

How much garbage are we shipping to NY?

And why?

First: all (100%) of post diversion residential garbage (household, curb side) produced in Ottawa is disposed of in Ottawa.

Second: much of the Industrial Commercial & Institutional i.e. business (ICI) is disposed of in Ottawa.

HOW MUCH:

Ottawa Garbage Production: 860,000 tonnes /year (Ottawa waste Diversion 2015 final report)

- Residential 30-40% so we will use 35% = 300,000 tonnes per year
- ICI 60-70% so we will use 65% = 560,000 tonnes year

Ottawa Garbage Diversion: 216,000 tonnes (25%) close to the 24% in the 2010 Ontario Auditor General's Report

- Residential 44% (2010) = 132,000 tonnes
- ICI 12 to <20% we will use 15% = 84,000 tonnes

Ottawa Garbage Landfill Disposal: 644,000 tonnes

- Residential 168,000 tonnes
- ICI 476,000 tonnes

HOW DID WE DISPOSE OF 644,000 TONNES:

This figure is a little harder to compute because data from private disposal and transportation facilities is often confidential.

There are 5 major landfills within the Ottawa region (4 within Ottawa and 1 just East at Moose Creek.) in 2010.

The latest data in the Ontario Inventory of large Ontario Landfills database showed that in 2009-10 these landfills took in:

822,311 tonnes

- 4 Ottawa landfills = 553,248 tonnes (including 31,900 tonnes to Carp landfill)

- 1 local landfill = 269,063 tonnes

HOW MUCH DID NOT GO TO LOCAL LANDFILLS?

Disposed of: 644,000 tonnes.

Taken at Ottawa landfills: 553,248 tonnes.

Difference: 90,752 tonnes. (If Carp landfill is closed 122,652 tonnes)

Some or all of this is part of the 269,063 tonnes disposed of at Moose Creek.

If half the difference went to Moose Creek then:

Approximately 45,000 to 60,000 tonnes of ICI waste was disposed of in non local facilities.

HOW MUCH DISPOSAL CAPACITY DO WE HAVE LEFT?

The Ontario large landfill database showed that in 2009-10 the 5 local landfills had approximately 13,000,000 tonnes of capacity remaining.

Therefore at a disposal rate of 644,000 tonnes per year there is:

20 years of disposal capacity remaining in the Ottawa region.

(This will go down as population increases but will go up as diversion increases.)

WHY DOES SOME OR ALL OF THIS GO TO NEW YORK STATE?

ICI waste disposal is controlled by a few multi-national corporations with facilities in both Canada and the U.S.A.

Where they dispose of the garbage they collect is based on financial considerations and the bottom line, and not whether local garbage is handled locally. If the garbage going to non local facilities were disposed of in the local landfills it would shorten the local capacity by about a year and a half.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE? 2 CHOICES.

In order to assure local disposal capacity beyond the current 20 years we can:

1. Develop local and provincial policies to increase waste diversion to meet the provincial target of 60%. This is particularly true for the ICI & private sector which is the largest contributor to the solid waste stream and where current diversion rates have been stuck at about 15%. As well we need to press forward with

developing alternate disposal technologies that harness the energy resource found in garbage. This will extend our current capacity well into the future.

2. Build new landfill capacity. This will perpetuate the waste of resources and THE negative impacts to the environment. New landfill capacity will be a strong disincentive to the long term goal of zero waste.