

Snowballing Our Way into a Composting Future

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Outline

- **The Snowball Technique**
- **Background of Ontario's 60% Waste Diversion Goal**
- **What Has been Done**
- **What Can be Done**
- **New Areas for Research**
- **Conclusion**

The Snowball Technique

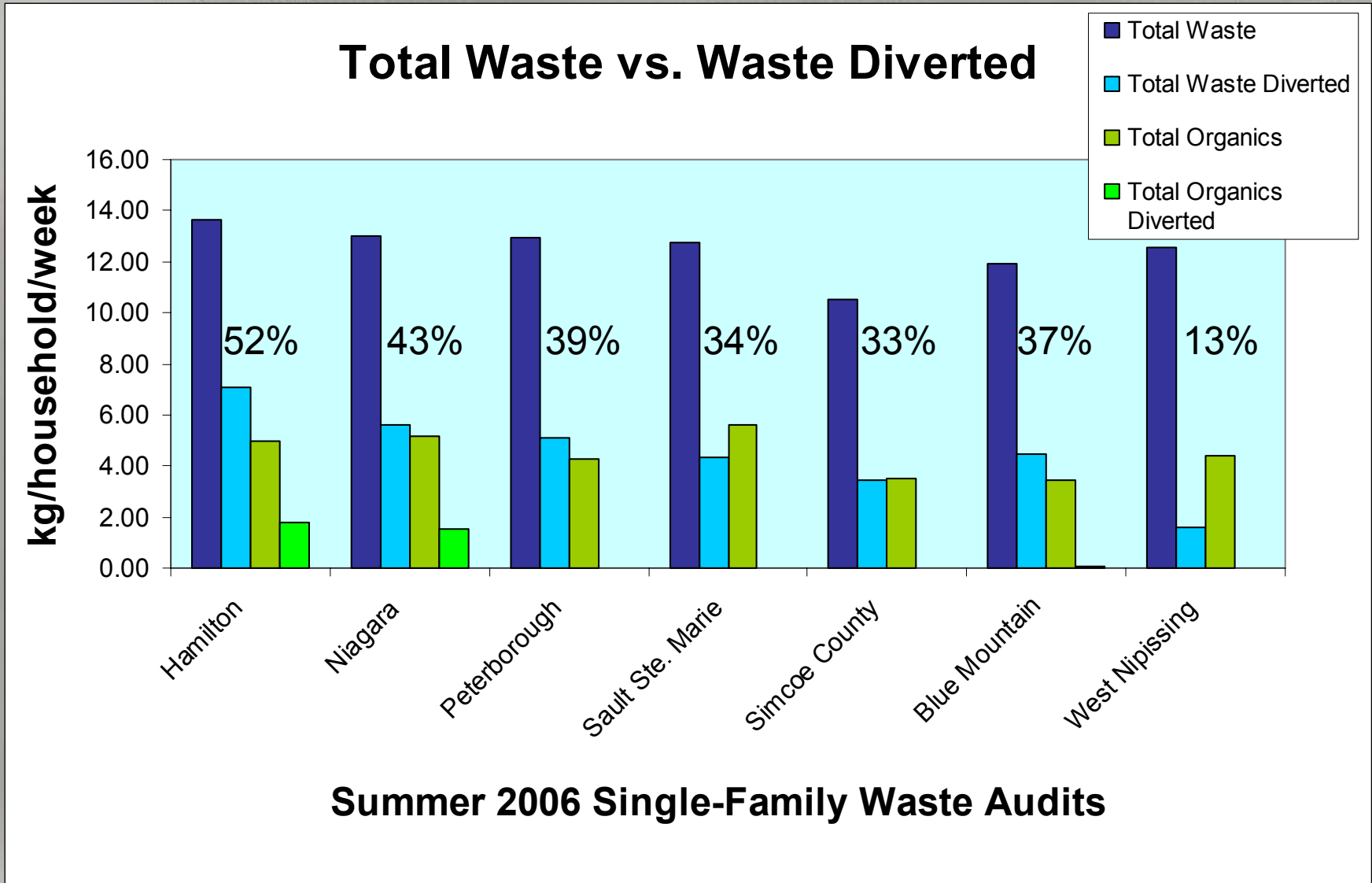


60% Diversion Goal

- MOE produced a discussion paper in 2004 stating a 60% Waste Diversion Goal for 2008
- “...the largest gains are likely to come from increased diversion of organics, both food and yard waste.”

