

briefing note



Date: May 28, 2015

To: Toronto City Councillors

From: Emily Alfred, Waste Campaigner

Re: PW 5.2 Long Term Waste Management Strategy Progress Report

The Long Term Waste Strategy (LTWMS) is in development and has just completed the second public survey and will shortly be starting the 3rd public survey period and public information sessions in June. The consultants and staff have done lots of research and report writing.

However, they have missed addressing a fundamental question: **why is it that over 66% of what goes into the average single family garbage bag is divertible in existing waste programs?** (That number goes up to over 80% for multi-residential buildings) (See graphic on back of this page).

If Torontonians actually stopped putting recyclables and organics into the garbage and instead put them into the Blue Bin and Green Bin **our diversion rate would jump from just over 50% to over 80%. This would cut the residential waste going to landfill at least in half.** (See table on the back of this page)

Currently, the LTWMS is tackling a wide variety of issues but is missing serious analysis of why Torontonians are putting divertible items in the garbage and what can be done to stop this. Without this analysis, the LTWMS will ignore the biggest (and possibly cheapest) opportunity for long term waste reduction in Toronto.

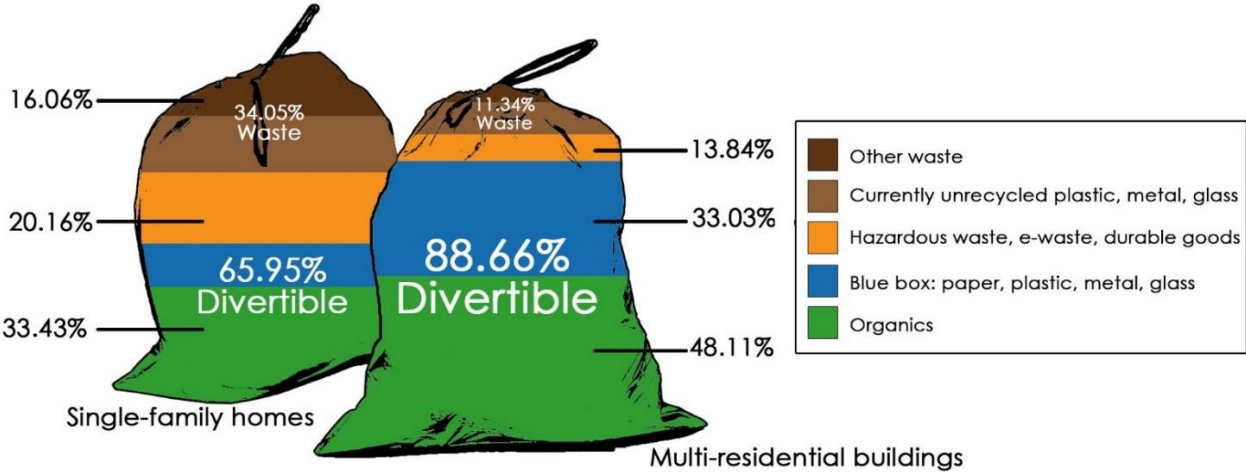
Recommendations:

- The LTWMS development and public consultation documents should be focused on answering the question of why recyclable, compostable and divertible waste is ending up in the garbage stream. This could include public opinion and awareness polls to gauge education, analysis and performance evaluation of existing education and enforcement activities.

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Residential waste diversion	2014
Total Waste (tonnes)	804,369
Garbage	380,522
Residential Diversion	423,817
Current diversion rate	53%
Additional divertables in waste stream (assumes 66%*)	251,114
Potential diversion rate (if additional divertables captured)	84%

*Based on City of Toronto data – 2015 Operating Budget presentation – analysis of 2012-13 solid waste audit & TEA analysis of City of Toronto solid waste audits 2010-11



For more information, please contact Emily Alfred: 416-596-0660;
emily@torontoenvironment.org.