

2018 Status of Waste Management Report

Bruce County

November 2019
Bruce County Transportation & Environmental Services Department

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Executive Summary

The 1995 County of Bruce Waste Management Master Plan concluded that the administration of the waste management system would be shared between the County and its local municipalities. Bruce County assumed responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the County's progress towards its diversion target as well as monitoring the remaining capacity at the municipal landfill sites. The purpose of developing this report is to fulfill these responsibilities and to provide an overview of the current waste management system.

In 2018, the landfill sites within the County of Bruce had a combined fill rate of 64,289m³ and a five year average annual fill rate of 58,106m³. Overall, the remaining landfill site capacity at the end of 2018 is estimated to be 2,040,705m³, and when applying the average fill rate, a remaining site life of approximately 35 years exists.

Municipalities offer a number of waste diversion programs to reduce material from entering the landfill site. Approximately 10,973 tonnes of material were diverted through reuse and recycling practices in 2018. Current waste diversion programs in place include:

Blue Box Recycling	Leaf & Yard Waste	Mattresses & Box Springs
Used Tires	Drywall & Shingles	Batteries
Electronics Recycling	Fluorescent Lights	Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste
Reuse Centres	Scrap Metal & White Goods	Backyard Composting

Overall, the County has sufficient landfill site capacity available to meet their long-term waste management planning needs. Municipalities and the County continue to operate waste diversion programs which divert recyclable material away from the waste stream. Additional options for improved diversion may exist with changes in legislation, enhancing existing programs, investigating new initiatives and improving promotion and education strategies.

Introduction

The Status Report on Waste Management provides an overview of the waste management system in the County of Bruce. The County and local municipalities work to protect and conserve landfill site capacity and continue to succeed in diversion practices. The purpose of this report is to:

- Outline Bruce County's current waste management system;
- Assess remaining landfill site capacity and the potential need for additional disposal options;
- Identify current and potential waste diversion programs;
- Evaluate the progress towards achieving the County-wide diversion target.

Background

The County of Bruce completed a Solid Waste Management Master Plan in 1995. The plan provided a comprehensive strategy for diverting waste and for efficient use of existing landfill site capacity. The responsibility for the implementation of the plan and the administration of the waste management system is shared between the County and the local municipalities. The County passed by-laws to assume waste management responsibilities and to adopt the Waste Management Plan.

County Responsibilities

As outlined in County of Bruce By-Law No. 3544, No. 3545 and No.3546, the County is responsible for the following waste management practices:

Diversion

- Waste reduction education
- Household hazardous waste collection program
- Monitoring of the progress towards the County-wide target of 50% diversion as stated in the Master Plan (Provincial waste diversion target of 60% was set in 2004).

Disposal

- The County can facilitate agreements between local municipalities for the use of existing landfill capacity for all municipalities
- Establish a Waste Management Future Planning Reserve Fund to pay for future County waste disposal requirements
- Assume responsibility for waste disposal education, including the exploration of alternative disposal facility operators in the County
- Monitor capacity and operations of existing sites.

Municipal Responsibilities

As outlined in the County of Bruce By-Law No. 3544, the local municipalities are responsible for the following waste management practices:

Diversion

- Responsible for recycling, composting, tipping fees, exchange facilities, data collection, monitoring and reporting.

Disposal

- Existing landfill site ownership, operation, management, closure and post closure of landfill sites.

Planning

- Responsible for providing information, on request, into the County's long range planning process. This could include information on costs, program description, landfill monitoring reports, etc.

Policy Framework

Although waste is controlled at all levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal - it is primarily regulated at the provincial level. In Ontario, waste management is governed by the following Acts:

Environmental Protection Act (EPA)

The EPA provides for the protection and conservation of the natural environment. Within the EPA there are specific regulations that mandate how waste generators in Ontario must manage their waste.

- O.Reg.347 - General - Waste Management (ECAs)
- O.Reg.101/94 - Recycling and Composting of Municipal Waste

Environmental Assessment Act (EAA)

The EAA sets out a planning and decision-making process to evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed undertaking.

- O.Reg. 101/07 - Waste Management Projects Regulation

Waste Free Ontario Act

The Waste Free Ontario Act was proclaimed on November 30, 2016, repealing the Waste Diversion Act, 2002 and signaling a new era in waste management and producer responsibility in Ontario. The Waste Free Ontario Act consists of two key pieces of legislation:

- Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA), 2016; and
- Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA), 2016.

The “A Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario - Building a Circular Economy” was released in February 2017, which outlined key objectives of the Act with proposed waste diversion priorities and transition timing for existing and future diversion programs. These include:

- Transition of full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for designated materials in an orderly and smooth transition, with no impact on program activities
- Transition to full EPR for blue box materials
- Disposal bans on organics and other materials
- Greater emphasis on waste reduction and reuse
- Zero greenhouse emissions from the waste sector
- EPR programs for mattress, textiles, carpets and construction and demolition waste

A full EPR program means that producers of the material are responsible for the design, operation and financing of diversion programs.

Transitioning programs include:

- Winding up existing program under the Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA)
- Putting in place regulations under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) to make producers fully responsible.

Used Tires	New Regulation in effect January 1 2019
Electronics (WEEE)	Regulation comes into force January 1 2021
Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW)	Regulation comes into force July 1 2021
Blue Box	Program wind up letter expected in early 2019

Used Tires

The Used Tires Program was the first to transition under the new regulation, and has resulted in the following changes:

- Municipalities are not required to be a collector
- Collectors are not provided compensation for collecting, handling and storing tires
- Collectors must accept a minimum 10 tires per day and tires with rims are accepted at no cost
- Collectors cannot charge for accepting tires

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

- In February 2019, the then Minister of the Environment and Climate Change directed Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) to wind up the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) program on December 31, 2020.
- Wind up plan was approved in August 2019 with conditions
- Single use batteries will wind up with the electronics program, not the MHSW program

Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW)

- In December 2018, the Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks amended timelines associated with the wind up of the MHSW program

- Wind up plan must be submitted no later than December 31, 2019

Blue Box Program Plan

- On August 15, 2019 the Ministry of Environment Conservation & Parks issued direction to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) and Stewardship Ontario to transition the management of the blue box program to producers.
- Blue box program will be a complex transition, with an estimated timeline from 2019 to 2024

The County and municipalities will continue to review and discuss the ongoing changes to waste diversion programs as a result of regulation changes, which will have varying degrees of impact on the programs.

