



STAFF REPORT

TO: Council

FROM: Danyelle Smith, Waste Diversion Officer

APPROVED BY: Marcia d'Eon, Director of Operations and Protective Services

DATE: June 11, 2025

As I settle into the position of Waste Diversion Officer, I am navigating a range of new challenges and opportunities for growth. Since beginning my position, I have completed training in the management and packing of Household Hazardous Waste, as well as Transportation of Dangerous Goods. I am actively exploring additional programs and partnerships that can enhance cost recovery, reduce operational expenses, and increase overall efficiency in waste management services.

Curbside Collection

Daily phone calls are being fielded regarding waste separation. There were numerous rejections this quarter due to the use of black bags and unsorted waste. Most residents call me to discuss the issue, and resolutions are made over the phone. Some have resulted in site visits to provide education and to offer solutions. This past month the reports on the use of black bags have decreased significantly. This could be attributed to the increase in our social media posting and regular updates on our website to help clear up common separation concerns. Additionally, we are promoting the use of the "R6 RECYCLES" app for residents to use for clarification on separation, as well as receiving notifications for reminders of their waste collection dates or any disruptions in service.

EPR: We continue to use working groups, as well as information from neighboring communities, to assist us in providing information towards the opt in or opt out decision. The deadline for the decision has been extended to June 20, 2025.

Spring Metal Cleanup: We held our annual Spring Metal Clean-up (April 8-18, 2025). No issues reported.

Green carts: It seems there has been an increase in green cart requests. Most requests are due to the residents being new to the area or they have been destroyed or damaged by wear, tear or the tipping process. Currently we have an inventory of over two hundred but will soon need to purchase more.

HHW

In April, I sent my first shipment with GFL. Everything seemed to run smoothly.

Battery recycling: Two shipments of batteries since March 2025. I will be sending larger shipments from the HHW site over the next few months.

Paint program: Product Care Recycling are now accepting more paint items that would typically have been shipped as HHW. This change will help reduce expenses and increase revenue through improved cost recovery. A paint shipment was made in April 2025

Light Program: There will be a shipment of lights made in the next month. I believe more residents have been utilizing this program since the last report.

Regional Material Recovery Facility (RMRF)

We are now using a more efficient reporting system at the RMRF transfer site by using our current computer software reports versus handwritten reports. The transition was smooth and uneventful.

The tension cord safety rail has required several repairs due to lack of customer compliance. Future plans for the site call for the installation of safety rails.

Pressure treated lumber is being sent out regularly. We received several complaints from customers about the size of the bin. Because of this, we have made sure to communicate via posts on our social media pages and have staff at the site relay that it must be in manageable sizes (4 FT) to use the bin. Some customers have had to take their loads elsewhere due to the size of the materials they were bringing to the bin.

There is no longer funding available for the current **rope** disposal program. Considering this, I have been reaching out to various organizations and companies to explore the best options for disposing of the rope pile in a responsible and sustainable manner, rather than resorting to landfilling at considerable cost. I am happy to report that I have identified several organizations with programs focused on repurposing and reusing rope. Some have already conducted site visits, while others have been in touch via email. These conversations are promising, and I will continue collaborating with them to find the most effective solution.

Litter Incentive Program

Our litter incentive program began in April and the request for kms was huge. The 30km allotted went quickly and we created a waiting list for those interested if by chance a group were unable to complete their kms. We had a few organizations unable to complete their kms

and this allowed us to offer the km's to the waitlisted organizations. Many community members wished to do a clean-up despite not being allotted funds. It was great to see!

Divert Nova Scotia recently sent out an application for Litter Intervention Projects. I am in the process of completing the application. It opened on June 2 and will remain open until the funds have been committed.

Compost Giveaway

We held our annual compost giveaway on May 3, 2025. The weather was not great on that day; therefore, the participation numbers were lower than in previous years. Because of this, residents were permitted to collect over the following week. A successful event in the end.