

CURBSIDE WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAM

2021 SUMMARY

General Overview

In 2021, the CWEP team visited 7,841 households.

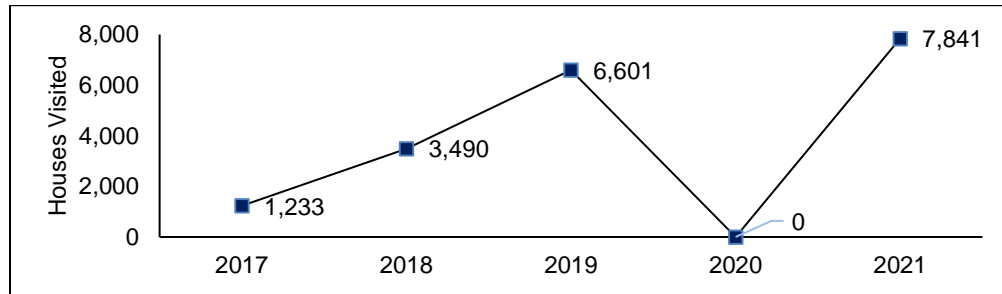


Figure 1. Total households visited
Note: Due to COVID-19, the program was cancelled for 2020.

What's at the Curb?

The following chart shows the number of Brown Garbage Carts (BGC), Green Organics Carts (GOC), and Blue Recycling Bags (BRB) set out for collection. 969 (12%) households whose waste was sorted and set out properly received a “Thank You” sticker.

Table 1. Set out data for 2021

Homes	No Set Out	#BGC	#GOC	#BRB	Thank You	Set Out Error
7,841	458 (6%)	7,464 (95%)	5,839 (74%)	6,777 (86%)	969 (12%)	497 (6%)

CONTAMINATION

Unacceptable materials (contamination) in the BRB and GOC can lead to increased program costs and lower the quality of the finished product.

While uncommon, BGC can also be contaminated. In 2021, less than 1% of BGC contained unacceptable materials such as hazardous waste or electronics, and divertible materials such as food scraps or recyclables.

Green Organics Carts

Contamination in the GOC is widespread throughout the City. In the spring of 2021, entire loads of organics (38% of June loads and 50% of July loads) were taken to the Landfill instead of the Compost Pad due to high levels of contamination.

The increased cost associated with disposing of contaminated organics will ultimately be borne by the utility rate payers of St. Albert.

The CWEP team inspected 5,839 GOC 2021. Of those inspected, 1,104 (19%) were contaminated with unacceptable material. Households with mild contamination in their GOC were given an “Oops! What Goes Where?” door hanger and the contaminant was tracked. GOC that were heavily and/or deliberately contaminated were sealed closed with a pink “Oops!” sticker and were not collected.



