**Introduction**

In 2008, Statistics Canada reported that Canadian households produced 12.9 million tonnes of waste. Of this total, 8.5 million tonnes were sent to public and private waste disposal facilities while 4.4 million tonnes were sent for recycling or composting (Mustapha). Composting can reduce the amount of waste in landfills and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions formed from organic material decomposing in these landfills.

In 2010, the City of Ottawa instated a Green Bin program, which is part of their long-term waste strategy. The program is designed to divert organic waste away from landfills and save the City millions of dollars by reducing the need for new landfill sites (“Green Bin and leaf and yard waste”). Green Bins are meant to compost organic material such as food scraps, and yard waste, as well as other miscellaneous items such as paper coffee cups, food-soiled paper towels/napkins, and dryer lint. In 2010, the City of Ottawa instated a Green Bin program; however, according to the Ottawa Citizen, as of March 2018, only 51% of households in Ottawa participate in the Green Bin program (Dawson).

**Statement of Problem**

The Statistics Canada Ottawa/Gatineau office currently does not have Green Bins within their three buildings. With over 5000 employees, the cost of not having Green Bins and the compost ending up in Ottawa’s landfills is substantial for a city of a population of only one million. Incorporating Green Bins would set precedence for forward thinking of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and would help make Statistics Canada a leader in environmental responsibility.

**Intended Audience**

The intended audience for this report will be Deputy Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada, Marie Lemay. Marie Lemay is the intended audience as Public Services and Procurement Canada is responsible for planning and implementing structural changes to government properties, and Marie Lemay would have the power to make changes. Also, I have found out from Statistics Canada that a composting program for the entire Tunney’s Pasture complex was in the works many years ago by Public Services and Procurement Canada, but never made it to fruition.

**Proposed Solution**

The proposed solution would be to place Green Bins in the three Statistics Canada buildings. Larger Green Bins would be in areas where employees frequent the most with food, such as the two cafeterias, and smaller Green Bins would be placed in the kitchens on each of the floors. Two areas of organic waste management will be explored. One of which is diverting the waste to organic waste facilities, and the other option may be to use the waste in a community garden on the Tunney’s Pasture Complex.

**Scope**

To assess the feasibility and implications of implementing Green Bins at Statistics Canada, I will explore three areas of inquiry:

1. What are the current composting habits of Statistics Canada employees and how willing are they to participate in changes to make Statistics Canada a greener place?
2. Where would the Green Bins be best located? Where do employee find they have the most food waste?
3. Can Statistics Canada adapt a method of composting already implemented in other government agency buildings such as Bank of Canada?

**Methods**

My primary source for research will include surveying a sample of employees at Statistics Canada (via Google forms survey) about their thoughts on composting, the amount of daily food waste they produce and where they think the most useful placement within the Statistics Canada complex of Green Bins would be.  I also plan to consult other federal government employees in the Ottawa/Gatineau region, but outside of Statistics Canada, who have composting programs in their buildings.

Secondary sources may include articles about the process and effects of composting in a metropolitan city, as well as statistics about composting gathered by Statistics Canada.

**My Qualifications**

I am currently an employee of Statistics Canada, so surveying and contacting individuals for research should be attainable. I have been in Ottawa before and know several people outside of Statistics Canada who work in government that I can contact to ask about whether there is a composting program in their building and how it works. I am a person who composts, and I am familiar with how the process works.

**Conclusion**

Action is needed at Statistics Canada to implement Green Bins. By inquiring about the three areas of study as mentioned previously, I can determine the feasibility and effects of a Green Bin program at Statistics Canada. With your approval I will begin research at once.

**Works Cited**

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