Current Waste Management System

The County of Bruce and local municipalities provide an integrated waste management service to reduce, divert and dispose of waste generated within the County.

Waste Reduction

A holistic approach to waste management is identified in the Waste Value Chain, which illustrates that as the value of resources (prevention, diversion and disposal) decreases, disposal capacity needs increase. The first step in waste management is prevention and/or waste reduction. Behavioural and technological changes influence the waste generated by the residential, IC&I and C&D sectors. It is important to measure waste that is diverted and disposed of, but it is also essential to evaluate waste being generated. The County and municipalities promote the 3R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and should incorporate reduction initiatives prior to reuse and recycling options.

Waste Disposal

Waste collection and disposal services for residents of Bruce County are undertaken by the local municipality either through municipal services or private contractor. The cost for residents to dispose of household waste varies for each municipality as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: 2018 Curbside Waste Collection

Municipality	Bag Tag Fee / Limit	Waste Collection Contractor
Arran-Elderslie	2 bags (no cost) additional bag \$3.00	Bruce Sales & Services
Brockton	\$2.00 - clear bags required	Bruce Sales & Services
Huron-Kinloss	\$2.00	Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR)
Kincardine	\$2.50	BASWR
Northern Bruce Peninsula	2 bags (no cost)	Waste Management
Saugeen Shores	\$2.00	BASWR
South Bruce	\$2.50 (\$3.00 at the landfill site)	Bruce Sales & Services
South Bruce Peninsula	1 bag (no cost) additional bag \$3.00; 3 bag limit	Miller Waste Systems

Municipalities manage waste from the Residential, Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (IC&I) and Construction and Demolition (C&D) sectors. Residential waste collected at the curbside and/or dumpster is disposed of at the municipal landfill site. IC&I and C&D waste is disposed of at either a municipal landfill or private landfill outside of the County. Landfill sites are owned and operated by the local municipalities, a map of their locations are provided in Figure 1.

In 2018, the total waste and daily cover consumed at the municipal landfill sites was approximately 64,289 m³. This is an increase from the 2017 fill rate of 57,113m³ and greater than the five-year average fill rate of 58,106m³. Fluctuations in annual fill rates are observed from year to year. Several factors may contribute to these changes including: decreased/increased waste generation, increased waste diversion practices, improved waste compaction, operational improvements, completion of topographical survey. Table 2 provides a summary of annual fill rates from 2014 - 2018.

Table 2: Landfill Site Fill Rates 2014 - 2018

Municipality	Landfill Site	Fill Rate (m ³)					
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average
Arran-Elderslie	Arran	2,180	3,760	2,560	3,600	2,650	3,075
Brockton	Greenock	1,220	1,480	0	0	0	2,508
	Brant	1,868	5,440	3,618	2,060	2,950	
	Hanover-Walkerton	3,945	2,925	4,306	5,895	5,900	4,594
Huron-Kinloss	Huron	7,250	6,060	8,140	10,927	13,161	9,108
Kincardine	KWMC	9,198	7,466	4,931	4,594	5,593	5,648
	Ward 3	1,821	1,821	1,821	1,500	1,500	1,500
Northern Bruce Peninsula	Eastnor	2,700	2,180	1,190	2,640	2,950	2,535
	St. Edmund's	3,000	1,905	2,270	1,630	1,800	2,120
	Lindsay	640	875	1,024	830	1,650	1,000
Saugeen Shores	Southampton	7,585	7,462	9,813	9,119	12,786	9,353
South Bruce	Mildmay	2,500	1,600	1,460	1,925	1,130	2,261
	Teeswater	1,234	1,234	1,820	1,820	2,675	2,140
South Bruce Peninsula	Amabel	10,269	7,990	10,409	10,573	9,544	9,757
Bruce County		55,410	52,198	53,361	57,113	64,289	58,106

The overall remaining capacity for waste and daily cover at the end of 2018 was 2,040,705m³, which at the five-year average fill rate of 58,106m³ results in approximately 35 years of remaining site life within the County. Tables 3 & 4 and Figures 2 - 7 provide an overview of remaining capacities and fill rates.

Table 3: 2018 Landfill Site Fill Rates & Remaining Capacity

Municipality	Landfill Site	2018 Fill Rate (m ³)	Average Annual Fill Rate (m ³)	Remaining Capacity (m ³)	Remaining Site Life (years) 2018 Fill Rate	Remaining Site Life (years) Average Fill Rate
Arran-Elderslie	Arran	2,650	3,075	185,585	70.03	60.35
Brockton	Greenock	0	2,508	93,655	35.34	30.46
	Brant	2,950		66,395	22.51	20.89
	Hanover-Walkerton	5,900	4,594	155,449	26.35	33.84
Huron-Kinloss	Huron	13,161	9,108	97,186	7.38	10.67
	Kinloss	0		137,000	10.41	15.04
Kincardine	KWMC	5,593	5,648	556,648	99.53	98.56
	Ward 3	1,500	1,500	97,288	64.86	64.86
Northern Bruce Peninsula	Eastnor	2,950	2,535	271,300	91.97	107.02
	St. Edmund's	1,800	2,120	13,330	7.41	6.29
	Lindsay	1,650	1,000	22,230	13.47	22.23
Saugeen Shores	Southampton	12,786	9,353	145,070	11.35	15.51
South Bruce	Mildmay	1,130	2,261	32,660	28.90	14.44
	Teeswater	2,675	2,140	33,543	12.54	15.67
South Bruce Peninsula	Amabel	9,544	9,757	131,066	13.73	13.43
	Albemarle	0		2,330	0.24	0.24
Bruce County		64,289	58,106	2,040,705	31.74	35.12

- Fill Rates and remaining capacity values are for waste and daily cover. Remaining capacity does not include final cover material.
- Average Annual Fill Rate is calculated using previous five-year fill rates.
- Hanover-Walkerton landfill calculations are based on the assumption that the Town of Walkerton accounts for 45% of the total landfill site fill rate and remaining capacity.

