



MUNICIPALITY OF MEAFORD
CIF PROJECT # 644.13
FINAL REPORT

MARCH 2013

Overview

Background

The population for the Municipality of Meaford is 11,000. The Municipality has approximately 5,520 single family households and approximately 550 multi-residential households for a total of approximately 5,970 households.

Current waste management programs include:

- Bi-weekly residential curbside collection of waste (3 bag limit; full user pay);
- Weekly Blue Box collection for rural and urban residents throughout the Municipality;
- Weekly curbside collection of Source Separated Organics (SSO) throughout the Municipality;
- Drop-off depot at Meaford Transfer Site;
- Leaf and yard waste drop-off at public works yard; and
- Administration of waste management program (bylaw, enforcement, budget, and promotion and education).

The Municipality of Meaford maintains in excess of 20 public spaces and over 50 waste containers. The Municipality has established a goal to replace all existing waste only containers with waste/recycle multi-sort containers by 2018.

Project Goals

The project's goals, aimed at replacing all waste only containers by 2018, included:

1. The replacement of 8 waste only containers with tri-sort containers focused on tin & plastic recycling, mixed paper recycling, and waste.
2. The development of effective signage that is coloured and includes graphics indicating what goes where, to be placed on the front of each container.
3. To improve functionality, aesthetics, and standardization of municipal public space waste containers.

Project Initiatives

In order to achieve the goals set out in the section above, Environmental Services staff utilized the following initiatives:

1. Researched and selected the tri-sort containers from Busch Systems based on recommendations from the Region of York report on public space recycling.
2. Researched high traffic public space locations within the Municipality, giving consideration to servicing the entire geographical area of the Municipality.
3. In coordination with the Grey County Sign Shop, designed stickers for the front of the tri-sort containers to identify and visually display the materials to be placed in this bin.
4. Provided in-house training to staff on sorting waste and removing contaminants from the diverted streams.

Implementation

Placement of Tri-sort Containers

The Tri-sort containers were placed in their respective parks prior to the May 24th weekend. Locations for these containers included: ball diamonds, water front parks, beach areas, and small parkettes. The Tri-sort containers are emptied daily with waste being disposed of through dumpsters and the recyclables being collected and transferred into 65 Gallon Carts to be collected on a weekly basis.

Staff completed various promotion and education activities including: Council meetings, newspaper articles, newspaper advertisements, website promotion and general word of mouth.



Monitoring and tracking

Prior Waste Collection Operations:

The Municipality of Meaford did not provide any form of public space recycling prior to the implementation of the containers purchased through this program. However, the Municipality did, and continues to do so, provide recycling collection opportunities at 3 of our facilities.

With the lack of recycling collection occurring in public spaces it provides a baseline data of 0 tonnes collected per year.

Post Implementation:

As identified earlier in this report the Municipality collected recyclable materials from the Tri-sort containers and placed the sorted items in large 65 gallon carts for weekly collection. Without the proper weigh scales to measure the weight of the materials collected, staff indicated that the Municipality was able to collect an average of 3 – 65 gallon recycling carts worth of material. Over the course of the period of May 1st to October 31st it is estimated that approximately 78 containers of recyclables were diverted from landfill.

Conclusion

Project Results

With an estimated 78 containers of recyclables being diverted from landfills, the Municipality of Meaford feels that phase 1 of the implementation of tri-sort containers into public spaces in the Municipality has been very successful. In general, both the public and collection staff have bought into the goals of the program and its effectiveness.

Recommendations

The benefits of the implementation of Tri-sort containers has been immediate and proves that this program will continue to be successful as the Municipality continues to replace waste only containers with the new Tri-sort containers. However, staff recognize that a more comprehensive promotion and education plan is required, especially in the form of signage and banners as well as direct human contact. Staff will continue to increase the amount of Tri-sort containers available for our public spaces, with a full replacement scheduled by 2018.