

Issue 18, **March 2013**

- 2013 Request for Expressions of Interest Invites Applications for Project Support
- 2013 Blue Box Spring Consultation – Keeping Us in the Loop
- Maximizing the Value of CIF Project Work through Round Table Programs
- Status Update on Older Projects
- Barrie Reports Positive Results on Multi-residential (MR) Project – Tonnage Up 20% (CIF #286)
- Increasing Norfolk County's Diversion with "Simple Sort" (CIF #377)
- Contract Management Course – past and upcoming
- ORW Comes to Kingston, Ontario for Spring 2013
- Reminder Multi-Res Superintendent & Manager Workshop Applications Welcome Until March 31 (CIF #434)
- Order Recycling Carts Through CIF Container Program Until May 31

With spring just around the corner, we are gearing up at CIF for a great second quarter implementing the initiatives municipalities and stakeholders collectively developed under the 2013 CIF Operations Plan.

Coming up soon is the kick-off of our second annual joint AMO/CIF outreach sessions. The sessions are being held in five communities between March 27 and May 27. We invite you to come out to the event closest to you to share your thoughts and insights into Blue Box program operational issues and policy matters. Your comments will help drive the 2014 CIF budget and inform AMO's position on issues relating to payout and funding considerations. These sessions will give Alec and me an opportunity to bring you up to speed on the changes relating to the Blue Box program over the past year and the outlook for the future. Program details and registration are featured in the story below.

Wheels are also in motion for the spring Ontario Recycler Workshop, which is taking place on April 11 in Kingston, Ontario. We have an excellent line-up of speakers and interesting topics that we hope will be of value to you. It's all taking place at Kingston's waterfront Holiday Inn. The CIF will again be offering its new Contracts Management Course for municipal staff. The course is intended to show you a practical, 'no-nonsense' approach to managing contracts within the time and resource constraints we all know municipal staff face on a daily basis. Feedback from attendees at the pilot course delivered last fall suggests it's worth attending and it can be counted against your required training under the Datacall Best Practice questions. The course is planned for Wednesday, April 10, in Kingston, the day before the spring ORW. Be sure to register early, as space is limited and priority will be given to those who we couldn't accommodate under pilot.

By way of reminder, the CIF has launched the 2013 Request for Expressions of Interest. We invite your applications for funding to complete projects that respond to the priorities identified in the REOI. Up to \$12 million in funding is available for projects in 2013. Many municipalities have already contacted us to discuss project ideas and consider how they might work within the context of the REOI. If you're not sure if your idea fits the requirements of the REOI, don't hesitate to give one of the CIF staff a call.

Several first time applicants have approached staff to get a sense of the level of detail required for a successful application. In response, we're not looking for fancy or pretty. We're looking for bright ideas that save money and improve the system. CIF staff will work with you after the REOI closes to flesh out your concept before it's evaluated which is why it usually takes us over a year to complete the review and allocation of funds. My advice to 'first-comers' is always to focus on the potential cost savings and budget. Remember, submissions are due on April 30. You can find out more about this opportunity on the CIF website.

We know that for many readers, completing the Datacall, enjoying March break and responding to other work priorities are uppermost in your thoughts. Yet we hope you will take a few minutes to read this edition of Connections to learn about the issues and opportunities that affect you and your community Blue Box program. I also invite you to revisit the CIF website where you will find a wide range of new information that reflects the many initiatives underway and in planning.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions,

Mike

Mike Birett, CIF Program Director
mbirett@wdo.ca or 905-936-5661

2013 Request for Expressions of Interest Invites Applications for Project Support

On February 28, the CIF released the 2013 REOI seeking project applications to address priorities detailed in the amended 2013 CIF Operations Plan and to solicit your thoughts on future direction and development of the Centre of Excellence. Project funding is available in five key 'buckets':

Projects related to the Blue Box Optimization study	\$3 million
Projects achieving cost savings (new applications)	\$3 million
Blue box harmonization	\$1.55 million
Increasing curbside collection capacity	\$300,000
Promotion and education	\$200,000

As always, applications are made through the streamlined REOI forms. Be sure to contact a CIF member as soon as possible to discuss your project ideas and keep in mind two key dates:

1. Enquiry deadline: April 15 at 4pm
2. Submission deadline: April 30 at 4pm

Project awards will be made in September 2013. All information about the REOI is available on the [REOI webpage](#).