Table 4: 2018 Municipal Fill Rates & Remaining Capacity

Municipality	2018 Fill Rate (m ³)	Average Annual Fill Rate (m ³)	Remaining Capacity (m ³)	Remaining Site Life (years) 2018 Fill Rate	Remaining Site Life (years) Average Fill Rate
Arran-Elderslie	2,650	3,075	185,585	70.03	60.35
Brockton	8,850	9,609	315,499	35.65	32.83
Huron-Kinloss	13,161	9,108	234,186	17.79	25.71
Kincardine	7,093	7,148	653,936	92.19	91.49
Northern Bruce Peninsula	6,400	5,655	306,860	47.95	54.26
Saugeen Shores	12,786	9,353	145,070	11.35	15.51
South Bruce	3,805	4,401	66,203	17.40	15.04
South Bruce Peninsula	9,544	9,757	133,366	13.97	13.67
Bruce County	64,289	58,106	2,040,705	31.74	35.12

- Fill Rates and remaining capacity values are for waste and daily cover. Remaining capacity does not include final cover material.
- Average Annual Fill Rate is calculated using previous five-year fill rates.
- Hanover-Walkerton landfill calculations are based on the assumption that the Town of Walkerton accounts for 45% of the total landfill site fill rate and remaining capacity.

Figure 2: 2018 vs. Average Annual Fill Rate by Landfill Site

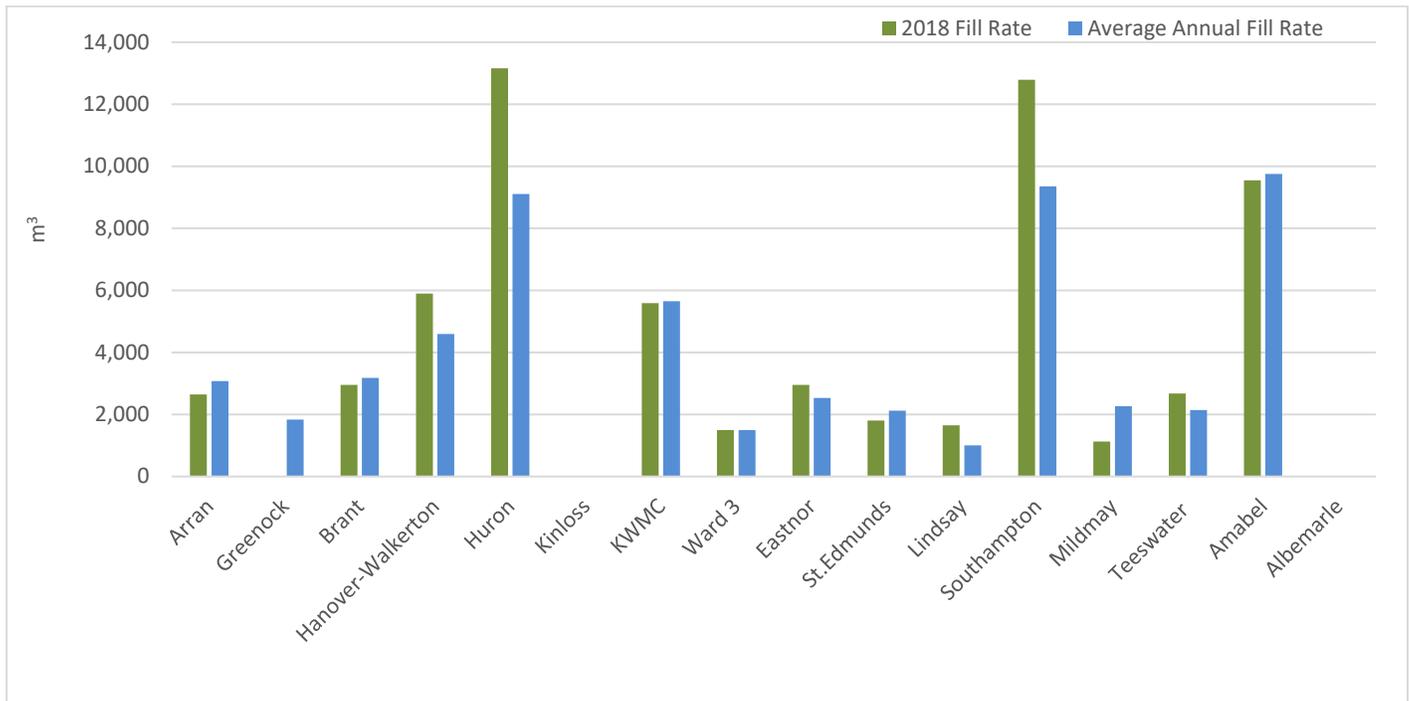
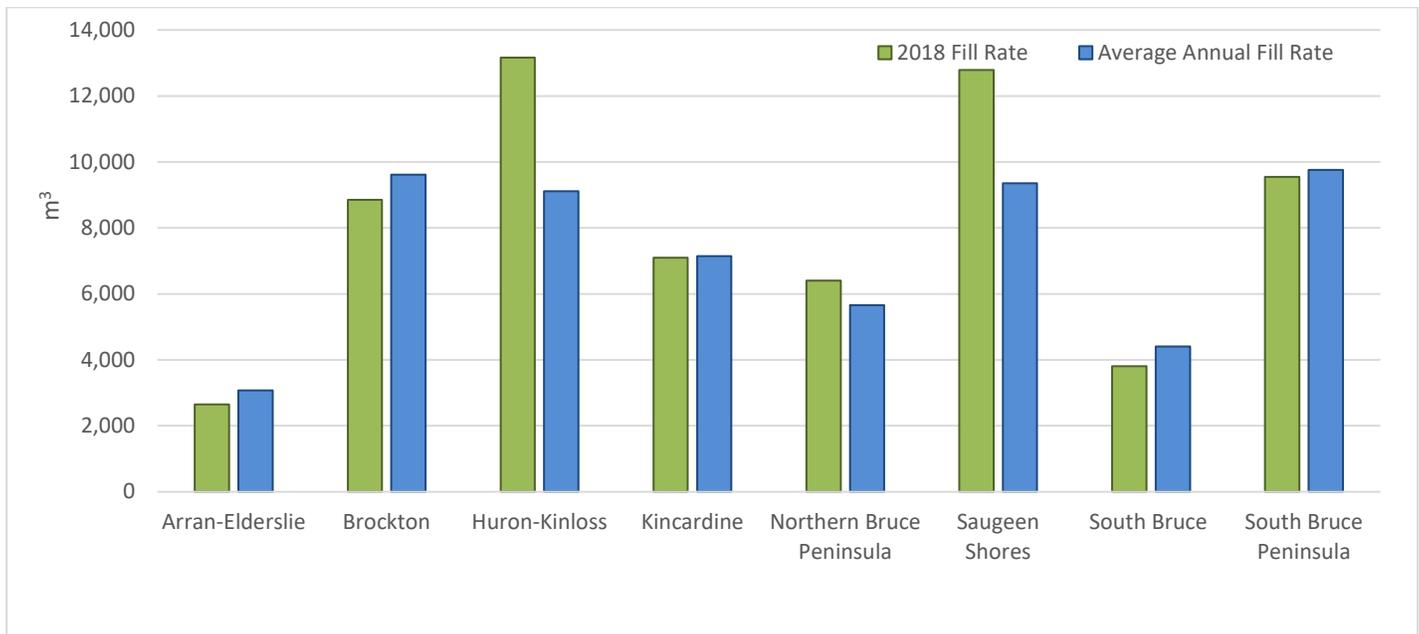


