



## **The City of North Bay**

# **Waste Diversion Strategy**

**July 2025**

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## Executive Summary

Developed and adopted in 2021, using 2019 as the benchmark year, the City's Waste Diversion Strategy presents a comprehensive plan to enhance participation in local waste diversion initiatives and reduce the amount of waste directed to the City of North Bay's Merrick Landfill.

To support this goal, the City has implemented bans on the collection and landfill disposal of several materials, including corrugated cardboard, electronics, appliances, tires, grass clippings, household hazardous waste, textiles and mattresses. These measures are designed to maximize the amount of waste diverted from the landfill.

In the years ahead, the City of North Bay envisions a robust and thoughtful waste diversion system that encourages active participation from environmental stakeholders, private industry, government agencies, and residents.

Progress toward the strategy's goals will be reported to Council on an annual basis through the Waste Diversion Report, which will summarize key data and measure performance against established targets. In addition, the strategy will undergo a comprehensive review at least once every five years to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

## Mission Statement

The Waste Diversion Strategy seeks to identify and implement strategies to expand participation in recycling/waste reduction initiatives and increase waste diversion from the City of North Bay Merrick Landfill site.

## Background

The City of North Bay releases a Waste Diversion Strategy (WDS) annually for review by City Council as a requirement of the Merrick Landfill Environmental Assessment. The WDS provides details on current and future waste diversion projects and programs that are being considered by staff in an ongoing effort to work toward a more sustainable waste management platform for the City of North Bay.

## Merrick Landfill Site

The Merrick Landfill Site operates under MECP Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) A530116 which provides for the disposal of domestic, commercial and non-hazardous solid industrial waste within a 16.4-hectare area of a 360-hectare site. The Site is approved to accept waste from the residents and businesses within the City of North Bay, the Municipality of Callendar and the unorganized Townships of Blythe, Merrick, Stewart, Lyman, Notman, Gladman, and Hammell.

From July 1994, (when the landfill site opened) to the end of 2024, approximately 1,390,065 tonnes of domestic, commercial and non-hazardous solid industrial waste (including sludge and demolition waste) has been received at the Site. This corresponds to an average of approximately 45,576 tonnes per year over the last 30.5 years.

The latest site life calculations based on current waste volumes indicate that there is enough space remaining in the landfill for approximately 15.67 years. While this may appear to be a long period of time, approvals for the construction of new landfill sites typically take between 10 to 15 years, and potentially tens of millions of dollars when you include closure costs of the current landfill site.



The Merrick landfill does offer diversion programs for waste on site. Currently mattresses, Freon containing appliances, tires, leaf and yard waste, wood, brush, Blue Box material, concrete and scrap metal are all directly diverted from landfilling and are either processed on site for reuse (leaf and yard waste) or are transported to independent facilities for processing (mattresses). While leaf and yard waste, blue box material, tires and scrap metal are free of charge at the landfill site, there is a processing fee associated with the acceptance of appliances and mattress at the Merrick landfill. These user pay fees have been designed to offset the cost of the mattress and appliance recycling programs.

The City has also implemented diversion programs focused on reuse of materials including goods exchange day and a ban on collection and disposal of textiles. Re-use of items helps protect the environment in two ways: it cuts down on garbage that would otherwise end up in the City's landfill, and re-using items saves energy and the environmental impact of producing new items.

In order to extend the life of the Merrick Landfill site, waste diversion strategies are critical. With the introduction of each new program, we can be assured that valuable landfill space is being used only for materials that have no other option.

## **Waste Diversion Facility**

The City of North Bay's Waste Diversion Facility, located at 112 Patton Street provides several diversion options for local residents, including the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, Paint Reuse Program, Electronics Recycling, Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-off, Scrap Metal, and Blue Box Recycling Public Drop-off.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Depot (HHWD)**

Residents of North Bay and participating surrounding municipalities can drop off household hazardous waste at the North Bay Household Hazardous Waste Depot (HHWD). Since opening in 1998, the HHWD has collected and shipped out thousands of tonnes of hazardous materials. Commonly accepted items include paint, batteries, oil, adhesives, aerosols, fuel, lightbulbs, and household cleaners. Disposal is free of charge and available year-round from Wednesday to Saturday, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

With every shipment of hazardous waste that leaves the facility and is responsibly disposed of; we can be assured that these chemicals are being kept out of our landfill and subsequently out of our local ecosystem.

### **Paint Reuse Program**

The Paint Reuse Program is a waste reduction program located beside the HHWD. Good quality leftover paint is placed in the Paint Reuse area for residents to pick up free of charge. This program allows residents to reuse paint that would have alternatively been sent off site to an approved facility for final disposal. The Paint Reuse program operates Wednesday – Saturday, between 8:00am and 6:00pm from April to November (weather dependent).

## **Electronics Recycling**

Residents can drop off household electronics such as laptops, desktops, keyboards, monitors, TVs, projectors, radios, speakers, VCRs, DVD players, telephones (landline and cell phones), mp3 players, etc. free of charge in the Electronics Recycling bins located at the Waste Diversion Facility. Disposal is free of charge and available year-round from Wednesday to Saturday, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

## **Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-Off**

Leaf and Yard Waste that is brought to the Public Drop-Off located at the Waste Diversion Facility is converted into compost and diverted from the landfill. Residents can bring their flower clippings, grass clippings and leaf waste free of charge, businesses are subject to fees. The leaf and yard waste drop-off is open Monday – Saturday, between 8:00am and 6:00pm from April to November (weather dependent).

## **Scrap Metal Recycling**

Residents can drop off Scrap Metal in the metal bins located at the Waste Diversion Facility free of charge. Items such as snow blowers, bicycles, filing cabinets, pots and pans, patio furniture and BBQs are accepted Monday – Saturday, between 8:00am and 6:00pm year-round.

## **Blue Box Recycling Public Drop-Off**

The Blue Box Recycling Public Drop-Off located at the City's Waste Diversion Facility is widely used by local residents and surrounding communities including unorganized townships. The public recycling drop-off is open Monday – Saturday, between 8:00am and 6:00pm year round.

As of January 1, 2025, The City's residential recycling program is now managed by Circular Materials under the Extended Producer Responsibility framework. Starting January 1, 2026, Circular Materials will fully manage Ontario's Blue Box program. Any program changes will be made at their discretion.

## **Curbside Waste Collection Program**

Within the City of North Bay, curbside waste collection occurs on a weekly basis. Waste collection services are contracted through Miller Waste Systems at a cost of approximately \$1,347,288 per year.

All waste collected through curbside pick-up is transported directly to the Merrick Landfill for disposal. All residential and multi-residential homes, business and institutions have access to the waste collection program. Residents are permitted to place up to two 35lb waste containers at the curb for collection each week, while commercial and institutional (ICI) users can receive weekly pick-up of 10 bags or twice-weekly pick up of 5 bags.

