

Best Practice

REACT Waste Management System

CONTACT

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Project Date: 2002 (ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

The Regional Authority of Carlton Trail collects the waste and recycling for 47 urban and rural municipalities. The REACT district services municipalities approximately one hour surrounding the City of Humboldt.

THE PROCESS

REACT's philosophy is to divert as much waste as possible from disposal in the landfill. We do this by operating an integrated waste management system which includes reduction, recycling and disposal.

The waste is divided into two streams:

1. The Recycling Stream

REACT operates one of the most comprehensive recycling programs in the province. We have twenty-nine recycle centres in the district. There is one in each town or village in the district and two in Humboldt. Each recycle centre accepts tin, glass, newspaper, magazines, office paper and box board/cardboard. These recycle centres are services on a regular basis. The material is taken to the processing centre and sent to market. REACT also operates seventeen waste transfer stations and two landfills where residents take their bulk garbage.

2. The Waste Stream

REACT closed thirty-one landfills in the district and is currently operating two. We haul waste as far as one hundred kilometers within our district. This is about the limit you should be considering without looking at a new landfill. The system you use to move this waste is important.

REACT uses the Burro Truck Collection System for the residential waste. This consists of a truck going into the community, collecting the waste into a container and leaving it there. A front-end packer truck then collects the residential waste at the same time as the commercial waste and transfers it to the landfill.

REACT operates a modified full user pay system. The reason it is modified is because each municipality pays a per capita levy towards operating of \$9.00 per capita each year.

For residential waste collection, each 77-litre garbage bag or can has to have a tag on it in order to be picked up. If it is not tagged, it is not picked up on garbage day. Each tag costs \$1.25 or \$115.00 for one hundred. This is how businesses buy them and make them available to customers.

THE RESULTS

REACT is an example that society embraces the concept of recycling and is willing to be responsible for the waste they produce. It has shown that municipalities are more than willing to work together on issues which may affect their daily operations and that regional authorities can be successful.

There have been many benefits to the members of REACT. The cost of belonging to a regional authority is much less to the municipality than handling their own waste since waste collection becomes user pay which results in the public wanting to recycle more. The authority assumes total responsibility for the collection of waste and recycling in the community which allows members involved in REACT to focus on other aspects of running their municipality.

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned since the creation of REACT will impact how the authority will be managed in future years. A user pay system acts as an incentive for the public to recycle more frequently.

REACT has learned through experience that all landfill sites should be carefully chosen and should follow the current regulations that Saskatchewan Environment has in place for choosing a site. Do not simply use an existing site for convenience sake.