

Waste Diversion Officer Report:

February 1, 2022 – April 1, 2022



Waste Diversion Officer Update

Feb.1st – April 1, 2022

HHW

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) was open for 4 days through this reporting period. The annual report was submitted on February 1st, 2022, please refer to the last quarterly report for a statistical breakdown. Typically, in February/March we have a lower user rate, however in this reporting period we were still steady with anywhere from 10-15 residents attending the site on the days we are open. I attend the site daily to assure there are no items left at the gate by residents. We have had a decline in the “dumping at the gate” over the past 2 years, but with a lot of new residents who are learning our Solid Waste rules it has been manageable, but there has been a recent spike of this behavior.

There will be a Terrapure shipment and paint shipment in the next reporting period as we have 17 lab-pack barrels, 2 Fluorescent bulb boxes, and 2 pallets (48, 5-gallon buckets) to send out as well as our 12 paint boxes full. There have been difficulties with organizing the paint pickup with regards to forklift availability and truck breakdowns however we have a date in April for pickup to assure we are not stock-piling chemicals throughout the site.

We have had 10 battery boxes completed in this reporting period that have been transported to the C&D site. Nicole has taken ownership over the battery packing and has been keeping on top of it to assure limited stockpiling which has been of huge benefit to this writer. There was only 1 additional day that was needed at the HHW site for back-logged packing.

RMRF

The Regional Materials Recovery Facility has been steady throughout the last 2 months with an average of 10-15 customers per day, with the weather getting better we have had up to 34 customers in 1 day. We have been filling potholes from the muddy spring weather and we were able to get Mark Williams to dig a culvert by the metal pile to assure that residents do not get stuck when attending the site.

As previously mentioned, we have completed processing and packaging 10 battery boxes in this time. Staff are certainly looking forward to the addition of an All-Terrain vehicle in this fiscal year to assist with transporting materials from cell to cell as needed. Peter the RMRF Manager is also very thankful for the approval of cell dividing walls to assist with “overlapping” that occurs when the site starts to fill up.

We have purchased the new scale software and after consultation with the Audit and Control Committee/Finance Department we have built in a daily/monthly and annual reporting structure that will replace the handwritten daily sheets we have been accustomed to. This writer is in the process of scheduling the online training component of the software for staff to

use. We will be using the new system in tandem with the handwritten system for the first month as we expect that some “bugs” will need to be worked through during implementation. It would be realistic to say that we will be fully transitioned by mid-June into the beginning of July. The system is very detailed and can certainly be overwhelming for staff but with the goal in mind that this will bring eventual simplicity to our record-keeping in the future.

American Iron & Metals (A.I.M.) took their last load of metals on March 30th, 2022. There were still approximately 2 loads of metal left as well as our offshore pots that are stored across from the brush pile that they were unable to get to before the end of the fiscal year. Although it was mentioned in November 2021 by A.I.M. that they would eventually bring the crusher/compactor to the site however that did not come to fruition. The metal pile as a whole was collected by self-loading picker trucks that were not magnetized. As a result of this, the site was left in quite a mess. Staff have had to go over the fridge/freezers area with the magnet rakes and we had to get the site contractor to re-stack the piles that were left as well as peel back some of the sediment that was left with small pieces of metal that would have contributed to flat tires for site users. There were also additional hidden fees that were not shared with this writer when the contract was discussed, such as a 4000lbs. penalty for each individual propane tank that was found within the metals they recovered. The propane tanks were no longer pressurized and were brought to the site with holes in them and this writer was able to get the penalties removed to our credit as it was never discussed until we received our first invoice. There was twice where AIM’s trucks got stuck and asked writer to get the contractor to assist with pulling the truck out of the mud and assured that they contacted the contractor independently as this was not negotiated nor our responsibility. They continued to show up on days we were not open unannounced, resulting in disruption for this writer, despite the operating hours of operation being provided to the company in advance. This will all be considered when reviewing quotes for the 2022/23 metal processing.

Education, Solid Waste Removal & Enforcement

I have fielded 189 calls and responded to 18 Facebook queries in this reporting period. This has been on average with the last reporting period. The bulk of the phone calls were pertaining to “What item goes where?”, as well as approximately 15-20 being seasonal residents who are returning for the first time since Covid-19 safety measures were put in place, mixed with new residents who bought within the last year but are now fully transitioning to full-time life in Nova Scotia. I have had 5-7 visits attending residences to assist residents who have purchased properties with full woodsheds and basements full of expired chemicals ranging from paint to acids. This being an investment in the resident to foster relationship building through waste accountability.

This writer completed the bi-annual Solid Waste bylaw enforcement report, which was submitted for April 1st, 2022, to region-6 to qualify for our enforcement funding. This reporting

period is from October 1st-April 1st, 2022. This reporting period we have continued to show success through building relationships and proactive education and is reflected in another decrease in illegal dumping. We have only had 7 complaints total, 6 of which were private residents (although in communal waste boxes) and 1 from commercial. There were no fines issued for illegal dumping in this reporting period and all the complaints were dealt with in a timely manner resulting in corrective action from the perpetrator in question.

I have delivered 9 green carts in this reporting period. 6 of the green cart deliveries were to new residents and the additional 3 were replacements from broken carts. We are down to 33 small carts, and we will have to order another 88 within this fiscal year to keep up with repairs and demand.

We have completed the deliveries of the last 3 municipal garbage boxes within this last 2 months and we have identified 3 more that need to be replaced. We have enough materials left to build 1 more box and will have to utilize the monies budgeted for 2 more to be built. Once completed we will have replaced all the existing Municipal garbage boxes and this writer will be reviewing the policy for council to consider moving forward.

UPCOMING:

1. Software upgrades/installation/training at the RMRF (Ongoing)
2. Solid Waste bylaw review with Shared Services (Ongoing)
3. Continued education and conflict resolution provided throughout the Shared Services area.
4. Green cart repairs (Ongoing)
5. Municipality of the District of Shelburne Litter Incentive
6. Spring Metal Collection
7. Earth Day compost give away/Potential School garbage pickup
8. SRHS litter pickup
9. Town wide community litter pickup