Photo 1. Black garbage bag



Photo 2. Plastic bags used as liners



Photo 3. General garbage



Photo 4. Household hazardous waste

Contamination by Neighbourhood

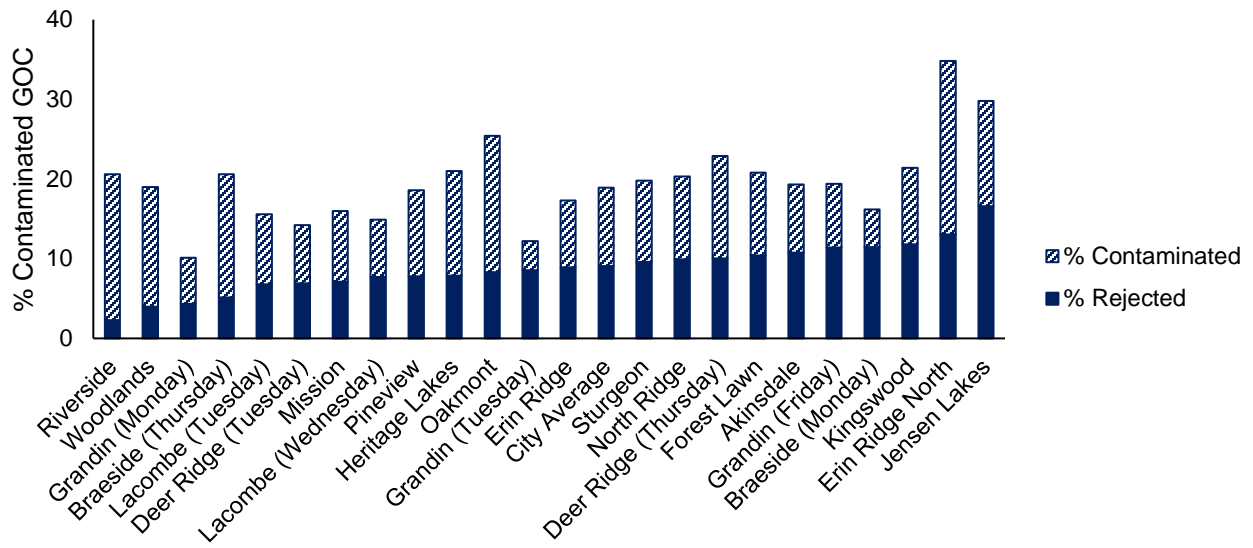


Figure 2. The % of inspected Green Organic Carts that were contaminated. The solid blue bars represent the % of inspected carts that were rejected, while the lined blue bars represent the % of inspected carts that were contaminated, but whose contamination did not warrant a rejection.

Contamination by Material

Garbage and plastic bags were the most common unacceptable materials observed in the GOC.

It is important to note that 5% of GOC were contaminated with more than one material, so one cart may be represented in multiple categories in the below chart.

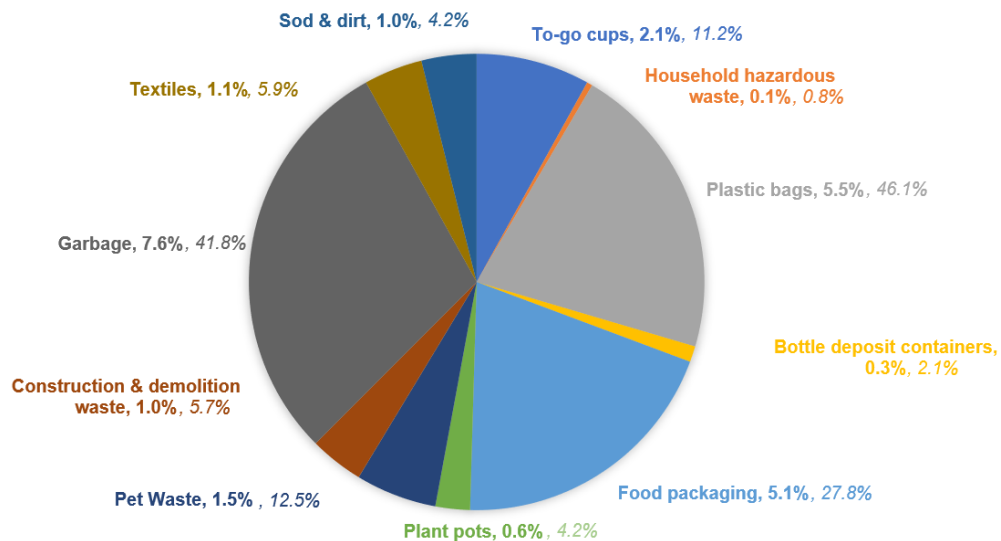


Figure 3. Contamination by material type in the Green Organic Cart. Italicized numbers represent contamination in rejected Green Organic Carts

Blue Recycling Bag

Contamination in the BRB was widespread. Bags were rejected with an orange “Oops!” sticker if:

- There were more than three categories of contaminants present
- There was glass or household hazardous waste (batteries, aerosols, motor oil, etc.) in the bag, or
- Recyclables were not empty, clean, and dry