2013 Blue Box Spring Consultation – Keeping Us in the Loop

Municipal reps have told us that you need information on the status of programs, key initiatives, and the long-term vision for Blue Box services in Ontario. The CIF and AMO need feedback from you on how best to support your programs and develop their policy positions. We hope you'll join us for an open, two-way process of communication and consultation that will benefit all of us.

After meeting with municipal leaders at ROMA, NOMA, FONOM, OSUM and the AMO Conference in Ottawa last year we also met with municipal program operators in Chatham, Barrie, North Bay, Kenora and Smiths Falls. Participants expressed concerns about funding, the complicated Datacall process, the CNA/OCNA deal, training, and uncertainty about the future of Blue Box programs.

This feedback resulted in a new, simpler Blue Box funding distribution model for 2013; changes to simplify the Datacall process; the AMO Waste Management Task force was created with representation from all municipal caucuses; CIF engaged with SO to better understand the steward fee setting methodology and a firm AMO position was developed on the CNA/OCNA deal; and discussions were initiated with Stewardship Ontario and Waste Diversion Ontario about the future of the Blue Box Programs.

Your opinion, input and feedback matters. Please join us at the most convenient consultation session for you:

March 27:	London (Manning Drive Regional MRF; 3438 Manning Drive)
April 3:	Dryden (Dryden Fire Service, 189 Colonization Avenue)
April 24:	Peel (Chinguacousy Community Centre, 9050 Bramalea Road)
May 23:	Smiths Falls (Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre)
May 27:	North Bay (North Bay WTP, 248 Lakeside Drive)

Topics to be discussed include:

- Making the Datacall work for you
- Optimizing your WDO funding – how the Pay-Out Model works
- Best Practices – improved evaluation – less questions – more value and accountability: highlighting the proposed new format for reporting progress toward better practices and improved performance
- Negotiating for our 50% - process, problems and sensitivities
- 2013 CIF Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
- Extended Producer Responsibility & Individual Producer Responsibility – what it will mean to you
- Workshop: what will your program look like in 10 years?
- CNA/OCNA issue – looking for a better deal Use the online form to sign up now: [Register for Blue Box Consultation](#)

Maximizing the Value of CIF Project Work through Round Table Programs

The CIF is committed to expanding on and sharing information gained through completion of projects in each facet of the Blue Box program. To that end, we have established a Round Table program through which we will aggregate and share the collective wisdom of project participants in several targeted areas.

The first series, which began in February, focuses on multi-residential recycling. Future sessions will address Blue Box program depots, P&E, large curbside container projects, waste recycling planning and more. Key learnings will be distilled to create tools that can be made available through the CIF Centre of Excellence.

Multi-Residential (MR) Round Table

The CIF has invested \$2.8 million to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MR recycling programs. More than 35 projects have been funded and are at various states of completion. These projects focused on the implementation of a series of practical, timesaving tools for the MR sector to assist municipalities in meeting best practices in "optimization of operations in collections and processing."

In 2011, MIPC passed a resolution redirecting future CIF funding to system rationalization and development of a Centre of Excellence, thus, the CIF 2013 Operations Plan does not provide funding support for MR recycling projects. Instead, continued support for municipalities servicing this sector will be offered through CIF's Centre of Excellence in the form of best practice information and tools.

To prepare for this transition, the CIF is hosting a series of round table sessions with municipalities that were granted CIF funding for MR projects. These are facilitated sessions in which municipalities report on their project outcomes and learnings, with discussion of tools and strategies that contributed to success. The sessions also offer an opportunity for municipal operators to discuss the future direction of recycling programming for the MR sector and provide recommendations on how it should be managed.

In addition to helping municipalities to successfully complete ongoing projects, information from the Round Tables will be used in development of a MR tool kit. The tool kit will provide instruction and guidance for those municipalities who have not yet addressed programming their MR sector.

MR Round Tables to Date and Upcoming

Seven programs participated in the inaugural 'small municipality' municipal Round Table on February 25. CIF staff will be discussing their feedback and learnings at the spring ORW. The next meeting for medium-sized municipalities is scheduled for Tuesday April 9. Carrie Nash will be contacting prospective participants in preparation for this meeting. For more information, email: [Carrie Nash](#).

