

Waste/Recycling

To date, strategies and initiatives to increase recycling have resulted in reduced waste which, in turn, has reduced greenhouse gas emissions (associated with waste management processes). Waste contributed 2% of total community greenhouse emissions cited in the 2017 Bedford Progress Report.

Going forward, strategies will focus on increasing community-wide waste reduction and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions through:

- ▶ eliminating food scraps from the waste stream;
- ▶ significantly more waste reduction in the commercial sector;
- ▶ driving community-wide awareness and behavior change around “reuse” and “less use” of materials; and
- ▶ more education, awareness building and enforcement of recycling rules for residences and businesses.



2030 OBJECTIVE

- 70% Community-wide Waste Reduction

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Community

- Single Stream Recycling:
 - Worked with municipality to pass law requiring carters to submit quarterly reports to track recycling rates
 - Worked with municipality to pass law requiring single stream recycling for residential pick-up
 - Engaged in major education and awareness raising campaign to shift behavior to single stream recycling
 - Increased amount of residential waste recycled from 16% to 40%
- Implemented Zero Waste Community Compost program, for residents to take food/organic kitchen scraps to Town Recycling Center; with 300 HH's participating; diverted 60 tons of organic waste in first 2 years
- Created and manage Take It or Leave It Shed (reuse program) that promotes reuse of household items that otherwise would end up in the waste stream. It is estimated that 95% of what is dropped off is repurposed.
- Created and manage Recyclopeda, a Bedford 2030 resource for local alternatives for hard to recycle items
- Engaged community support for Reusable Bag Fee that went into effect as of April 2019

Municipal

- Required carters to submit quarterly reports to track recycling rates
- Passed Single Stream Recycling Law
- Implemented municipal green procurement and recycling policy
- Implemented municipal yard waste drop-off and compost/mulch pick-up program for Bedford residents
- Implemented policy for Reuse/recycling construction materials

NEW STRATEGIES

Community

- Update single stream recycling as necessary with focus on plastics and contamination
- Work with municipality and carters to obtain recommitment to work with municipality to support waste policies and goals
- Work with municipality and carters to reevaluate pay as you throw program for residential and commercial customers
- Work with municipality to establish community-wide residential curbside pick-up for household organic waste
- Establish composting/curbside pick-up for restaurants
- Increase waste reduction in the commercial/business sector
- Increase waste reduction (recycling and composting) for schools
- Evolve B2020 Recyclopeda to a Bedford Zero Waste app

- Zero Waste Challenge education and behavior change campaigns (single use plastic, food, upcycling)
- Initiate campaign to reduce packaging through the supply chain
- Education around impact of items with excessive packaging waste, including shipping and delivery waste
- Consider effort to prohibit sales of goods with excessive packaging waste, including shipping and delivery waste

Municipal

- Consider establishing a single carter under contract in the Town of Bedford
- Institute a Zero Waste policy for events (public or private) on public land (build on initial progress in this area at the 2019 Tri-Festa and the extend to all events)
- Consider banning single use plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam at all Town facilities, parks and affiliated events (e.g. Tri-Festa, carnivals)
- Implement and enforce recycling requirements for commercial and multi-family buildings
- Install composting bins at Town Parks
- Explore with county and state implementing taxes on items with excessive packaging waste, including shipping and delivery waste