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For many of us the holidays likely came and went far quicker than we'd like but 2013 is already off to a strong start. CIF staff members are working toward implementation of the 2013 CIF Ops Plan, with new initiatives, new training opportunities and a new budget. At the same time we appreciate the financial and resource challenges municipalities across Ontario continue to face and our commitment is to continue to listen and endeavour to provide services that support you and your municipality's efforts.

At the fall ORW we outlined the 2013 Operations Plan and the CIF's plans to disburse over \$14 million in new funding through an REOI (Request for Expressions of Interest) that will be released in the spring of this year as well as through other initiatives. The WDO Board approved the Plan with amendments (see details in the related article) and staff will be providing additional information on the revised budget and the pending REOI after the CIF Committee has been consulted.

We have also set the dates for two Ontario Recycler Workshops (in April and October), four outreach consultations throughout the Province and we're planning additional training courses to build on your expertise in core aspects of recycling. You will also note that the CIF website has been updated and streamlined and more changes are planned – all in an effort to make it easier for you to access the information you need.

As always, your thoughts and opinions are valued so please give me, or Alec (705-722-0225) or Carrie (519-282-1035) a call.

Mike

Mike Birett, CIF Program Director
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WDO and MIPC Approve CIF 2013 Operations Plan

On Thursday, December 13, the WDO Board of Directors approved the CIF's Operations Plan for 2013 with direction that \$3.45 million in CIF funding be redirected to buffer the impacts of the unexpected increase in the CNA/OCNA in-kind fees on the payout to municipalities in 2013. CIF staff members are in the process of amending the 2013 Operations Plan and readers will be advised when the revised plan is available.

The 2013 Operations Plan reflects the objectives established in the original [Strategic Plan for the CIF](#) as well as additional directives from MIPC about funding allocations to support program standardization, rationalization and cost containment. The 2013 plan also considers priorities identified by stakeholders during the AMO spring 2012 consultation process. It also sets out a program to develop a Centre of Excellence to leverage the expansive body of knowledge developed through the over 450 projects under the management of the CIF.

With this plan, MIPC confirms its decision to continue the work of the CIF for another three years, with allocation of funds to be completed by the end of 2015. For 2013, the plan includes \$4.62 million in new funding or approximately 5% of the steward obligation to municipalities. MIPC has also accepted CIF's recommendations for the disbursement of the \$10 million holdback from 2012.

2013 Priorities

CIF priorities for 2013 have been informed in discussion with diverse stakeholders during the AMO spring 2012 consultation and the remaining months of the year, in conjunction with MIPC and through input by staff. Funding for 2013 is as follows:

- voluntary initiatives consistent with the findings of the [2012 MIPC infrastructure study](#)
- funding for cost savings-related projects
- support for blue box harmonization with primary research and demonstration projects
- funding to increase curbside capacity and support municipal P&E efforts
- development of the Centre of Excellence.

2013 CIF funding priorities:

- Blue Box program harmonization
- Focus on problematic materials
- System rationalization with interested municipalities
- Support for cost savings initiatives
- Improved training
- Provision of additional tools and resources
- Improved linkages between datacall requirements & CIF activities

How to apply for funding

The CIF is in the process of finalizing Action Plans, which will clearly explain the planned expenditure of funds and the process to apply for funding. As in the past three years, the CIF intends to release these funds through a spring REOI process. With \$14 million in existing requests for funding, we fully expect that the fund will be completely subscribed. If you have an existing application that meets the current direction, we ask that you revisit it and apply updates as necessary.

We also continue to seek your input on allocation of funds. Please contact Mike Birett at mbirett@wdo.ca to discuss your suggestions.

Energy Efficiency Installations at Guelph MRF: CIF Project 287

In the [July 2010 Connections](#), we reported on an energy savings assessment that had just been completed at the Guelph MRF and on the recommendations to reduce energy consumption at this facility. With that report as a foundation and with the expert assistance of Rose Technology Inc., City of Guelph staff have developed and implemented a comprehensive program for energy upgrades at the MRF, with an installation and commissioning project that wrapped up in early 2012.

