



Solid Waste Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chairman and Members of SWRAC

CC: Sandra Riley, Legislative Assistant
 Mike Labrecque, Director, T&PW

FROM: Jim Bauld, Manager

DATE: May 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Net Waste/Resource System Mass Balance

At the February 28, 2008, meeting of the SWRAC, Councillor Rankin correctly commented that the Solid Waste/Resource System Mass Balance, regularly provided by staff, does not depict the net tonnes disposed annually.

For the information of members of SWRAC, staff has prepared a “Net Waste/Resource System Mass Balance” which shows the “System Total Incoming” i.e. gross, and “Net System Total” total tonnes and the resultant diversion rate for each.

As this is the first occasion staff has calculated the Net Waste/Resource Mass Balance and resultant diversion rate, which at 53.31% is less than the gross diversion rate of 56.44% for 2007/08, the following information is provided for clarity and understanding of committee members:

- All the tools (i.e. education, monitoring, enforcement, economic incentives, i.e. higher disposal fee for ICI waste at \$115/tonne (since May 2001) than ICI organics at \$70/tonne and new policies (i.e. 6 bag/can limit separate bins with signage at ICI properties)) are designed to influence the habits/actions of the general public.
- The System Total Incoming, i.e. gross, reflects the habits/actions of the general public, that is, their behaviour in source separation (or failure to).

***Each landfill cell costs \$15 million and is full in three years.
 Help extend the life of each cell by recycling and composting.***

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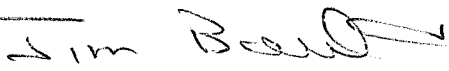
- The Net System Total depicts the actual number of tonnes of waste disposed at the Otter Lake facility (after metal has been recovered at 2,111 tonnes, weight loss in the WSF at approximately 4,650 tonnes, and clean paper and beverage containers recovered in the FEP ± 550 tonnes).
- The Net System Total also depicts that 18,413 tonnes of C&D material was disposed at a private C&D disposal facility in 2007/08, which is 24% of all C&D material received at private C&D facilities.

As required by By-Law L-200 and Administrative Order # 27 (i.e. the HRM C&D Strategy), all privately owned C&D facilities, which are licensed by HRM, achieved the required 75% diversion rate, resulting in 18,413 tonnes of C&D material (out of the 76,575 tonnes received at C&D transfer and processing facilities) being disposed in 2007/08.

With a 53.31% Net System Total in 2007/08, the HRM Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management System still continues to out perform all but a few major urban centres world wide.

As a caution, there are a variety of methodologies to measure diversion. Some municipalities (not HRM) include dewatered sewage sludge and recovered automobiles. The NS Dept of Environments methodology is a comparison of total tonnes disposed per capita in most recent year compared to 1989 - the base line year. HRM's methodology is a percentage of total tonnes received from the total tonnes generated, in the same current year.

The System Mass Balance (i.e. gross) which staff has provided to members of SWRAC, more accurately reflects the actual participation and behaviour of the general public. In 1995, the Citizens Stakeholder Committee identified participation as one of the principles of the new Solid Waste/Resource Management Strategy.


Attachment

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