



STAFF REPORT

TO: Council

FROM: Danyelle Smith, Waste Diversion Officer

APPROVED BY: Marcia d'Eon, Director of Operations

DATE: September 9, 2026

SUBJECT: **Waste Diversion Officer Quarterly Update**

The past few months have continued to be very busy with a mix of day-to-day operations, education, site visits, training, and planning for upcoming events. The workload is constantly changing, and priorities often shift throughout the day as issues come up that need more immediate attention. Some days start with one plan and end up looking completely different. This means adjusting schedules and moving between tasks as needed, while continuing to work through ongoing projects and regular responsibilities.

Training: I attended the SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America – Atlantic Canada Chapter) Conference in June 2026. It was beneficial to have my supervisor attend as well, as it provided us with an opportunity to network with other waste management professionals, share ideas, and learn how other municipalities and organizations manage their waste operations.

As part of the conference, we visited the Halifax C&D facility. The facility was in operation during our visit, allowing us to observe the processes firsthand and gain a better understanding of their C&D operations.

Curbside Collection: Fielding calls and responding to concerns related to curbside waste collection continues to be a daily part of operations. Several on-site visits have been completed to provide education and assist residents in understanding proper waste sorting and what goes where.

Approximately 50% of the planned waste audits have been completed. There were several contractor breakdowns during the days I had set aside to complete the audits, which caused some delays. I will continue with the remaining audits over the next few months.

For the most part, residents are doing a great job; however, improper waste sorting continues to be a significant concern. Bylaw Enforcement Officers in both municipal units have been made aware of areas where recurring issues have been identified, and we have been working together to educate residents and improve compliance. Summary offense tickets are one option being considered and this will be explored in more detail in the coming months.

There has also been an increase in rejected waste from businesses and campgrounds. As a result, I have made several visits to these locations to provide education and assist with proper waste sorting practices.

Fall Metal Cleanup: The Fall Metal Cleanup is scheduled for October 6–16, 2026. Facebook and website advertisement will begin later this month.

Green Carts: Green carts continue to be distributed to residents as needed. From May through July, 24 green carts were distributed.

An order of green carts has been placed, with delivery anticipated for late September 2026.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): The sea can container has arrived and been set up on site. Green carts are now being stored inside the sea can, and a dedicated battery sorting and storage area has also been established.

We are currently awaiting a second quote for a storage unit for propane tanks. Once received, we will be able to determine the next steps for improving propane tank storage at the facility.

Planning is also underway for the Household Hazardous Waste event in Lockeport on October 3, 2026. This event will provide residents in the Lockeport area with a convenient opportunity to safely dispose of household hazardous waste.

Battery safety continues to be an important area of education. Numerous waste management groups have shared information regarding fires caused by batteries being disposed of improperly in the waste stream. Improperly discarded batteries can create a serious fire risk in collection vehicles and waste processing facilities. Several educational posts have been shared through our social media channels regarding proper battery disposal and the associated safety risks. Public education on this issue will continue.

A battery shipment of 16 boxes was sent in July 2026.

Public Education Sessions: A Talking Trash information session was held at the Lockeport Recreation Centre on June 25, 2026. Attendance was low; however, the session provided an opportunity to speak directly with residents about waste sorting, diversion programs, and proper disposal practices.

C&D Transfer Station: The C&D site has been operating smoothly overall as we continue to work through some of the minor challenges associated with the new operating model. The biggest challenge has been managing the bins on busy days when they fill more quickly than

expected and ensuring they are shipped out and returned to the site in a timely manner. This site recently passed its Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change permitting inspection.

Data Call: I have been working on the 2025/26 Data Call, which is due to Divert NS at the end of September. This is my second year completing the Data Call, and although it is a lot of information to gather and review, I am feeling more comfortable with the process this year. Data Call is an important document that all Municipal units within the province complete annually. This report forms the basis for determining our annual waste funding and provides a measurement of the overall success of our waste programs.

Throughout the year, I have been keeping information organized as it becomes available, which has made the process much more manageable. Reports from the software at the C&D site will also be used to gather some of the information needed for the final report.

The past few months have been busy, with lots of different areas of waste management continuing to require attention. Education and proper waste sorting remain an ongoing focus. The coming months will include completing the remaining waste audits, Fall Metal Cleanup, the Lockeport HHW event, and continuing to work through the new process at the C&D site.