



# **Multi-Family Recycling Initiative**

**WDO Project OPT-R2-12**

**Prepared by:**

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City of Greater Sudbury**

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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The City of Greater Sudbury is expecting a significant increase in the participation of Multi-Family Residential Unit recycling programs. In order to receive waste collection services, building owners will be required to participate in waste diversion and recycling programs. This new program will increase the overall recycling participation, as well as potentially increasing contamination type problems.

The Multi-Family Recycling Initiative (OPT-R2-12) involved evaluating the Multi-Family Residential Units currently recycling with the City of Greater Sudbury in order to devise a tailored educational/promotional program that will increase recycling participation and decrease contamination problems.

The project determined that the Multi-Family Residential Units with the most successful recycling programs had good accessibility to the recycling area, well informed residents and a manager/superintendent to monitor the recycling area.

Educational/promotional materials were developed for the residents of the Multi-Family Residential Units and distributed accordingly. As well, the project led to maintaining better contact with the superintendent/landlord and doing presentations to the tenants/members when requested.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the Multi-Family Recycling Initiative (OPT-R2-12) was to assess a selection of high density residential units in the City of Greater Sudbury to further the overall participation rate for recycling and to determine ways in which to decrease contamination.

Commencing May 1, 2001 in the City of Greater Sudbury, in order to receive waste collection services, building owners will be required to participate in waste diversion and recycling programs. The City of Greater Sudbury, therefore, is expecting a significant increase in the participation of multi-unit recycling programs.

The WDO project allowed us to evaluate the most effective way to educate/promote recycling in Multi-Family Residential Units and to design effective recycling programs for all high density units implementing recycling in the future.

The Multi-Family Recycling Initiative projects goals were to:

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the municipal Blue Box program in Multi-Family Residential Units.
- Create educational/promotional material to increase participation and decrease contamination in the Multi-Family Residential Units.

### 3. **METHODOLOGY**

The following timeline was developed to complete the WDO Multi-Family Recycling Initiative:

January 8 -12 .....	Develop timeline, evaluation forms, etc.
January 15 - January 26 .....	Evaluate Multi-Unit Residential Facilities
January 29 - February 2.....	Interim Report & Compile evaluation notes
February 5 - 16.....	Develop Educational Program/Materials
February 19 - March 16.....	Education Program/Materials printing
March 16 - March 23. ....	Distribute to Residential Facilities
March 31 .....	Final Report

\*On January 1, 2001 the municipalities of the Region of Sudbury amalgamated to form the City of Greater Sudbury. Due to these changes the WDO project could only be completed over a 3 month period.

Thirty-nine (39) Multi-Family Residential Units in the communities of the City of Greater Sudbury were evaluated in the project. The items evaluated (Appendix 1) included:

Recycling Area:

- the general conditions of the recycling area available to the resident/tenant;
- the structure - if any provided for the recycling containers;
- the location and accessibility of the recycling area;
- the types of labels/signs posted;
- and the cleanliness of the area.

Recyclables:

- type of containers, i.e. 95 gallons, etc.;
- quantity of containers;
- the quantity of recyclables in the container
- subsequently the weights of the recyclables;
- contamination and non-compliance;

The evaluation results were compiled and analyzed for recycling program efficiencies, inefficiencies and observance of any contamination and the reasons for the contamination if known. With these results it was determined what education/promotional materials would need to be developed and what inefficiencies we had to target in order to increase the recycling rate and decrease the contamination rate.

The manager/superintendent of each Multi-Family Residential Unit was contacted and informed of the project, the conditions noted at their multi-family unit, and changes/modifications that could be made to improve their recycling program.

In March, the Multi-Family Residential Units received the education and promotional materials. This included new decals for the bins and magnets for the fridge showing what could be placed in the blue box. As well, a Waste Diversion insert was created for the City of Greater Sudbury Leisure Guide which was delivered to each tenant/member's door.

#### 4. **RESULTS**

The results observed were significant in assessing the effectiveness of recycling programs in Multi-Family Residential Units in the City of Greater Sudbury. In our current efforts to set-up over 500 apartment buildings with recycling programs, these evaluations provided significant assistance.

