

MANAGING WASTE TOGETHER

Our community's commitment to rethinking waste

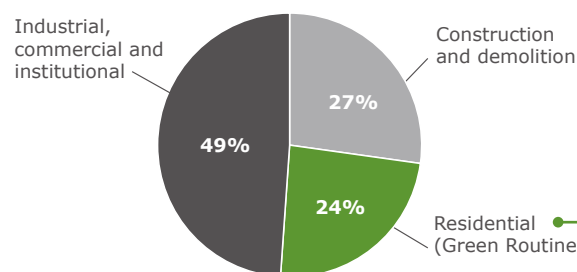


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

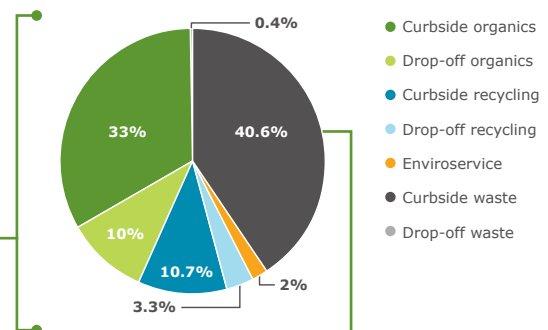
Strathcona County's Waste Management Roadmap outlines the community's values and desired outcomes specific to waste management practices. It is intended to reflect the interests of the whole community and all aspects of the waste system by integrating best practices, guiding principles and new advancements for high level decision making now and into the future. This guiding document is informed by and intended for all waste generators in Strathcona County.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Overall waste generation in Strathcona County



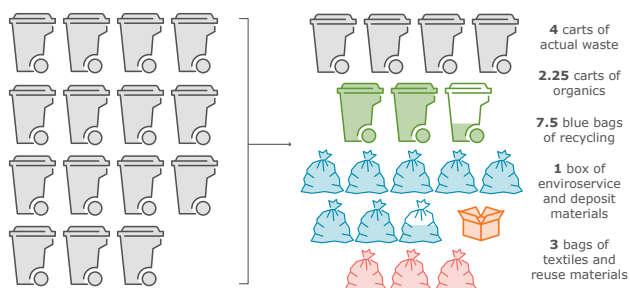
Residential program



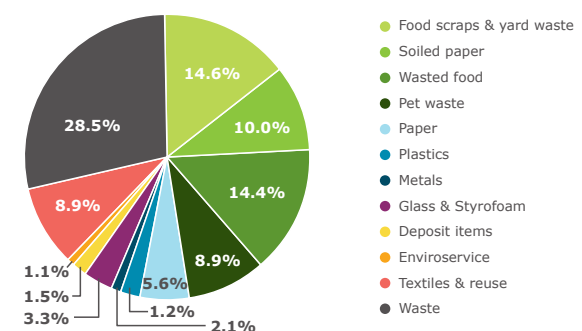
WHAT ARE WE THROWING AWAY?

In 2019, 15 waste carts were audited:

The carts were an average of 82% full, and contained (by volume):



Overall in 2019, black cart waste was (by weight):



VALUES AND PHILOSOPHIES

We are in this **together**;
everyone has a role to play.

...

Refocus on the **waste hierarchy**:

Rethink our use and design of materials
and move towards a closed loop model;

Reduce the amount of waste we generate;

Reuse what we can;

Recycle and compost into new materials;

Recover the remaining resources
to reinvest back into the economy; and

Residual disposal of actual waste—safely.

...

Easy, **convenient** and understandable.

...

Equity and **flexibility** with positive
incentives that creates accountability.

...

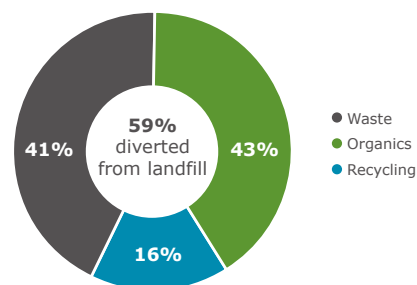
Move towards a **circular economy**.

