



New Compactor System Will Reduce Dryden's Recycling Costs And Increase Blue Box Efficiency

TORONTO (September 29, 2005) — “The City of Dryden has been awarded a grant under Stewardship Ontario’s Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) Fund to set up a new compactor system that will lead to increased recycling and at the same time reduce the cost of the city’s Blue Box recycling program,” announced Damian Bassett, CEO of Stewardship Ontario.

Under the E&E Fund, Stewardship Ontario is providing a grant of \$250,000 to help Dryden purchase an innovative storage/compaction system that will serve the community’s recycling needs better than the current transfer station system and function as a demonstration project illustrating a new, cost effective way to process recyclables in northern Ontario communities.

“When this new compaction system is fully operating, we expect to reduce the city’s recycling processing costs by about 20% on a per tonne basis and increase waste diversion through recycling by 25%,” announced Brad Johns, Dryden’s Director of Engineering and Public Works Services.

The new system will also potentially benefit area municipalities such as Fort Frances which will utilize some of the equipment. As well, the units will combine recyclables from industrial, commercial and institutional sources with residential materials which will increase recycling efficiencies for all of the municipal programs.

“This is leading edge technology that will change the economics of recycling in northern communities,” Mr. Bassett said. “At Stewardship Ontario, one of our jobs is to find solutions to the challenge of driving costs out of our recycling programs. This is important to both municipalities and industry, which are now sharing 50/50 the net cost of residential Blue Box recycling programs.”

Instead of sorting and individually baling a relatively small amount of recyclables, the new system will allow Dryden to realize economies of scale by co-mingling a range of recyclables, such as containers, newspapers and paper packaging. This will permit larger, more regular shipments to a processing facility in Winnipeg, 350 km to the west, where the materials are re-processed for shipment to individual material markets.

“With this new system, we will be able to accept a wider range of materials for recycling in our community and make it easier for residents to recycle. Rather than separating the paper and container recyclables into individual boxes at home, they can all go together in the same Blue Box,” Mr. Johns noted.

Recycling continues to pose unique challenges in Northern Ontario. The long distances between household pickups and the even greater distance for shipping materials to market make recycling more expensive in the north than it is in southern Ontario. With these higher costs, communities are often limited in the range of materials that can be collected and unable to achieve other economies of scale in their systems.

Dryden closed its recycling processing facility in June 2004. Since then, the community has been storing separated recyclables at its existing transfer station until volumes are sufficient to ship to distant markets. While this has been a relatively expensive interim solution, a recent engineering study recommended against establishing a new recycling processing facility due to the high capital costs of purchasing all new equipment and the high labour costs of separating low volumes of Blue Box materials.

With Stewardship Ontario's help, the city will purchase two 'Transtor' storage units and an ejection compaction trailer. This system is relatively simple for residents and businesses to drop off materials. Benefits include low electricity and labour/handling costs, it sits outside (rather than in a new building), it keeps materials dry and it is easily expandable.

Stewardship Ontario is an industry funding stewardship organization that was designated by the Minister of the Environment under the *Waste Diversion Act*, 2002 to be responsible for implementing and operating the Blue Box Program Plan. The Act requires brand owners and first importers who use Blue Box wastes – multi-material packaging or printed papers to contribute to pay 50% of the total net cost of the Ontario municipal Blue Box recycling system. This system cost has been approved by the WDO. Stewardship Ontario collects the fees from industry and distributes the money to municipalities.

The E&E Fund, launched in July 2004, represents 10% of the annual payments to municipalities. To date, the E&E Fund has approved funding for 30 projects for a total of \$5.1 million. Up to \$9 million in project funding is available through 2005, with additional funding for future years.

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For Backgrounder information:

http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/pdf/News/2005/EE_Fund_Backgrounder.pdf

Contacts:

Stewardship Ontario
Barbara McConnell
Communications
647-777-3362
After hours: 614-471-1816

City of Dryden
Brad Johns
Director of Engineering & Public Works Services
807-223-2367