



STAFF REPORT

TO: Council

FROM: Danyelle Smith, Waste Diversion Officer

APPROVED BY: Marcia d'Eon, Director of Operations

DATE: May 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Waste Diversion Co-Ordinator Update May 2026

Over the past reporting period, work has continued across several solid waste management initiatives, including curbside collection monitoring, public education, environmental programs, and operational improvements at the RMRF Transfer Station. Improving service delivery, supporting public awareness around proper waste separation, and maintaining compliance and safety standards throughout all waste management operations is my focus.

Training: I will be attending the SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America – Atlantic Canada Chapter) conference in June 2026. I look forward to networking with others in the waste management industry and bringing back information on successful practices, as well as challenges being experienced in other regions.

Curbside Collection: Most calls and inquiries continue to relate primarily to waste separation. I have met with the contractors, and a waste audit is planned for late June. The number of waste rejections remains high across all areas within the SSS region (Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport).

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): We continue to receive calls regarding depot items. To my knowledge, Circular Materials has not yet secured a local depot site for these materials and residents are encouraged to recycle where possible or place in the appropriate waste stream.

Spring Metal Cleanup: The Spring Metal Cleanup was completed from April 7–17, 2026, without any issues reported by contractors. According to site weigh-in records, approximately 29,200 pounds of metal were collected.

Green Carts: Green carts continue to be distributed as needed. I have been tracking the number of carts requested since starting this position. A total of 94 carts were distributed within the Municipality during the 2025 calendar year. Based on the discussion that took place at council May 6, 2026 I will work on a staff report for future options/internal policy for the distribution of green carts.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): Items within the HHW area requiring Occupational Health and Safety attention have now been addressed. We are currently awaiting ground preparation work and delivery of the new sea can for storage purposes within the HHW area. A shipment of HHW materials was sent out on May 12, 2026.

Battery Recycling: I attended an online information session with Call2Recycle on April 21 regarding battery safety training for collection sites. The session focused primarily on proper storage and packaging procedures for batteries collected through their program. The need for a vape recycling program in this area was also discussed. Call2Recycle advised they are working on a pilot program for Nova Scotia and will provide updates once it is launched. Battery shipments were sent out in March, April, and May.

Light Recycling Program: A shipment of recyclable lights was collected and sent out in March 2026.

MDS Litter Incentive Program: To date, 28 kilometres have been completed through the Litter Incentive Program, with the remaining routes already planned. Overall, the program continues to operate smoothly.

Earth Day 2026: It was great to see strong participation in the Earth Day cleanup this year. MDS Staff and Councillors participated and were able to witness firsthand the ongoing litter concerns within our communities. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and support, and I hope to see even greater participation next year.

I was also pleased to participate in an Earth Day information session with the Region 6 educator titled *Talking Trash*. We presented to the Tri-County Women's Centre at the MacKay Memorial Library. The session generated many great questions and provided an excellent opportunity to share accurate information about waste sorting and recycling. Another session is scheduled for June 25 in Lockeport, and plans are underway to host an additional session at the Shelburne Community Centre later this summer.

RMRF Transfer Station: The C&D site officially began operating under the new operating model on April 15, 2026. Prior to implementation, all material streams were removed from the site, including C&D materials, leaf and yard waste stockpiles, metal (which was crushed and removed), and stockpiled rope, which was transported to Yarmouth as part of Sustane's rope recycling program. Overall, the operational transition has gone smoothly.

Progress continues across multiple waste management programs and operational areas. Public education and waste separation remain ongoing priorities. I will continue working with

contractors and residents to educate and support effective and sustainable waste management services.