

## E&E Project Summary Report

**Project Name:** Peak Season Waste Audits for Renfrew County and Seasonal Waste Audits for Renfrew County  
**Project Number:** 223 & 223B **Priority Area:** Benchmarking and Waste Audits  
**Lead Sponsor:** Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre **Completed By:** Robins Environmental  
**Total project cost:** \$69,960 **E&E fund contribution:** \$66,780

### Project Overview:

#### *I. Goals*

- To determine seasonal waste composition variances for three communities in Ottawa Valley.
- To establish baseline audit data for three communities in Ottawa Valley.
- To determine waste composition for three communities in Ottawa Valley.

#### *II. Accomplishments*

- Two seasonal (Peak Season and Non-Peak Season) audits were completed
- Baseline setout frequencies, waste generation, waste diversion, and contamination information was determined for each season on a per-household basis.
- A waste generation increase during the Peak Season was confirmed, in addition to increased contamination rates and participation rates during the Peak Season.
- Three different communities were audited and compared in the final report.
- The analysis carried out in the final report identifies key areas for improvement and action, specifically: Education and promotion, as well as resource management and organics program capture rates.

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

This project constitutes a Best Practice in the development of an up-to-date plan for recycling, as it has enabled Renfrew County to determine generation and disposal patterns during Peak and Non-Peak Seasons, from which defined performance measures, diversion targets, and continuous improvement initiatives can be established. In addition, the information obtained from this project will enable the strategic planning and design of a more effective promotion and education program for both annual and seasonal residents of Renfrew County.

The results of this project have enabled Renfrew County to assess success in some waste management practices, and to determine and target key areas for improvement in other areas. Specifically:

- Target education and promotion of proper waste and recycling practices for Peak-Season visitors who may be unfamiliar with Renfrew County expectations.
- Use the seasonal variances model to more effectively manage staffing, resources, and equipment during Peak-Season and Non-Peak Season variances.
- Target less-effective programs, such as organics, in order to improve capture rates and resident participation.

It should be noted that this project was undertaken as two different components. The initial application was for a waste audit for the Peak-Season (summer and fall) only. Once the results of that audit were analyzed it was determined that a larger scope would be necessary for the data to have maximum impact and usefulness. The second application was for additional winter and spring audits (Non-Peak Season) in order to determine annual waste generation and disposal patterns, and identify seasonal variances.

#### *IV. Limitations*

Some municipalities in Renfrew County are serviced by depot collection programs. As such, although the audit data has provided valuable insight and information, its results pertain only to the curbside program.

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

This project revealed current generation and diversion rates as follows:

- Total annual waste generation: 831kg/hh/year during Peak Seasons; 669kg/hh/year during Non-Peak Seasons.
- Diversion rates (excluding yard waste): 52% diversion during Peak Seasons; 49% diversion during Non-Peak Seasons.
- Misdirected recyclable materials: 20% higher rate of misdirection during Peak Season versus Non-Peak Season.