## Curbside Blue Box Program

*As of January 1, 2025, curbside recycling in the City of North Bay is managed by Circular Materials (CMO). During this transition year, no changes to recycling collection or schedules are anticipated for residents. Beginning January 1, 2026, Circular Materials will take full responsibility for managing Ontario's Blue Box program, and any program changes will be made at their discretion. The City's Waste Diversion Strategy will be updated in 2026 to reflect the full transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).*

North Bay's curbside Blue Box program complies with Ontario Regulation 101/04, which mandates the type of Blue Box collection system implemented as well as the types of materials required to be collected. Recyclables are collected on a bi-weekly basis from 17,287 single residential property households and 6,180 multi-residential properties. All elementary and secondary schools are permitted to place up to 15 blue boxes at the curbside on a bi-weekly basis.

At present, commercial businesses are responsible for arranging their own recycling collection and are not included in the curbside collection program with the exception of corrugated cardboard, which is collected from all businesses in the Downtown Improvement Area once a week.

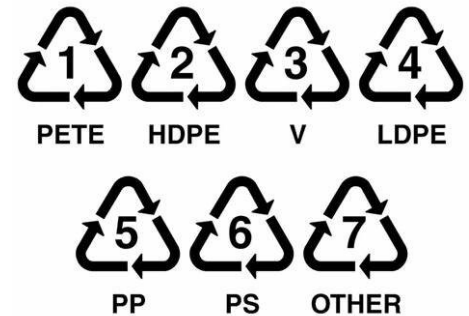
The City currently offers a 6 day per week drop-off depot for recyclables at its Recycling Centre for residents and the ICI sector. This service is heavily used by the ICI sector to divert corrugated cardboard, which has been banned from the landfill for a number of years.

The City of North Bay currently collects (*through CMO*) a broad range of materials including:

- Aluminum cans
- All plastic food and beverage containers (1-7)
- Aluminum foil, pie plates, and trays
- Aseptic containers (Tetra Pak)
- Aerosol cans (empty)



- Boxboard (cereal boxes)
- Clear and coloured glass
- Corrugated cardboard
- Empty paint and stain cans
- High density polyethylene – small mouth containers (HDPE #2)
- Magazines, catalogues, and telephone books
- Mixed household paper
- Newsprint, including coloured flyers and inserts
- Polycoat containers
- Polyethylene terephthalate – small mouth containers (PETE #1)
- Plastic tubs and lids
- Steel beverage and food cans



The current curbside recycling program diverts substantial amounts of recyclable from the Merrick Landfill site each year.

From 2023 to 2026 the Province of Ontario will roll out its new producer pay program for blue box recycling. This system will involve a transition away from the current system in which producers of recyclable materials share recycling costs with municipalities. The new system will see the province take complete control of blue box recycling with producers being responsible for the entirety of the cost of the program. The new provincial program will standardize what materials residents can put into their blue bins with similar materials collected through the new program to what is currently collected through the City's current Blue Box. The City of North Bay transitioned to the EPR on January 1, 2025.

This program shift will make producers fully responsible for costs associated with blue box collection and marketing which will reduce the financial burden of recycling on Municipalities.

The blue box regulations require that producers of paper, packaging, packaging-like products and single-use items to:

- Maintain or improve existing blue box services, including participating in a common curbside blue box collection system across Ontario
- Expand blue box services to additional sources, such as multi-unit residential buildings, schools, some public spaces, and specified retirement and long-term care homes
- Collect a consistent set of materials in blue boxes across the province
- Meet management requirements for blue box materials, such as diversion targets
- Implement a promotion and education program to increase awareness about collection, reuse, recycling and recovery of materials

The blue box regulation will not:

- Require producers to provide blue box services in industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sectors

The regulation details the required minimum service level for blue box services provided by producers in Ontario. The minimum service level included in the regulation is very similar to the City of North Bay's current service level and includes bi-weekly curbside blue box pick up for all residential users. There are, however, aspects of the current North Bay blue box program which will not be covered under the new regulation, for example cardboard pickup in the DIA. It's important to note that if the City would like a service level that exceeds the minimum requirements in the regulation it will not be funded by the producers but rather funded through municipal tax dollars.

There are several unknowns in regards to how extended producer responsibility will affect the City of North Bay, however staff will continue working with the province and the current service provider over the next year to develop a framework for the transition.

## Historical Tonnage Data

The following section features the data from the current waste disposal and diversion systems in place within the City of North Bay.

### Waste Disposal Statistics

Curbside waste collection is separated by residential curbside tonnage and by multi-residential/commercial garbage truck tonnage. Residential street packers (garbage trucks) contributed to 11,518 tonnes of waste in 2024. Multi-residential / small commercial garbage trucks contributed 12,106 tonnes of waste in 2024.

