

# Waste Audit Summary

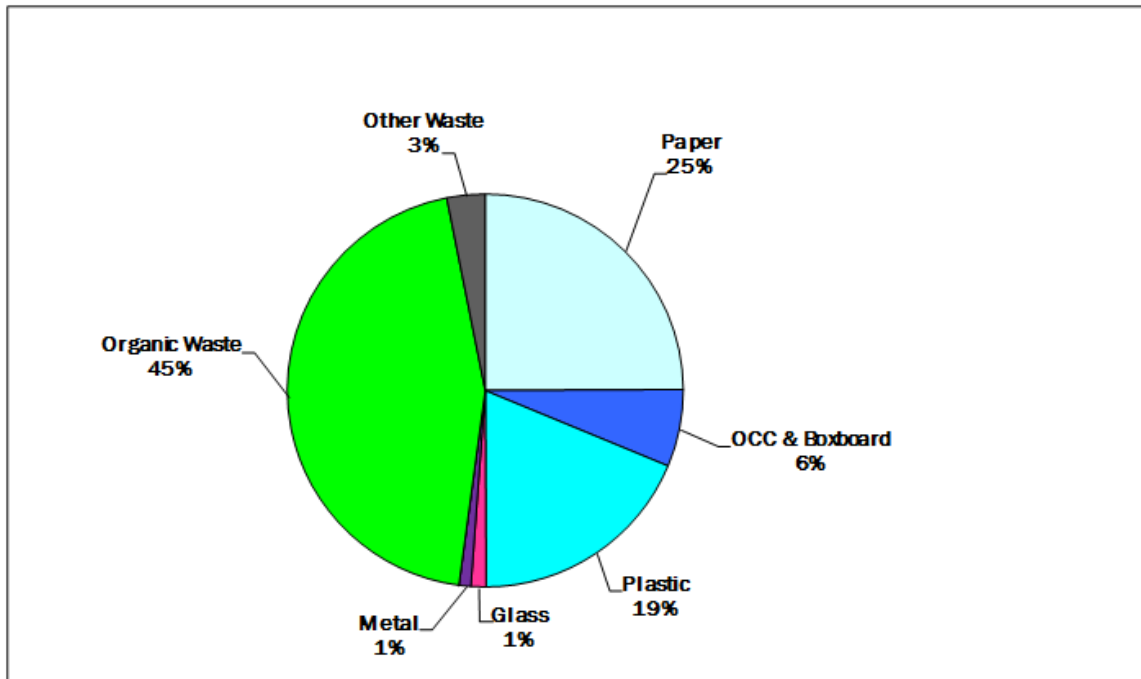
2cg Inc. was retained by Humber College to undertake a waste audit and waste reduction work plan for Humber College in Toronto, Ontario.

The goal of this waste audit was to determine waste composition, the success of current recycling programs and to identify possible improvements and additional wastes which could be recycled.

In 2013, Humber generated an estimated 1,953 tonnes of waste (disposed and recycled). Of that, approximately 976 tonnes was recycled for a diversion rate of approximately 50%.

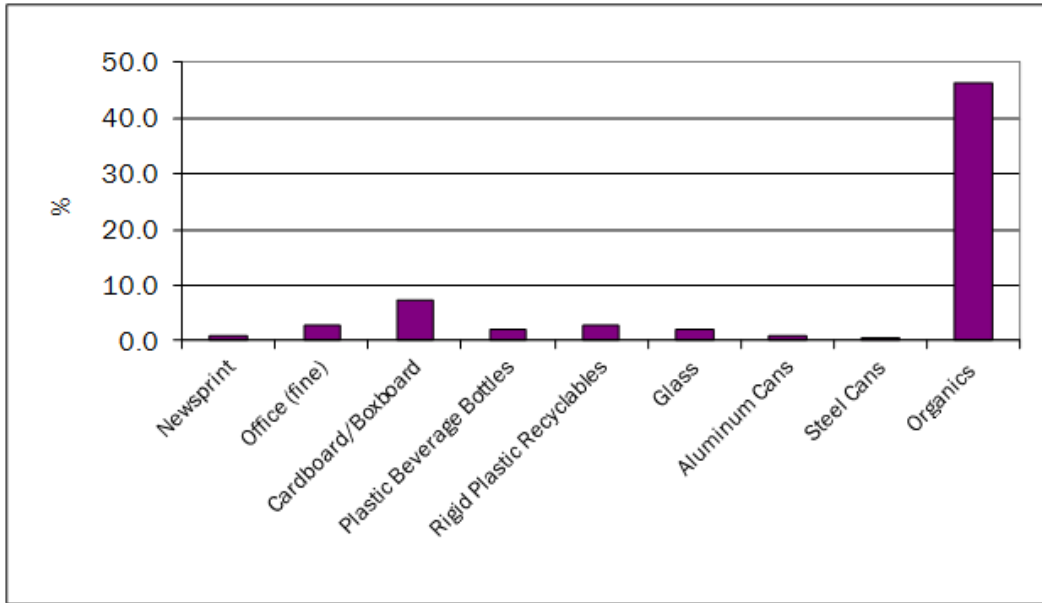
The representative sample of waste generated on 5 November, from North and Lakeshore campus, and destined for landfill was audited. The most prevalent wastes included organic wastes, paper and plastic, followed by cardboard, other waste, metal and glass.