Status Update on Older Projects

Throughout 2013, the CIF is committed to closing out older projects that have not wrapped up as these projects represent committed funds that could be redirected to other work. If you have an open project from 2010 or earlier and if you haven't already heard from us, you will soon. A CIF staff member will contact you for a status update. Our goal is to ensure that the greatest possible value is derived from CIF funding. With your help, we can make sure this happens.

Barrie Reports Positive Results on Multi-residential (MR) Project – Tonnage up 20% (CIF #286)

2012 saw a significant increase in tonnes collected in the City of Barrie's MR program, which it attributes to initiatives undertaken under the CIF's Multi-res best practices project.

Barrie has approximately 250 MR buildings with 9,700 units, which represent 18% of all households in the City. To encourage waste diversion in MR households, Barrie has the equivalent of a two-bag garbage limit in buildings by restricting the size of the garbage dumpster permitted.

<i>Barrie: Multi-residential Blue Box Program, kg/unit/year (rounded)</i>				
2009	2010	2011	3 year average	2012
70	65	70	70	85

With funding from CIF, Barrie has revitalised the multi-res Blue Box program by implementing best practice initiatives that include:



- increasing the ratio of recycling carts to one cart for every seven units i.e. the recommend best practice for MR recycling
- providing in-unit recycling containers for every household
- rolling out an extensive promotion & education program.

The P&E program included new printed materials (posters, flyers, signage, cart labels), a recycling handbook for building staff and managers, and a series of outreach events at buildings.

"This project has really changed the way we manage our multi-res program on a day-to-day basis and I expect we will continue to see positive results from the Blue Box program. The learnings will also help us with implementing organics collection in multi-res in the future," commented Tracy Quann-Strasser, Waste Reduction Coordinator with the City of Barrie.

The photo - above right - shows staff delivering the hard-shell in-unit recycling containers door-to-door, and below is Tracy at an open-house event for building staff.

For more information, view: [Final Report for CIF 286](#) or contact Tracy Quann-Strasser at 705-739-4220 ext. 5822 or email: tqstrasser@barrie.ca



Increasing Norfolk County's Diversion with "Simple Sort" (CIF #377)

In 2010 Norfolk County reported a 29.43% diversion rate in the 2010 Datacall and was eager to boost diversion without breaking the bank.

Residents were accustomed to placing containers in a small blue box, with fibres bundled in bags and boxes along with bags of plastic bags, at the curb. The system required a cumbersome six stream sort at the curb.

The solution? Implementing a new "Simple Sort" program, the county doubled Blue Box recycling capacity for each resident, providing a second, larger (22 gallon) blue box for to accommodate all sizes of containers, with fibers placed in the smaller existing boxes. The new boxes in the "Simple Sort" two-stream system were hot-stamped with instructions, which helped limit confusion for residents and contributed to increases in diversion.

With new collection beginning in May 2011, the county soon saw impressive results jumping to an average increase of 11% diversion. With P&E messaging repeated at various intervals and through a variety of media, the county has sustained the increase with minimal impact on program confusion or contamination. The projection of reduced overall costs is the only anticipated impact that has not been achieved due to the costs to process additional materials.

To be honest, reports Jennifer Wilson, Waste Management Supervisor, "we didn't expect to achieve more than a 10% increase. We're very pleased with the outcome, and that we've been able to sustain it. This program has been a pleasant surprise". Norfolk County will continue with the same P&E campaign theme this year in an effort to keep diversion rates up.

View the [Project Report](#)

Contract Management Course – past and upcoming

Through 2013, the CIF will continue to offer training courses that provide essential learning opportunities to help municipal recycling staff expand on skills needed to perform optimally in their waste management roles.

As a starting point, this past fall, the CIF offered its Contracts Management Training Course to a full house of 20 participants. The Contracts Management Course curriculum provides essential information for anyone who manages or develops operational contracts for Blue Box programs, with material that covers collection, processing, long-range transportation and marketing recyclables.

CIF staff want to thank the participants of the 2012 pilot for their help and feedback in developing the course and congratulate them on their diligence in completing the assignments! Each participant committed fully to the course work, completing a final assignment with a 100% pass rate for the group. Having completed the course, not only do they bring new skills to their programs, but they become eligible to add this course as 'completed training' in the WDO Datacall form.

