

E&E Project Summary Report

Project Name: West Perth Blue Box lid pilot

Project Number: 289

Lead Sponsor: Municipality of West Perth

Total project value (including in-kind): \$7,280

Priority Area: Program Compliance

Completed By: Christine Baker

E&E fund contribution: \$2,640

Project Overview:

I. Goals

To test a flexible netting-type lid (Enviro-Net) for blue boxes to determine whether they can drive up recovery and help control litter.

II. Accomplishments

- Net uptake was much lower than anticipated (1,000 nets were purchased by the Municipality – only 154 households chose to acquire one). Due to this, no tonnage data was collected and therefore no statement can be made about the net's effectiveness at driving recovery.
- 53 net users completed a survey – 89% of respondents indicated the net was effective at preventing litter and 86% found the net helped to increase the amount of material in their blue box.

III. Lessons Learned/Best Practice implications

- In order to be able to monitor the impact of the nets, it is necessary to distribute them directly (i.e. door-to-door) to residents in the target area and at no charge.
- The assessment of the nets from a collection efficiency point of view was quite negative. The collection contractor, Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA), flagged various issues with the nets, including increased time required to remove them, increased spillage at removal because of overfilled boxes, and nets that are improperly attached to the box or not attached at all.

IV. Limitations

The Municipality did not have the necessary resources to distribute the nets directly to the householders and to ensure significant uptake. This speaks to the broader issue of the limitations that small under-resourced municipalities face in carrying out projects.

Additional Information

BRA has decided to move to a cart-based collection system, addressing both issues of capacity and litter. The Association launched its first cart program in October 2008 in the Town of St. Marys, and plans to convert approximately 90% of households to the new collection system over the next four year

