

2007 Residential Diversion Rates

A total of 367,291 metric tonnes of residential waste was diverted from landfill during 2007 through such programs as the Blue Box, Green Bin, leaf/yardwaste and Christmas trees, backyard composting, Community Environment Days, household hazardous waste depots, grasscycling and large appliance/scrap metal pick-up. The various diversion programs that make up the City's Plan, "Getting to 70% Waste Diversion by 2010" are being implemented across the City. These efforts will allow Toronto to reduce dependence on landfill, thereby preserving the long term capacity of the Green Lane Landfill.

Factors that affected the City's overall diversion tonnage included the weather, scavenging and the new LCBO Deposit Return Program. The weather played a role due to our early significant snowfall. A certain amount of yard waste remained on the ground uncollected. Increased scavenging of metal and other materials also resulted in reduced residential generated diversion.

This year was the first to fully feel the impact of the new LCBO Deposit Return Program introduced by the province, along with the existing Beer Store Deposit Return Program. While these programs divert much of the glass from Toronto's recycling program, causing our Blue Box tonnage numbers to drop, these items are still being recycled. Overall, glass is diverted for recycling, reducing what goes to landfill for disposal.