...

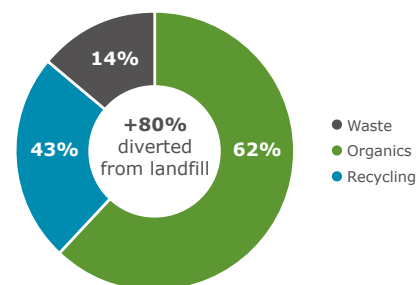
Be a **forward-thinking** community that has
leading practices in waste management.

WHERE WE COULD GO

Current diversion

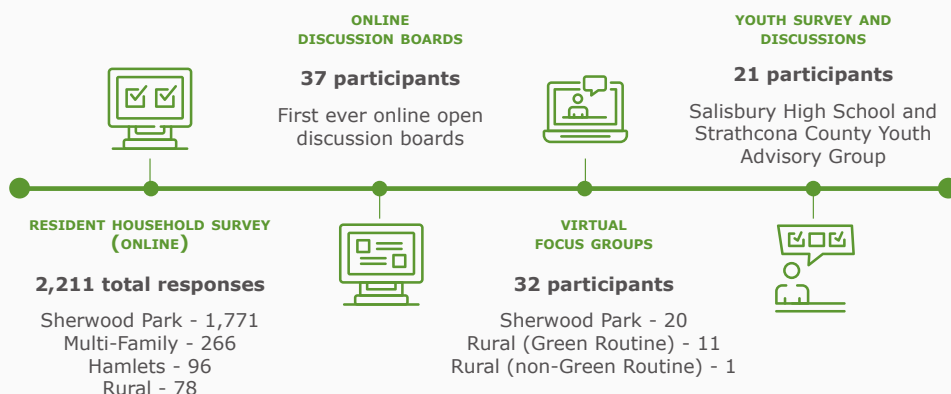


Potential diversion



HOW WE LISTENED

Throughout the development of the Waste Management Roadmap, participants from across the County provided feedback, engaged in dialogue and accessed information about waste through a variety of public engagement activities.



HOW WHAT WE HEARD IS MOVING US TO WHERE WE NEED TO GO

WORKING TOGETHER

Waste is generated by everyone, so we must acknowledge, engage on and increase awareness about the role that everyone plays.



THEMES

BEYOND THE CURB

Waste generated within a community goes beyond the residential sector. County residents want the greater community to be more involved in formal waste diversion practices.



PLASTICS SOLUTIONS

Plastic has become part of our daily lives, and many of these plastics are used only once and trashed. Recognition is increasing for the need to have better solutions in place to reduce plastics overall.



PROCESSING MATERIALS

Processing plays an important yet mostly hidden role when managing waste in a community. Processing must be a deliberate focus of a program to ensure materials avoid land filling.



CONVENIENCE IS KEY

Ease and accessibility have a big impact on participation and performance in successful waste management strategies.



ASSESSING BEHAVIOURS



Behaviour change is a consideration when developing waste management programs. Changes in behaviour not only affect waste diversion, but can also empower residents.

WASTE MATTERS

With a long list of items that are typically disposed of, understanding what goes where, why it's important to sort and what happens to the materials after collection is key to encouraging participation and connecting outcomes. Residents are eager for more education and information.



TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Waste characterization audits have confirmed that there is room for improvement in waste diversion, and that not all households are fully participating in the program. Financial incentives, positive reinforcement and compliance tools are all opportunities to increase rates of utilization.



TRACKING SUCCESS

Strathcona County has a vision to be Canada's most livable community. The County should strive to remain a leader in waste management and look to improve results for the entire community.



NEXT STEPS

This Roadmap outlines the community's values and desired outcomes specific to waste management practices. It is intended to reflect the entire community and all aspects of the waste system by integrating best practices and new advancements.

Strathcona County will use this Roadmap to guide new strategies and initiatives over the next 10 years. Action items will be developed in an implementation plan that will have short, medium and long-term planning focuses.

Together we value waste as a resource and are committed to rethinking our practices to make Strathcona County the most livable community in Canada.