The CIF provided \$118,399 toward the overall project cost of \$310,000. The new energy efficient measures that have been installed focus on power factor correction, lighting retrofits and a new building automation system, with relatively simple measures that include for example:

- replacing high pressure sodium lighting throughout the MRF with high output fluorescent lighting to save energy and increase illumination
- replacing occupancy sensor lighting controls throughout the MRF
- reviewing/updating documentation
- installing system automation controls to manage and setback HVAC systems to adjust for times when the facility is not occupied

And...the results are impressive. According to Catherine McCausland, Operations Manager at the MRF, "Out of the gate we have seen savings in fuel, electricity and other inputs while demand has remained absolutely constant. With this we're looking at substantial cost savings in the range of \$100,000 per year."

View: [Guelph Energy Services Commissioning Report](#)

Adding Capacity in Durham Region (CIF Project 189)

The Region of Durham is on its way to achieving the 70% target set in 2008 in part, due to the recent initiative to increase capacity drawing on CIF assistance through the [Container Purchasing Program](#).

In a 2009 survey of 10,980 households, Durham staff recognized that most residents needed more than 1 box and did not have a second. They took advantage of the program, which at the time, was offering 22 gallon blue boxes at \$4.55 per box through Orbis/Norseman (pre delivery costs – boxes are currently available at \$5.06/unit). The CIF provided \$607,392 to support 47% of the purchase of 190,000 boxes at the discount price.

The Region provided further support for the program with a strong P&E campaign that featured full colour advertising for local newspapers and magazines, billboards, GO Transit, cable TV and local radio, theatre advertising, social media and a public relations campaign.

According to Peter Veiga, Waste Management Supervisor with the Region of Durham, "This was a great project that continues to pay off. We collected more containers in the new boxes and residents learned to set out the boxes only when they were full – in all – a promising result to build on."

Next up for this project: more P&E to reinforce new behaviours and ensure that recyclables do not go to waste. The Region also hopes to open collection to PET thermoforms and #3 to #7 plastics. For more information please visit the [Region of Durham's website](#).

View the [Project Report](#)

More Materials, More Containers and New P&E Yield Increased Recovery in the Town of Aylmer (CIF Project 397)

The Town of Aylmer is one of several municipalities that have recently made fundamental changes to their recycling programs, with initiatives to boost recovery, increase participation rates and decrease program costs. These programs demonstrate the impact of regional co-operation for processing and other activities. For Aylmer, this project has already resulted in a 56% increase in recovery in just a few short months.

By signing on to send its materials to the new London Regional MRF, which opened its doors in October 2012, the Town was able to expand the range of recyclables it accepts to include more fibres (cardboard and boxboard) as well as a several additional container types. The [CIF project container purchase program](#), enabled cost-effective purchases of additional 22 gallon blue boxes for single-family residents, providing sufficient capacity to ensure that materials set out could be captured.

The next step was to add P&E, which the city developed and executed as a comprehensive campaign at a cost of only \$1 per household (i.e. the best practice cost). Working with other municipalities that had recently signed on to the London MRF program, the Town was able to cost effectively and co-operatively develop new P&E materials to cover the material expansion, clearly explaining program changes and encouraging further commitment to recycling.

To develop the P&E, the partners formed a working group led by CIF staff working out of the City of London. City staff provided valuable assistance to ensure consistent messaging, designing and printing a discount bulk order and assisting with widespread distribution to all municipal clients.

“Working together with all the campaign partners, we’ve already experienced a huge increase in recycling,” reports Aylmer’s Director of Operations, Rod Tapp. “In addition to working with the City of London, we’ve recently implemented aspects of our new Waste Recycling Strategy by increasing recycling collection frequency and reducing garbage bag limits. With all this activity, we’re looking forward to continued progress in the years to come.”

For more information or to discuss how you might roll out a similar project in your municipality, contact [Carrie Nash](#).