On April 10 (the day before the spring ORW) the CIF will start up another Contracts Management Course with the classroom session to be held at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Kingston. Class size is limited to 20 people who currently have contract management as a component of their job responsibilities and priority will be given to those who were turned away from the pilot due to space constraints so register early.

We have posted a joint registration form that enables you to register all at once for one or both of the Contracts Management Course and/or the ORW. Please [sign up](#) now.

For more information, see the CIF website [Contracts Management Course page](#) or contact [Carrie Nash](#).

Additional Training Opportunities in 2013/2014

Planning is underway for a number of other new training courses including the following:

- October 2013 - Benchmarking & Measurement
- 2014 – Fundamental Principles in Recycling Planning

More details on these and other training initiatives will be available soon at the [CIF training page](#).

Spring 2013 ORW Comes to Kingston, Ontario on Thursday, April 11

The spring ORW is designed as a value-added full day session for municipal recyclers and Blue Box program stakeholders. The agenda for Thursday, April 11 includes program and project updates with timely and relevant information for consideration in all Ontario Blue Box programs. In addition to program updates by CIF partners, topics to be addressed at this ORW include:

- Contract management – why it matters and what you can do
- New approaches to managing the flow of materials from collection through to marketing
- Working for together success – four western Ontario communities reduce costs and increase efficiency by working together
- Data and planning – new information from Stewardship Ontario’s waste audit program and communities that are making use of data and other inputs to develop effective waste recycling plans

ORW At-a-Glance

Participants can attend, free-of-charge, either in-person or remotely by webcast.

- **Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2013
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (approximate)
- **Location:** Downtown Holiday Inn Kingston, Ontario and webcast
- **Cost:** free of charge
- **Accommodations:** to be reserved individually online at [special rate](#) available till March 27

As an added benefit, this ORW brings together officials from other provinces that are in the process of developing or implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) programs for multi-material recycling. For municipal recyclers this presents a unique opportunity to learn more about these initiatives from the people who are most involved in them, and to find out what this may mean for the future of Ontario Blue Box recycling.

Don't miss this ORW – for in person participants, it's taking place at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Kingston, Ontario. We've reserved a block of guest rooms at a discounted rate that are available until March 27; rooms can be reserved using a dedicated URL (shown below). For those who cannot attend in person, we hope you will be able to tune into the webcast.

Finally, for those who are travelling eastward to Kingston, Quinte and Northumberland are opening up their MRFs for tours, which will demonstrate recent upgrades funded by CIF and their overall impacts on material processing at these facilities. The tours will feature:

- At Northumberland: view the bagged singles stream and dual stream MRF with two new balers and an optical fibre sorting system.
- At Quinte: an opportunity to view and speak with staff about QWS/CIF sort line and handling equipment at a mid-range just-in-time MRF that also handles ICI and contract municipal (with an option to stay on for an additional visit at the Hazardous Waste and WEEE depots)

Tours will take place in the early afternoon on Wednesday, April 10 and are expected to begin at 1:30 at Northumberland and end at about 4:00 pm at Quinte. Participants will need to arrange their own transportation to arrive at each MRF.

In short – we look forward to an informative and very productive ORW this spring. We will distribute invitations shortly and invite you to view the [ORW page](#) of our website for more information.

If you plan to attend in-person, you will also have the opportunity to let us know if you will join us for the MRF tours. You will also have the option to sign-up for the [Contracts Management Course](#) taking place Wednesday, April 10.

- [Register for ORW, MRF Tours and/or Contracts Management Course](#)
- [Reserve accommodations at the Holiday Inn Kingston-Waterfront](#)

For more information contact: [ORW communications](#)

Reminder Multi-Res Superintendent & Manager Workshop Applications Welcome Until March 31 (CIF #434)

We encourage municipalities to take advantage of this funding. For more information, contact [Carrie Nash](#)

Order Recycling Carts Through CIF Container Program Until May 31

The tender to purchase 96 gallon carts under the [CIF's cart tender program](#) is now extended to May 31, 2013. We encourage you to explore this option for any planned purchases before the tender expires.

Please contact Rehrig Pacific directly to place an order for your community.

- Dennis Monestier
Environmental Services Manager, Canada
- Phone: 647.968.6199 (cell) or 647.348.6199 (direct)
- Email: DMonestier@RehrigPacific.com