

Think *Inside* the Box

News Release

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Trenton, ON – Quinte Waste Solutions will no longer be accepting clear or clear blue (transparent) bags to separate recycling at the curbside effective October 17, 2011. The only exception to this change will be shredded and non-shredded office paper which can still be placed in a clear/clear blue bag.

Grocery bags that are currently used to set out newspaper and other grocery bags will still be an acceptable method to set out those two materials.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at 270 West Street in Trenton was constructed in 1990 and was originally designed to process 8,000 metric tonnes of recycling annually. The site has been upgraded over the years and is now capable of processing close to 15,000 metric tonnes a year.

“With recycling expanding in the area and the volume of material increasing every year, we are faced with a need to regain our efficiency and effectiveness,” says Rick Clow, General Manager of Quinte Waste Solutions. “We have noticed a huge increase in the amount of recyclables we are capturing, but with that increase of material we are also experiencing a high volume of garbage that is making its way into the plant.”

Not only does bagging recyclables contribute to garbage entering the MRF unnoticed, the same bags are slowing down the processing inside the plant as each bag has to be torn open by hand. “Ideally, to be able to process a day’s collection of recyclables, we need to be able to sort upwards of 5 metric tonnes (MT) per hour. Because of the number of bags and the manual method of removing the contents from those bags, we are processing between 3 and 3.5 MT per hour” explains Clow.

“We started as a Blue Box program and are designed to collect the material in Blue Boxes. By reaffirming this foundation that allows our drivers to sort the recycling at the curb, we will be able to continue to grow the program while containing cost,” added Clow.

Since 1990, with your help Quinte Waste Solutions has diverted 263,563.35 MT of recyclable Blue Box material from local landfills. In 2010, the program recycled 200,740. kg of Waste Electronics and another 222,260. kg of Household Hazardous Waste.

For more information, please visit www.quinterecycling.org

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