



Hamilton

Waste Management Performance Metrics

Item 7.7

Waste Management Performance Metrics

Background

The establishment of new waste performance metrics was an action item under the 2020 Solid Waste Management Master Plan Update: “With pending legislation to transition the responsibility of the Blue Box Program to producers... Hamilton will need to establish new measurements to track the status and performance of the waste management program. The City will also need to establish new targets”

Waste performance metrics being reviewed today:

1. Post Blue Box Transition Diversion Rate
2. Capture Rate of Organics from Single-Family Homes
3. Capture Rate of Organics from Multi-Residential Buildings

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Background

- Staff considered 29 waste management performance metrics used by other municipalities, identified by staff or suggested by residents through surveys; and then short-listed 17 for further evaluation

Diversion Rate	
Evaluation Criteria	Score out of 5
Consistency with resident feedback	5
Alignment with legislation	5
Ease of measurement	4
Alignment with Council priorities i.e. SWMMP guiding principles	5
Tangible value	5
Total score (out of 25):	24

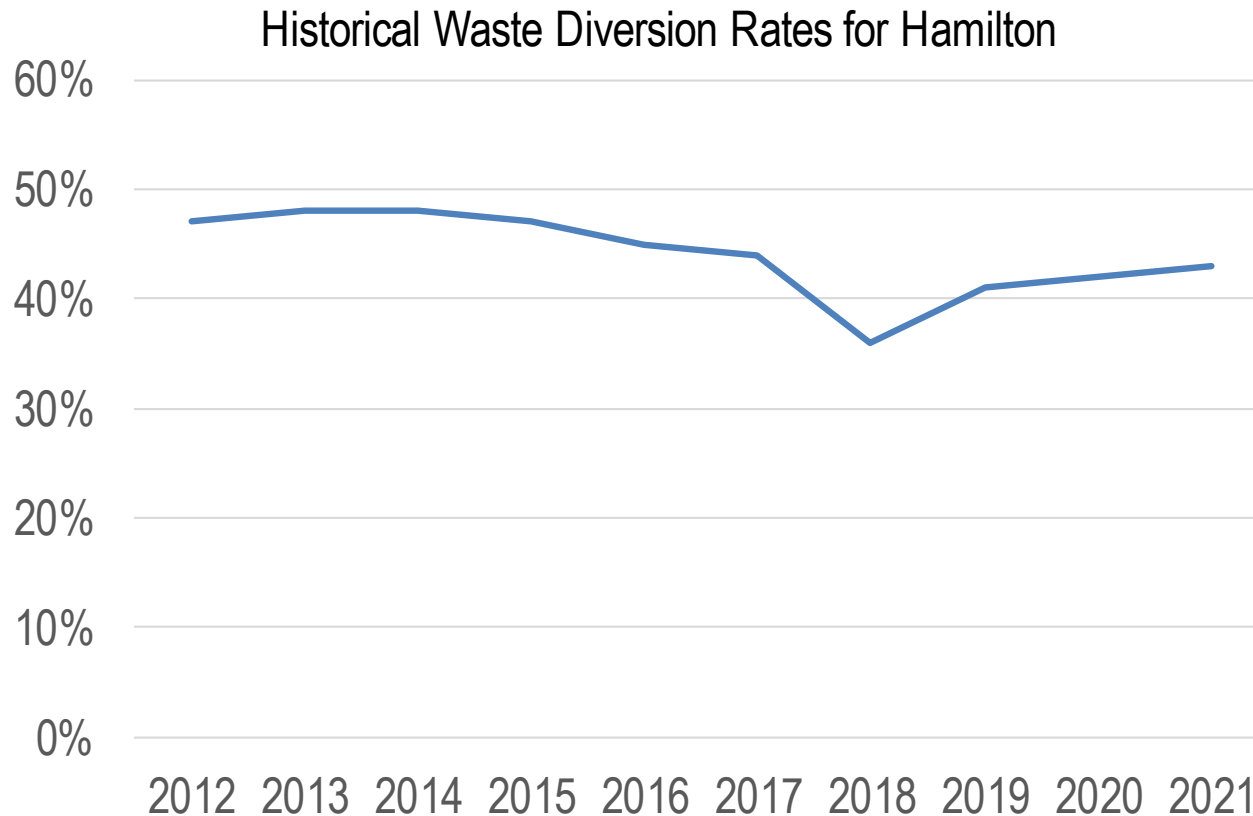
Waste Management Performance Metrics

Performance Metric 1: Post Blue Box Transition Diversion Rate

- Diversion rate is the most commonly understood indicator of waste program performance
- Diversion rate is calculated by determining the percentage of residential waste that is kept out of landfill through diversion programs such green bin, blue box and yard waste
- Hamilton's 2021 residential diversion rate was 43% - this is the most recent data that has been confirmed by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority
- Current Solid Waste Management Master Plan has a target diversion rate of 65%

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Performance Metric 1: Diversion Rate Post Blue Box Transition



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Performance Metric 1: Diversion Rate Post Blue Box Transition

- 43% diversion rate in 2021 included over 35,000 tonnes of blue box material collected from single-family homes and multi-residential buildings
- As of April 1, 2025, Hamilton will not be responsible to collect or process residential blue box material, and will not have access to blue box tonnage data
- 2021 diversion rate after removing residential blue box material is 31%:
 - Total organics & yard waste = 60,557 tonnes
 - Total recyclables = 35,736 tonnes
 - Other diverted material (i.e. hazardous waste) = 8,258 tonnes
 - Total waste landfilled = 140,624 tonnes

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Performance Metric 1: Diversion Rate Post Blue Box Transition

