



Community Lifestyle



Waste

7.0



Community Lifestyle Waste

GOAL:

Thunder Bay progresses towards zero waste through an integrated waste management approach.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Canadians throw away the energy equivalent of millions of barrels of oil per year, with significant economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts. In Thunder Bay, each person produces 462 kg of solid waste annually compared to the provincial average of 366 kg¹. Much of this waste is potentially useful as it contains materials that could be reused or recycled. In addition to the substantial costs of waste collection and disposal, the production of waste creates GHG emissions and toxic substances.

In order to provide direction for optimizing current and future residential and Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) sector solid waste programs to best meet Thunder Bay's needs over the next 20 years, the City is developing a Solid Waste Management Strategy (SWMS). This strategy will give municipal waste managers and the community guidance and direction to manage waste and resources based on consultation, and cooperation between all sectors. It will also optimize resource recovery and economic development opportunities and ensure compliance with current and pending legislative requirements.

Some materials such as fluorescent lights and electronic waste contain toxic chemicals, which pose health and environmental risks. Residents may bring these materials to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot at the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility on Mapleward Road or to depots set up by EcoSuperior in conjunction with local businesses. As a result of concerns about potentially hazardous electronic waste going to landfill, the Zero Waste Action Team (ZWAT) worked with the City and IC&I sectors to facilitate the establishment of the Pack Pros Plus E-Waste Collection Depot in 2004. This has resulted in the diversion of 45,454 kg of e-waste from the landfill in Thunder Bay and the region annually, and created new direct jobs.

Litter has a negative effect on the quality of life and economy of our community. Each year, thousands of people participate in the City's annual "Spring Up To Clean Up," helping to clean up stray garbage

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¹ Waste Diversion Ontario, 2012



littering our streets. Rather than the current concentration on cleaning up, primary emphasis should be put on prevention and public education, before litter hits the ground.

Green purchasing decisions reduce the impact on the landfill, and can be made by everyone. Individual purchasing choices such as choosing items with less packaging and avoiding items in single use plastic containers (i.e. bottled water, plastic bags) can reduce the impact of our lifestyle on the landfill. Habitat for Humanity works to reduce construction waste by promoting the reuse of building materials through its Restore. Several local organizations also collect used clothing and household goods for reuse, reducing the impact on the landfill. On a larger scale, green procurement policies have been adopted by many organizations and businesses that purchase vast quantities of goods and services.

HIGHLIGHT:

Energy from Community Waste

Thunder Bay's Solid Waste and Recycling Facility partnered with Thunder Bay Hydro to build a power generating station and heat recovery system that uses the methane gas produced from decaying organic materials as fuel. This process not only destroys potent greenhouse gases that would otherwise escape from the landfill as fugitive emissions, but it also generates energy that can be used to offset fossil fuels.

DID YOU KNOW?

Compact fluorescent lights are considered hazardous waste and should be returned directly to the Household Hazardous Waste Depot at the Thunder Bay Solid Waste & Recycling Facility. Check with the City's Green Guide for an updated and comprehensive list of collection sites.





OBJECTIVES and RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. By 2020, the amount of residential solid waste generated annually per capita has decreased by 15% from the 2005 baseline.

ACTIONS FOR CORPORATION

- Develop and implement a Solid Waste Management Strategy (SWMS) for the next 20 years
- Recover the costs of waste management from those creating the waste. (Follow the Extended Producer Responsibility model for managing waste as per provincial legislation)
- Maintain and promote provincial waste minimization programs
- Promote the use of home-composters and seasonal composting of garden/yard refuse
- Investigate the implementation of a curbside organic collection program

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY

- Promote the use of home-composters and seasonal composting of garden/yard refuse
- Community and community partners to launch awareness program that reduces the use of plastic shopping bags
- Community and community partners to champion the promotion of the 6 Rs
- Encourage the responsible disposal of electronic waste
- Support the SWMS efforts to address the challenges of, and misconceptions surrounding participating in recycling and waste diversion within the residential and multi-residential sectors

B. By 2020, the amount of commercial solid waste generated annually has decreased by 15% from the 2005 baseline.

ACTIONS FOR CORPORATION

- Increase the number of waste diversion programs (i.e. pen collection, battery collection) and participation rates within those programs
- Increase accessibility and affordability of diversion programs for the IC&I sector, with an emphasis on small business
- Promote green procurement within Corporation through members of the Corporate Green Team

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY

- Increase the number of waste diversion programs in community (i.e. pen collection, battery collection) and participation rates within those programs
- Promote extended producer responsibility to enhance the recovery and recycling of packaging waste
- Promote private sector take-back programs

C. By 2020, single use bottled water is phased out of public facilities, schools, and public events in Thunder Bay and a strategy to phase out the use of other plastic containers has been developed.

ACTIONS FOR CORPORATION

- Update water bottle By-Law to include the phasing out of bottled water being supplied at public events
- Promote the installation of water filters to increase the site specific safety of tap water (e.g. some older buildings that contain lead intake pipes)
- Provide regular site-specific water quality results of City facilities to ensure safety of tap water

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY

- Provide and promote access to portable water bar or bottle refilling station at community events
- Educate citizens on the benefits of using tap water at public events and schools



D. By 2020, a reduction in litter has been realized through a preventative approach and a culture of litter prevention prevails.

ACTIONS FOR CORPORATION

- a. Increase the accessibility of recycling and waste receptacles throughout the City and in City facilities
- b. Develop and implement an extensive civic pride campaign aimed at the community

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY

- a. Develop a litter awareness program about the social, environmental and economic costs of litter
- b. Design and implement a cigarette litter prevention program including an education campaign, an outdoor ashtray program and a neighbourhood scale recycling collection program for cigarette waste
- c. Support education campaigns on waste reduction, available resources, and the impacts of overconsumption

E. By 2020, an increase in the diversion of hazardous waste and the use of less toxic alternatives has been achieved.

ACTIONS FOR CORPORATION

- a. Increase the amount of household hazardous waste diverted by maintaining and developing new programs to increase accessibility of diversion programs

ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY

- a. Educate citizens on the importance of proper disposal of hazardous waste
- b. Reduce the amount of household hazardous waste being generated by recommending alternatives to hazardous products

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 58% of Canadian households that had batteries to dispose of in 2009, 42% discarded them in the garbage.

Thunder Bay residents can recycle spent batteries free of charge at six locations across town, and several retail outlets also accept rechargeable batteries, cell phone and laptop batteries and car batteries (see the Green Guide: www.thunderbay.ca/greenguide).





WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Bring reusable shopping bags to the store
- Purchase items with limited disposable packaging
- Purchase a composter from EcoSuperior, subsidized by the City, for your organic waste
- Bring a reusable bottle rather than buying bottled water
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste
- Reduce, reuse and recycle as often as possible.