



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: December 3, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: 2012 Single Family Waste Composition Study Results (PW12094) - (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Adam Watson Policy/Program Analyst 905-546-2424, Extension 5522
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

On February 22, 2012 General Issues Committee Report 12-005 (Item 8.1) Motion respecting Waste Collection Procurement Process 2013-2020 indicated the following be implemented:

1. (e) (ii) *A garbage tag system to supplement the curbside garbage collection program.”*

1. (l) *That staff be directed to report to the General Issues Committee on the performance of the tag system over the period of April 2013 to April 2014 by August 2014 including details of the performance of the program in general, whether or not there has been an increase or decrease in waste diversion, illegal dumping, and the possibility of introducing a cost to the tag system.”*

Although not specifically related to the direction, regular waste audits are undertaken to measure the performance of waste collection programs and diversion. This study will establish a baseline of information against which the 2014 data will be compared.

Information:

This Information Report provides the results of the 2012 single-family waste composition study. Waste audits provide an effective means of monitoring the performance of the City’s waste diversion programs and this audit will be used as a baseline to determine the impact of the new waste collection system including the garbage tag system to be implemented in April 2013.

External consultants are routinely hired to complete waste audits as they possess the expertise in handling waste materials, including hazardous waste. HDR Corporation

**SUBJECT: 2012 Single Family Waste Composition Study Results
(PW12094) - (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

was retained by the City to undertake an audit of waste materials currently being collected at the curbside in residential neighbourhoods. The cost of the audit was \$15,500.00 and it was funded from the 2010 Waste Management Research and Development Fund.

The waste audit was conducted during the weeks of June 4th and 11th, 2012 and included 100 properties, comprised of ten groups of ten representative properties located throughout the City. The composition study followed the guidelines outlined in the City's Terms of Reference document and in accordance with Stewardship Ontario's current waste audit data collection and reporting protocols.

The results of the audit indicate an overall curbside waste diversion rate of 55.1%. This represents a 5.1% increase in the diversion rate from 50% in the 2009 waste audit. The diversion rate is calculated from garbage, recycling and organics set out at curbside. Community Recycling Centre (CRC) drop-offs, leaf & yard and bulk waste collections are not incorporated into this diversion rate.

To assess the impact of the garbage tag system the auditor was requested to provide information on the average weekly container setout for garbage, recycling and organics. This information will provide a baseline for comparison with future audits to determine whether the tag system has resulted in an increase in garbage container setout rates and any impacts this may have on participation in the diversion programs.

The study results indicated the average weekly container setout rates for each waste stream. The results show that under the current collection system approximately three quarters of households, or 72%, are setting out one garbage container each week.

Overall, the 2012 audit results show a considerable increase in single-family waste diversion performance and provide a suitable baseline for comparing the impacts of the upcoming waste collection system changes in 2013.