## Waste Composition

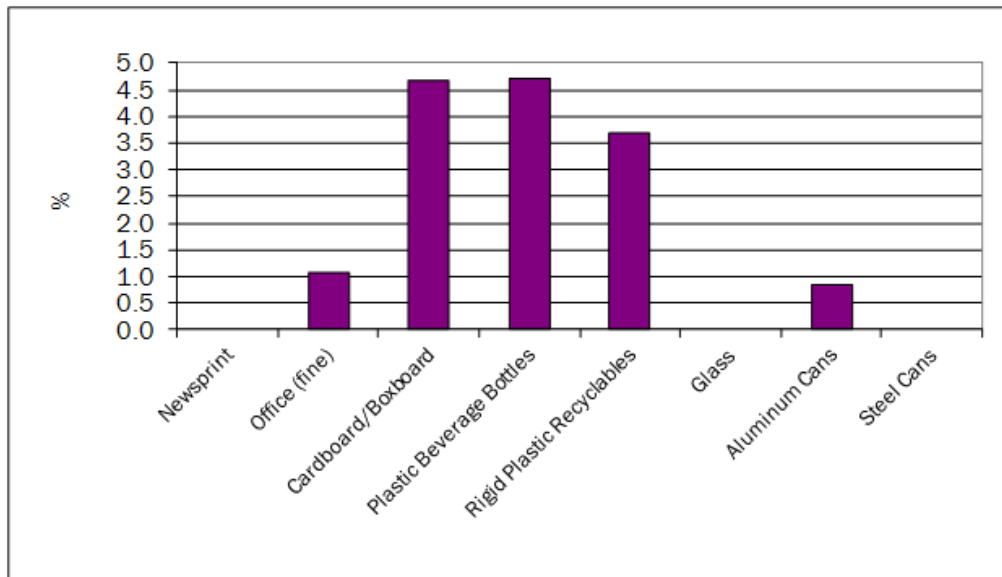


It was estimated that almost 65% of wastes audited at North Campus and 15% of wastes audited at Lakeshore campus had established recycling programs.

### Recyclables in the North Campus Waste Stream



### Recyclables in the Lakeshore Campus Waste Stream



## Waste Reduction Work Plan and Recommendations

The current waste audit reduction plan is valid until January 2015, updates represent progress made in 2013.

**Update:** In 2013 waste generation was reduced by 4% and the waste diversion rate was 50%. To facilitate continuous improvement it is **recommended** that Humber College set a goal and engage in a process to reduce waste generation by 20% and increase the waste diversion rate to 50% by 1 January 2015.

## General Initiatives

**Update:** The tracking of wastes has been improved in 2013 and Humber has held many events and updates communications information regularly to inform students and staff about waste programs.

To help develop a more accurate estimate of waste diversion it is **recommended** that the tracking of waste and recycling weights (i.e. garbage, cardboard, mixed paper, mixed containers, organics, cooking oil etc.) be improved.

In general, it is **recommended** that Humber prepare and update communications and education material annually (e.g. for Earth Week). This should include information on reduction, re-use and recycling programs, successes, missed opportunities and areas for improvement.

## Reduction Initiatives

**Update:** The amount of paper towel found in the waste stream has remained the same around 8%. There are still some food vendors using polystyrene.

One key waste that could be targeted is paper towels which make up about 8% of the waste stream. It is **recommended** that Humber consider replacing paper towel dispensers with hand dryers in washrooms or that paper towels are removed in washrooms that already have hand dryers.

It is also **recommended** that Humber investigate eliminating the use of polystyrene food containers and cutlery at all food outlets and move to compostable replacements. It is understood that some food vendors have already implemented this change.

## Re-Use Initiatives

**Update:** In 2013 Humber held a surplus sale for all extra reusable furniture.

It is **recommended** that Humber investigate forging links with community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity (building materials) and Goodwill Industries (furniture, other items) to facilitate additional re-use of wastes.

## Recycling Initiatives

**Update:** Recyclable beverage containers still make up around 5% of the waste stream. Communications and education material have been added to educate students on various waste programs. The composting program at the Lakeshore Campus has been re-implemented.

It is **recommended** that Humber College strengthen its recycling programs. Improved communications and education materials (e.g. posters etc.) will help better advertise and educate students and staff of available programs and how best to participate.

It is **recommended** that the existing composting program at the North Campus be improved. Organic bins are available at food outlets and in the cafeteria to capture post-consumer food waste. Students need to be made aware of this opportunity.

It is **recommended** that Humber consider re-implementing and expanding a composting program at the Lakeshore Campus. The City of Toronto, which collects wastes from the Lakeshore campus, has a green bin program and it may be possible to include these wastes into that program.