



### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Danyelle Smith, Waste Diversion Officer

**APPROVED BY:** Marcia d'Eon, Director of Operations

**DATE:** January 28, 2026

---

The past few months have been both busy and productive, with continued progress in operational improvements and program development. Following the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on December 1, 2025, residents had questions regarding curbside collection and newly designated materials. The absence of a local depot accepting these materials required additional outreach and support to assist residents during this transition.

**Training:** I attended my first Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia (WRANS) conference in Halifax. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect with industry professionals and strengthen working relationships by putting faces to familiar names.

**Curbside Collection:** Daily inquiries continue, primarily related to waste separation. I met with the waste haulers on January 8, 2026 at the beginning of their day to discuss any concerns and to answer any questions they had. Rejection rates have been higher over the past few months, mainly due to unsorted waste, cat litter placed in organics carts, and organic contamination in blue bags. Educational efforts continue to be used to address these issues, including phone calls, site visits, and social media posts. We are also planning a waste community conversation, which will be released before the end of the fiscal year. In the coming months, a waste audit will be conducted in collaboration with the contractors to help address curbside issues.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** EPR is in full swing. There have been many calls regarding what goes where with the latest list of items that can be added to the blue bags. Not having a Depot in the area has made this slightly more complicated, however we are navigating as best we can, until CM has this piece sorted out.

**Fall Metal Cleanup:** October 7–17, 2025 was completed without any issues reported by our contractors. I am pleased to report that 36,020 pounds of metal was collected.

**Green Carts:** There has been reports from the contactors re: frozen organics. I have posted ways to help prevent this from happening on our social media platforms. Contractors are also using the “Frozen Compost” stickers. These stickers have suggested tips to help prevent compost from freezing to the sides of the cart.

**Green Cart Recycling:** With the assistance of Public Works staff, the wheels and metal axles were removed from broken green carts. Two trips were made to Sustane, located in Chester, to deliver broken green bins that had accumulated and been stored at Public Works. A total of 1.49 tonnes of plastic was diverted from landfill. The removed metal components were taken to the C&D site and added to the metal crushing pile. Although the initiative was cost-neutral, it was encouraging to know that these carts were not sent to a landfill and were instead recycled.

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** A shipment was sent out, October 14, 2025. Product Care performed an inspection on September 15, 2025, with no infractions reported. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) also conducted an inspection of Public Works and the HHW program. A few items at HHW require attention and are being addressed.

**Special Fall HHW Event:** We held a mobile HHW event in Lockeport on October 4, 2025. It was a busy day. There was feedback during the event that some residents were not aware of the event. Although, it was advertised via social media as well as posters around the Lockeport area, I will be sure to increase the awareness for the next event.

**Battery Recycling:** Call2Recycle shipment went out on October 27, 2025. Our first shipment for 2026 will soon be completed. This program has picked up over the past few months.

**Paint Program:** A Product Care Recycling shipment was completed on October 24, 2025.

**Light Recycling Program:** This program has also been picking up since last year. A shipment will take place in early February 2026.

**RMRF Transfer Station:** The C&D site has been a big focus for the past few months with the new operating model set to take place in April 2026. I have been working on a draft update of the C&D disposal policy and recommendations for tipping fees with the new operating model.

Overall, day-to-day operations have been running smoothly. I continue to respond to resident inquiries, monitor curbside collection issues, and adjust education and enforcement activities as needed. Upcoming priorities include completing a curbside waste audit, supporting residents through ongoing EPR changes, and preparing for the new C&D site operating model.