



CIF Project #1156: Transition Working Group, Post Collection Subcommittee

Background

On June 3, 2021, the Ontario government announced a new Blue Box regulation that makes producers responsible for Blue Box materials under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*. The CIF, in partnership with AMO's Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC), launched a Transition Working Group (TWG). The TWG is comprised of five subcommittees, coordinated by a Transition Steering Committee. Subcommittee areas of focus are: 1) contracts, 2) fair compensation, 3) collection & communications, 4) post collections, and 5) data monitoring & reporting. Subcommittees are made up of Municipal and First Nations (FN) staff, tasked with creating plans to support program hand off to producers.

The Post Collection subcommittee was tasked with establishing tools to support decisions related to post-collection activities at transfer station and MRFs.

Summary of Results

The CIF sought subject matter experts to develop a guide and asset valuation tool to aid municipal and FN communities in the identification of critical post-collection changes and subsequent decisions resulting from transition. Following its development, the CIF sought subject matter experts to create a hands-on workshop where participants would receive instruction and support in applying advice from the guide and tool, relative to their local circumstances.

Three workshops were delivered and attended by 73 individuals representing 44 municipal and FN communities. The municipal grouping representation is as follows: six large urban, four urban regional, one medium urban, eight rural regional, two rural collection, N, four rural collection, S, ten rural depot, N, seven rural depot, S, and two FN.

The choice to deliver course content over Zoom was well received as it cut down on time away and did not incur costs for travel and accommodation. It also allowed greater scheduling flexibility. The contract course was delivered in four, two-hour intervals, over multiple days, allowing for participants to keep up with other responsibilities while completing the session.

To promote interaction between participants, the Zoom 'breakout room' feature was used. This offered participants the chances to talk in smaller group settings. Participants have asked that future course activities include this format.

The CIF will maintain an online format and similar schedule for workshop deliveries going forward. Staff will work to incorporate opportunities for group interaction.

Financials

The CIF contributed approximately \$60,000 towards this work.

Learnings

A five-step iterative planning process was successfully developed, tested, and delivered to meet the municipal and FN objective to manage and determine the value and options for post-collection assets in light of transition. The process was deemed to be user-friendly, easily modified to address specific local circumstances, and captured all areas of Post-Collection asset management leading to and after transition.

The Post Collections subcommittee will play an active role going forward. It will continue facilitated sessions that support municipal responses to PRO engagement in the Post Collection marketplace (e.g., REOI, nRFP).