View: [Project Report](#)

For more information about the London MRF: [October 14 press release](#) and [London Community News article](#)

Bigger Blower Pipe on MRF Container Line Improved Quality, Savings and Productivity Metrics (CIF Project 656.2)

Everyone knows the more aluminum cans captured on the MRF container line, the better the processing economics. It’s simple math. But when you’ve got an aluminum blower that won’t blow for one hour out of seven, your MRF economics get “stuffed up,” so to speak.

At the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) two-stream MRF, operators calculated that with the existing, undersized, underpowered aluminum blower, they were losing revenue, losing time and

risking employees' safety simply because the blower pipe regularly jammed up. The five horsepower (h.p.), 12 inch diameter blower failed on average four times each operating shift, which negatively affected shift productivity.

The OVWRC's container line ends with an eddy current belt that drops aluminum cans into the blower pipe which, in turn, directs the material into a storage bunker. With each blockage, operators had to shut down the container line for 15 minutes at a time to clear the pipe. Employees had to reach into the open pipe to manually peel apart aluminum cans blockages.

Armed with CIF funding of just over \$26,000 (44%) of a \$60,000 upgrade (Project 656.2), the OVWRC set out to replace the old blower with a new 10 h.p. model and a 24" diameter pipe.

The immediate results blew apart the previous operating metrics.

- The processing capacity of the container line increased to 1.5 MT per hour, up from 1.3 MT per hour, an increase of 15% over the five-month period from March to July 2012.
- Labour costs savings were close to \$16,600 in the first seven months and are expected to reach nearly \$30,000 annually. Pay back is estimated at less than two years.
- The quality of the aluminum bale has improved. OVWRC received information on bale audits from their customer on two occasions recording a quality score of 100% each time.
- Bale contamination has dropped because of a new conveyor belt positioned at the end of the eddy current belt. It transfers the aluminum to the blower pipe, improving the flow of materials and obstructing the movement of contaminants into the bunker. A "drop out" chute on the new pipe also helps to obstruct the flow of contaminants into the aluminum bales.
- The bigger blower pipe has increased the flow of materials and eliminated the constant blockages meaning that employees no longer have to reach into the pipe ports to peel apart jams; plus, because there are no blockages to deal with, housekeeping chores to clean up blockage debris have diminished.

An added bonus is that even though the newer equipment is more powerful, the unit operates at a lower decibel level, a reduction from 83.2 to 80.2 decibels, resulting in less noise pollution.

View the [full report](#) for details or contact OVWRC Diversion Supervisor, Dave Bromley at 613-732-9285, ext. 222 for additional information.

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Multi-Res Superintendent & Manager Workshop Grants to Wrap-up; Applications Welcome Until March 31 (CIF Project 434)

At the November 2012 Ontario Recycler Workshop, Renée Dello (City of Toronto) presented results of the City's Superintendent and Property Manager Workshop that brought together about 100 people over two workshop sessions to learn more about recycling and how to do it better in their buildings. With this program, the City has developed a base for ongoing outreach with building management to continue to penetrate the elusive multi-res tonnes.

The CIF contributed to this program through project 434, which offers up to \$5,500 funding for municipalities to implement similar targeted workshops. We encourage municipalities to take advantage of this program before the program closes on March 31, 2013. For more information contact [Carrie Nash](#).

View: [City of Toronto report](#)

Introducing the Municipal Blue Box Training Program

The 2013 CIF Operations Plan commits \$300,000 to developing and delivering specialist training courses for municipal staff. The courses are intended to draw together and expand on the expertise that resides within the Ontario recycling community.

On November 21, the CIF delivered its first session in this new training series to a sold-out audience. The new Contracts Management Course was designed to be delivered over one full day of training with a series of follow up telecons in response to feedback from past course attendees. A dedicated group is currently developing the 2013 curriculum and schedule and expects to have a draft plan by the end this month.

The new course was very well received, providing up to date, practical information that municipal staff need to be able to effectively manage contracts for waste and recycling programs. Course participants are applying their learnings by developing a contract management plan for their municipality to help improve their contract oversight capabilities.