Figure 3: 2018 vs. Average Annual Fill Rate by Municipality



Figures 2 and 3 provide a comparison of the 2018 fill rates and the five-year average fill rate at the landfill and municipal level. Most municipalities have 2018 fill rates that are similar to the average fill rate, with the exception of Huron Kinloss and Saugeen Shores who experienced a higher fill rate in 2018 compared to the five-year historical values.

Figure 4: 2018 Remaining Capacity by Landfill Site

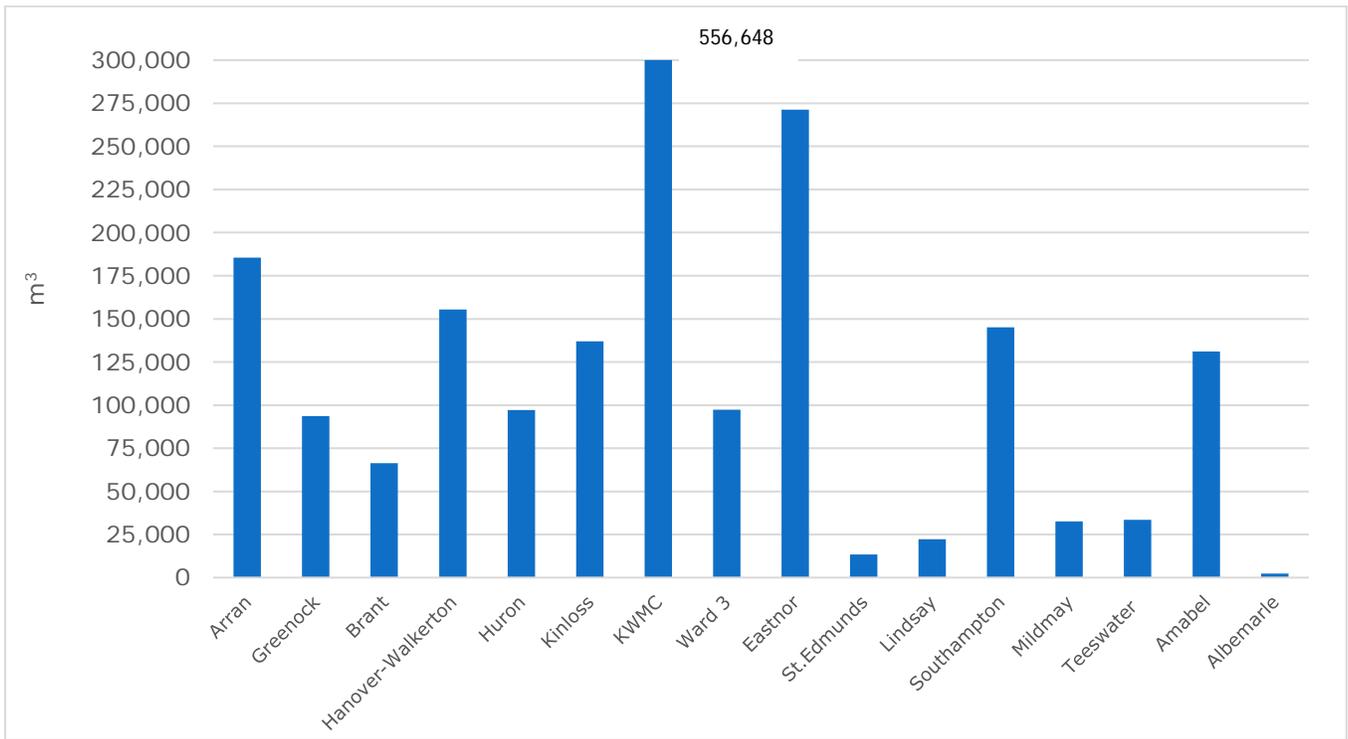
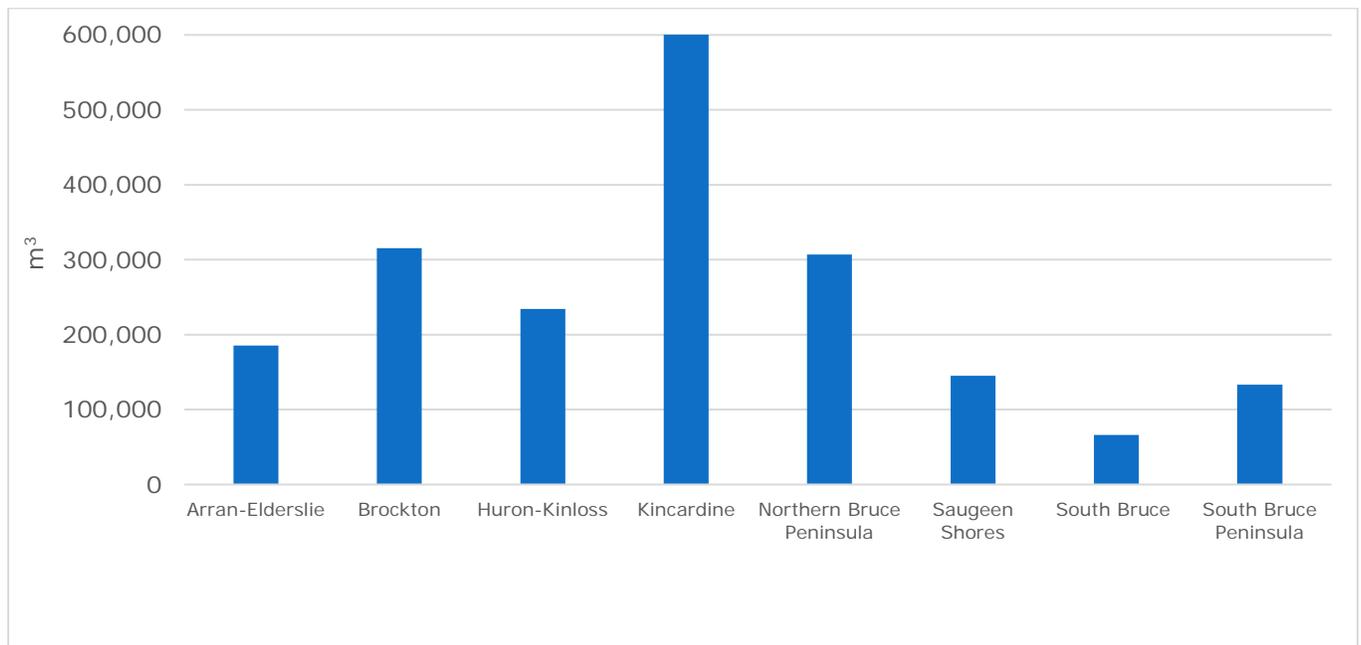


