

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

“GREEN” STRATEGY”

Our VISION is:

To ensure all Solid Waste Services (SWS) programmes work to protect and enhance the natural environment whenever possible.

Our GOAL is:

To promote “Green Practices” in all daily activities, operation plans and the overall strategy.

Our OBJECTIVES are:

- To incorporate “Green Principles” into all areas of waste management decisions and actions.
- To celebrate the successes and accomplishments of these initiatives.

The Core Green Principles are:

- ✓ Protect and enhance the natural environment
- ✓ Reduce the carbon footprint of our operations
- ✓ Practice a “Life Cycle” approach

ACTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE “GREEN PRINCIPLES”

Programme Assessment:

All SWS programmes, projects and services are continuously assessed against the core green principles:

- To determine how each may be impacting the environmental health of the County or the specific workplace.
- To identify any opportunities for improvement.

The information gained from the assessment is used to guide future SWS efforts.

Details:

All SWS operations are broken into essential activities and the key management practices required for each. These practices are assessed against the “Core Green Principles”. This confirms that sound environmental values have been established; are being maintained; and may be enhanced. New activities and practices are added from time to time, as the changing waste industry and other opportunities develop.

All operations are tracked over time to determine if any activity or practice assists in:

- ✓ Reducing negative environmental impacts created in providing service.
- ✓ Reducing the carbon footprint created in providing service.
- ✓ Improving life cycle performance through reduction, reuse and recycling practices.
- ✓ Enhancing environmental health.

REPORTING & FEEDBACK

An annual report is developed for Committee and Council and is posted on the County website to:

- Update main activities performed in the last year.
- Detail opportunities for improvement.
- Show potential budget impacts.
- Lay out possible timelines for implementation.

2013 Details:

In 2013 the following initiatives were pursued:

- Wildlife habitat programme started.
 - University of Guelph Landscape Architecture students assessing each site for opportunities to plant native grasses or other vegetation to assist in improving wildlife habitat or enhancing the natural environment.

2014 and Beyond:

The following plan provides a general approach to achieving Green Strategy goals. This plan should be viewed as a continually evolving process, outlining the potential implementation of a number of potential projects/practices over an extended timeline. Projects will be repositioned depending upon budget availability, site construction requirements or other opportunities that develop.

TIMELINES & BUDGETING

For any “Green” decisions to be successful, they must reflect concern for costs, public benefit, and the political climate. This results in operational changes being rolled out over a practical timeline. Any changes that have political or significant economic impact are presented to Committee and Council for discussion and approval.

Details:

The following recommendations have been developed along with a suggested timeline. The timeline has been developed as a five year plan in an attempt to match County budgeting practices. A longer term outlook has also been provided, but without costing implications. Activities are adjusted as challenges and opportunities arise.

2014:

Landfill Waste load compliance inspection programme initiated =\$1,000 (Ops Budget):

- Random load inspections started to identify liquid, hazardous or out of area waste.
- MOE standard operational requirement for landfill sites.

2015:

Waste load inspection & education programme initiated =\$5,000 (Operations Budget):

- Random load inspections started to identify recycling opportunities.
- Customer education process begun.

2016:

Training opportunities programme developed =\$10,000 (Operations Budget):

- Develop training locations for composting.
- Develop volunteer groups.
- Purchase supplies.

2017:

Liquid de-icing programme =\$5,000 (Operations Budget):

- Possible trials started for liquid de-icing application at sites.
- Monitoring for reduced chloride impacts.

Leachate collection/treatment systems if needed =\$1,700,000 (Capital Budget):

- Determine if Phase I Riverstown development is needed.
- Develop plan for Phase II needs.
- Complete collection system construction.

2018:

Vermi-composting opportunities initiated =\$1,000 (Operations Budget):

- Develop educational tools.
- Purchase materials and other supplies as needed.

Indoor composting opportunities initiated =\$2,000 (Operations Budget):

- Work with other County operations like Green Legacy.

Leachate collection/treatment systems continued =\$1,700,000 (Capital Budget):

- Completion of treatment system construction.

Interpretive opportunities developed as appropriate =\$10,000 (Operations Budget):

- Develop sites for interpretive studies and tours at sites.
- Develop relations with local naturalists and university groups.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

2019 & Beyond:

Industry awards/recognition initiated =\$2,000 (Operations Budget):

- Apply for waste industry service and improvement awards.

Wetland creation opportunities developed as appropriate =\$30,000 (Capital Budget):

- Develop water features for wildlife habitat and ground water recharge.

Methane utilization study =\$30,000 (Operations Budget)

- Determine if possible for County sites.
- Determine if private partnerships are available.
- Determine if carbon credits and revenues are possible.

Methane control opportunities developed as needed =\$200,000 (Capital Budget):

- Develop appropriate solutions as needed.
- Explore carbon credit options, possible revenue, and other uses for gas.

Possible leaf/yard waste composting opportunities revisited=\$??? (Operations Budget):

- Explore the possibility of a site specific collection programme.
- Explore the possibility of a curbside collection programme.

Recognition/Rewards programme initiated =\$5,000 (Operations Budget):

- Recognition of local industry for participation efforts in the blue box, composting and diversion programmes.
- Purchase special green boxes, plaques, composters and other reward materials.

Presentations (schools and community options) initiated =\$5,000 (Operations Budget):

- Programme developed.
- Supplies purchased.

Media tool opportunities developed =\$1,500 (Operations Budget):

- Expand promotion and education programme.

General displays & booths initiated =\$2,000 (Operations Budget):

- Specialized display stands, equipment and travel containers purchased.

Tours programme initiated =\$2,000 (Operations Budget):

- Site tours for schools, community groups, and residents.
- Possible general operations and environmental themes education.
- Possible virtual tours for operations and “green’ theme.

Interpretive facility developed =\$??? (Operations Budget):

- Create interpretive experiences at sites.
- Determine any building renovations required at sites.