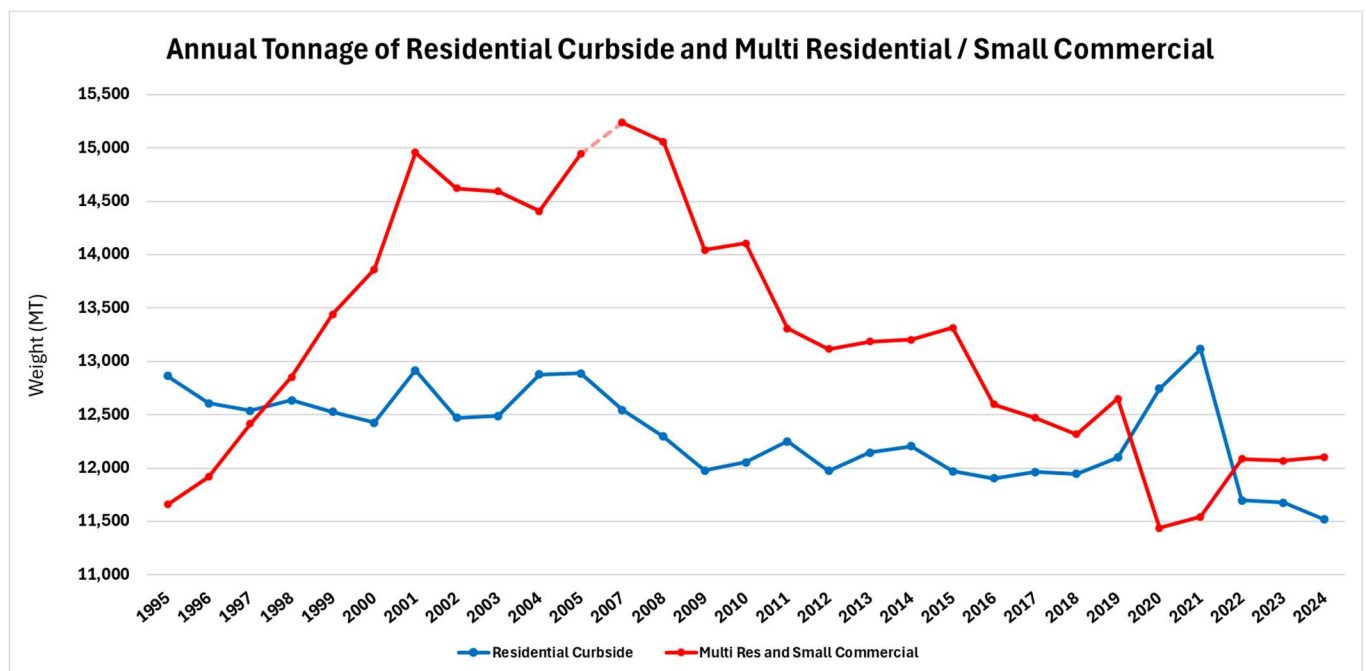


Figure 1: Annual Tonnage of Residential Curbside and Multi Residential / Small Commercial Waste

There was a significant reduction in the amount of waste sent to Merrick Landfill from Residential Curbside Pickup in 2022. This was likely the result of the 2-bag weekly curbside waste pickup that was implemented in January 2022. By decreasing the amount of waste allowed at the curb, residents were encouraged to reduce the amount of waste through recycling and purchasing items with less waste and packaging. There was a continued decrease in the amount of waste sent to Merrick Landfill in 2023 due to continual outreach on the City's Waste Diversion Programs. 2024 saw the lowest amount of waste ever sent to Merrick Landfill from residential curbside pickup.

## Waste Diversion Statistics

Current annual waste diversion tonnages are seen in Table 1.

<b>Municipal Waste Diversion</b>	<b>2019 Weight (MT)</b>	<b>2020 Weight (MT)</b>	<b>2021 Weight (MT)</b>	<b>2022 Weight (MT)</b>	<b>2023 Weight (MT)</b>	<b>2024 Weight (MT)</b>
Blue Box Recycling	3,311	3,223	3,093	3,243	2,801	3,242
Tire Recycling	0	0	3	5	14	19
Brush	0	0	800	1,562	332	249
Wood Waste Chipping	1,336	3,598	1,951	1,905	2,514	2,228
Organic Drop-Off	817	1,028	943	1,015	944	1,042
Scrap Metal	396	323	294	468	470	401
Household Hazardous Waste	218	351	320	259	251	227
Electronic Equipment	162	147	133	128	125	141
Mattress Recycling	97	78	133	88	84	82
<b>Total Metric Tonnes</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>8,748</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>8,672</b>	<b>7,535</b>	<b>7,631</b>

Table 1. 2019 - 2024 Measurable Waste Diversion by Program. Note: Tire Recycling and Brush Weights were not recorded for 2019 and 2020.

It is important to note that when examining diverted products by weight, some materials may weigh less (mattresses/box springs) but take up a large amount of space in the Landfill site. Similarly, household hazardous waste makes up a small piece of the overall tonnage but contributes critically to the toxicity of the waste in the Landfill making it so important that it continues to be diverted.

Between 2019 and 2024 there was approximately 46,593 tonnes of measurable waste diverted from the Merrick Landfill through the City's current diversion programs. When determining waste diversion, it is important to remember that recycling is only one component. If residents are practicing waste diversion through reducing (purchasing products with less waste) and reusing items instead of purchasing new ones, the City would see a decrease in the amount of material sent to the landfill each year that would not be shown through the waste diversion tonnage.

## Waste Audit

Waste audits are conducted on curbside and multi-residential waste arriving at Merrick Landfill. These audits aim to:

- Provide a better understanding of the materials ending up in the landfill.
- Identify the percentage of waste that is classified as true 'garbage'.
- Evaluate how effectively residents are using current waste diversion programs.
- Compare current data with previous audit results.

Audit results are based on a visual estimation of the amount of each waste classification, rather than weight measurements. The 2024 audit revealed that 63% of materials from residential curbside collection and 40% from multi-residential sources belonged to existing waste diversion programs and were not intended for landfill disposal.

The following figures provide a breakdown of the material sorted during the 2024 waste audit.

