



Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
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www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Gary Gerald, Director of Parks and Recreation / Waste Management
Date: August 22, 2025
Subject: 2024 Waste Department Diversion vs Garbage Report

Recommendation:

For Information

Background:

Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA), formerly Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) performed a 'Data-Call' on an annual basis through-out Peterborough County to determine annual funding amounts for the Blue Box Recycling Program. As the County administered the Blue Box Program at the curbside, transfer stations and landfill sites for all Township's, this funding was an integral part of the County's, and ultimately the Township's budgets, which was used to offset County-Wide Waste Management Programs.

Therefore, each year the Township of North Kawartha provided the County with a complete analysis of all material collected at the Transfer Stations and Curbside. This analysis includes weights and volumes for all programs offered, including one-day special services/programs available at the Township's annual special collection day. This information and data are then prepared into a report by Peterborough County staff which is provided to the RPRA for review and verification.

That all being said, as of January 1, 2024, we now have the Producer Responsibility Blue Box Program across Ontario, and as such, there will no longer be an RPRA annual data-call, therefore, 2023 was the last year for the RPRA data-call and annual reporting to determine funding amounts for the following year.

However, we continue to track and record all garbage, recycling and diversion program information, as it is still required for our annual MECP reporting.



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Therefore, 2024 is the first annual waste management report under this new format and is prepared by the County for all eight Townships, based on the information provided.

Analysis:

The 2024 Waste Management Report attached, is a summary of all relevant information provided by the County and Townships. The report evaluates all collection activities and focuses on the percentage of material diverted from Landfill Sites. Therefore, the total household garbage collected weights, are measured against the various recycling and diversion programs offered, to divert material from the Bensfort Road Landfill Site and from this, a diversion rate or percentage is calculated.

The overall objective is to divert as much material as possible from the Bensfort Road Landfill Site to increase the landfill life expectancy and thus preserve the environment. In the past, the diversion percentage objective was 50% and the Township of North Kawartha was perennially successful in meeting or exceeding the objective. Now the County's updated Waste Management Master Plan and the Province, have set 60% as the objective and ideal diversion rate for Municipalities to obtain.

It is important to note a few factors that make it challenging for a smaller Township to either increase or simply maintain its' diversion rate. They are:

1. Due to the smaller over-all tonnages collected, an anomaly in material collected can negatively impact the diversion rate more-so than a Township collecting larger tonnage.
2. Feasibility. Some programs are simply not feasible whether it is due to space, fees, and/or market viability. Boat and Agricultural wrap are an example.

That being said, I am proud to report that the Township of North Kawartha had a **2024 Diversion Rate of 57%**. This is the second highest diversion rate in the County and remains unchanged from 2023. This diversion rate is second to only Trent Lakes at 60%. The average amongst the eight Peterborough County Townships was 53% in 2024, which is actually a decrease of 1% compared to 2023. The eight Municipalities in Peterborough County had diversion rates ranging from 44% to 60% in 2024, which is a decrease from 2023. Therefore, in a year where most others went down a point or two, our residents should be proud that we maintained our diversion rate of 57%.



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In summary, although there was 6% increase in household garbage in 2024, compared to 2023, overall diversion and recycling programs also increased, thereby maintaining our 57% diversion rate. This increase is due to Township growth, tourism, etc. Moving forward we will continue to educate residents, explore new diversion opportunities, and work with the County on improving existing programs and/or developing new programs.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

Infrastructure

1. Ensure that existing infrastructure is sustained reflective of the Asset Management Plan.

Governance

1. Provide Quality Community Programs and Services.
2. Provide effective, clear and transparent Township Communication.

Environment

1. Promote Responsible Environmental Stewardship.

Consultant(s) Sourced:

Harriet Walker, County of Peterborough Environmental Services Department.

Attachment:

2024 North Kawartha Annual Waste Management Report