

## E&E Project Summary Report

**Project Name:** Northern Ontario Waste Diversion Study

**Project Number:** 130

**Lead Sponsor:** Totten Sims Hubicki Associates (TSH)

**Total project cost:** \$\$65,000

**Priority Area:** Other Projects

**Completed By:** May 2005 to April 2006

**E&E fund contribution:** \$\$65,000

### Project Overview:

#### I. Goals

1. Assess recycling best practices and opportunities for improvements in Northern Ontario (e.g. opportunities for MRF rationalization, local market development, etc.);
2. Make recommendations regarding the way in which E&E funds can best be invested in the North to help meet the fund's objectives (e.g. increasing blue box tonnes marketed and reducing recycling costs per tonne); and
3. Identify opportunities to engage other interested stakeholders (e.g. federal and provincial funding agencies) in helping to address the unique waste diversion challenges in Northern Ontario.

#### II. Accomplishments

- The study breaks the vast area of the North into five Regional Areas or "blue box waste sheds" and recommends these areas be used when future waste diversion initiatives are planned.
- A summary of waste diversion programs by category (i.e. large urban, small urban, rural collection and depot) is provided. These programs are compared to similar programs in Southern Ontario.
- The report relies on a number of key indicators (capture rate, cost per tonne, cost per HH, capture effectiveness, EE Factor) to identify those Northern programs that are performing well versus those that are experiencing difficulties.
- A number of recommendations are made and some next steps are suggested.

#### III. Limitations

- Due to the substantial amount of data that required analysis, it was not possible to carry out a program by program evaluation to identify 'best practices' or specific opportunities for improvements.
- Although the project was not able to identify recycling best practices and opportunities for improvements in Northern Ontario, it laid down the preliminary work required to move forward on this objective.

#### IV. Lessons Learned/Best Practice implications

- The North is a vast area that traditionally has not been well understood from a blue box waste diversion perspective. This study provides a sound baseline for future evaluations of individual Northern diversion programs.
- The geographical divisions established in the report constitute a useful framework in identifying "blue box waste sheds" for planning future waste diversion initiatives.

#### Impacts (including tonnes diverted and cost impacts):

This project was meant to provide an overview of the current state of Blue Box recycling in the North. It is hoped that the findings will enable the development of an E&E Fund strategy to increase capture and decrease system cost in this region.

#### Resources & Tools

- A Rural Recycling Depot learning module is currently being developed for Stewardship Ontario's Knowledge Network. It includes a two-part tool which will provide information on strategies to improve a program, and strategies to get the best price when depot program operators go to Tender. The module will also include a clickable map of best performing rural depot programs, as well as some generic promotion and education materials available for download
- As part of E&E Fund project 200 – Municipal Consultation Sessions on Blue Box Best Practices, a consultation session will be held in Sudbury and will address the particular challenges faced by Northern programs in working towards 'Best Practices'.



