



Showcase Projects

City of Morden / Three-Stream Curbside Collection Environmental Action / CiB Program Participant Projects



Morden's Three-Stream Curbside Collection

In 2016, the City of Morden launched a new and ambitious project, a three-stream waste collection service aimed to reduce the amount of waste sent to the local landfill by 50% by 2020. Within the first 12 months, Morden had already surpassed that goal. To help keep the collection organized, the City of Morden was divided into five zones at the launch of the collection service, and then three later on. Municipal Waste Management Environmental (MWME) was hired by the City to manage the three-stream collection service. Three colour-coded, wheeled carts were delivered to each residence, with multi-family residences (e.g. apartments) receiving larger, communal bins. The carts are separated into blue for recycling (360L liters), green for compost (240 liters) and black for waste (240 liters) each equipped with unique RFID tracking numbers. Every year a waste schedule is posted on the City of Morden website and printed in hardcopy outlining which carts will be picked up on which days. Blue and black carts are collected on alternating weeks, both at least twice a month. Green carts are collected every week in the spring, summer, and fall and once a month in winter. In an average summer week, 24,150 kilograms of compost is collected from all three zones. During the same period, 19,560 kilograms of recycling is collected. It adds up to 43,710 kilograms (96,364 pounds) of material kept out of the landfill. Recycling is taken nearby to an organization in Winkler, MB where it is sorted and sent away to be repurposed. Compost is brought to a company in Morden, called Enviroclean to be turned into a useable product through an aerobic composting process which produces mature compost in 24 to 48 hours. The compost is then used on farmland in the area. Waste is taken to the regional landfill site SWAMP (Solid Waste Area Management Plan). In the winter of 2017, the City of Morden passed a by-law designed to reduce waste going to the landfill even further. The by-law makes composting and recycling mandatory throughout the city with staggered compliance dates between January 2018 and January 2019 to allow residents and businesses time to adapt their waste practices. MWME opened a household and hazardous waste recycling depot in Morden in March 2017. Residents can drop off items such as paint/stain (in the original containers), empty paint cans, aerosols, mineral spirits, paint stripper, BBQ lighter fluid, pesticides and other toxic material, furniture stripper, batteries, etc. This year-round facility replaced the annual spring drop-off day which Morden previously offered. MWME employees have expressed their enjoyment of working in Morden thanks to the citizens' appreciation of their work and the small size of the community. The city's size made implementing the waste collection program relatively simple. Morden residents have adapted quickly to the three-stream service evidenced by growing participation numbers and high approval rates on the community survey over the past two years.