Additional training opportunities will be made available in 2013 with information available at our new [training webpage](#). We are currently seeking municipal input into additional subject areas that would be of the greatest benefit. Please contact Carrie Nash at carrienash@wdo.ca to discuss your suggestions.

CNA/OCNA Funding Update

As most readers will know, the Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA) and the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) provide an in-kind contribution to Ontario blue box recycling in the form of newspaper advertising lineage. For 2013, the CNA/OCNA contribution has risen significantly to \$6,140,409, responding to increased costs to process newspaper and a reconfiguration of the activity based funding model. This increase will affect cash disbursements to municipal programs and will thus be partially offset by the transfer of CIF funds (\$3.45 million) to the municipal cash payout for 2013.

For more information, contact [Alec Scott](#).

- View: [2013 Municipal Blue Box Funding Distribution](#)
- View: [View the November 9 "Notice for WDO Website"](#)

CIF Container Purchase Program

If your program plans to increase capacity, we encourage you to take advantage of the CIF's bulk purchase program for 22 gallon blue boxes through Orbis/Norseman and 96 gallon carts with RFID tags provided by Rehrig Pacific.

The blue box program is open until May 18; the cart program is available until March 20, both 2013. You can't beat the prices and simplicity of this order process – be sure to take advantage of this program while it's available. Find out more: [CIF Container Program](#).

Time to Change Your Bookmark for the Contracts Database Tool

The CIF is updating the Contracts Database tool to provide new resources in different formats that will respond to emerging needs as expressed by Ontario recyclers. As a temporary measure, we're moving the existing database and model tenders to a new link that sits directly on the WDO website. Are you negotiating contracts or do you think you will be soon? Have you already used this resource and need to come back for more? Find the contracts database resources at: <http://www.wdo.ca/cif/resources/database.html>.

ORW Update: Fall ORW Focused on CIF's 2013 Directions and Key Projects *Mark Your Calendars for April 11 and October 10 ORWs in 2013*

The Ontario Recycler Workshop (ORW) continues to put a personal face on our mandate to support and communicate work to improve the effectiveness and cost efficiency of residential Blue Box recycling in Ontario.

The November workshop in Barrie brought together more than 16 speakers from the municipal and service provider sectors to showcase initiatives co-funded by the CIF. Topics included revisions to the Blue Box Funding Allocation Model; innovative municipal initiatives to improve both curbside and multi-residential recycling recovery; findings in 2012 waste composition audits; new technology for managing polystyrene packaging; and the latest ideas for managing problem materials.

More than 120 municipal representatives and others involved with Blue Box recycling filled the workshop room or joined through the online webcast.

The line-up kicked off with a briefing by CIF Director Mike Birett on our new mandate and direction to allocate funds based on the merits of regionalization projects, as well as MIPC's directive to develop and operate a CIF Centre of Excellence

Speaking on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), Director of Communications Perry Blocher encouraged people to participate in the WDO's December stakeholder engagement forum, reviewed WDO highlights from the past year and alerted people to watch for changes to the WDO website.

Alec Scott from MIPC spoke to participants about the learnings from the regional outreach undertaken by CIF, MIPC and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to understand municipal Blue Box concerns and interests going into 2013. Scott also described the changes to the Blue Box Funding Allocation Model, noting that the weights have changed to a formula of 50% for net costs, 35% for recovered tonnes and 15% for best practices compared to the previous formula of 45% for performance, 30% for net costs and 25% for best practices based on feedback received from session participants.

Other presenter topics ranged from how to improve blue box capture rates curbside; boosting capture rates in the multi-family residential sector; managing problem materials in the recovery chain; and findings in the latest waste composition audits.

The ORW presentation slides as well as an archive of the entire webcast proceedings are available on the [ORW page](#) of the CIF website.

The CIF has set the dates for both the spring and fall ORWs, so mark your calendars now: Thursday, April 11 and Thursday, October 10 respectively. If there is a topic or a theme you would like the CIF to

explore at one of these upcoming workshops, we invite you to send them to Mike Birett at mbirett@wdo.ca or call 905-936-5661.