



**ORILLIA CITY CENTRE
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

December 16, 2011

By E-mail: andycampbell@wdo.ca

WDO Continuous Improvement Fund Office
92 Caplan Avenue, Suite 51
Barrie, ON L4N 0Z7

Attention: Andy Campbell, Director

Dear Andy,

RE: Follow-up Report for CIF Project #501.3 (Best Practices) - Large Curbside Containers

As promised last year, this letter is my report on the progress we have made in distributing the large 83 litre (22 gallon) black Recycling Boxes we purchased in 2010 with 50% funding support from the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF Project #501.3). The boxes have been distributed from the City of Orillia's Waste Diversion Site (landfill) and through two Farmer's Market Recycling Box Exchange events held on May 7 and June 4, 2011.

To encourage the use of the larger boxes we have:

1. Advertised the availability of the larger Recycling Boxes through newspaper advertising on April 19, June 7, and August 2, 2011;
2. Exchanged smaller (53 litre) broken Recycling Boxes with the larger boxes at no charge;
3. Allowed residents to exchange their smaller (53 litre) unbroken Recycling Boxes with the larger Recycling Boxes at no charge;
4. Provided one large Recycling Box to new residents at no charge; and
5. Noted on our collection guide pamphlet distributed to all residents and businesses in October 2011 that the larger boxes are available for containers.

Orillia has a two stream recycling system. Customers have been encouraged to use the larger boxes for holding containers (not paper) so as not to go over our 20 kg weight limit per box. Collection driver feedback indicates that some residents are using the larger boxes for paper where they have had to leave the overweight boxes behind.

Of the 3,000 large boxes received in late November 2010, 805 have been distributed up until December 1, 2011. This represents over eight percent of the single family households and duplex units in Orillia. It also represents an additional 24 m³ of available space over the City's smaller 53 litre boxes. Assuming a commingled container density of 0.08 tonne/m³ (as calculated from Appendix VIII-1 of the Blue Box Program Plan) and

assuming the boxes are filled to the top and set out each week, this represents a potential increase of over 100 tonnes per year of recyclable containers that can be collected in our Recycling Box collection program. Given we currently collect about 3,400 tonnes per year in our program (paper and containers), this could represent almost a 3 percent increase.

The weight of recyclable materials collected from December 2010 to the end of November 2011 is slightly down (about 1.5%) from the same period the year before, and this is assumed to be from the slowing economy. Recycling collection quantities are, however, elevated in both 2010 and 2011 over previous years. This is likely because of the larger boxes and as of July 1, 2010, the City began accepting empty paper cups, plastic food trays and empty aerosol cans in our Recycling Box program.

We have appreciated the support from the CIF for this project. Please let me know if you need anything else, and call me at (705) 325-2444 should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Preston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Preston, M.Sc.
Superintendent of Waste Management

Copy To: Gary Barnes, Coordinator, Waste Diversion Site
Andrew Schell, Manager of Environmental Services
Peter Dance, Director of Public Works