

### **CIF Project #469 – Project Savings Audit**

#### **Background**

In 2014, the CIF hired Clayton Sampson to complete a review and document reported financial impacts on a subset of completed CIF funded projects. The purpose of the review was to verify whether actual project outcomes were consistent with the benefits initially identified in the project applications. The projects were to be reviewed for numerical accuracy, qualitative learning, and any increase in diversion.

#### **Summary of Results**

The consultant reviewed 56 completed CIF projects. This review represented 15% of completed CIF projects at the time and was used to determine what requirements would be needed to complete a full audit of the remaining projects.

Overall, the 56 projects, with CIF funding totalling \$10 million, had a demonstrated savings of \$3.8 million after one year. It was recognized that there would be similar savings in the following years, however, financial variables made it difficult to predict. To estimate the range of total savings, it was suggested that an auditor would have to revisit the same projects over a number of years which could be a complex and expensive task to do with validity.

#### **Financials**

The final cost of this project was \$5,085.

#### **Learnings**

There are significant demonstrated system savings, enhancements and efficiencies generated from CIF investments in municipal programs and projects. However, due to the nature of certain projects and the limited focus of the projects on municipal waste management systems as a whole, these savings and efficiencies are often not reflected in the municipal reporting through the Datacall.

The consultant offered several recommendations to assist in future review processes:

- Standardize project final reports to provide clear project information and consistent data analysis;
- Define and address the concept of avoided system costs;
- Identify and standardize program components that account for project savings; and,
- Inclusion of project applications as appendix to final report.