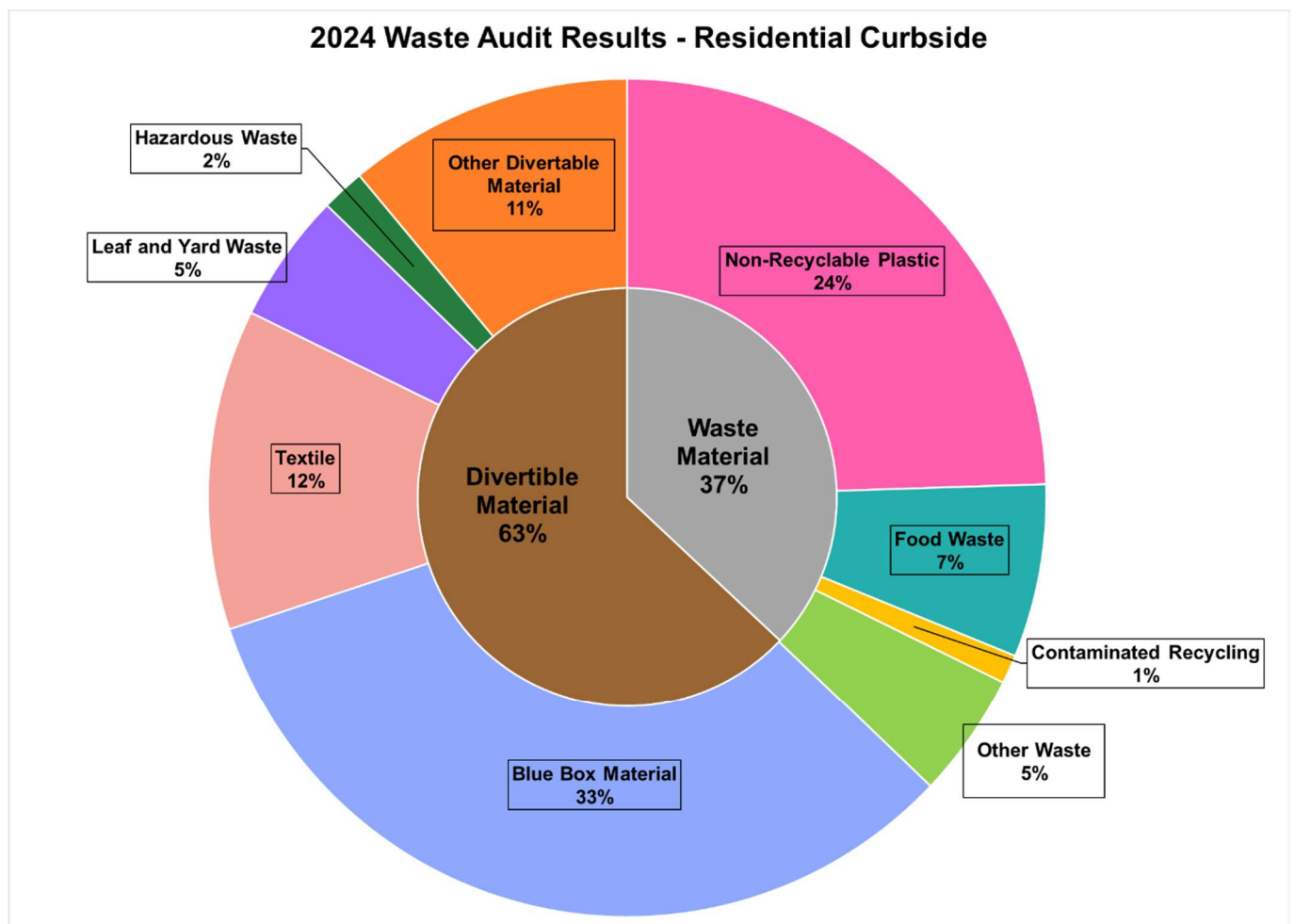


Figure 2: Results of the 2024 Residential Curbside Waste Audit.

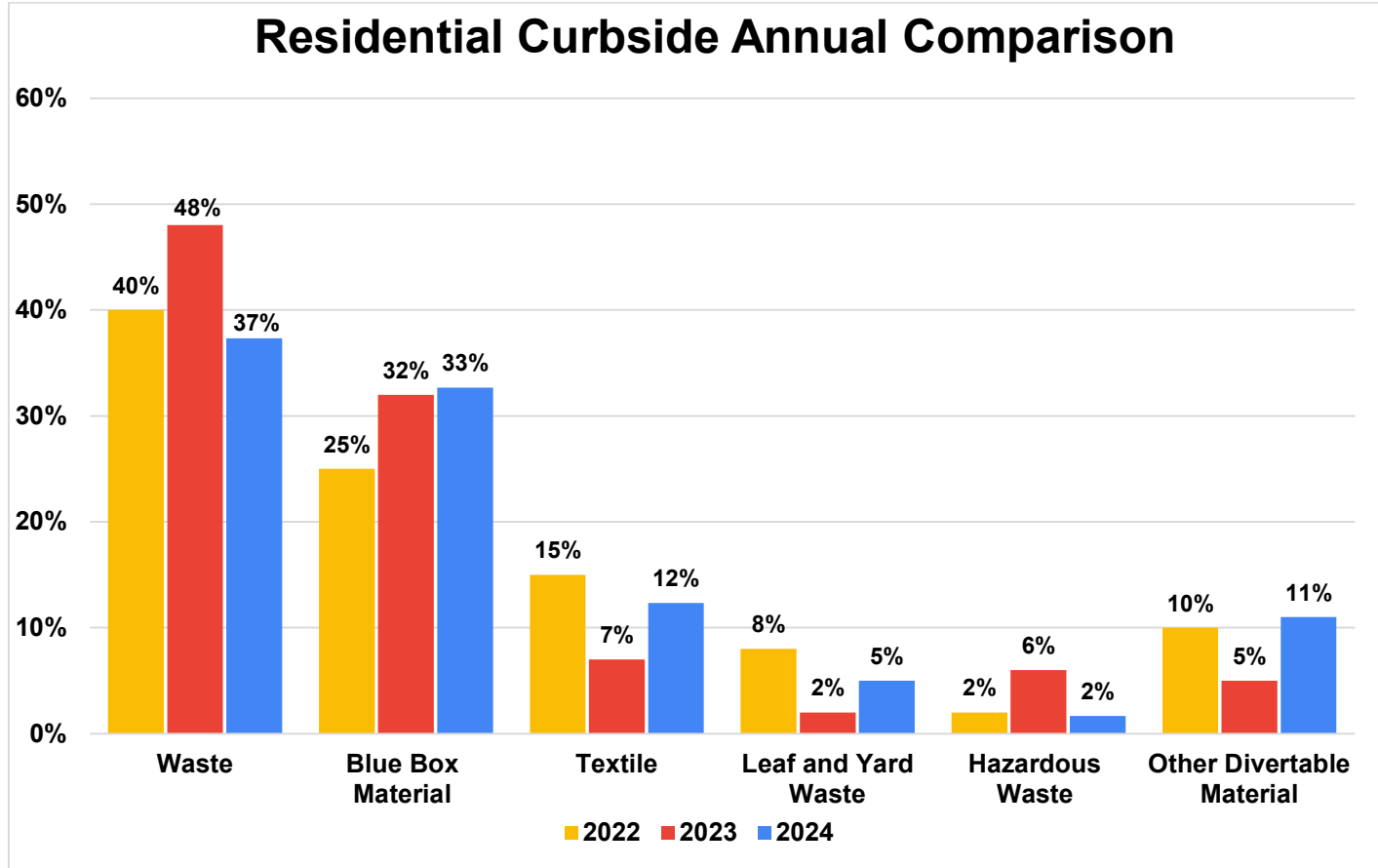


Figure 3: Residential Curbside Waste Audit Annual Comparison.

Figure 3 compares the percentage of waste material and breakdown of divertible material found in the Residential Curbside waste audit from 2022 – 2024. Although 2023 saw an improvement in the amount of waste present in the sorted bags, 2024 had a significant decrease in the amount of waste material found in the curbside residential bags. 2024 also saw an increase to the amount of recyclables, textiles, leaf and yard waste and other divertible materials compared to the previous year.

