

## **CIF Project #145 – Emerging Technologies Evaluation**

### **Background**

In 2009, the CIF retained the services of the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA), to begin work on a number of tasks related to understanding the wider context the recently formed CIF was operating in, as outlined below:

#### **Task 1: Technology Due Diligence**

Develop a technology assessment framework to evaluate innovations related to Blue Box material recycling.

#### **Task 2: Ontario R&D Assessment**

Assess relevant research and development underway at Ontario universities and their capability to develop ‘centres of excellence’ in blue box material recycling.

#### **Task 3: International Technology Scan**

Perform a technology scan to determine research and development being undertaken by academia and industry outside of Canada.

#### **Task 4: Benchmarking**

Potentially develop a performance benchmarking tool for use on technologies to sort plastics in recycling plants.

#### **Task 5: Stakeholder Relationships**

Develop a program to enhance relations with key stakeholders of the CIF to increase credibility and awareness.

#### **Task 6: Public Relations**

Develop a formal public relations program to introduce WDO and its programs to the media.

### **Summary of Results**

Initial steps were made on each of the tasks as OCETA reached out to the appropriate industry members or stakeholders to begin discussions. They visited sites where new technology was being developed, investigated work being done within universities, developed a database of magazines and articles related to recycling, prepared an article for publication, and created a preliminary work plan for stakeholder and public relations.

The final deliverable of this project took the shape of an “Innovation Strategy Roadmap” for the CIF. The roadmap is designed to assist the CIF in identifying priority areas and best available technologies, to direct funding for further research, development and demonstration of technologies. It details three phases for the strategy (development, implementation and information dissemination) and lists the tasks and expected outcomes of each.

### **Financials**

The CIF approved funding of \$45,000 plus taxes for this project.

### **Learnings**

The roadmap developed by OCETA provided a high level view of an approach that could be used to identify market and technology gaps, demonstrate and implement new technologies, disseminate the results and encourage deployment of solutions. It served as a starting point for the CIF in developing a strategy to direct funding in the most effective and efficient manner.