

## E&E Project Summary Report

**Project Name:** Enhancing Recycling in Multi-Residential Buildings

**Project Number:** 186

**Lead Sponsor:** Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan; Consultant: Informa Market Research

**Total project cost:** \$24,800

**Priority Area:** Multi-family recycling

**Completed By:** Peter Veiga (Town of Markham); Jeff Meggitt (City of Richmond Hills); Caroline Kirkpatrick (City of Vaughan)

**E&E fund contribution:** \$16,242

### Project Overview:

#### I. Goals

As per the original agreement, the overall goal of this project was to identify the many barriers that exist in developing effective diversion initiatives in multi-residential Condo and apartment buildings.

The objectives of the research were to help develop an understanding of attitudes, behaviour and awareness among residents in the rental and condo multi-res sector as well as those of property managers and superintendents; and to highlight opportunities to increasing multi-residential recycling rates toward those being attained in single family homes.

#### II. Accomplishments

MF residents were asked for their opinion on different types of recycling containers. Available space (in kitchen, storage room, and cupboard) was identified as the primary factor in determining the suitability of container options (mini blue box, blue bag, blue basket and blue bin on wheels). While no one option suited all equally, the blue bag appeared to be the best compromise solution.

The report further provides eleven recommendations targeting residents on how to increase recovery of Blue Box waste, as well as suggested strategies aimed at building superintendents and building managers.

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

- Ensure equal access to both recycling and waste disposal (i.e. make it as easy for residents to recycle as it is to dispose of garbage)
- Provide proper tools and support for superintendents and property managers so that they are equipped to handle and manage increased quantities of recyclables
- Provide residents with education and incentives such as smaller in-unit containers and reminders to motivate them to take the extra step to recycle

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

No immediate impacts. The Town of Markham anticipates the expansion of its residential high-rise recycling program will double the amount of recyclables collected from this sector and contribute and increase Markham's overall waste diversion rate by 2%. Richmond Hill had set a target of 50% increase in the capture rate for its multi residential sector.

#### Resources & Tools

The strategies recommended through this project will be compared with the findings from E&E Fund project 199 - Multi-Residential Recycling System Improvements Through Focus Groups and Interviews – which AMRC is currently wrapping up.

