



Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing



Association of Municipalities of Ontario

ONTARIO CENTRE FOR MUNICIPAL BEST PRACTICES

Best Practice Summary Report **SW – WD – 05 – 01**

Solid Waste – Waste Diversion – Permanent Household Special Waste Depots

May 2005

Practice Identification: Solid Waste Diversion – Permanent Household Special Waste Depots

Case Study Municipality: County of Northumberland

Key Word: Operations

Benefits Derived from the Implementation of the Practice

- **Reduced cost**
- **Increased waste diversion**
- **Improved customer service**

Description of Practice in the Case Study Municipality

Prior to 2003, the County of Northumberland collected Household Special Waste (HSW) at single-day events set up on municipal sites across the County. In 2002, the County's HSW program included 11 events held at 6 temporary locations. A contractor was used to manage the events including the handling, removal and disposal of HSW materials. The program's 2002 operating cost was \$209,354; it recovered 164,920 kilograms of HSW for disposal or recycling.

The County of Northumberland constructed 4 permanent HSW facilities in 2003, eliminating the need for temporary events. Depots were constructed at a cost of approximately \$35,000 each. Each of the permanent facilities accepts residential HSW two days a month from April to October. The new facilities provide residents with 56 HSW collection days, compared to the

temporary depots program of 11 days. The program's operating cost in 2003 was approximately \$130,000 and it diverted 222,928 kgs of HSW.

The County of Northumberland has a population of 70,775. The waste collection service area consists of an urban/rural split of approximately 50% and is made up of 95% single family units and 5% multi-family units. The service area also has a seasonal dwelling component of approximately 5%. In 2003, the County diverted 38.4% of its residential solid waste from landfill.

Evaluation of the Practice

Efficiency

Based on the 2003 MPMP results, the County of Northumberland demonstrates a lower than average operating cost per tonne for waste diversion programs compared to municipalities in the same population group (25,000-99,999). By the introduction of permanent HSW facilities, Northumberland has accomplished the following:

- Decreased operating cost of its HSW program by 37%;
- Experienced no increase in the administration cost of the program;
- Allowed for greater competitive pricing from contractors; and
- Permitted the storage of materials onsite, preventing the cost of shipping partly-filled containers.

Effectiveness

Based on the 2003 MPMP results, the County of Northumberland demonstrates a higher than average percentage of residential solid waste diverted, compared to municipalities in the same population group (25,000-99,999). The introduction of permanent HSW facilities provides Northumberland with the following program effectiveness:

- 35% increase in the diversion of HSW;
- 45 more collection days/year; and
- Ability to effectively use facilities to collect, store and divert other materials for recycling such as electronics and textiles.

Legislative Initiatives

The creation of the Waste Diversion Organization will compensate municipalities up to 45% of the cost of operating their diversion programs, based on effective and efficient programs compared to other municipalities. Maximizing the diversion of HSW materials from landfill using permanent HSW facilities creates effective and efficient operations that assist municipalities in achieving the WDO's objective.

Replication of the Practice

The practice of implementing permanent HSW facilities instead of temporary depots is applicable to all municipalities that manage residential HSW using temporary depots. Factors that might limit implementation of this practice include local geography, suitable municipal locations, the ability to receive Ministry of Environment approval for HSW facilities, and the availability of local contractors licensed to manage HSW. Other well-performing municipalities that have changed their HSW program from temporary depots to permanent facilities include Halton and Peel Regions.

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