

CIF Project # 848 – Halton Region Waste Audit

Background

Halton Region has been actively implementing the initiatives of the 2012-2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy which had set a goal of diverting 65 per cent of residential waste away from landfill. There were three related initiatives that were implemented in 2013. First, there was expanding the Region's accepted Blue Box materials to include mixed plastics and enhance Blue Box capacity. This work was supported by CIF Project #834.4 which involved expanding mixed plastic collection in the province. The second objective was to decrease the garbage bag limit by introducing garbage tags. The final strategy was to enhance multi-residential waste diversion. In 2014, the Green Cart composting program was expanded from the pilot to further enhance multi-residential waste diversion in addition to continued improvement to the Blue Box recycling program. The goal of the waste audit was to reveal the impacts of the initiatives including identifying the successes, targeting problematic areas and supporting the development of best practices to further enhance the Blue Box/Bin recycling program in both single family and multifamily households respectively.

Summary of Results

Overall the Blue Box enhancement initiatives fulfilled from the 2012-2016 Solid Waste Management Strategy was successful. Single family households attained a five per cent increase in diversion rate at the curb, a two per cent increase in containers in the Blue Box composition, three per cent increase in overall capture rate, two per cent increase in fibre capture rate, and two per cent increase in the containers capture rate. Lastly, there was a decrease in both recyclable fibre and containers in the garbage stream.

The multi-residential household results showed a two per cent increase in containers in the overall waste composition, a nine per cent increase in containers in the Blue Box composition, a two per cent increase in overall capture rate with a fifteen per cent increase in the containers capture rate. As with the single family households, there was also a decrease in both recyclable fibre and containers in the garbage stream.

Financials

CIF approved to fund 60% of the Blue Box related cost to a maximum of \$22,615 (including taxes). The total cost of the project was \$37,040 with \$17,476.13 supported by CIF.

Learnings

Halton Region will continue to measure and monitor the Garbage Bag Tag program, continue to enhance and support multi-residential waste diversion, keep informed on the developments in Blue Box recycling, utilize data from the waste audits and participation studies for further promotion of the Blue Box program, and support initiatives for future waste management strategies.