

August 31, 2006

### HOW ONTARIO MANAGES ITS WASTE: THE BASIC FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Waste Volumes in Ontario

- In 2005, **municipalities and industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sources** generated about 13.3 million tonnes of waste.
  - About 3.3 million tonnes of this waste was diverted through the 3Rs program.
  - Approximately 10 million tonnes of municipal and IC&I waste generated was disposed through landfill or incineration.
    - Around 6 million tonnes of this waste or 60 per cent was managed in Ontario.
    - 4 million tonnes of waste were exported to the U.S., with 90 % of this waste being sent to Michigan landfills

#### Waste Volumes in the GTA

- Not including biosolids, GTA municipalities exported about 1.15 million tonnes of municipal waste to Michigan in 2005. This represents approximately 150 truckloads of waste each day which must travel from the GTA, through southwestern Ontario and into Michigan.
  - Toronto transports 724,000 tonnes
  - Region of Peel transports 121,000 tonnes
  - Region of York transports 136,000 tonnes
  - Region of Durham transports 143,000 tonnes

#### Waste Diversion Rates in the GTA

- In 2005, reported GTA municipal diversion rates were:
  - Toronto – 40 per cent
  - Region of Peel – 37 per cent
  - Region of York – 31 per cent
  - Region of Durham – 36 per cent
- Recently, the waste diversion rates of these GTA municipalities have increased significantly through the introduction of green bin programs for organics.

## **Non-GTA Municipalities Sending Waste to Michigan**

- Outside of the four GTA municipalities, there are three other municipalities sending waste to Michigan. They are:
  - Owen Sound;
  - Orangeville; and,
  - Meaford
- In 2005, non-GTA municipalities generated and exported about 29,000 tonnes of municipal waste to Michigan:
  - Owen Sound generated 20,000 tonnes
  - Orangeville generated 7,000 tonnes
  - Meaford generated 2,000 tonnes

## **Status of Ontario Landfill Sites**

- There is an estimated 91 million tonnes of approved landfill capacity in Ontario.
- 26 landfill sites are receiving over 90 per cent of the waste disposed of in Ontario.
- The five largest private sites in Ontario currently receiving between 300,000 to 680,000 tonnes of waste per year are:
  - Ridge Landfill near Chatham
  - Walker Brothers near Niagara Falls
  - West Carlton Landfill In Ottawa
  - Green Lane Landfill near St Thomas
  - Petrolia Landfill near Sarnia
- The ministry has approved several new waste sites over the past couple of years, including an expansion of the Green Lane Landfill near St Thomas, the Trail Waste Facility Landfill expansion in Ottawa, and the McDougall Landfill in Parry Sound. Terms of Reference have also been approved for ten environmental assessments so that these projects can move forward.

## **Enforcement of IC&I Recycling Regulations**

- Regulations 102 and 103 require IC&I facilities to prepare and implement plans to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and to have a program in place to facilitate the source separation of waste for reuse or recycling.
- In addition to the inspections carried out by the ministry's regional offices, the ministry's Sector Compliance Branch has been inspecting the IC&I sectors for compliance on the 3Rs. This initiative ensures that industry is aware of their requirements under the 3R's legislation.
- The Sector Compliance Branch's sweep began in March 2006 and a total of 161 inspections have been completed across the province. Additional inspections will be carried out in the coming months.