

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

February 15, 2006

To: Works Committee

From: Richard Butts, General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

Subject: 2005 Residential Waste Resource Diversion Rate

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the City of Toronto's residential waste resource diversion performance in 2005.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations:

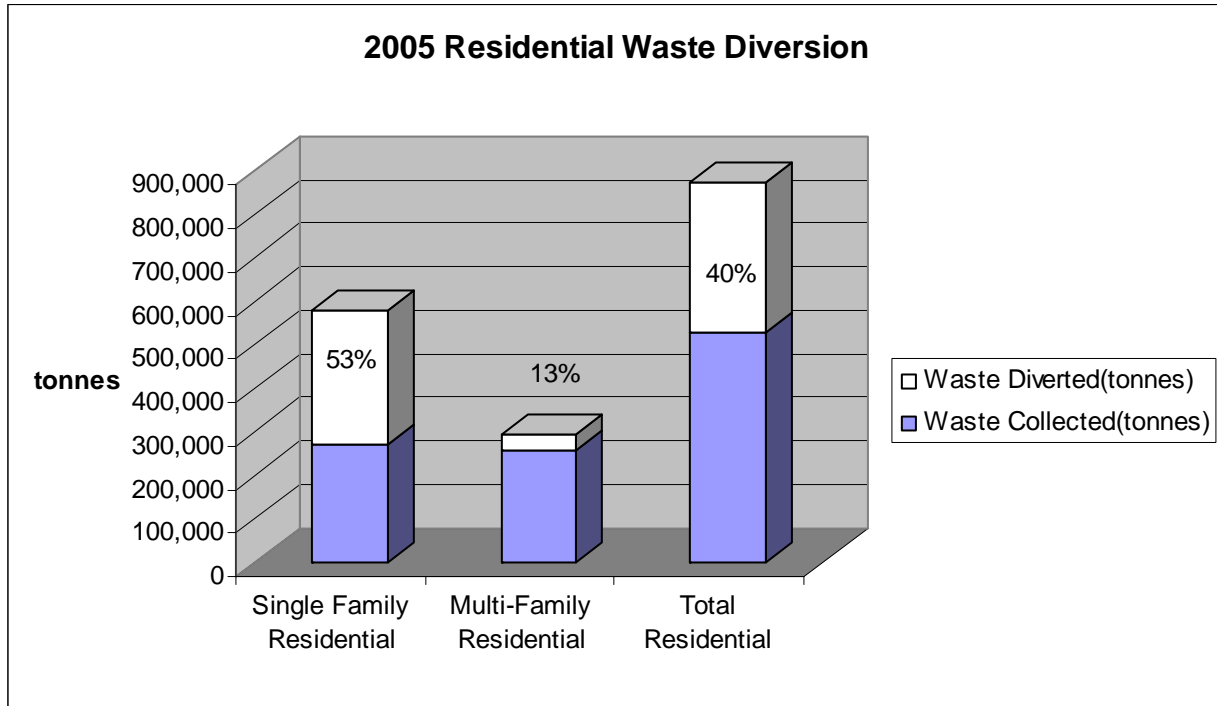
It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

Solid Waste Management Services monitors and reports annually on the quantity of waste diverted from landfill through its waste reduction, composting, recycling, source separated organics and other diversion programs.

Comments:

In 2005, over 346,000 tonnes of residential waste resources were diverted from landfill. This represents a residential diversion rate of 40%, up from the diversion rate of 36% achieved in 2004. The rate of 40% is a combined diversion rate for single-family and multi-family residences and is calculated in accordance with the methodology approved by the CAO Benchmarking Group for reporting to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The actual diversion rate is 53% for single-family homes and 13% for multi-family dwellings. The 2004 rates were 48% for single-family homes and 12% for multi-family dwellings.



The increase in the single family diversion rate is attributable primarily to the implementation of the Green Bin Program. In 2005 we see the full impact of the Green Bin in the Toronto, East York and York Communities. The Green Bin Program was initiated in the North York community in October of 2005 and thus the full impact of this program will not be seen for this area until 2006. In addition, we are still finding that the Green Bin Program is having a positive impact on the Blue Box program, increasing the capture rate of recyclables in the Green Bin serviced areas.

In addition to the residential waste resource diversion programs, this Department also collects recyclables from commercial establishments serviced by municipal waste collection, from businesses through depots at our transfer stations, and from schools and agencies, boards and commissions. In 2005, an additional 31,000 tonnes of recyclable materials were diverted from landfill through these programs.

Please refer to the attached chart (Attachment A) for a detailed breakdown by waste diversion program.

Conclusions:

The combined 53% single family residential diversion rate and 13% multi-family residential diversion rate resulted in an overall 40% of the City's residential waste resources being diverted from landfill, up from 36% in 2004. This diversion rate will increase in subsequent years as we improve the recovery from existing programs and continue to implement new waste diversion programs.

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[Signature of General Manager]

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List of Attachments:

Attachment A: 2005 Residential Waste Diversion