

**Queen's University's
Waste Management Program Summary
2005-2006**

In 2005-06, the University's waste management program saw the completion of the 2005 waste audit results, e-waste recycling become part of the campus's regular disposal service, and the outdoor recycling pilot project continue. A new solid waste disposal contract for Queen's will be negotiated in the coming year.

Core waste diversion and landfill programs continue to be promoted to the campus community and reviewed for improvements. In advance of new Ontario waste minimisation legislation currently being developed, the University actively seeks opportunities to achieve the anticipated legislative goal of 60% waste diversion from landfill by the year 2008.

Waste Audit 2005 – results show less campus paper is sent to landfill

The results from a study of the composition of the University's landfill waste conducted in March 2005 were completed in the fall of 2005. Although not a tightly controlled scientific study, information from the audit can be used to make rough estimations on the University's waste diversion rate, success of the recycling, reuse and other diversion initiatives and help identify where diversion activities may be improved.

Approximately 15% less paper was found in the landfill waste examined in the 2005 waste audit than in the 1994 study. Paper made up 36% of the waste studied and remains the largest waste component. Although the study observations were unable to suggest how much of that paper could be diverted, improvements to paper recycling will be explored.

Food waste continues to be the second largest waste component at 28% and will continue to be so until an alternative disposal method is found. The quantity of glass and plastics increased slightly from the previous audits with only a small portion recyclable in the Queen's program. For instance, two thirds of the glass found was lab glass.

Results from Waste Audit 2005 are available at www.queensu.ca/pps under Services: Recycle/Waste.

Stewardship Ontario – supports municipal Blue Box programs

The University continues to fulfill its commitment to the Stewardship Ontario Program, contributing funds to help support Ontario's municipal Blue Box recycling programs. The university sector uses a "multiplier" to calculate the Stewardship Ontario fees. This year, the multiplier did not factor in any packaging materials such as plastic bags from for example, campus bookstores and so, packaging material was calculated and reported separately.

1 May 3, 2006

Reuse Activities – Queen’s scrap material finds new life in the Kingston community

The University’s scrap and surplus furniture and equipment continued to be made available to the public in 2005-06. Approximately 25 tonnes of reusable campus items were redistributed to the Kingston community through QECVI’s Enviroworks reuse centre program, other non-profit groups and individuals. The Computers for Schools program, local schools and individuals reused over 1.6 tonnes of Queen’s scrap computers.

Multi-material recycling – Residence initiatives work to foster participation

The campus-wide multi-material recycling program diverted approximately 500 tonnes of campus waste from landfill in 2005-06. Promotion and review of measures to improve collection rates continues.

Residences has actively encouraged strong student and staff participation in the recycling program since its introduction into the student residences in 1994. This year, many students living in residence participated in producing environmentally themed murals in each of the residence’s recycling depots. Five teams of Residence staff were challenged to increase their recycling rates. The winning team recycled an impressive 100% of what was possible to recycle out of their garbage. During the April move out period, Residence partnered with the Salvation Army and the United Way Food Bank. Students were encouraged to drop off their unwanted reusable clothing, shoes, furnishing, cookware, non-perishable food, and other items at depots scattered through the residences before they left the campus.

Outdoor Recycling Stations – the pilot project continues

The pilot testing of outdoor recycling stations continued through 2005-06. The stations received regular use, particularly in the spring and fall months. Issues concerning the recycling container design and operational challenges need to be addressed before this initiative becomes a regular part of the waste management program.

Electronic (E-Waste) Recycling becomes a regular campus service

Recycling of the University’s electronic equipment waste is now an established part of the regular weekly campus large article disposal service. Almost 25 tonnes or over 2,200 pieces of electronic equipment have been recycled since the program’s inception in February 2005, including approximately 690 computer monitors and 580 CPUs.

Composting – food waste diversion opportunities anticipated

Over 85 tonnes of campus leaf and yard waste was composted in 2005-06. Food waste remains the second largest component of Queen’s landfill waste stream. Opportunities to compost this waste are expected as the City moves towards composting of residential organics before 2008.

2 May 3, 2006

Solid Waste Disposal Contract - for negotiation in 2006-07

The University's five year solid waste management contract set to expire in June 2006 was extended until December 31, 2006 while a new contract is tendered. A provision is in place to extend it further, on a month-by-month basis, should the contract not be awarded by that time. The existing contract conditions will be followed during this period.

Like other service providers, Waste Management responded to increasing fuel costs by imposing a fuel service charge, which has been applied to the University's monthly disposal, lift and recycling costs since August 2005. This charge fluctuates with the price of gas, ranging from 4 to 7% since August, and reaching an 8% peak in March 2006. Discussion with Waste Management on how this charge is calculated and applied continues.

The existing waste disposal contract currently protects Queen's from tipping fees that escalated when the local Richmond landfill site became less available and a portion of the University's waste began being shipped to Quebec. Continued access to Canadian landfill sites will remain uncertain over the coming year. Minimising the impact of rising fuel and landfill prices on the University's waste disposal costs will be an important part of contract negotiations.