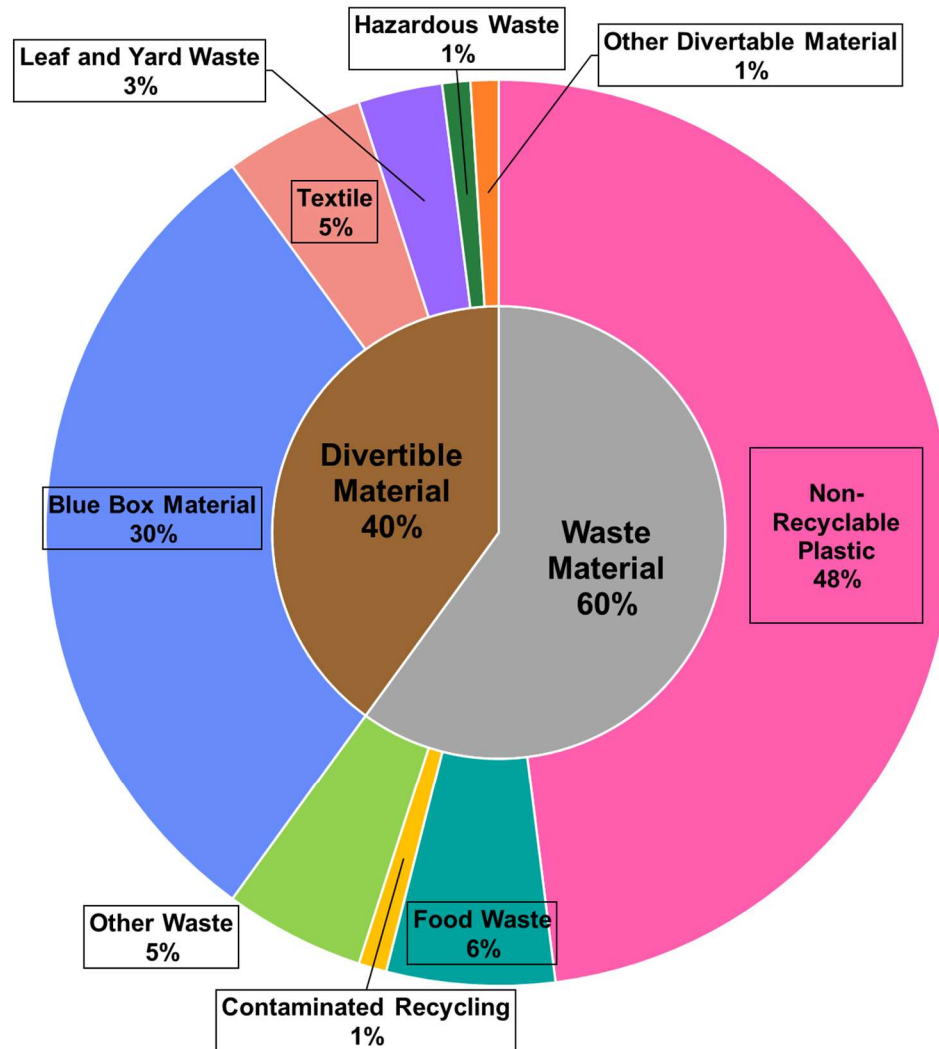
**2024 Waste Audit Results - Multi Residential / Small Commercial**

Figure 4: Results of the 2024 Multi Residential / Small Commercial Waste Audit

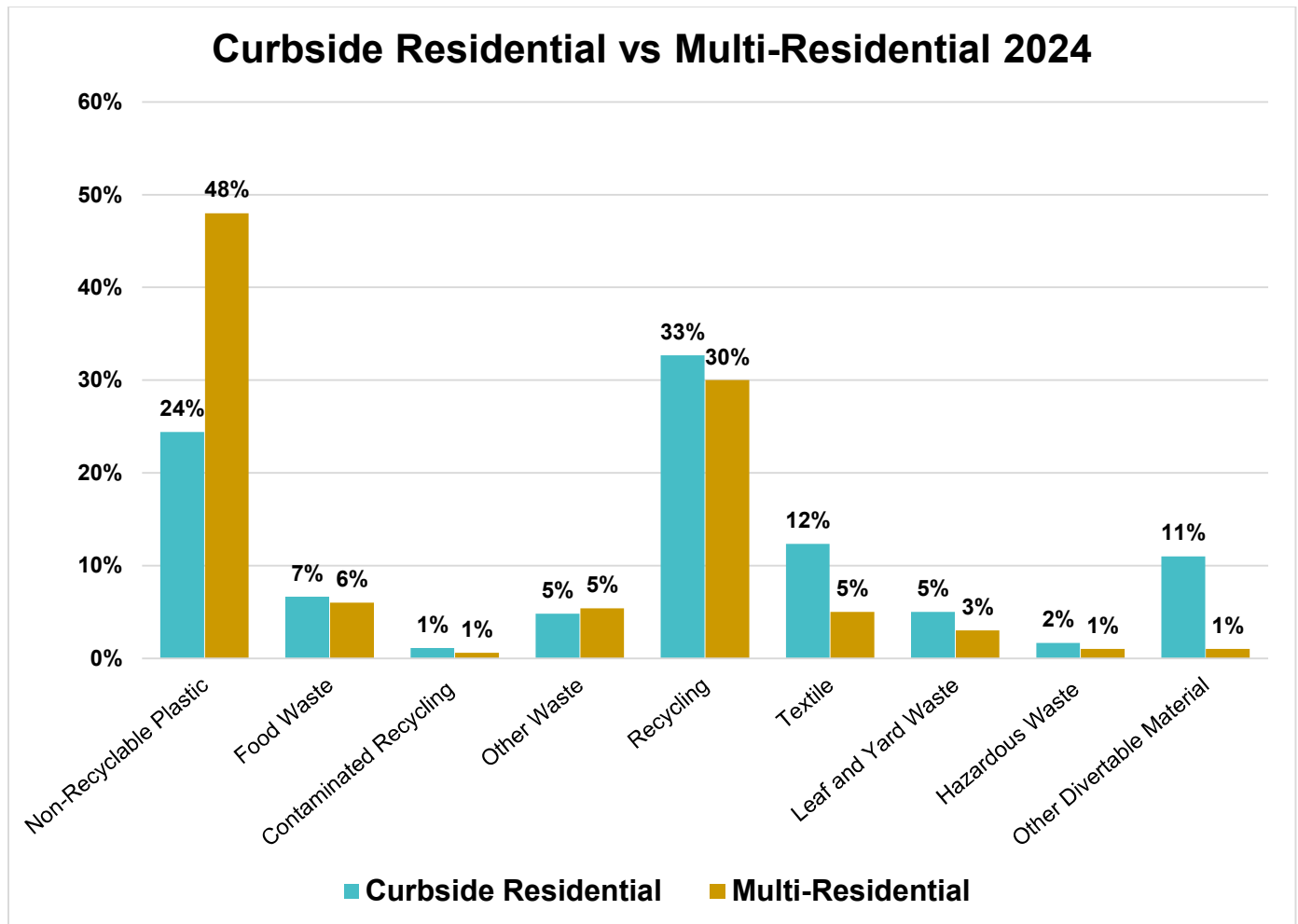


Figure 5: Comparison of Curbside Residential and Multi Residential 2024 Waste Audit Results.

Figure 5 above provides a full breakdown of the material sorted during the 2024 waste audit from both curbside residential and multi-residential waste streams. The multi-residential stream had a higher percentage of non-recyclable plastic including garbage bags and packaging, whereas residential curbside found a higher percentage of textiles and other divertable material including toys, electronics and books. Both the multi-residential and residential curbside pickup had similar amounts of food and blue box recycling material.