Figure 5: 2018 Remaining Capacity by Municipality



Figures 4 and 5 provide an overview of landfill site capacity available. The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula completed an ECA amendment at the Eastnor landfill which is significantly increased the remaining capacity at this site.

Figure 6: Remaining Site Life by Landfill Site

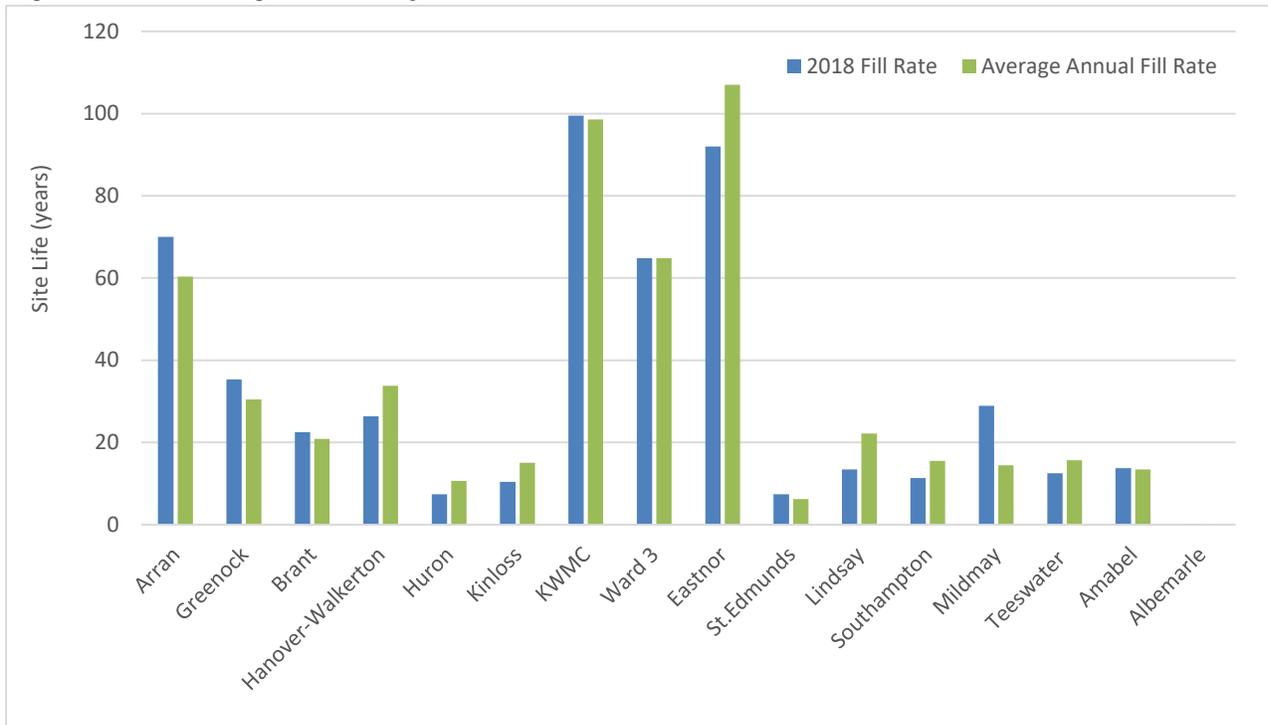
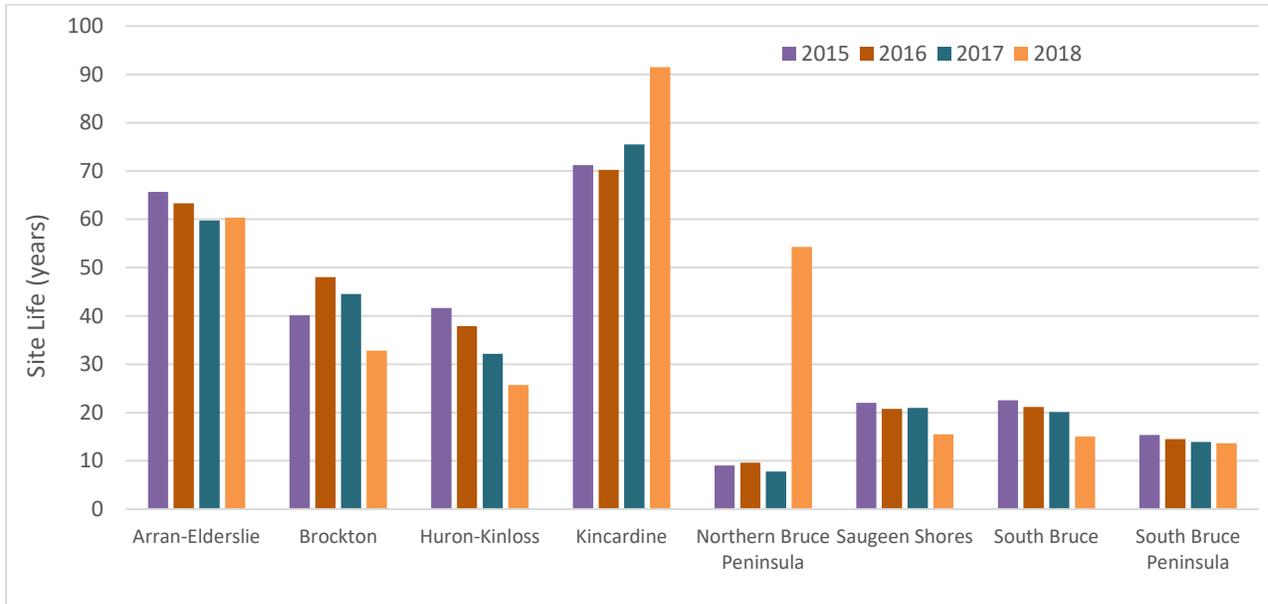