Contamination by Neighbourhood

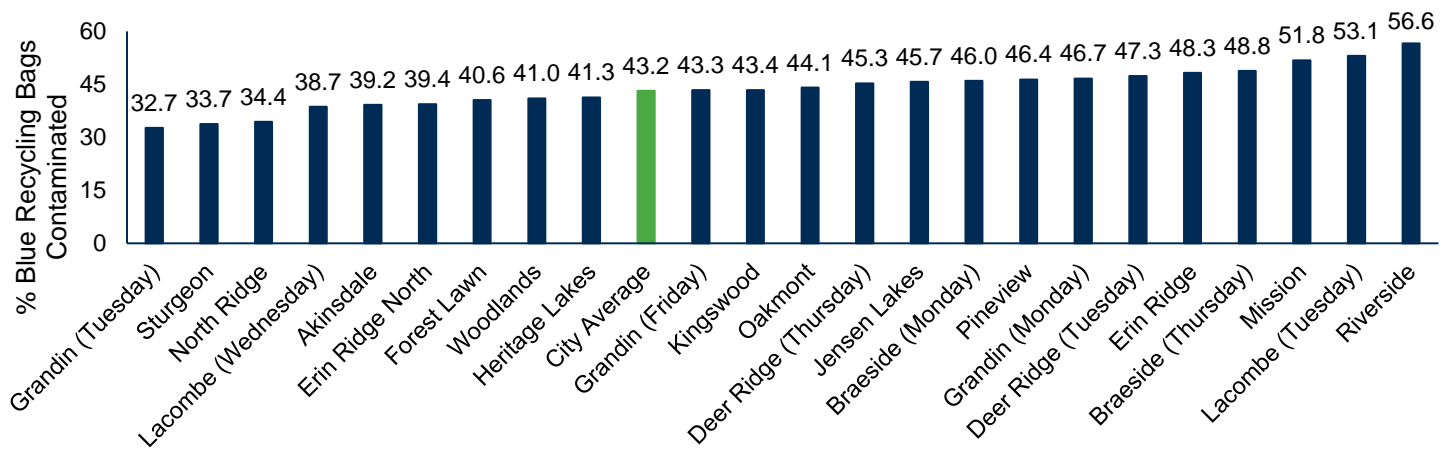


Figure 4. % of Blue Recycling Bags contaminated by neighbourhood
 Note: The CWEP team did not track Blue Recycling Bag rejections

Contamination by Material

City-wide, takeout containers (11%), plastic wrap (14%), clamshells (16%), and general garbage such as non-deposit Tetra Pak containers, glass, and food wrappers (24%) were the most common contaminants.

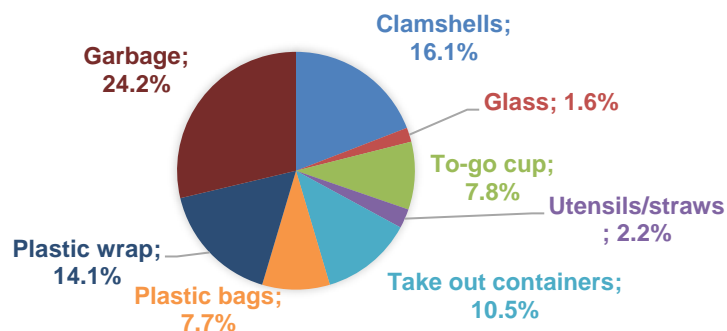


Figure 5. Contaminated by material type in the Blue Recycling Bag

Less frequently but still of note, BRB also contained face masks and nitrile gloves, pizza boxes, wax-lined cardboard ice cream cartons, Styrofoam, and bubble wrap. Additionally, about 0.5% of BRB contained hazardous materials like oil, aerosol cans, batteries, and electronics.

EXTRA GARBAGE

Extra garbage that does not fit in a BGC can be disposed of at the Mike Mitchell Recycling Depot with an attached, pre-purchased “Extra Garbage” tag. Despite this service, approximately 4% of households overfill their BGC at the curb or placed extra bags beside their carts. Overfilled carts attract pests and impact the ability to safely tip the cart into the truck.



Photo 5. Extra Garbage

CART SET OUT ERRORS

Households whose carts were not set out properly received a “Curb Your Cart” door hanger informing them to “Park It. Point It. Space It.”, and the CWEP team corrected the error.

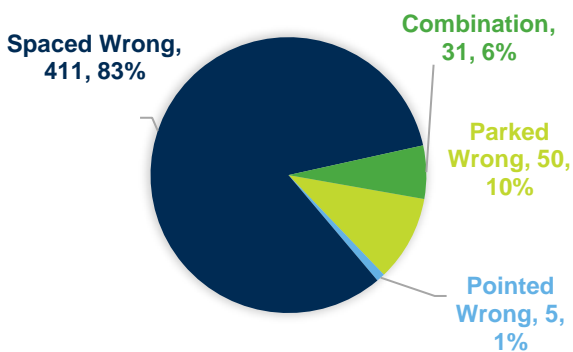


Figure 6. Cart set out errors in 2021



Photo 6. Carts spaced wrong