



# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY WASTE & RECYCLING REPORT 2014-2015

## Introduction

Queen's is committed to reducing, reusing, and recycling waste material generated by its operations. The principles of waste reduction and diversion continue to drive the university's waste and recycling programming – as evident in our new centralized waste collection program. New waste bins are being delivered across campus as the university moves to a centralized waste collection system. The change will see faculty and staff empty their desk-side garbage and recycling into the central bins, which will be emptied daily by custodial staff.



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 no change in diversion rate, despite increased education and awareness, 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 increased 20MT from last year to a total weight of 360 MT while mixed fibre stayed relatively similar for a total weight of 592 MT. Combined, these recycling streams account for over 950 MT of the university's waste diversion.



### **E-waste**

Queen's has had an electronic recycling program in place since 2005. 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 7 MT of electronics through its ewaste program. This is a significant decrease from the previous year and is being looked into, to figure out how to collect e-waste more effectively.

### **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 2014-15, the university's scrap metal program recycled over 75 MT of metal materials.

### **Education and Outreach**

This year was incredibly exciting in seeking 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 ordered more than 680 of the new bins, as part of the efforts to move towards centralized waste collection.

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 October 2014, the Sustainability Office coordinated a waste audit in the Stauffer Library, as part of Queen's Sustainability Week. In November 2014, we helped Commerce students organize a campaign on coffee cup recycling.



### Leaf & Yard Waste

The Grounds department continues to dispose of campus leaf and yard waste at the local Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC). In 2014-15, approximately 94 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 260 MT of organic waste through the organics program, an increase of 80 MT over last year. This is likely attributed to new organics programs through a partnership with the AMS in October 2013 that has only gotten more clear and effective this past 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 10 MT of books from landfill, an increase of 8MT from the previous year.



### **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 6 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 3 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 2014-15, the university's waste diversion rate stayed the same as last year at 42%. There were significant efforts in increasing education and awareness in the university's recycling programs, including moving towards centralized waste collection and positively engaging with more students and student groups to raise awareness about better waste diversion.

The Sustainability Office continues to create awareness of waste reduction and recycling. Steps such as our organics programs and making videos to better communicate how to recycle all are part of the process of creating a campus culture of waste reduction, along with our other awareness-raising efforts.



**2014-2015**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>% Total Waste</b>
Waste (includes Grounds)	1,807.43	53%
Durables	187.94	5%
Cans, Glass & Plastic	361.09	11%
Mixed Fibre	592.55	17%
Organic Toters	260.69	8%
Leaf & Yard	93.94	3%
Electronics	7.42	0.2%
Scrap Metal	75.47	2%
Furniture Reuse	5.7	0.2%
Books (including hardcover)	10.2	0.3%
Grease	15.3	0.4%
Paint, Batteries, Flourescents	3.26	0.1%
Liquor & Beer Bottle Returns	17.5	1%
Total Waste Generated	3,438.49	
Total Diversion	1,443.12	42%

