

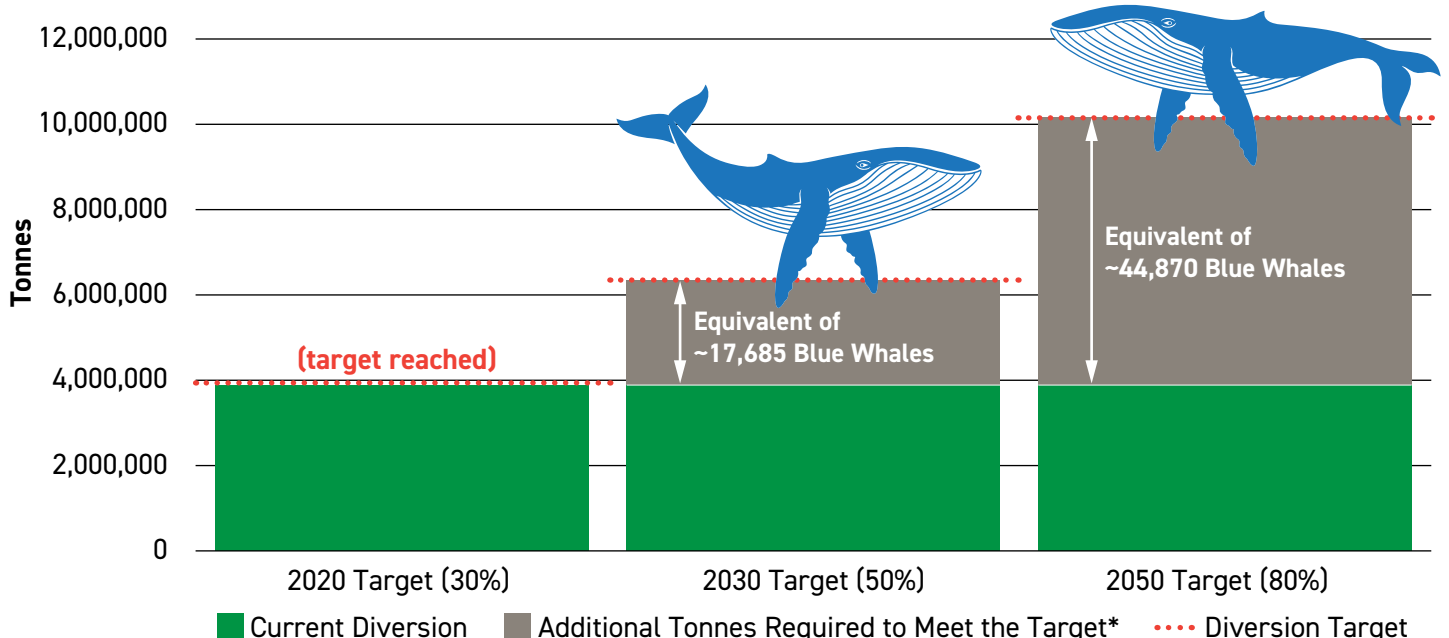


From border disputes with US Senators to burning tire piles and rising tensions related to the siting of new landfill capacity, managing Ontario’s increasing waste generation has been a chronic concern for decades.

Current estimates show that Ontario only has 10 years of remaining disposal capacity available. Pressure on limited waste disposal capacity will be exacerbated by the provincial government’s goal of building 1.5 million new homes by 2031. Ensuring sufficient waste disposal resources to accommodate this growth will be crucial. Some of the pressure on finding new disposal capacity can be alleviated by increasing waste diversion efforts and keeping resources in the economy.

The provincial government’s efforts to transition existing diversion programs to full producer responsibility and expand diversion of food and organic waste from disposal have helped to achieve the 2020 target of 30% waste diversion. However, in order to reach the provincial government’s goal of 50% diversion by 2030 and 80% diversion by 2050, significant new effort and new policies are required.