## Goals for Enhancement of Waste Diversion Programs

The current waste diversion programs offered by the City of North Bay have five central and constant goals:

1. Increase program participation by those eligible to receive the service.
2. Expand the scope of eligibility to more users.
3. Decrease contaminants (non-recyclables) in the recycling stream.
4. Provide diversion solutions for more types of waste products; and
5. Reduce the amount of material entering the local waste stream

While maintaining the current waste diversion programs, the City is seeking to expand and add new diversion programs which will benefit the residents and business of North Bay through environmental stewardship. Appendix A provides an outline of the goals themselves, the objectives for each goal currently in place, strategies to achieve the objectives and a general description of the intended implementation of each strategy with a timeline.

The City will be using 2019 as a baseline year to gauge the progress being made towards the goals. The City has in place a monitoring strategy identified in Appendix C. Appendix B provides a visual timeline for implementation of the strategies identified as “NEW” in Appendix A

In order to achieve these goals, communication is critical. The City of North Bay must clearly and effectively communicate the programs available to the residents of North Bay and explain the importance of participation. As communication is central to the success of all five goals, a communication plan was developed that will be implemented for all initiatives listed in Appendix B.

## Communication

Communication is instrumental in implementing and maintaining waste diversion and waste reduction strategies. The City of North Bay’s waste diversion educational and promotional initiatives have been in place for several years and have included the following:

- Local radio advertising
- Displays at Tradeshows
- The City’s website
- North Bay Recycles App
- North Bay recycling calendar
- Social Media
- By phone via the Waste Line at (705) 474-0400 ex. 2333
- Waste Reduction Liaison Committee meetings
- Outdoor Signage
- Tours of the Hazardous Waste Depot and Merrick Landfill Site
- Public meetings/open houses for new programs

- Educational programs at schools

The initiatives are intended to provide residents with the necessary information, in an easily accessible manner, to divert waste while minimizing the contamination in recycling. The information provided to the public must be simple and repeated on a regular basis. Ultimately, an effective program should not only explain what can be diverted but also explain how and why.

A detailed list of current communication methods is listed below:

## **Local Radio Advertising**

- Radio campaigns are an ongoing part of the communication strategy for waste diversion. Radio ads are run seasonally to promote the use of the programs and answer commonly asked questions.
- Ads will continue to be placed on local radio stations.
- In 2024, there were a total of 1,129 radio spots for Waste Diversion related outreach. Topics included leaf and yard waste, blue box reminders, hazardous waste, mattress recycling, Goods Exchange Day, Christmas tree drop-off and brush drop-off.

## **Displays at Tradeshows**

- The City runs a booth at tradeshows to promote the Waste Diversion programs we offer.

## **The City Recycling Calendar**

The “Waste and Recycling Calendar” is made available to all households and residents annually. It is distributed through Canada Post and copies are also available at the Merrick Landfill site, HHWD, North Bay City Hall and North Bay Public Works. The calendar provides information regarding pick up dates, acceptable materials, environmental best practices, and contact information.

## **The City of North Bay Website**

- The Garbage & Recycling section of the City’s website is continually updated in order to provide residents with the most up to date information.
- The website is a popular tool for residents to research topics, to download information or to determine how to contact us for further details.

## North Bay Recycles App

- In 2018, the City of North Bay released the North Bay Recycles App, which was developed in house, to provide citizens with their personalized waste reminders, information regarding hours of operation at the landfill and Household Hazardous Waste Depot, how to contact the City for questions or concerns, and the popular “what goes where” tab which provides a list of materials and states what sites accept it.
- The City will continue to promote user-ship of the app as a way to inform the public on our waste diversion programs and reduce contaminants in recycling.

## Social Media Channels

- The City’s Facebook and Twitter pages are used to promote recycling initiatives and waste diversion programs/events.
- The City’s Facebook account has 12,000 followers, it’s Instagram account has 1,786 followers, and its Twitter account has 7,000 followers.

## Waste Reduction Liaison Committee Meetings

- WRLC meetings are held quarterly and information regarding upcoming diversion projects is presented for discussion and all meetings are open to the public.

## Waste Diversion Outreach Program for Schools

North Bay’s Waste Diversion Outreach Program provides the opportunity for elementary and high school students to learn about the City’s waste diversion programs through a fun and interactive approach using the 6R’s (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle). Presentations focus on programs the City has in place to help divert waste from the Merrick Landfill site, including the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, electronics recycling, leaf and yard waste drop-off, mattress recycling, and the Blue Box recycling program.

As part of the program, elementary aged students are asked to create artwork to help educate and remind North Bay residents how they can divert waste from our landfill. Waste Diversion Spotlights are posted on the City’s Social Media pages. The art created by the students help remind residents how to divert waste from our landfill.

The Waste Diversion Outreach Program has been presented to 68 classes during the past 2 school years.

## Other Programs

- Inquiries and concerns are fielded by email at [customerservice@cityofnorthbay.ca](mailto:customerservice@cityofnorthbay.ca) and by phone via the Waste Line at (705) 474-0400 ex. 2333.
- Tours of both the Merrick Landfill site and the Household Hazardous Waste Depot are available upon request.

## “NEW” Communication Initiatives

Building upon current promotion and education successes, all methods of communication will be coordinated into a more unified and sustained public education campaign aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the five central goals of the waste diversion strategy.

Shared branding and calls to action assist in delivering a unified message. Communication tools will vary and may include handouts/flyers, social media posts and ads, webpage updates, engagement with business and community groups, media releases/PSAs and videos highlighting programs and services. Shared branding and calls to action will be used to help deliver a unified message.

Additionally, the following new communication initiatives are being proposed:

### Communication directly with local groups and organizations

- Environmental Services staff have develop presentations that focuses on local waste diversion/recycling programs and provides details on how and why to participate. This presentation will continued be shared with local groups and organizations. Some local groups and organizations that have already participated include:
  - The Village, Canadore College
  - Living Fit Inside-Out
  - North Bay Chapter PEO
  - Castle Arms
  - Housing Co-op

## Conclusion

As strategies for the diversion of solid waste become more accessible to small and medium sized municipalities, the City will continue to investigate, propose, and plan for the implementation of new programs. The waste management industry continues to evolve at a rapid rate compared to most other municipal public works services and therefore a 5-year review cycle for this Strategy is considered appropriate.

This Strategy is a living document, which provides a wide-range of programs identified by staff and residents to date which warrant further examination. The programs identified will be fully investigated on the timelines noted and presented to Council in the form of Service Level Changes or Reports to Council for consideration. When the new programs are presented to Council for consideration, they will include a full communication plan made up of the communication methods identified in this Strategy.

