

Summary of Clear Bag Programs/Pilot Results

Study	Diversion Impact	Clear Bag Program Description	Enforcement	Waste Management Programs Description
<p>Quinte Waste Solutions Report: ‘The Use of Clear Bags for Garbage as a Waste Diversion Strategy: Background Research on Clear Garbage Bag Programs across North America’</p> <p>- Study involved 22 Canadian and US communities.</p>	<p>General Study Observations: Of the 22 respondents from the study survey, all but one reported an increase in recycling tonnage. The one exception (in the US) which reported no increase introduced recycling at the same time as clear bags, which made it difficult to attribute any changes in recycling tonnage to clear bags.</p>	<p>Of the 22 respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen communities had in place a program where residents could use any clear bag (completely see-through or transparent). • Three communities allowed tinted bags. • Four communities had in place a Municipal Branded Bag program which means the clear bag has the municipal logo and is provided and sold by the municipality. In all cases, a user (PAYT) fee has been incorporated into the price of the bag. <p>- Residents were also allowed ‘privacy’ (small bag inside clear bag for personal items) bags in all but three of the 22 respondents.</p>	<p>- Non-compliant (clear bags with visible recyclables or organics [where applicable] inside, percentage dependant on community) bags are rejected at the curb. All but one respondent used stickers or tags informing resident of infraction.</p> <p>- A mandatory recycling by-law supported enforcement for all but three of the respondents.</p>	<p>- Of the 22 respondents, 18 had curbside recycling, four had depot recycling, nine had organics collection, six had Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) and six had bag limits.</p>

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	<p>Nova Scotia - Reported a 41% decrease in residential waste, a 35% increase in residential recycling, and a 38% increase in residential organics collection.</p>	<p>- All communities involved in study requested residents use a clear bag. - All communities involved in study allowed 'privacy' bags.</p>	<p>- Non-compliant bags are rejected at the curb. All communities involved in study used stickers or tags informing resident of infraction.</p>	<p>- The County of Antigonish collects garbage and organics weekly and recycling bi-weekly. - The County of Guysborough collects garbage and recycling weekly and does not currently have an organics program. - Pictou County collects garbage, organics and recyclables by-weekly. - The County of Digby and the County of Yarmouth collect garbage and organics bi-weekly and recyclables weekly. - All communities have bag limits.</p>
	<p>Municipality of Guelph - Reported an increase in recycling tonnage however, statistical data was not available at the time of study. (WDO diversion rate was 44.3% in 2007; however one of the main barriers reported was the addition of a third waste stream in 2003. Residents now collect</p>	<p>- Residents must use a clear bag. - No 'privacy' bag is allowed.</p>	<p>- Non-compliant bags are rejected at the curb. A tag is left informing resident of infraction.</p>	<p>- Recycling (Dry – blue bag) and organics (Wet – green bag) are collected weekly - Garbage (clear bag) is collected bi-weekly. - No bag limits or bag tags.</p>

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	<p>garbage in three streams (recyclables, organics, and garbage). Residents reported that they were more concerned about the extra space taken up by the third stream, rather than the clear bag requirement.)</p>			
	<p>Communities in United States - All reported an increase in recycling tonnage with the exception of Omaha, Nebraska which introduced recycling at the same time and were therefore unable to attribute the increased recycling to clear bags only. Of the 13 US communities involved in the study one provided data showing an increase in recycling rates directly attributed to the clear bag program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamburg, New York: Increased recycling rate from 50% in mid-2000 to 70% in 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of the 13 US communities, seven have standard programs in place which allow residents to use a clear bag for waste. - Three of the US communities had a Municipal Branded Bag program in place, which means the clear bag has the municipal logo and is provided and sold by the municipality. - Three of the US communities allowed tinted bags for waste. - All of the US communities allowed residents to use a 'privacy' bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All but three US communities have a mandatory recycling program in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All US communities have either recycling or depot recycling programs in place. - Two of the 13 US communities had organics programs in place. - Four of the 13 US communities had PAYT programs in place. - Three of the 13 US communities had bag limits in place.

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Quinte Waste Solutions Pilot	- Study results including diversion data are anticipated by mid 2009.	- Year long pilot initiated in January 2008 and conducted in rural municipalities of Centre Hastings and Madoc Township.	- Resident participation is mandatory. - Enforcement initiated in June 2008.	- Recycling is collected weekly in some areas and bi-weekly in others. - Currently does not have organics program in place. - Garbage is collected bi-weekly with a two bag limit.
Town of Markham Clear Garbage Bag Pilot	- Study results were not conclusive to confirm the clear garbage bag as a method to increase blue box capture rates, due to methodological auditing and set-out study flaws.	- Three month pilot conducted in two communities; Swan Lake Village and Johnsvie Village - Region supplied clear bags to residents. - Residents were not told to set out 'privacy' bags; however, some residents chose to place small white grocery bags inside the clear bag.	- Non-compliant bags were rejected at the curb. - Used stickers informing resident of infraction.	- Recycling and organics are collected weekly. - Garbage is collected bi-weekly with a three bag limit. - Bag tags are distributed to residents annually (12) and residents may purchase more if over the three bag limit.
Durham Region Clear Bag Pilot Program	- This study concluded on April 10, 2009 and results including diversion impacts will be available after June 24, 2009.	- Three month pilot conducted in Clarington and Pickering. - Region supplied clear bags to residents. - Allowed residents to use a 'privacy' bag.	- A monthly phased-in approach was used for residents. Staff used education methods initially, then a non-compliance notice but bags were picked up and finally non-	- Recycling and organics are collected weekly in all municipalities - Garbage is collection bi-weekly in all municipalities with a three or four bag limit,

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			compliant bags were left at the curb and a notice was left.	dependant on municipality - Bag tags are available to residents for \$1.50.

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