

CIF Project #732 - 2014 Survey of the Municipal Position on the Glass Market

Project Background

In Sept 2013, the CIF received an unsolicited proposal from a major processor of Ontario's Blue Box glass soliciting an investment into their facility. As part of its due diligence in considering this proposal and a second subsequent proposal from another company, the CIF commissioned a survey of municipalities to seek their input into the current market and options for a CIF response.

Summary of Results

In January 2014, municipalities managing mixed broken glass were contacted and asked to respond to a series of questions about their current management of glass and the options under consideration by the CIF. A subsequent joint call was held to discuss the matter.

The following points were identified:

- Municipalities recognize that glass is diminishing as a packaging material (tonnage has dropped by over 30% in 10 years) but it remains a significant waste stream.
- Municipalities recognize the importance of maintaining a stable market for glass as long as it remains an obligation to collect glass under Provincial legislation.
- There was consensus that, in principle, it was more cost effective to clean up glass at a central location.
- Municipalities felt a CIF investment only made sense if the proponent could offer sufficient capacity to meet current needs with stable pricing and be able to process the material without initial clean up at the MRF.

A variety of other concerns were identified and direction was given to the CIF to pursue discussions with the proponents and convene further meetings to discuss the matter.