Initial evaluation results include:

- Total # of buildings assessed = 39
- Two of the buildings had 2 sites to assess, therefore 41 assessments were done.
- All of the Multi-Family Residential Units used 95 gallon containers with the exception of 2 locations who's tenants placed blue boxes out.
- All of the Multi-Family Residential Units have weekly recycling collection
- Total estimated weight of recyclables picked up = 4814 lbs/week
- Average Recovery Rate/Multi-Family Residential Unit = 123.43 lbs/week

Figure 1 shows the findings of the evaluations for the Multi-Family Recycling Initiative. The highest recycling recovery rate was found at the Multi-Family Facilities that had the recycling carts placed inside the building, accessible to the residents, while the lowest recycling recovery rates were found at the Multi-Family Facilities that placed the recycling carts outside with no structure around them.

**Figure 1 - Multi-Family Residential Recovery Rates**

<b>Structure Type</b>	<b>Structure %</b>	<b>Average Recovery Rate</b>
Inside Building	13	147.20 lbs/week
Inside Structure, Outside	23	124.30 lbs/week
Against Structure, Outside	31	128.83 lbs/week
No structure, Outside	33	92.07 lbs/week
TOTAL	100	4814 lbs/week

The Multi-Family Residential Units that have enhanced recycling programs, i.e. well labeled containers, containers kept in the building or in a shed, signs on the walls of the structures where the containers are placed, easy accessibility to the containers, and a person who maintains the program - have a much higher rate of participation in the recycling program. There were many multi-family residential units where the recycling containers were kept outside, away from the building, barely accessible in the winter, therefore having a minimal participation rate in the recycling program.

When the manager/superintendent was contacted the evaluation form was explained in detail, noting conditions that could be improved upon and areas that they were strong in. Each manager/superintendent was receptive to the assistance. Presentations that were completed and are on-going have answered many questions from the tenants/members. The basics of recycling must always be promoted, as many of the questions asked pertained to this.

The recycling collectors provided constant feedback on the areas involved in the WDO Initiative. The areas were monitored weekly during collection and the conditions have been improved where improvement was needed. For example, many facilities had problems with the proper way to recycle Old Corrugated Cardboard. After contacting the manager/superintendent and explaining to proper way to recycle the OCC, the problem was often rectified.

It was discovered that the key to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the recycling programs is communication with the manager/superintendent as well as the tenants/members, the availability of educational/promotional materials, and continued reminders and updates on the recycling program.

**2. TRANSFERABILITY TO OTHER REGIONS/MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO**

The project results can be used by other Ontario Municipalities to increase diversion of recyclable materials from landfill sites.

It should be noted that the effectiveness of the project results would be more inclusive had the time line been expanded to include seasonal effects, etc. To ensure that the Multi-Family Residential Units are evaluated effectively the program should be monitored over a longer period of time. The period in which the units in the City of Greater Sudbury were evaluated occurred during the winter months, which in itself may affect the participation rate for recycling.

The materials produced have been well received and would be ideal for any municipality to use in their educational/promotional packages available to residents.

**3. FINAL PROJECT BUDGET**

Staff Hours	\$ 5,000.00
Cart Decals	\$ 920.00
Magnets	\$ 6,487.15
Leisure Guide Insert	\$ 8,348.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,755.15</b>

# **Multi-Family Recycling Initiative**

**WDO Project OPT-R2-12**

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Form  
APPENDIX 2: Superintendent Letter  
APPENDIX 3: Multi-Family Residential Units

**APPENDIX 1**

CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY  
MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING INITIATIVE (OPT-R2-12)  
WDO INITIATIVE - EVALUATION FORM

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FACILITY:

UNIT SIZE:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT:

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GENERAL CONDITIONS:

	Recycling Area
Structure	
Location/ Accessibility	
Labels, etc.	
Cleanliness	

RECYCLABLES:

	Quantity	Contamination/Non compliance
Cans		
Plastics		
Paper		
Clear		
Coloured		

OTHER NOTES:

including the structure (if any), the location/accessibility, cleanliness, and if there were any labels and/or information signs present. I estimated the quantity of recyclable materials that were being placed in the recycling containers and compared it to the conditions recycling program.

