
MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 13-2019

Subject: Multi-Residential Textile Diversion Pilot Program Update

Date: Monday, April 29, 2019

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Emily Hughes, Waste Diversion Coordinator

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee with an update on the newly implemented Multi-Residential Textile Diversion Pilot Program (the Pilot). The purpose of the Pilot is to enhance service to the multi-residential sector (seven units and greater), divert textile material from landfill, and create awareness and support local non-profit organizations.

Textile materials include any type of woven fabric or cloth such as clothing, shoes, mats, drapes and sheets. As part of the Pilot, the Region is also capturing damaged textiles including mismatched socks and shoes, ripped or torn clothing and clothing with broken zippers or lost buttons. In Niagara, textiles account for approximately four per cent of the low density residential garbage stream, which equates to roughly 11 kg of textiles per household per year (based on Niagara's 2015/2016 Waste Composition Study). The multi-residential sector is likely disposing of larger quantities of textiles than low density residential properties as a result of front-end garbage collection and no enforced garbage bag/can limits. The Pilot was implemented to create a convenient option for residents in multi-residential properties to divert textile material from the garbage stream.

A request for quotation was issued in October 2017 seeking work with multiple non-profit organizations for a two-year Pilot. There were three successful qualifying non-profit organizations – Goodwill Niagara, Diabetes Canada and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara Falls. The non-profit organizations are responsible for supplying, delivering and maintaining the textile collection container(s) at their designated properties. The container is for indoor use only and includes contact information for the non-profit and the Niagara Region's logo to identify co-branding of the program (Appendix A). The non-profit organizations are required to empty the containers at regular intervals, removing all material, and provide the Region with quarterly reports, which include the total weight of the material collected from each participating multi-residential property.

Niagara Region staff evaluated a list of multi-residential properties who were successfully participating in the Region's multi-residential diversion programs, such as Organics Cart Collection, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Battery Collection programs, to determine which properties to approach about joining the Pilot program. Staff contacted 63 properties to provide the benefits of the Pilot

program and determine their level of interest. Interested properties received an initial site visit from Niagara Region staff to assess building eligibility, noting the best location for an indoor textile collection container. The first phase of the Pilot included 21 properties, which were divided equitably between the three non-profit organizations based on the number of units at each property. A second site visit at each committed property was subsequently completed by Niagara Region staff and the designated non-profit organization to confirm container location and placement and to discuss the initial collection frequency at each property.

There are currently 21 properties participating in the Pilot (Appendix B), including all eight Niagara Region Long-term Care Homes and three Niagara Regional Housing properties. The first 15 properties were implemented in September and October of 2018, and approximately 3,400 kilograms of textile material was collected in Q4 of 2018. The remaining six properties were implemented in February 2019. A total of approximately 3,500 kilograms of textile material was collected in Q1 of 2019.

The total cost to implement the Pilot was \$1,300, which includes promotional and educational materials in the form of posters and door hangers highlighting the acceptable material and identifying the non-profit (Appendix C). There is no cost to the Niagara Region for the textile collection containers or collection services. Phase 2 of the Pilot aims to roll the program out to another 10 properties and is set to be implemented in May 2019.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Emily Hughes
Waste Diversion Coordinator

Appendix A: Textile Collection Containers	Page 3
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