On an annual basis, the City will continue to submit a Waste Diversion Report to Council, detailing the status of the municipal diversion programs offered, as well as an update regarding any new programs having been approved and implemented during that calendar year with reference to this Waste Diversion Strategy.

## **APPENDIX A - Goals and Strategies for the Enhancement of Waste Diversion Programs**

Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
<p><b>Increase program participation by those eligible to receive the service</b></p> <p>Reduce Divertible Material in waste stream by 5% per year (Currently at 63%, waste stream from residential curbside pickup is Divertible Material; goal for end of 2025 of 43%)</p>	Electronics Drop off Depot and Electronic Equipment Ban	<p><b><u>Electronic waste will continue to be excluded from curbside collection and banned from Merrick Landfill.</u></b></p> <p>The City and Miller Waste will continue to enforce this ban by not picking up electronic waste placed at the curb as garbage and by not accepting it for landfilling at the Merrick Landfill. Due to the ban, all electronic waste must be recycled either at the Electronics drop off located at the City's Waste Diversion Facility or at a private business offering the same service.</p>
	Grass Collection Ban	<p><b><u>Grass clippings will continue to be excluded from curbside collection.</u></b></p> <p>The City and Miller Waste will continue to enforce this ban by not picking up grass clippings placed at the curb as garbage. Leaf and Yard Waste drop-off is available at the City's Waste Diversion Facility.</p>
	Paint Exchange Program	<p><b><u>Continue operating the Paint Exchange Program</u></b></p> <p>City staff place reusable paints in good condition into a building accessible to the public. The public can take paint and stains they need free of charge. This program is already popular with residents and quantities are limited, therefore no additional outside promotion is deemed warranted.</p>
	Scrap Metal Drop Off	<p><b><u>Scrap metal public drop-off maintained</u></b></p> <p>Scrap metal, fridges/dishwashers can be dropped off at the Merrick Landfill and the City's Waste Diversion Facility for recycling.</p>
	Corrugated Cardboard Ban	<p><b><u>Corrugated cardboard will continue to be excluded from curbside waste collection and banned from Merrick Landfill.</u></b></p> <p>The City and Miller Waste will continue to enforce this ban by not picking up corrugated cardboard placed at the curb as garbage and by not accepting it for landfilling at the Merrick Landfill. Due to the ban, all corrugated cardboard must be recycled.</p>

Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
	Ban on Blue-box Recyclables	<p><b><u>NEW - Ban on Blue Box recyclables in curbside garbage and at the Merrick Landfill</u></b></p> <p>This program would start with a “soft launch” for a one year period. If blue box recyclables were visible in the waste placed at the curb, the bags/garbage cans containing the recyclables would not be picked up. An educational notice would be left at the residence detailing why the waste was not acceptable for pick-up. Bags will not be opened to verify that no recyclables are present; however there will be zero tolerance if recyclables are visible.</p> <p>After one year of banning recyclables the City would implement the requirement of transparent bags. All waste placed at the curb will need to be contained in transparent garbage bags/receptacles. Each bag will be allotted a grocery bag sized, opaque privacy bag for items that residents wish to keep isolated. Any recyclable material visible in the clear bags will not be picked up.</p>
	Leaf and Yard Waste Depot	<p><b><u>NEW - Leaf and Yard Waste curbside collection</u></b></p> <p>Environmental services staff will investigation options for curbside collection of leaf and yard waste for 3 weeks in the fall and 3 weeks in the spring as part of the curbside waste collection program.</p> <p>Curbside leaf and yard waste collection events align with the Food and Organic Waste Framework which is part of the Waste-Free Ontario Act.</p>
	Wood and Concrete Waste Diversion	<p><b><u>Mixed load fee</u></b></p> <p>The City of North Bay has introduced a mixed load fee to the waste bylaw (By-Law No. 2019-95 Being a By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 2010-108) applicable to loads which contain unsorted separable materials such as wood.</p> <p><b><u>NEW – Alternate uses for wood waste</u></b></p>



Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
		<p>Environmental Services staff will explore opportunities for partnering with businesses in need of wood or other alternate uses of wood waste.</p> <p><b><u>NEW - Wood reuse area</u></b></p> <p>Environmental Services and Landfill staff will investigate the possibility of facilitating a reuse area at the Merrick Landfill site. Any approved reusable material could be made available to residents with a focus on wood. Consideration will need to be given to staff availability, site security, hygiene, and traffic management.</p>
	Mattress Recycling Program	<p><b><u>Continue Operating Local Mattress Drop-off Event</u></b></p> <p>In 2018 and then occurring annual from 2022 - 2024 the City held a one day mattress drop-off event at the Public Works yard on Franklin St. This event allows residents to drop off used mattresses and box springs rather than transporting them to the Merrick Landfill for recycling. There is a recycling fee applied for the mattress recycling program at the landfill and the fee was applied at the in-town drop off as well. City staff will review the merits of this service to determine if it is something that should continue in to the future.</p>
	User-Pay Bag Tag Program	<p><b><u>NEW – Offer online purchase for bag tags and additional City facilities selling them.</u></b></p> <p>Environmental services staff will explore the possibility of having additional City facilities offering the purchase of bag tags including public works, waste diversion facility, and the marina. Review options for on-line sale of bag tags with finance and IS department.</p> <p><b><u>Curbside bag limit reductions</u></b></p> <p>Beginning in January of 2022 the City reduced the number of bags collected through curbside collection from three bags to two bags for residential users and from 12 bags to 10 bags for ICI users. Each allowable bag limit is 35 lbs. and 33 gallons. Residents would be able to purchase bag tags to allow up to 4 additional bags per week.</p>

Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
Expand the scope of program eligibility to more users	Blue Box Program – expansion to local businesses	<p><b><u>NEW - Local business partnership, pilot project</u></b></p> <p>City staff will investigate the possibility of providing partnership opportunities with private businesses for Curbside Blue Box collection, beginning with a pilot program in the Downtown Improvement Area.</p>
Decrease Contaminants at the recycling facility - Reduce residue rate from 6% to 5% (This will be removed from the 2026 WDS as the program is now managed by Circular Materials).		<p><b><u>Recycling contractor focusing on educating drivers and leaving behind contaminants with information for residents.</u></b></p> <p>*** No longer managed by the City of North Bay***</p> <p>In 2023 The North Bay recycling program decreased the amount of contamination in the recycling stream to a 4.5% contamination rate.</p> <p>Environmental services has worked with the recycling contractor to implement additional driver recyclables screening training including ensuring drivers leave behind any items that are not recyclable and provide information stickers to users when contaminants are found.</p> <p>In addition to working with recycling contractors, Environmental Services has increased public outreach with the 'know where to throw' campaign.</p>
Provide diversion solutions for more types of waste products	Provide diversion options for all waste types where there is an environmentally and fiscally responsible option available	<p><b><u>Continue Goods Exchange Day</u></b></p> <p>This biannual event is advertised to the public and encourages residents to place any unwanted but still usable goods curbside. Re-usable items include furniture, clothing, tools, sporting goods, toys, doors, windows, sinks, etc. This is basically a city-wide free yard sale. The City will continue to promote this biannual, well-advertised and well used event.</p> <p><b><u>Textiles will continue to be excluded from curbside waste collection and banned from Merrick Landfill.</u></b></p>

Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
		<p>In March 2020 City council approved the ban of collection and disposal of textiles at the Merrick Landfill Site. This ban encourages the public to donate textiles, such as clothing and blankets, which still have market value rather than throwing them away.</p> <p><b><u>Continue to Encourage Backyard Composting</u></b></p> <p>The City currently provides information in regards to composting best practices on City website and during local outreach events.</p> <p><b><u>NEW – rebate and education program for purchase of backyard composter units.</u></b></p> <p>The Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy was released in 2017 and committed the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to develop a Food and Organic Waste Framework to reduce the volume of food and organic waste sent to disposal. The framework has been developed and bans the disposal of food and organic waste with set timelines. The framework, however, does allow for an exemption for Northern communities based on population density, which applies to North Bay. Where the exemption does apply the policy states that Municipalities shall provide for the resource recovery of food and organic waste through means such as home composting, community composting and local event days. Municipalities shall also provide promotion and education materials to residents that support and increase participation efforts to residents of their community.</p> <p>A backyard composting rebate and education program would provide for the resource recovery of food and organic waste and would provide promotion and education materials to increase their participation efforts.</p> <p>Environmental Services staff will investigate the possibility of providing rebates for residents who purchase a backyard composting units.</p>

Goals /Objective	Program	Strategy
		<p><b><u>NEW - Development of partnerships with private recycling companies for residential waste</u></b></p> <p>Environmental Services staff will seek out partnership opportunities with private recycling companies who collect and/or market products that cannot be collected as part of the blue box program.</p> <p><b><u>NEW – Working with local environmental public interest group / creation of new waste diversion public interest group</u></b></p> <p>The City has supported local environmental interest groups such as “Clean, Green, Beautiful”, and will continue to investigate collaborations with such groups to support environmental responsibility in North Bay.</p> <p>Staff will also review the development of a new waste diversion public interest volunteer group or the expansion of an existing environmental group willing to take on new projects.</p> <p><b><u>NEW - Drywall Diversion Program</u></b></p> <p>Environmental services will examine the feasibility of segregating drywall waste to be recycled. Successful implementation of this program may result in a lower tipping fee for this material which would benefit local contractors and homeowners completing renovations.</p>
Reduce the amount of material entering the local waste stream		<p><b><u>NEW - Development of subsidy programs</u></b></p> <p>Environmental Services staff will develop subsidy programs (for which there may be outside funding available) in order to encourage the use of sustainable, reusable and zero waste products. Programs to consider will include subsidies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cloth Diapers</li> <li>• Cloth Wipes</li> <li>• no waste hygiene products</li> <li>• Reusable ‘paper towels’</li> </ul>

## **APPENDIX B – Implementation Timeline for “NEW” Items Identified in Appendix A**

Goal	Year	Strategy
(1) Increase program participation by those eligible to receive the service	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curbside bag limit reductions (Completed January 2022)</li> </ul>
	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Mattress drop-off <i>(one day in town event started in 2022 and continued annually)</i></li> </ul>
	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ban on Blue Box recyclables in curbside garbage and at the Merrick Landfill</li> </ul>
	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear Bags</li> <li>Wood reuse area</li> <li>Leaf and Yard Waste curbside collection</li> <li>Partnerships with local businesses in need of clean wood</li> </ul>
(2) Expand the scope of program eligibility to more users	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local business partnership, pilot project in DIA</li> </ul>
(3) Decrease Contaminants at the recycling facility - Reduce residue rate from 6% to 5%	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste management contractor focused on contaminants in recycling. <i>(Completed 2023 with 4.5% residue rate)</i> <i>(As of January 1, 2025, curbside Recycling is no longer managed by the City of North Bay. This will be removed from the 2026 WDS as the program is now managed by Circular Materials).</i></li> </ul>
(4) Provide diversion solutions for more types of waste products	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textile Ban implementation. (Completed)</li> </ul>
	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backyard composting rebate</li> </ul>
	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and/or enhancement of a local residential Waste Diversion public interest group. *** <i>Many local schools have developed their own environmental or waste diversion clubs after the Environmental Services Department provided Waste Diversion Outreach presentations to classes.</i></li> </ul>
	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drywall Diversion Program</li> </ul>
(5) Reduce the amount of materials entering the local waste stream	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of additional rebate programs</li> </ul>

## **APPENDIX C – Diversion Best Practices – Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Item Monitored	Monitoring Tool	Baseline (2019 Data)	5 year goal (2024 Data)	Frequency
Total Waste Generated (by type and by weight)	Landfill scale. Includes domestic, commercial and non-hazardous solid industrial waste (including sludge and demolition waste) and contaminated soil.	48,905 tonnes	10% decrease (44,014)  <i>Updates: Achieved in 2023 sending 41,167 to landfill</i>	Each load – information is populated through WasteWorks software
Diversion of recyclables in the Waste stream	Random waste audits at the Merrick landfill on residential and ICI waste.	60% (2022)	40%  <i>Updates: 52% in 2023 63% in 2024</i>	Annually
Overall Diversion Rates Achieved	The amount of measurable divertible material divided by total waste (including divertible material) <i>*** This tool will require updating for the 2026 WDS as some of the previous data that was used (Data Call) is no longer provided. As of January 1, 2025 the City no longer receives information on curbside recycling weights)***</i>	16%	25%  <i>Updates: (15% in 2024) 2024 data is not comparable to original goal as data call information no longer included, and curbside blue box collection data will not be included going forward)</i>	Quarterly
Recycling contamination rate	Contamination rate calculation <i>***As of January 1, 2025, curbside Recycling is no longer managed by the City of North Bay. This item will be removed from the 2026 WDS as the program is now managed by Circular Materials.</i>	6%	5%  <i>Update: Achieved 4.5 % in 2023</i>	Annually



Item Monitored	Monitoring Tool	Baseline (2019 Data)	5 year goal (2024 Data)	Frequency
Review/Update Waste Diversion Reporting	The Waste Diversion Strategy will undergo a comprehensive review at least once every 5 years.	Adopted in 2021	2026	5 years
	The Waste Diversion Strategy will be reviewed annual to include updated data and progress towards goals and objectives.	N/A	N/A	Annually