

CIF Project #256 - International Technology Trade Mission

Project Background

Part of the CIF's mandate is to explore and support the adoption of new and innovative technologies. In support of this effort the CIF contracted with Environmental Business Consultants to identify and secure emerging technologies overseas that may be of benefit to municipalities and their contractors in the operations of MRF's and blue box related infrastructure. This project was a continuation of work initiated CIF under CIF Project 195 - International Technology Scan. A budget of \$20,000 was allocated to make contact with and develop relations with vendors of promising technologies identified under Project 195.

Summary of Results

The Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, Korea and Sweden were all contacted to provide information about their waste diversion technologies. The two most compelling countries providing new and interesting technologies were the Netherlands and Belgium. The Netherlands was prioritized because of the presence of EVD, a foreign trade organization. EVD has a significant budget for foreign business missions to visit and see their technologies applied, and EBC has been active with them in the past in organizing missions. EVD was contacted to facilitate the trade mission and provide co-funding for the project. Sweden was also explored because of its proximity.

The project concluded that while there are new technologies under development by various groups in these countries, Ontario's programs remain at or near the cutting edge of technology development. The WRAP project in the UK offered the most promising options for mixed plastics processing and work in Germany on automation and mixed waste processing also offered potential opportunities to Ontario's programs. CIF staff has since followed up on leads provided through this project.