Management Department is studying the recycling program at various multi-family residents in Greater Sudbury in order to design effective education and promotion programs for the residents on recycling and waste diversion.

## APPENDIX 2

Susan St. Jacques  
Lighthouse Non-Profit  
675 Bruce St., Apt. #4  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5S7

Olena Pyzik  
Ukrainian Seniors Centre  
30 Notre Dame  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5K5

Denise St. Onge  
Co-op D'Habitation Vallee Ouest  
300 Edward St., Unit #41  
Chelmsford, Ontario P0M 1L0

Superintendent  
Place Bonne Entente, Box 411  
3545 Montpellier  
Chelmsford, Ontario P0M 1L0

Superintendent  
Whitewater Seniors  
15 Ellen St., Unit 310  
Azilda, Ontario P0M 1B0

Denis Ockenden  
Habitat Boreal  
2146 Highgate Rd., Unit 7  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4H4

Glenda Forward  
Horizon Co-operative Homes  
159 Second Ave., Box 49  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4J2

Office  
Raiffeisen Co-op  
151 Mont Adam  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4J9

Brenda Withers  
Hope Co-operative Homes  
80 Barry St., Suite 101  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4J6

Ron Freeland  
Rockview Seniors  
211 Caswell Dr., Unit 100  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2P1

Office  
Co-operative Aile Nord  
1091 Martindale Rd.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6E2

Jane Piirainen  
Carlin Co-operative Housing  
1060 Martindale Rd., Unit 100  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 5T2

Superintendent  
Friendship Place  
296 Cote Ave.  
Chelmsford, Ontario P0M 1L0

Superintendent  
La Cooperation D'Habitation  
31-429 Notre Dame Ave. West.  
Azilda, Ontario P0M 1B0

Susan Fell  
Ashwood Co-operative Homes  
905 Cambrian Heights Dr.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5R4

Superintendent  
1140 Blanchard St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 1K6

Superintendent  
Centreville One  
285 Lourdes St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4J1

Monique Wills  
Harvest Moon  
9-100 1003 Notre Dame  
Sudbury, Ontario P3A 2T7

Glenda Forward  
Prism Co-op  
775 Cambrian Heights Dr.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5R8

Barb Millsap  
Unicorn Co-op  
725 Bruce St., Unit #27  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5S6

Christine Skelly  
Solidarity Lodge  
111 Notre Dame  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5S9

Lucille Stevenson

Palace Place  
129 Second Ave.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 4J3

Kathy Dixon  
Brockwood Apts.  
c/o 224 Elm St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1V3

Superintendent  
Bayview Condos  
2000 Regent St., Apt. 103  
Sudbury, Ontario P3A 5T5

Mrs. Roy  
LoEllen Gardens  
199 Loach's Road, Apt. # A403  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2P8

Housing Coordinator  
Le Centre D'Habitation  
3512 John St.  
Chelmsford, Ontario P0M 1L0

Native People of Sudbury  
684 Bruce Street  
c/o 68 Xavier St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 2B9

Romeo Delongchamp  
47 Bloor St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 2K5

Romeo Delongchamp  
255 Mackenzie St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 4Y5

Louise Taillefer  
Silo Co-op  
100-139 Pearl St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3B 2N5

Superintendent  
Place Notre Dame  
227 Notre Dame Ave., Apt. 105  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5K4

Linda St. Pierre  
Lakeshore Manor  
1720 Paris St., Apt. 307  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E C32

Owner/Superintendent  
Ascot Estate  
1848 Paris St.

Sudbury, Ontario P3E 3C7

Native People of Sudbury  
207 Second Ave., c/o 68 Xavier St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 2B9

Housing Coordinator  
Robin's Nest Co-op  
1459 Paris St.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6E3

Housing Coordinator  
Gubawin Co-op  
2120 Wayne Rd., Box 51  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6C2

Project Manager  
Isles of Innisfree  
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Dan and Linda Barei  
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