

E&E Project Summary Report

Project Name: Joint Solid Waste/Blue Box Collection – York Region Northern 6 Municipalities
Project Number: 214
Lead Sponsor: Town of Aurora
Total project cost: \$\$25,100 (incl. GST)

Priority Area: Cost Containment
Completed By: April 2007
E&E fund contribution: \$\$15,050 (incl. GST)

Project Overview:

I. Goals

To reduce collection costs for six York Region northern municipalities (Town of Aurora with East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville) by going out for a joint collection tender for three-stream collection (i.e. weekly recycling, weekly SSO, and garbage every second week).

II. Accomplishments

- Increased level of service for blue box (from every other week to weekly collection) is expected to divert an additional 20 % of blue box materials from disposal;
- Increased economies of scale and significant savings (up to 30%) in operational costs both contractual and internal.

III. Lessons Learned/Best Practice implications

- Ensure commitment for regional cooperation comes from senior government
- Ensure that everyone involved in the process work together to develop a standardized level of service that will provide the greatest economies for the group.
- Design the collection contract terms with the intention of working with the contractor as a partner to deliver the intended services.
- Develop a pricing formula that allows for the effective enhancement or removal of services with minimal administration and impact to the municipality.
- Remove barriers to efficient collection of waste by the contractor (e.g. municipal boundaries).
- Cost containment is one of the E&E Fund's priorities. Moving to bi-weekly collection of garbage represents a best practice. Although regionalized collection is not new in itself (Niagara, Hamilton, Halton and Peel are all regional collection), by documenting the process and the lessons learned, this represents a "first step" to an integrated approach to waste management where it does not currently exist.

IV. Limitations

None

Impacts (including tonnes diverted and cost impacts)

- A 15 to 30% reduction (depending on the municipality) in the cost per tonne for Blue Box waste recycled
- Anticipated increase of recyclable materials collected by as much as 20% due to the increased collection frequency from every other week to one collection every week.

