

Waste Diversion Officer Report:
October 2023 – February 2024



Waste Diversion Officer Update

HHW

Household Hazardous Waste continues to average 15 customers each Monday we have been open throughout the reporting period. Most of the waste we receive continues to be “Lab-pack D” category, which is paint/thinners, other materials typically related to home improvements/renovations.

GFL completed a shipment of waste in mid-December which turned out to be the biggest load we have sent to date. 21 barrels full, 2 full pallets of 5-gallon pails and 4 boxes of fluorescent bulbs. There will be 1 more shipment to go out in mid-late March to assure we start off the 2024/25 fiscal in good standing.

We have had an increase of chemicals (typically paint cans) left at the door of the public works building, as well as the Household Hazardous Waste gate in recent months as the site is unattended. We will be looking into the potential of a camera program in the new fiscal year to monitor the gate/site.

All light bulbs of every kind will be added to the Electronic Recycling Program in 2025. This writer was contacted by Product Care, the program that currently manages the Paint reclamation program. This program will be responsible for collecting all light bulbs of all kinds. We will be accepting this product at our HHW site and like the Paint program it will now become a free item for the Municipality to dispose of.

Upcoming:

- We will be looking into Household Hazardous Waste training in the next reporting period for applicable staff.
- I will be exploring options for our fire extinguisher and larger compressed tanks that cannot be sent through GFL.
- I will be looking into clearing out our large cache of drill batteries and contacting GFL with regards to testing unlabeled chemicals to ensure safety with lab-packing.

RMRF

The Regional Materials Recovery Facility (RMRF) stayed consistently busy up until the last few weeks, there has been a lull since the holidays. The staff are staying busy assuring they are assisting customers when off-loading at the drop-cells, cleaning waste that blows into the tree lines and using the magnet rake to pick up any sharps that could pop a vehicle tire. The C&D staff have also sorted and sent out 12 battery boxes in this reporting period.

We have completed Freon removal of all the air conditioning units, refrigerators, and freezers at the site in December, so that these items can be added to the annual metal crushing.

Metal crushing will be with Ross & Sons this year. The crushing will commence sometime in February/early March and will be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

This writer has been in contact with Sonia Smith (Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada) since October trying to facilitate a pickup of our accumulated rope. The FGAC had to wait for their containers to be returned from overseas and as of January 25th, 2024, Sonia reached out to assure that they will be scheduling our rope pickup within the near future. When reaching out to Sonia to discuss recyclability of the rope, she mentioned that the company Plastix ([Front page - Plastix \(plastixglobal.com\)](https://www.plastixglobal.com)) was who they were in partnership with, located in Norway.

The leaf and brush pile at the C&D site is at capacity and we are going to truck the current pile to the Barrington Landfill C&D site for processing. We wanted to wait until after the Christmas Tree pickup to assure that we were cleared out for Spring. We will continue to truck brush to Barrington until the decision is made with regards to site design.

This writer and Nicole Townsend attended a training with NSE on January 25th, 2024, focusing on identifying treated lumber, versus untreated lumber. It was also a great opportunity to network with others in our role with their respective Municipalities and bring back some ideas applicable to day-to-day challenges that staff face at C&D sites/Transfer Stations/Landfills.

This writer provided historical information to Fracflow for the RFP for Assessment and Recommendations for Compliance with New Regulations. We are awaiting meetings with Fracflow and anticipate receiving their report within the next few weeks at which time a staff report will be brought to council.

Upcoming:

- Site redesign options, meetings with Nova Scotia Environment regarding compliance
- Metal Crushing
- Rope Recycling

Education, Solid Waste Removal & Enforcement

I have been receiving on average 200-250 calls per month. The calls vary from sorting questions, missed collection pickups to neighbor disputes or by-law complaints. The by-law officer and this writer work closely to assure we are consistent with residents from both the education and enforcement perspective.

Fall Metal collection 2023 was a continued success from the Spring collection. This is quantified by the amount of calls received/coordination of missed pickups. 4 years ago, we would be spending upwards of a full working week post cleanup assisting with education and the cleanup

efforts with the 20-foot trailer in tow. This pickup we did a longer form advertisement that clearly defined that the pickup was for metal items. After this metal collection by-law services only attended or picked up/provided education to a few different residences, this writer attended 3 residences, with less than a half a pickup truck load.

Angela Taylor with Region-6 attended the costume swap at the McKay Memorial library this year. It was not well attended, but it is an amazing opportunity for community members to reuse costumes as opposed to buying brand new. This writer will look to increase promotion of the event well in advance and share some pictures of the costumes on our Facebook page to generate some community involvement.

We have delivered 41 green carts in this reporting period. Most of these deliveries were in December/January with the carts cracking. When the carts freeze/thaw they are prone to cracking which also poses concerns for dumping the organics. I have had 5 calls in the month of January where residents stated their green carts were not dumped, when in fact it was just frozen solid.

Christine McClare from Region-6 did a presentation for the council in January with regards to EPR. EPR update4s will be provided as more information becomes available. The next step is for producers to consult with Municipalities by October 1, 2024.

The 2024 Waste sorting guide was completed in late November/December and has been mailed out to all residents.

Upcoming:

- Waste audits
- Litter initiative
- SRHS O2 class litter cleanup
- Earth Day/Compost giveaway
- Lockeport Spring HHW