

2017 Fall Municipal Waste Audit

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EAST HANTS
We live it!

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Introduction

The 2017 Fall Municipal Waste Audit took place during the months of October, November and early December. This report focuses on the results and notes/observations from this specific audit.

Methodology

The methodology for the 2017 Fall Municipal Waste Audit was conducted in the same manner as the previous years. The only change to note is that styrofoam and textiles were diverted out of the garbage as they are now accepted in the recycling streams. Styrofoam is collected with container recyclables and textiles are collected with the paper recyclables. These items have been accepted in the recycling stream since January 2016 and were not included in the special municipal audits until now so that residents had time to adjust to diverting these materials out of their garbage.

Results

The 2017 fall sample of bagged garbage weighed in at a total of 785.1 kg. It was found that of the 785.1 kg audited that 553.5 kg (71%) was compliant material and that 231.6 kg (29%) was non-compliant material (Figure 1). The non-compliant material was found to consist of 106 kg organics, 76.8 kg paper, 34.2 kg containers, 7kg construction & demolition material (C&D), 3.6 kg metal, 2.6 kg household hazardous waste (HHW) and 1.4 kg electronics.

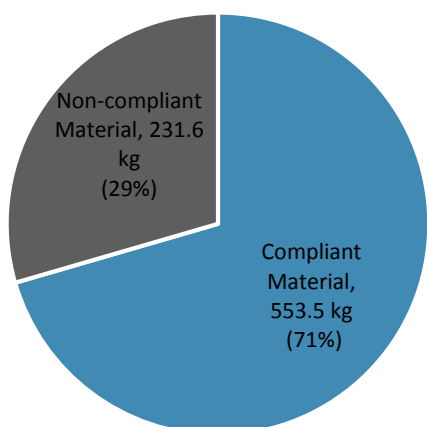


Figure 1: Compliant vs. Non-compliant Material

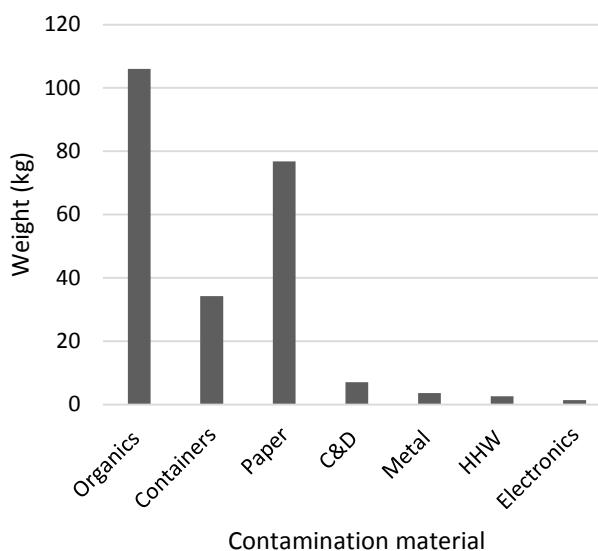


Figure 2: Total Contamination Composition

In terms of percentages, the entire sample consisted of 71% garbage, 14% organics, 10% paper, 4% containers and 1% construction & demolition material (C&D). The amount of metal, HHW and electronics weighed in at such low amounts that they did not weigh enough to be individually included in the percentage of the sample.

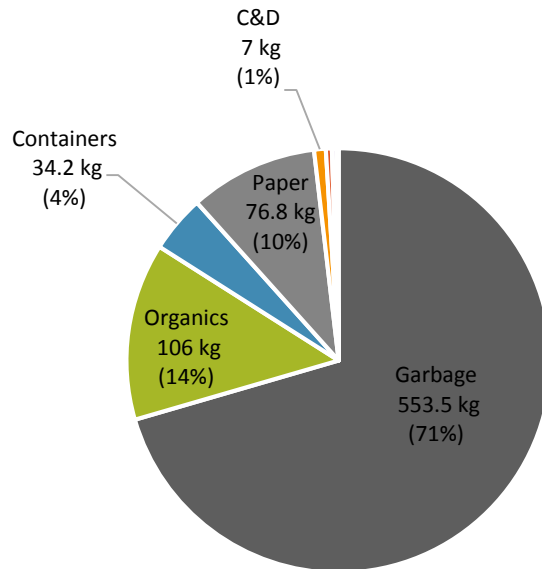


Figure 3: Total Sample Composition

Out of the nine collection days audited, it was found that Area 2 Monday had the highest percent contamination at 42.1% and that Area 1 Thursday had the lowest percent contamination at 21.5% (Figure 4). The full composition of the Area 2 Monday sample is found in Figure 5 and the full composition of the Area 1 Thursday sample is found in Figure 6.

