CIF Project #988 – Development of a Small Municipal Cost Model for LFMA Members

Background

In late 2016, Project #988 entitled "Development of a Small Municipal Cost Model for LFMA Members" was approved to assist the members of the LaCloche Foothills Municipal Association (LFMA) and its neighbouring municipalities to prepare for transition of the Blue Box recycling programs in response to Provincial Bill 151, Waste Free Ontario Act 2016. The LFMA represents four municipalities, including the Townships of Baldwin, Nairn & Hyman, Sables Spanish Rivers and the Town of Espanola.

The proposed project had two primary components, including (1) analysis of member costs and program performance; and (2) development of a landfill cost model. It was the intention the LFMA would seek to organize its members and neighbouring municipalities as an optimized waste-shed prior to transition and provide them with program data that would assist them in managing their individual programs more effectively in the interim. The project deliverables were expected to serve as a toolkit (program evaluation and EPR guidance documents) for similar municipalities throughout Ontario.

Summary of Results

Due to staff turn-over, the project did not proceed to completion and was withdrawn in April 2019. However, part of the initial work on the model for this project was continued with Huron Shores under CIF Project #1034.

Financials

The CIF approved funding of $37,876 including tax for this project. The final cost was $23,231. This included $11,017 to begin development of a model that was then used in support of CIF Project #1034. The model is also now being utilized in Eastern Ontario by several municipalities in preparation for transition to full producer responsibility.

Learnings

CIF funded projects can, and occasionally still do, fail due to unforeseen circumstances. Projects like this one highlight the need to carefully assess the size and capacity of funding partners to ensure they have the depth and resources needed to complete the work.