



Wednesday » May  
16 » 2007

## McGuinty trashes firms that don't recycle

**April Lindgren**

The Ottawa Citizen

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

TORONTO - Businesses that shirk their legal obligation to reduce and divert waste will find that their days are numbered, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"There have been some businesses that are absolutely exemplary in terms of practising environmental responsibility, but there are others that are clearly laggards and we're putting them on notice that we're going to have to begin to enforce that law," Mr. McGuinty said.

"Their day will come."

The premier's warning comes as provincial Environment Department statistics, obtained last week by CanWest News Service, showing widespread non-compliance with Ontario waste-diversion laws that apply to commercial, industrial and institutional sectors.

Ontario has had regulations in place since 1994 requiring businesses and institutions over a certain size to conduct waste audits that analyse what can and can't be recycled and to draw up waste-reduction plans. The rules also state explicitly that owners of the establishments must separate waste according to material type so it can be recycled.

Only 19 of 260 businesses inspected during a 2006 blitz of the construction and demolition, hotel-motel, restaurant, large manufacturing, office building and retail sectors were in full compliance with all rules.

Conservative leader John Tory dismissed Mr. McGuinty's remarks as political posturing.

"They've got a couple of months to go until the election now and they've really done nothing on diversion or recycling to achieve their own stated target of 60 per cent" diversion by the end of this year.

The waste-diversion rate for the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors languishes at about 20 per cent, while the municipal rate is still only about 32 per cent.

© The Ottawa Citizen 2007

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)

---

Copyright © 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.