



The Corporation of
THE TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS

**WASTE DISPOSAL SITE SIGNAGE PROJECT
CIF PROJECT #323**

FINAL REPORT

In October 2010 the Township of Lanark Highlands was approved by CIF for funding to support production and installation of new blue box signage at seven rural waste disposal sites.

The goal was to address Best Practices at waste disposal sites by installing appropriate signage with clear instructions to residents. Clearly labelled bins assist in limiting the potential for contamination of recyclables. Clearly labelled diversion areas (e.g. scrap metal, clean brush, e-waste) assist in ensuring smooth traffic flow and making the waste disposal site convenient to use.

The signs for blue box recycling were produced in two formats:

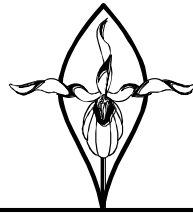
- ½" 'cryzone' sign board which were framed by municipal staff and installed on stands beside the appropriate bins; these signs clearly indicate the location of roll-off bins for co-mingled containers, and compactors for fibre.
- Vinyl lettering was applied directly to the roll-off bins in use at the depots for co-mingled containers. Bins received signage at both ends to maximize visibility.
- 'Directional' signs were included, e.g. 'All Bags Must Be Emptied' and 'Plastic Bags Here' in an effort to minimize contamination of co-mingled containers with bagged material, and to keep plastic bags localized.

Copies of the final proofs for the blue box signs are attached.

The objectives of the signage project were to increase volumes of co-mingled containers and fibre, and to decrease the percentage of residual in the containers.

We finished installing the blue box signage at the end of September 2010. We monitored recycling volumes from October 2010 – January 2011, and compared it to the same four month period in the previous year. The table below shows a clear increase in volume of both fibre and co-mingled containers received by Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) from the Lanark Highlands waste disposal sites.

	OCT 2009 – JAN 2010	OCT 2010 - JAN 2011	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
FIBRE (TONNES)	63.86	71.25	12%
CO-MINGLED CONTAINERS (TONNES)	28.1	30.01	7%



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In 2010, OVWRC informed us of problems with contamination of co-mingled containers. Large item contamination was occurring due to inclusion of tarpaulins, plastic chairs, Tupperware, film plastic and bagged plastics. In September 2010 waste site attendants and public works employees toured OVWRC's MRF and attended a training session on what OVWRC was currently accepting and what material was present as contaminants.

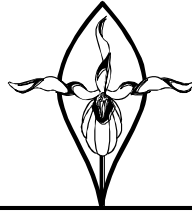
In 2011 OVWRC conducted two audits with the following results:

- co-mingled containers February 25, 2011; the residual was 17.95%.
- co-mingled containers April 4, 2011; the residual was 5.19%.

Lessons Learned:

In Lanark Highlands we addressed material contamination from two different directions at once. Clear & simple signage was installed at all waste sites to provide clear instructions to residents. Waste site attendants and administrative staff all attended training on acceptable items at the MRF. This ensured that everyone was well informed and able to assist residents to make the right choices about what goes where. Hands-on instruction and correction takes place at waste sites while residents are depositing material into the designated bins. Callers to the office seeking information about accepted materials get the same information. Through this approach we have met our objectives of increasing blue box volume and reducing material contamination.

We are confident that the new signage at our waste disposal sites will continue to strengthen our rural recycling programs significantly by providing clear instructions to residents, supporting a smooth traffic flow, and contributing to an attractive, well-maintained appearance.



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Final Proofs for the Blue Box Signs

