazardous waste materials for recycling, including fluorescent tubes, batteries and paint. These programs combined are responsible for diverting 6.00 MT of hazardous waste from landfill.

Plans for Program Expansion

Exterior Recycling Containers

Physical Plant Services continues to investigate container options to provide exterior recycling of cans, glass plastic and paper materials for campus users. Currently there are two exterior recycling receptacles on campus at the Queen's Centre and Tindall Field. Waste audits need to be conducted to determine the efficacy of these units.



Summary

In 2013-14, the university's waste diversion rate dropped to approximately 42%. There were significant efforts in increasing education and awareness in the university's recycling programs, including more consistency in the colour-coded recycling bins. However, the waste diversion rate dropped 6% from the previous year, perhaps indicating that there is some level of confusion with the new system and suggesting that there are areas that need improvement in new buildings on campus. Initiatives such as the JDUC waste audit in March 2014 will help to identify these opportunities for improvement.



The Sustainability Office continues to create awareness of waste reduction and recycling, while making waste reduction and recycling more accessible to the campus community. It is hoped that the implementation of colour-coded waste and recycling bins and the addition of posters with pictures of recyclable items will communicate the university's recycling programs more clearly to campus user groups. We will be following this progress and see how we can best communicate our efforts to divert more waste on campus.

We additionally started a new contract with Greentec for our E-Waste recycling program and are excited to see how this partnership develops over the upcoming year.

2013-2014

Material	Tonnage	% Total Waste
Waste	1,635.11	52%
Grounds Waste	56.85	2%
Durables	144.97	5%
Cans, Glass & Plastic	323.11	10%
Mixed Fibre	600.43	19%
Organic Toters	181.04	6%
Leaf & Yard	87.08	3%
Electronics	33.93	1%
Scrap Metal	70.74	2%
Furniture Reuse	5.7	0.2%
Books (including hardcover)	1.92	0.1%
Grease	13.91	0.4%
Paint, Batteries, Flourescents	5.91	0.2%
Liquor & Beer Bottle Returns	12.48	0.4%
Total Waste Generated	3,173.18	-
Total Diversion	1,336.25	42%

