

CIF P. 112

Blue Box Collection Expansion

Blue Box curbside collection expansion to unserviced condo development

Elliot Lake

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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FUND PROJECT #112 FINAL REPORT

Introduction:

In September 2009, the Board of Directors of Frame Crescent Condominium Owners approached the City of Elliot Lake requesting that residential curb side recycling opportunity for the members of the complex be considered. Because of the gated community aspect of this development individual residential pickup for waste material or recyclables was not afforded to the residents of the condominium units (please see attached photos). Waste collection was (and continues to be) managed through the use of overhead bins strategically located within the complex, while the only option the residents had to participate in recycling was to utilize the municipal depot located approximately 5km from this development.

The Board of Directors wanted their condominium complex to become more active participants in the City of Elliot Lake's recycling program. Thus the request was made to explore a viable way in which this could be accomplished. The limited availability of open space within the complex could not support the placement of additional overhead bins for the purpose of collecting recyclables. The only solution was to implement curb side collection.

The contractor that provides recycling collection services to the City of Elliot Lake, Municipal Waste & Recycling Consultants (MWRC) was contacted to address the addition of these 110 units into the regular weekly residential recycling collection schedule. MWRC agreed to add the condominium complex to their collection route at no extra charge to the contract already in place with the City of Elliot Lake for this intended purpose.

The City of Elliot Lake then submitted an application to the Waste Diversion Ontario Continuous Improvement Fund, which was subsequently approved.

Results:

Ongoing monitoring of the units has revealed approximately a 30% participation rate in the recycling program by this complex. This rate was determined by doing random surveys on collection day, recording the number of blue boxes placed at the curb.

Average Number of Blue Boxes Curb Side/week = 34

Volume of Blue Box = .07 cubic meters

Estimated Average Volume Collected/week = 2.3 cubic meters

Estimated Annual Volume Collected =400 cubic meters

Estimated Annual Weight of Material Collected = 5.9 tonnes*

	TARGET	ACTUAL	Variance
Avg # of B Bs Curbside/wk	110	34	76
Volume of Blue Box		0.07 cubic meters	
Est. Avg Volume Collected/week	7.7 cubic meters	2.3 cubic meters	5.4
Est. Annual Volume Collected	400 cubic meters	120 cubic meters	280
Est. Annual Wgt of Material Collected	19.8 tonnes	5.9 tonnes	13.8 tonnes

Note: educational material was provided at the onset of the program and was utilized from existing stock that was purchased for the implementation of the community's multi-residential collection program. Educational material included a fridge magnet listing material eligible for collection, a recycling schedule and a brochure outlining information as how to prepare material for recycling.

*5.9 tonnes represents 26 annual collections of commingle and 26 annual collections of fibre. In discussions with the contractor it was determined that the

average weight of commingle is 23kg/cubic meter and the average weight of fibre is 76kg/cubic meter.

Conclusion:

The results of the implementation of curb side collection at Frame Crescent Condominium Units have been less than expected (20 tonnes/year). However, the amount that is being collected represents an overall improvement to the City's diversion rate as it is very unlikely that participants in the curb side collection program would be willing to drive the 10km round trip to the recycling depot.

The key points to take away from this project include;

- The cost to implement the program was relatively inexpensive at \$8.91/household (the cost of the curbside blue boxes). As stated earlier there were no additional collection charges added to service this are by the contractor. The ability to access the funding through Stewardship Ontario made this a win/win/win situation for the municipality in terms of cost to implement/the residents of Frame Crescent Condominium complex in terms of receiving a service that was not being provided to them and the Province in terms of increasing waste diversion.
- The participation rate is reflective of the rate experienced throughout the community for waste diversion. It may have been assisted with more P&E efforts and this would be something that will be utilized more in the future as we work toward increasing the community's diversion rate.
- Since the implementation of this program, the City has implemented tipping fees at the landfill site. This came into effect in January of 2013 and it will take at least a year to assess the impact on waste diversion.
- The City has also reorganized its management team and created a position that is more dedicated to meeting the ongoing demand of environmental services. With a manager of environmental services hired, one of the items on this year's work plan is to implement a by-law that makes recycling mandatory within the community. Complacency seems to be the largest contributor to participation and I believe that from this experience we

learned that simply providing the tools often does not provide the expected results. A stronger emphasis on the how and why of an initiative must be communicated to ensure an understanding of the need to divert waste and the best way that each community member can be involved not just for individual benefit but for the betterment of the whole.