- MOE's Discussion Paper on the 60% Diversion Goal, 2004

Summer 2006 Waste Audits



Programs Implemented Since 2004

- **LCBO Deposit Return System**
- **Stewardship Program for Household Hazardous Waste**
- **Program for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment**
- **Reduce the number of plastic bags in use to 50% by 2012**
- **But no provincial organics program!**

The Components Exist

- All we need is to snowball a myriad of policies, education initiatives, research opportunities, and municipal planning into an effective, comprehensive, provincial strategy for organics diversion
- The discussion paper had a great idea, it was just never acted upon – now is the time!

Every Place is Different

- Consider composting strategy on a case-by-case basis
- “Policy Statement on Waste Management Planning”
- 20-25 year integrated waste management plan for every municipality
- Would give complete control to municipal industries, citizens, environmental groups, educators and local government

Landfill Bans

- Ban all organics from landfills
- Tires and beverage containers are already banned from landfills
- Enforced bans will encourage fast adoption of centralized composting
- Making organics designated under the Waste Diversion Act will aid in material control



Funding

- Blue Box Program maximization funds
- Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario Inc.
- Similar to Blue Box Program



New Science

“Composting is...a well researched, well understood process among scientists and engineers. It is not, however, as well understood at the operational level.”

- MOE's Guidelines for the Use of Aerobic Compost, 2004

The Big Stink: Solving Odour Issues

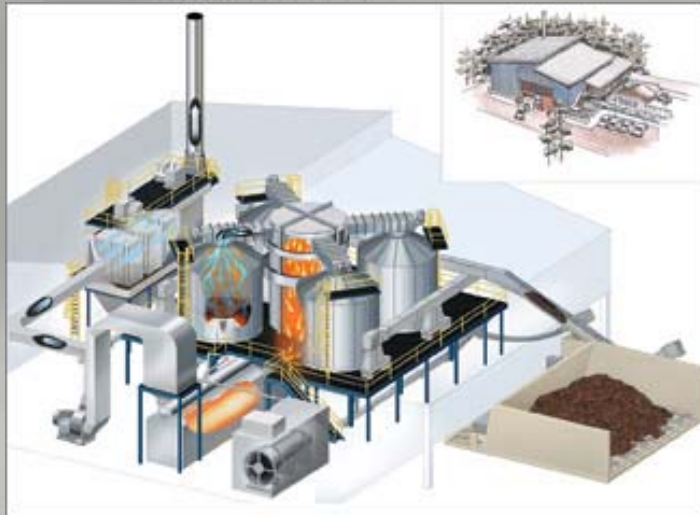
- Double-door facility construction
- Forced aeration
- Aerobic biofilters
- Odour-reducing bulking agents
- Synthetic pile covers



Source: Gore™ Cover, www.gore.com

Demo Sites & Ontario's New Regulation

- Creation of stable compost
- Biodiesel and ethanol production
- Pyrolysis & Gasification
- Bioaerosol production
- Anaerobic digestion



Source: Pristine Power Inc., www.nexterra.ca

The Snowball Effect

- Leadership and Vision is about creating new possibilities
- It's about taking what has gone before and pushing it just a little further...integrating existing ideas and policies into a new plan
- The government had a good idea...but was never able to make it work...well I say...let's make it work, it's possible!

The Snowball Effect



Thank You

- In the 1990s, Nova Scotia ran a similar program because they *had to*, their economy depends on the environment
- Ontario should not have to wait until it is absolutely necessary
- The components are there, we just need to recognize the possibilities and act