Figure 7: Remaining Site Life by Municipality using Average Annual Fill Rate



Figures 6 and 7 show the remaining site life available at the individual landfill sites and on a municipal level over the past 4 years.

As stated in the 1995 County of Bruce Solid Waste Management Master Plan, it is the County's responsibility to ensure that all area municipalities have disposal capacity for a minimum 20-year period. Using the average annual fill rate to determine remaining site life, three municipalities do not have remaining site life for a minimum 20-year period when using the average fill rate. Over the past few years increases in fill rates can be attributed to cancellation of diversion programs and increase in sorted and non-sorted construction waste, decreasing the site life available. Municipalities continue to make progress to ensure adequate future capacity is available through obtaining additional capacity, increasing diversion programs as they become available and continuing to promote and educate waste reduction.

Landfill Operations

Landfill site operations are the responsibility of the local municipality and as a result, hours of operation, tipping fees, diversion programs and general operations vary throughout the County. The majority of landfill sites have weigh scales installed which assist in recording and monitoring all materials entering the site.

Compaction rates range in density from 400kg/m³ to 800 kg/m³ depending on the equipment and practices used for compaction. The denser the waste is packed, combined with the tighter controls on the amount of cover material used would affect the remaining capacity and site life of a landfill. It is important to recognize that achieving higher compaction levels may not be a practical solution for small landfills that operate on a limited service basis.

Waste Diversion

Waste diversion programs are managed by the local municipalities, blue box recyclers (Bruce Solid Waste Recycling and Waste Management) and the County of Bruce. Several diversion programs have been implemented to augment the traditional waste management services. With the implementation of the Waste Free Ontario Act and subsequent regulations, Municipalities will be remaining status quo in terms of diversion programs as end markets are confirmed and program plans begin implementation.

Blue Box Recycling

Residential recyclable materials are collected through the blue box program. Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) provides curbside blue box collection to seven municipalities. Waste Management provides curbside and depot blue box collection for the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. Recyclables are collected curbside on a bi-weekly basis and no limit is placed on the amount of recyclables accepted. Materials included in the blue box program include:

Metal

- Aluminum foil containers & wrap
- Food tins
- Pop cans

Plastic

- #1 PET plastic containers
- #2 HDPE screw-top plastic bottles
- #3 V or PVC plastic bottles

- Empty aerosol cans
- Empty metal paint cans

Paper

- Newspaper & inserts
- Magazine & catalogues
- Boxboard
- Brown paper bags
- Spiral Boxboard containers

- #4 LDPE plastic bottles
- #5 PP plastic tubs
- #7 other plastics

Glass Bottles & Jars

- Flint Glass (clear)
- Coloured Glass

Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste (MHSW) Collection Program

The County of Bruce manages the MHSW collection program throughout the County. In 2018, the County operated sixteen collection events which provided residents an opportunity to bring material from their household that require special recycling or disposal. Approximately 3,200 vehicles attended the events and approximately 160 tonnes of material was received. The following are examples of materials accepted in the program: paints, oil, solvents, cleaners, batteries, propane tanks and cylinders, pesticides and fertilizers, pool chemicals, antifreeze, pharmaceuticals and fluorescent lights.

Backyard Composting

Five municipalities currently offer composters and/or green cones to their residents at a cost, to encourage backyard composting. Backyard composting removed organics from the waste stream reducing the weight and volume of material going to landfill. Backyard composting can divert 100kg to 250kg of organic material per year.

Landfill Diversion Programs

The local municipalities support a variety of waste diversion and recycling programs at their landfill sites. These programs include:

- Leaf & Yard Waste
- Electronics Recycling
- Used Tires
- Scrap Metal & White Goods
- Fluorescent Lights
- Blue Box Recycling
- Mattresses & Box Springs
- Household & Automotive Batteries
- Shingles & Drywall
- Reuse Centres

Blue Box Recycling

Landfill sites have a number of blue box bins where residents can drop off acceptable materials free of charge.

Leaf & Yard Waste

Leaf and yard waste is diverted to the landfill site and composted to be used on-site for cover material where available.

Electronics Recycling

In 2018, Municipalities operated an electronic waste diversion program at the landfill or transfer station through Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES). Electronic waste includes televisions, computers, printing and copying devices, telephones, cameras and other video devices. Residents can dispose of electronic waste at no cost.

