

ABSTRACT

A Comparison of Waste Diversion Legislation, Practices, Enforcement and Efficiency in
Select Jurisdictions Across North America and Europe

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This thesis attempts to prove that jurisdictions having stringent waste diversion laws, progressive practices and waste management officials with a positive perception of enforcement will also have more effective waste diversion results. This thesis examines waste diversion approaches taken by four jurisdictions across North America and Europe: Germany, Massachusetts, Nova Scotia and Ontario. A comparison of the jurisdictions was undertaken to evaluate the progress made concerning waste diversion rates and what actions have been implemented to improve those rates. This analysis was accompanied by an examination of waste management officials' perceptions of the waste diversion legislation and enforcement within their respective jurisdictions.

The results indicate that it is necessary to have a good legislative base and progressive waste reduction practices in order to improve waste diversion rates and reduce waste generation. Greater enforcement measures also play a large role in increasing results as it strengthens legislated waste diversion efforts.