



## **Recycling Study in Northern Ontario Will Identify “Best Practices”**

**TORONTO** (August 18, 2005) — A study currently underway in Northern Ontario will identify the best practices that northern municipalities can use to improve the effectiveness and cost efficiency of their residential Blue Box recycling programs. The study results will detail how other municipalities in the north can adapt these same systems to develop better recycling programs that can contribute to the 60% Blue Box diversion target requested by Ontario’s Minister of the Environment.

“Residential recycling in the north is nothing like recycling in southern Ontario,” points out Damian Bassett, CEO of Stewardship Ontario, the industry funding organization that provided the \$65,000 grant for the study.

“Northern municipalities have to deal with longer distances between household pickups and much longer distances shipping recyclable materials to markets. Those, along with other challenges add cost and reduce overall efficiency in northern programs. But many northern recycling managers have figured out how to maximize efficiencies. This study will record and assess those systems for use by others,” he added.

Totten Sims Hubicki Associates (TSH) won a competitive bid to undertake this project. Their head office is located in Whitby, Ontario, but they also have an office in Sault Ste. Marie. 4H Consulting, based in Windsor, is working with TSH on this study.

The consulting team will examine two additional opportunities. The first is to report on the potential roles for other organizations or funding partners such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Fund program to be involved in Blue Box recycling in Ontario’s north. The second is to recommend how Stewardship Ontario’s Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) Fund can best be invested in recycling in the north to give municipalities an added boost toward achieving the Minister’s waste diversion targets in the most cost effective manner.

“Even though Ontario enjoys one of the most cost effective recycling systems in North America, we recognize there is room for improvement. Now that our Blue Box programs are jointly paid for by municipalities and by industry, both partners are keen to optimize efficiencies and ensure that programs run as effectively as possible. We are pleased to see the E&E Fund used to gain knowledge about best practices in northern recycling. It’s a win-win for everyone,” said Glenda Gies, executive director of Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO).

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Stewardship Ontario is an industry stewardship organization that was designated by the Minister under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* to be responsible for “Blue Box Waste.” The Act requires brand owners and first importers who use packaging or printed papers that are handled through Ontario municipal residential waste management programs to contribute to a fund equal to 50% of the net cost of municipal residential Blue Box recycling systems. Stewardship Ontario collects the fees from industry and distributes the money to municipalities.

The E&E Fund, launched in July 2004, represents 10% of the annual fees from industry. To date, the E&E Fund has approved funding for 22 projects for a total of \$4.6 million. Up to \$9 million project funding is available through 2005, with additional funding for future years.

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For Backgrounder information:

[http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/pdf/News/2005/EE\\_Fund\\_Backgrounder.pdf](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/pdf/News/2005/EE_Fund_Backgrounder.pdf)

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