

E&E Project Summary Report

Project Name: Recycle Away

Project Number: 44

Lead Sponsor: Quinte Waste Solutions

Total project cost: \$30,000

Priority Area: Public Space Recycling

Completed By: Quinte Waste Solutions

E&E fund contribution: \$15,000

Project Overview:

I. Goals

1. Collect accurate public space waste audit data for average size Ontario municipalities
2. Estimate typical recovery rates for Recycle Away materials (PET, HDPE, aluminium, polystyrene and steel)
3. Determine desirable features in bin design through public and worker surveys

II. Accomplishments

- Piloted 110 public space recycling bins (arenas, sports fields, and public parks) in two test municipalities (Belleville and Quinte West)
- Collected 2,860 Kg from public space recycling
- Conducted pre and post audits and weekly cross contamination audits at 3 trial sites
- Tried 5 bin designs to identify the impact of different attributes (graphics, written signage, ect) on recyclable capture and contamination

III. Lessons Learned/Best Practice implications

- Approximately 30% of the total material weight (combined waste and recycling streams) in the areas audited is made up of Recycle Away materials, which according to QWS, can be recovered at no or relatively low cost.
- Open bed trucks such as half tonne pick ups should be used to collect public space recyclables efficiently. Conversely, enclosed collection trucks, which have only one compartment, lead to collection inefficiencies.
- Recycling bins that display graphic material interpretations, written word descriptions and colour coded material stream signage are most successful at reducing cross-contamination
- Placing recycling and garbage bins side by side increases recyclable material capture while reducing cross contamination

IV. Limitations

- It was not possible to confirm and/or clarify whether public space recycling, as anticipated by QWS, can be collected at no or relatively low cost
- The project does not provide definitive conclusions on whether public space recycling represent the next source of least cost tonne and if it should therefore be considered a priority area.

Impacts (including tonnes diverted and cost impacts)

- This project led to a 2,860 Kg increase in blue box tonnes diverted.