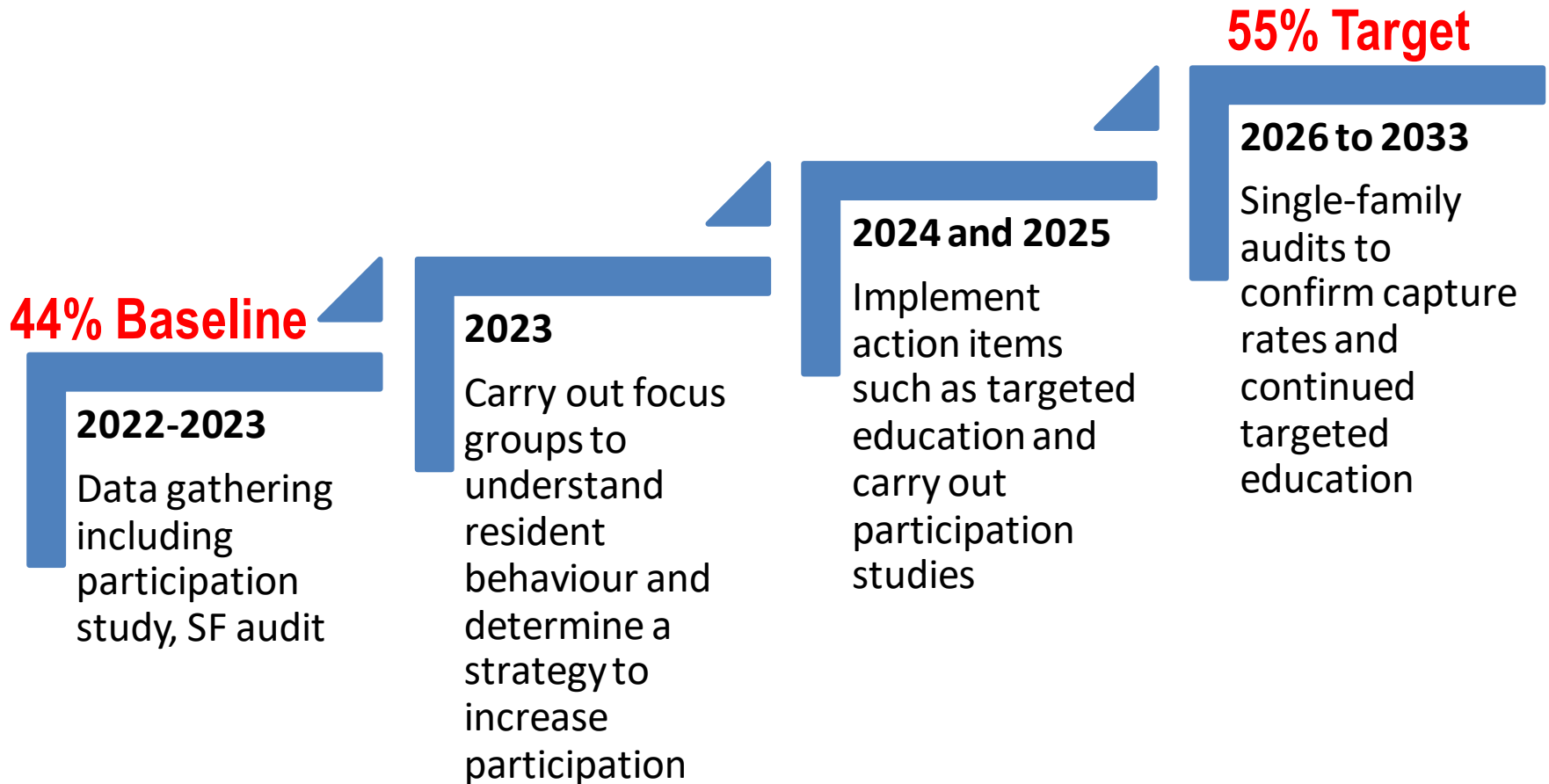
- A new target waste diversion rate must take into consideration the removal of blue box material and the performance of current waste diversion programs i.e. green bin and yard waste
- New target also considers targets for increasing the capture rate of green bin material from single-family homes and multi-residential buildings
- New target diversion rate post blue box transition is 38% by 2032

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Metric 2: Capture Rate of Organics from Single-Family Homes

- Findings from 2019-2020 and 2022 single-family waste composition studies included a 44% capture rate of green bin material
- Provincial policy statement on Food and Organics established a target capture rate of 70% for all organics (including yard waste) from single-family homes by 2025
- To meet the provincial target, the capture rate of green bin material must be at least 52%
- If yard waste tonnages decrease, the green bin capture rate will need to increase to meet the target

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Metric 3: Capture rate of Organics from Multi-Residential Buildings

- Findings from 2021 multi-residential waste composition study included a 12.5% capture rate of green bin material
- Provincial policy statement on Food and Organics established a target capture rate of 50% for all organics (including yard waste) from multi-residential buildings by 2025
- The 50% capture rate is unrealistic based on the performance of buildings and the considerably lower amount of yard waste collected from multi-residential buildings – this has been communicated to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks

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12.5% Baseline

2023

Develop plan to implement new program based on pilot findings

2024 to 2029

Implement program changes, gold box resources reallocated to multi-res green bin program, bi-annual waste composition studies to monitor progress

25% Target

2030

Waste composition study to measure impact of program changes against target, reassess program based on progress towards target

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Next Steps

Present final two new waste performance metrics to Waste Management Sub-Committee at next meeting:

- Landfill life
- Landfill volume used annually