Additional tonnes necessary to meet Ontario’s diversion goals



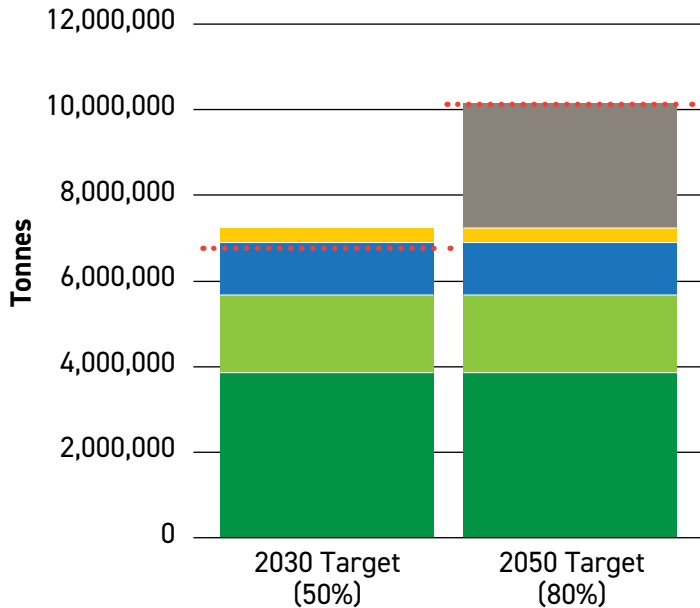
* Tonnes necessary to meet targets may be higher based on Waste to Resource Ontario disposal data.

Recommendations to increase diversion:

1. New policies to drive ICI waste diversion

Actions taken by the government to date have mainly focused on residential materials, including the Ontario Blue Box Regulation. Waste generated by the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector offers a significant opportunity to drive increased diversion. There are various policy mechanisms that could be used to achieve this from a disposal levy (i.e., similar to Quebec, Manitoba, and a number of other US States) to expanding producer responsibility requirements to a larger range of businesses (i.e., similar to Quebec and other US states). A policy that encourages ICI paper and packaging waste diversion could provide access to recycling for small businesses that have traditionally been able to receive recycling services from municipalities but are now stranded because they are not eligible for blue box services under the current Blue Box Regulation.

Potential additional ICI diversion tonnes



- Current Diversion
- Potential ICI Organic Waste Diversion
- Potential ICI Blue Box Materials
- Potential Additional EPR Designations
- Additional Tonnes Required to Meet the Target*
- ⋯ Diversion Target

* Tonnes necessary to meet targets may be higher based on Waste to Resource Ontario disposal data.

2. Enhance current EPR regulations and expand material designations

Addressing issues with current EPR regulations could help to improve outcomes and ensure a stronger foundation for new designations, including:

- i) Ensuring performance targets are measurable, and drive meaningful and continual improvement;
- ii) Ensuring designations align with other Canadian jurisdictions;
- iii) Removing unnecessary exemptions, deductions and credits;
- iv) Requiring annual third-party performance audits in all regulations to reduce enforcement costs and ensure a level playing field; and
- v) Establishing clear timelines for new designations with ample lead time to allow for proper planning.

Further, by following through with the provincial government's commitments to expand EPR designation to other streams such as small appliances, electrical tools, mattresses, carpets, clothing and other textiles, furniture, and other bulky items could provide an additional 327,700 tonnes of diversion per year.

Without these actions or other significant steps taken, Ontario will not achieve its goal of 50% diversion by 2030, and given the state of Ontario's landfill capacity, significant new disposal capacity will be needed. Most of the recommended actions are initiatives that the provincial government has previously committed to implementing in the Waste-Free Ontario Strategy and the subsequent Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

We urge the government to continue moving forward with policy efforts to advance a circular economy that will improve economic and environmental outcomes for Ontarians.

Did You Know?

A Conference Board of Canada report found that increasing Ontario's waste diversion to 60% could create more than 12,500 new jobs and generate an additional \$1.5 billion to the provincial gross domestic product.