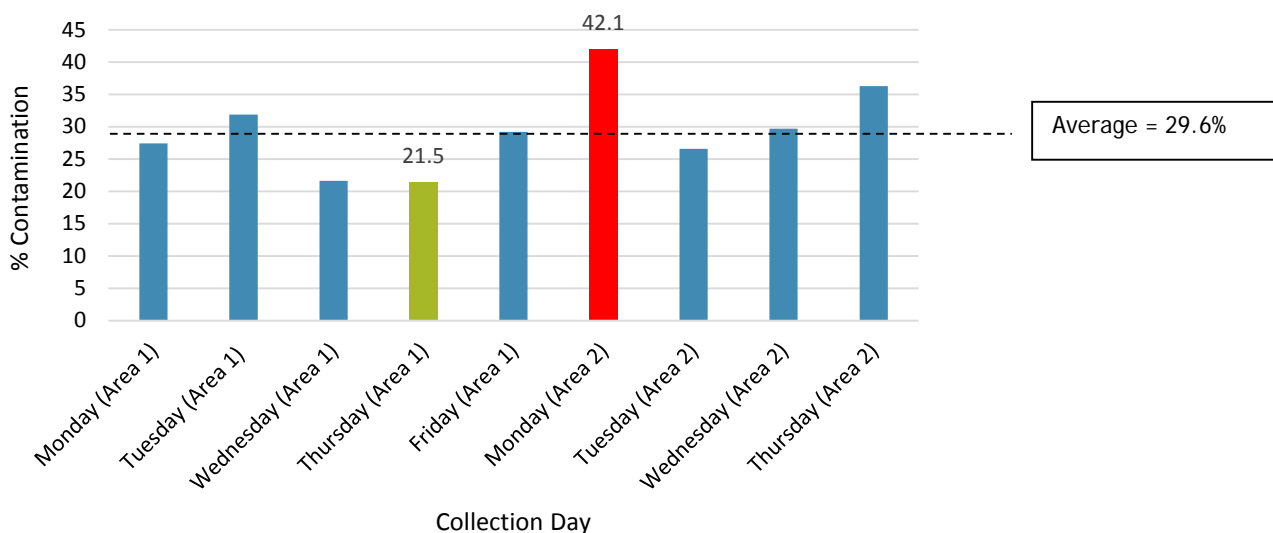


Figure 4: Percent Contamination of Garbage Samples for one Collection Cycle in East Hants

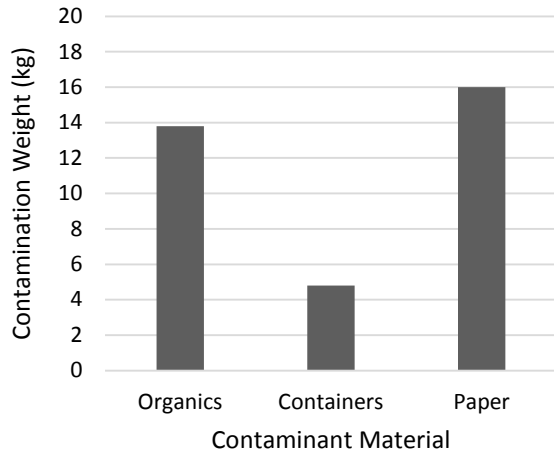
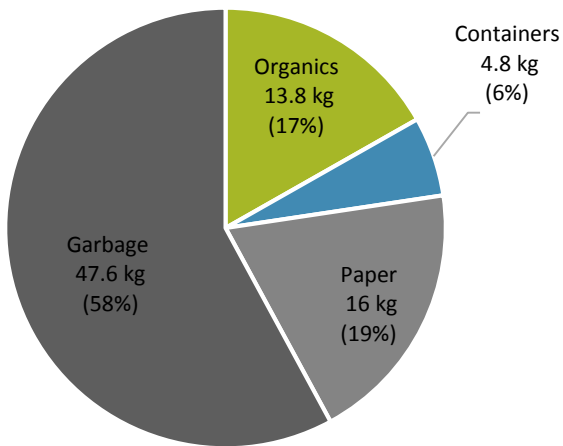


Figure 5: Area 2 Monday Data (sample size= 82.2 kg)

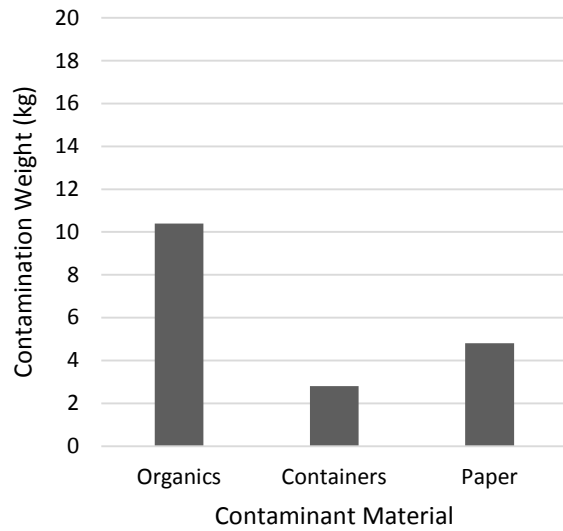
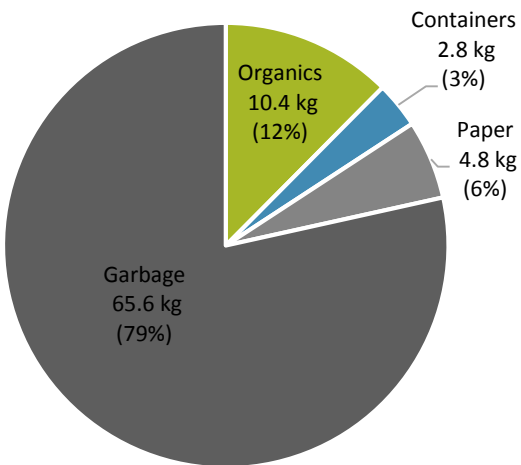


Figure 6: Area 1 Thursday Data (sample size= 83.6 kg)

Notes/Observations

- Styrofoam meat trays were a common contaminant material found in all collection day samples.
- The addition of textiles to the paper stream is believed to be the factor behind the increased weight of paper as a contamination material compared to past audits.
- Paper fast food bags we noted in all collection day samples.