

### **CIF Project # 258 - Blue Box Recycling Plan Workshops**

#### **Background**

At the time that CIF Project #258 was undertaken (i.e., 2010), the municipal Blue Box Datacall best practices provisions required municipalities to have an up-to-date Waste Reduction Strategy (WRS) in order to receive full funding. To assist municipalities in complying with those requirements, CIF provided a number of resources including the development of guidebooks, templates, worksheets, statistics, in-person training and consulting assistance under a number of related projects. The CIF continues to maintain these resources under the CIF Centre of Excellence [Waste Recycling Planning web pages](#).

The objective of this project was to provide in-person training workshops to municipalities using the tools developed under CIF Project 215 - Waste Recycling Plan Template Development - in order to directly deliver the required information and tools necessary to develop and complete a functional WRS.

The CIF hosted a number of workshops throughout the Province to introduce the WRS planning guide and templates to municipalities in detail. The workshops were coordinated by the Municipal Waste Association (MWA) and facilitated by Genivar Inc.

Additional consultants with waste management and recycling planning experience were briefed and invited to participate and work directly with up to five municipal staff during the workshops. Following the workshops municipal participants were notified that CIF support for a consultant to help complete their plan was available if needed.

#### **Summary of Results**

The CIF conducted eight workshops across the Province to provide background and explanation on the WRS Guideline and Templates and to provide support for programs to begin their planning activities. Workshops were delivered in London, Dryden, Ottawa, Sudbury, Kingston, Barrie, Hockley Valley and Huntsville.

The workshops were attended by over 200 municipal staff and consultants representing 138 municipalities and First Nations.

Following the live workshops, over 32 municipalities applied for and received CIF assistance to develop their WRS under separate projects.

## **Financials**

CIF Project #258 was budgeted at \$83,500 and completed within budget.

## **Learnings**

1. Attendance by municipal participants was high and the sessions were well received. Registrants expressed appreciation for the high value of the information and training provided.
2. Each municipality took a slightly different approach to completing their WRS with some electing to complete the plan in-house and others preferring to obtain outside consulting. These decisions were frequently based on the level of WRS complexity desired by the municipality and their differences with respect to involving the public via open consultation and the amount of direct participation by council and/or senior waste management staff.
3. The level of complexity, expertise and work required to develop a functional WRS was seen by many municipalities as beyond their current capabilities, hence, many elected to apply for CIF support and retain outside consultants to complete the task.
4. Municipal WRS all incorporate provisions for periodic reviews and updates to adjust for evolving market, equipment, processing and promotion/education Blue Box program components. It is anticipated that participants in CIF Project #258 workshop sessions will have received sufficient training to periodically update their WRS with minimal outside assistance going forward.