Used Tires

Landfill sites are certified collection sites with Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) until the program ends in 2019. Tires collected are transported and processed by an OTS approved company. Residents can dispose of used tires free of charge. As the program transitions, the landfill sites will continue to collect tires free of charge under the RRCEA.

Scrap Metal & White Goods

Scrap metal and white goods are diverted from disposal and recycled through local contractors. Residents and businesses can dispose of these materials either free of charge or for a fee, depending on the municipality.

Fluorescent Lights

Fluorescent lights (tubes and bulbs) are collected for recycling at the Southampton landfill and Kincardine Waste Management Centre. Fluorescent lights were collected and recycled through the Phase 2 program. The Phase 2 program was cancelled in October 2014, however both locations continue to accept these materials for recycling. Fluorescent lights are also accepted through the MHSW collection program.

Agricultural Bale Wrap

The collection of used agricultural bale wrap creates an additional waste diversion stream. In 2014, municipalities diverted this material through Think Plastic Inc. As of November 2014, Think Plastics no longer operates a bale wrap recycling program. Municipalities directed interested residents to Switch Energy's program which picks up the material at the farm as opposed to the landfill.

Polystyrene

In 2017, it was announced that Grace Canada was no longer accepting polystyrene for recycling, and all end markets for polystyrene seemed to disappear at a rapid pace. At this time, municipalities have stopped accepting polystyrene for recycling purposes until a solution is found. The County and municipalities will continue to research viable options for

recycling this product. Brockton and the Town of Hanover have purchased a polystyrene densifier and started a pilot project in 2019 to investigate markets for densified polystyrene to re-start the polystyrene collection program.

Mattresses & Box Springs

The majority of municipalities have implemented a mattress and box spring diversion program at the landfill. These materials are disposed of by residents and businesses for a fee and then recycled through Recyc-Mattresses or shredded at TRY Recycling. Municipalities and the County will continue to monitor this program to determine if it is a feasible program to continue operating.

Household & Automotive Batteries

Municipalities collect household batteries at the landfill site, municipal office and at additional municipal buildings to remove these items from entering the waste stream. The batteries collected are recycled through Raw Materials Inc. Automotive batteries are collected at the landfill site and are recycling through a local contractor.

Shingles & Drywall

The Kincardine Waste Management Centre and Hanover-Walkerton landfill segregate and recycle shingles and drywall through Try Recycling. South Bruce diverts shingles and drywall at the Teeswater landfill.

Reuse Centres

Five landfill sites have established reuse centres to promote waste diversion through reuse practices.

Table 5 provides an overview of the 2018 Waste Diversion programs that diverted approximately 10,973 tonnes of material from the landfill. An overview of diversion from 2014 to 2018 is provided in Table 6.

Table 5: 2018 Waste Diversion Programs

Municipality	Blue Box	MHSW	Backyard Composting	Electronic Waste	Scrap Metal	Leaf & Yard	Polystyrene	Tires
Arran-Elderslie	BASWR	8.82		8.10	17.00	67.18		26.00
	459.64							
Brockton	BASWR	25.42		11.53	29.09	4.72		274.00
	634.81							
Huron-Kinloss	BASWR	6.91		18.85	114.71			45.38
	503.58							
Kincardine	BASWR	25.76		45.68	133.54	147.11		12.73
	955.03							
Northern Bruce Peninsula	Waste Management	21.33		27.46	121.60	181.80		10.33
	550.70							
Saugeen Shores	BASWR	42.59		34.84	161.00	1,677.47		230.84
	1,166.90							
South Bruce	BASWR	8.53		15.01	116.83			54.42
	330.33							
South Bruce Peninsula	BASWR	20.80		24.57	118.96	964.14		20.17
	749.81							
2018 Total	5,350.80	160.16		186.04	812.73	3,042.42		673.87

- Values in tonnes
- Blue indicates program is implemented and measurements may not be available.
- MHSW- Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste

Municipality	Mattresses & Box springs	Automotive Batteries	Shingles	Drywall	Fluorescent Lights	Reuse Centres	Other	Total
Arran-Elderslie	13.70	0.55					0.45	601.44
Brockton	H-W only		H-W only				1.60	981.17
Huron-Kinloss								689.43
Kincardine	24.68	0.28	265.90	61.54	0.98		3.57	1,676.80
Northern Bruce Peninsula	4.85	0.28						918.35
Saugeen Shores	38.24	0.91			1.76		261.00	3,615.55
South Bruce	29.52		44.17					598.81
South Bruce Peninsula	16.64							1,915.09
2018 Total	127.63	2.02	310.07	61.54	2.74	0.45	266.17	10,996.64

- Values in tonnes
- Blue indicates program is implemented as values may not be available.

