

# Waste Audit Summary

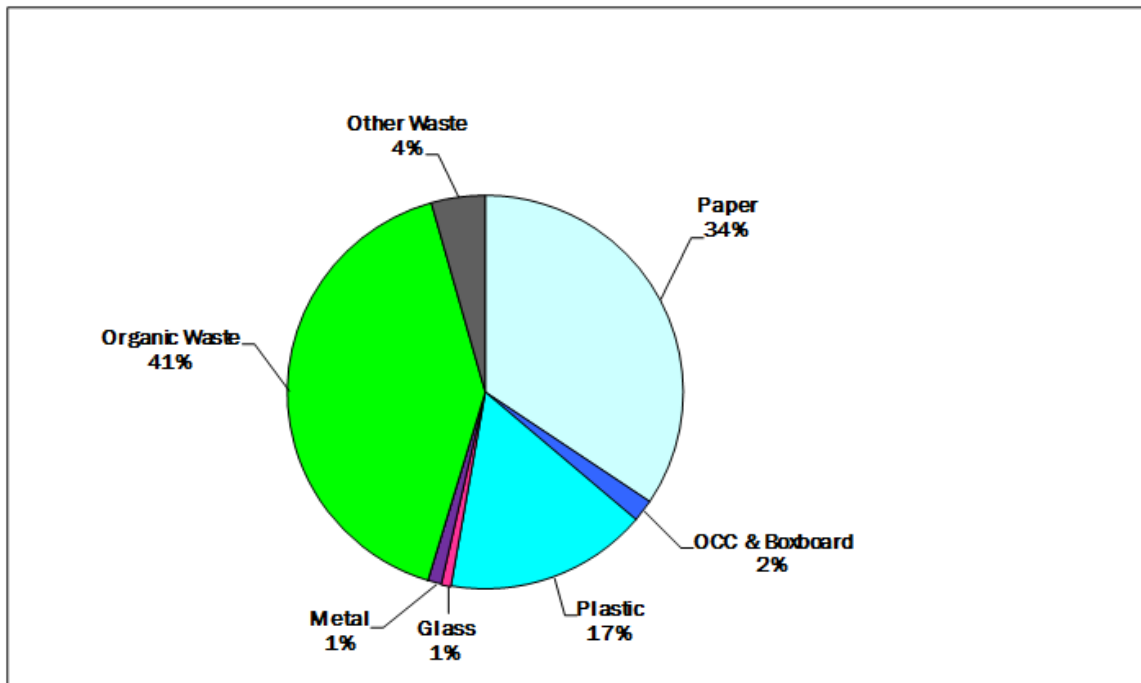
2cg Inc. was retained by Humber College to undertake a waste audit and waste reduction work plan for Humber College in Toronto, Ontario.

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 2012, Humber generated an estimated 2,029 tonnes of waste (disposed and recycled). Of that, approximately 843 tonnes was recycled for a diversion rate of approximately 42%.

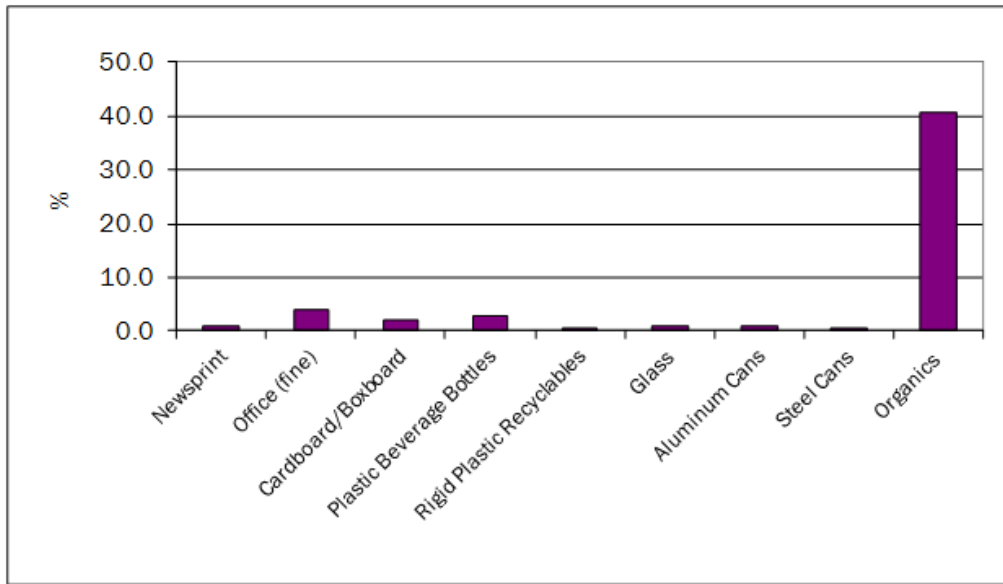
The representative sample of waste generated on 7 December, from North and Lakeshore campus, and destined for landfill was audited. The most prevalent wastes included organic wastes, paper and plastic, followed by other wastes, cardboard, metal and glass.

## Waste Composition

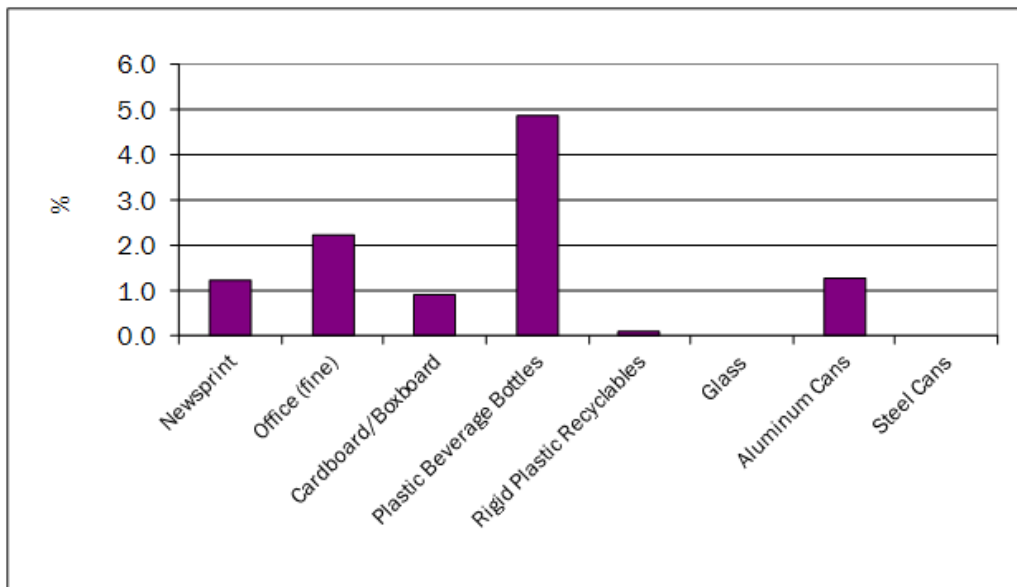


It was estimated that almost 53% of wastes audited at North Campus and 11% of wastes audited at Lakeshore campus had established recycling programs.

### Recyclables in the North Campus Waste Stream



### Recyclables in the Lakeshore Campus Waste Stream



### Waste Reduction Work Plan and Recommendations

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

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**

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**

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**

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. Additionally, waste bins need to be emptied regularly so overflow does not get placed in the recycling or organic bins, thus contaminating these diversion streams.

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.