

Waste Recycled

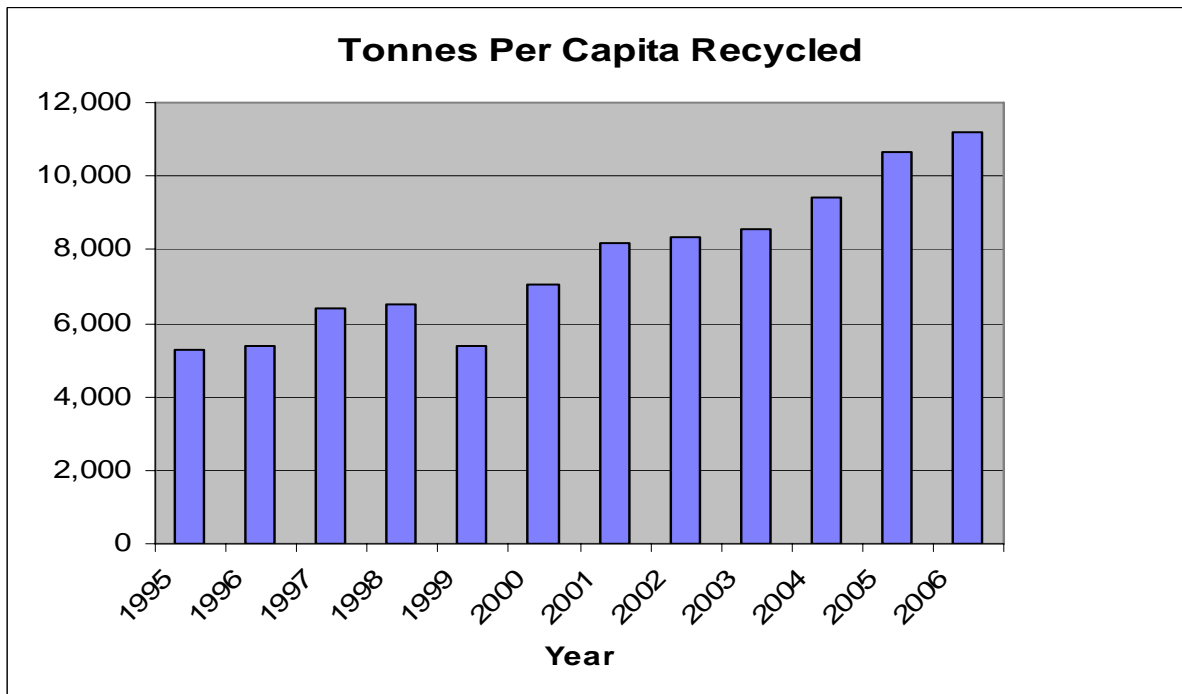


Curbside 'Blue-bag' Pickup

Removing materials from the waste stream that can be recycled and composted can significantly reduce waste. In Kelowna, tin, aluminium, glass, newsprint, cardboard, writing paper, magazines, some plastics, and phone books can all be recycled. These items can be placed in the curbside pick-up program or can be taken to any of the recycling depots. In 2007, the curbside recycling program is expanding to include all household rigid plastic containers and plastic film like grocery bags and shrink wrap. Glass, however, will only be accepted at the recycling or bottle depots. Other materials such as batteries, metals, propane tanks, yard and garden waste and wood chips can all be processed for reuse through proper segregation at the Glenmore Landfill or other commercial venues.

Status and Trends

The curbside recycling program for the Central Okanagan was initiated in the year 2000. This Blue Bag Curbside Collection service has almost double the amount of recycling collected each year versus the previous depot-only system.



Source: Regional Waste Reduction Office

Why is it important?

The benefits of reducing waste include conserving natural resources and energy. A recent study shows that using recycled materials saves between 35 and 90 per cent of the energy consumed to extract, refine and manufacture products from virgin materials. Recycling thus substantially reduces the release of pollutants and toxins associated with energy production. Reducing waste also helps extend the life of the landfill and reduces the need to site a new landfill.

What is being done?

Recycling became much easier for Central Okanagan residents starting in July 2000, with the introduction of a new curbside recycling collection program. The Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Program helps the Central Okanagan achieve its waste reduction goals by providing an easy, effective and convenient way for residents to recycle. This program has been overwhelmingly successful. A participation study conducted in 2003 determined that 94% of residents in the Central Okanagan place materials at their curb for collection on a regular basis.

Additionally, the Regional Waste Reduction Office coordinates a variety of programs aimed at reducing garbage going to the landfill, including the Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Program, the annual Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundups, and social marketing education programs like Go Natural Garden Parties, the Community Litter Clean-up, WasteWise @Work, and various other public relations and education campaigns.



Blue Bag Recycling Program