Figure 8: 2018 Waste Diversion by Weight

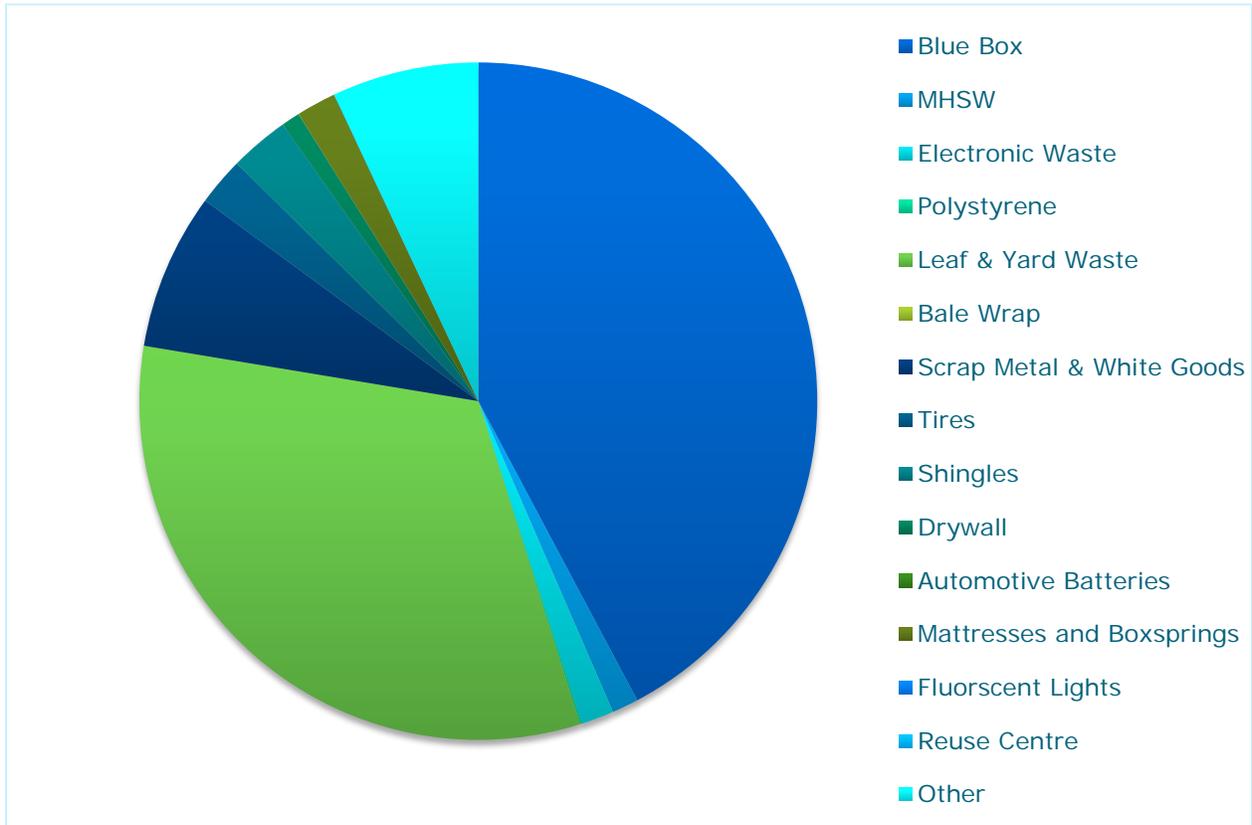


Table 6: Diversion by Weight 2013 - 2018

Year	Blue Box Program	All Other Diversion Programs	Total
2013	4,809.61	3,970.54	8,780.15
2014	5,416.72	4,984.81	10,401.53
2015	4,952.41	5,615.92	10,568.33
2016	4,790.58	6,509.11	11,168.87
2017	5,031.49	7,322.31	12,353.80
2018	5,350.80	5,622.42	10,973.22

Monitoring

The County and local municipalities monitor and report on waste management. Since 2007, Bruce County has prepared an annual status report on waste management which outlines current waste management practices, landfill site capacity and opportunities for enhancing the waste management system. Landfill site annual monitoring reports are compiled by municipally retained consultants as required by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The County reviews the reports on an annual basis to obtain data for the status report.

Waste Management Opportunities

Municipalities continue to provide a sustainable waste management system for residents and businesses of Bruce County. This report identifies the waste management opportunities for disposal, diversion and long-term waste management initiatives.

Disposal

The majority of municipalities employ a user pay curbside waste management program. User pay systems provide additional incentive for residents to maximize their diversion efforts while assisting municipalities in offsetting the collection and disposal costs. Municipalities continue to improve landfill site operations through waste screening, records management, installation of weigh scales and improved compaction practices. Municipalities should continue or strongly consider the following opportunities relating to waste disposal:

- Evaluate waste collection and disposal fee structures (bag tags/tipping fees)
- Ensure effective compaction practices are implemented;
- Undertake waste screening at the landfill;
- Continue effective data collection of materials disposed and diverted.

Diversion

There continues to be support for reducing, reusing and recycling through a variety of waste management programs. Implementing new diversion programs, enhancing existing programs and ensuring a high degree of public education will be an ongoing task for municipalities and the County. The current unknowns of provincially funded waste diversion programs make it difficult to implement new and maintain existing diversion programs.

The Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA) represents an interim step ensuring a smooth transition of existing Blue Box, WEEE, MHSW and Used Tires programs to the new Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) avoiding disruptions to recycling services currently provided or financed by Producers. Municipalities and the County will continue to keep updated on the WDTA and RRCEA as the province moves forward with the implementation of this Regulation.

Long Term Waste Management Initiatives

In 1995, the County assumed the power to provide landfilling sites for all local municipalities forming part of the County of Bruce. This authority was limited to the power to enter into agreements with local municipalities for the use of existing landfill site capacity. The County also assumed responsibility for monitoring the remaining capacity at the municipal landfill sites and to ensure that all area municipalities have disposal capacity for a minimum 20-year period. The County and municipalities should consider the following opportunities relating to long term waste management planning:

- Encourage and facilitate the sharing of information between the County and municipalities to ensure municipalities have a site capacity for a minimum of 20 years;
- Monitor performance of current waste management programs;
- County to provide technical support to municipalities with their long-term waste management initiatives;
- County to investigate options for a permanent household hazardous and special waste collection program;
- County and municipalities stay informed of provincial initiatives, programs, policies and funding opportunities as they become available.

Conclusion

There is a desire at the County and municipal level to maximize the use of existing landfill site capacity, recognizing this capacity as a finite resource with significant value.

Ultimately, reducing the amount of waste generated through reduction and reuse practices is best, as it reduces the amount of energy and resources required to transport, process and/or dispose of waste materials. Local municipalities have implemented successful waste diversion programs for items that would have previously been landfilled.

The Province encourages cooperation among municipalities to seek efficiencies and to find mutually acceptable solutions to waste management. This partnership approach has the potential to expand waste management options available to the municipalities involved. The waste management realm is considered to be dynamic with changes occurring to both diversion and residential waste opportunities as technology advances and markets change.

The Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) will fundamentally change how waste diversion programs are developed and delivered to our communities. There continues to be a great amount of work required under this Act to ensure that new programs provide adequate service to our communities and that all municipalities have access to quality diversion programs. Moving forward, the County and municipalities will gain knowledge and understanding of the new Act and work to ensure programs are transitioned in an effective manner. It is imperative that the voice of rural communities be heard during this significant transition to the province's waste management industry.