

## SANDBOX

### SUMMARY



Busch Systems waste diversion team executed a waste audit at The Sandbox Centre in Barrie, Ontario on June 13th 2019. The Sandbox Centre is a company that focuses on connecting businesses of all sizes through professional development, peer support, and opportunities for growth. The purpose of this study was to assess waste diversion of a public event and develop recommendations for improving the collection system.

Material generated from a public event held at The Sandbox was collected, labelled, and weighed (Figure 1). Data was recorded on audit sheets and inputted into The Resource Center software for analysis. The Sandbox Centre separates waste, mixed recycling, paper, and organics. However, organic material is currently being sent to landfill until proper collection can be arranged. Waste diversion rate from this event was 37%, but if organic material was properly processed it would be 70%.

The building was separated into four divisions; Work Spaces, Washrooms, Kitchen, and Boardrooms in order to understand distinct generation patterns of each space. Composition analysis of sample stations showed moderate contamination. Wooden plates, paper towel, and food waste were common contaminants found across multiple streams.

### QUICK FACTS



Business Meeting Hub



Barrie, ON



June 2019



Waste, Mixed Recycling,  
Paper & Organics

If organic material  
was properly  
diverted, diversion  
rates would increase  
by **33%**!

### KEY FINDINGS

The event generated 19.2 lbs of material; including 33% organics, 30% waste, 28% mixed recycling, and 9% paper (Figure 2). Majority of material was generated in the Work Space division (Figure 3).

By weight, the majority of material generated in Work Spaces was found to be mixed recycling (Figure 4). Washroom stations generated a high volume of paper towel in both waste and organic streams. This suggests users are unsure of where this material goes or cannot differentiate the two streams.

It was found that arranging for proper composting of organic material would increase diversion rate to 70%. Liquid contamination was observed in the paper and mixed recycling streams, degrading the quality of the collected material.



Figure 1: Waste Diversion Team collecting material



## FACTS & FIGURES

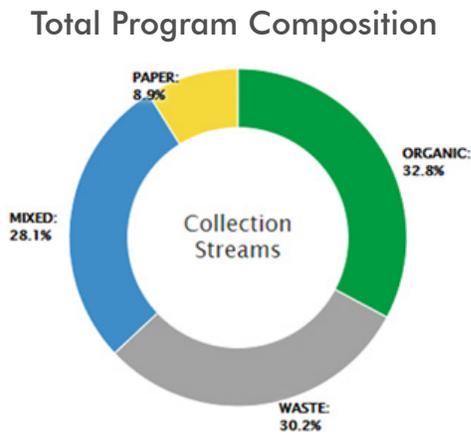


Figure 2: Graph of stream percentage over all divisions

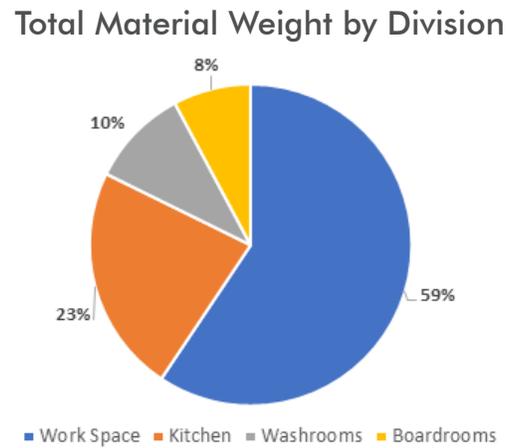


Figure 3: Graph of total material weight by division

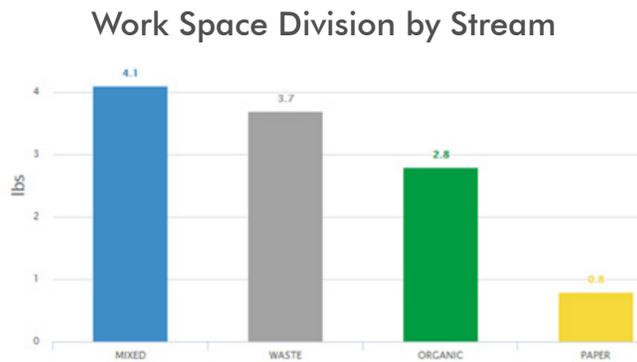


Figure 4: Graph of total stream weight in Work Space division

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement clear signage listing materials accepted in each stream at every station; including common contaminants such as disposable plates, food waste, and paper towel.
2. Arrange for proper diversion of organics with a facility that can process the material.
3. Communicate to users that containers with liquids need to be emptied prior to recycling to prevent contamination.

For the full waste audit visit: [https://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/pdfs/case-studies/Sandbox\\_Audit\\_Report\\_2019.pdf](https://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/pdfs/case-studies/Sandbox_Audit_Report_2019.pdf)

