



Celebrating Municipal Excellence

Nomination Form

Deadline: 4:00 p.m., Thursday September 18, 2014

Please attach all additional pages to this cover sheet when submitting your nomination.

Contact Information

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality(ies) being nominated:	R.M. of Canwood No. 494
Contact Name:	Colin Hughes, Reeve
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Name of Nominated Practice:	Rural Recycling Program
Date Practice Initiated:	March 2012
Date Practice Completed:	Ongoing

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Lorna Benson
Organization:	R.M. of Canwood No. 494
Position:	Administrator
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SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL AWARDS

R.M. of Canwood No. 494

Rural Recycling Program

THE PRACTICE

The R.M. of Canwood No. 494 is striving towards adopting green practices throughout the rural municipality. A resolution to SARM was put forth in the past to have plastic grocery bags banned from use in the province and to encourage use of biodegradable and/or reusable bags. Council wanted to bring awareness to recycling in rural Saskatchewan and provide recycling areas which were easily accessible to all ratepayers in order to divert some of the waste from its landfill site.

A large portion of waste that would otherwise have been disposed of with household garbage and/or burned is now being removed from the municipality and being made into other useful products. It will divert a large portion of waste from being delivered to the landfill, thereby extending its life expectancy.

THE PROCESS

With the increased efforts to promote recycling at the local landfill which is operated by the Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation, the R.M. took the initiative to promote recycling among its ratepayers. Council made the decision to make an application through the federal Gas Tax Program for funding to purchase recycle bins. The application was made in March 2012 which was successful. The municipality purchased 16 recycle bins which were placed at various centralized locations within the rural municipality (*see attached map*). Rural residents are now able to dispose their unsorted recycle materials at convenient locations. These items include:

- Paper - including newspapers, magazines and catalogues
- Cardboard
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Plastics – including milk cartons, soft drink and water bottles, juice containers, grocery bags, and other household containers and bottles.

In conjunction with the regional landfill operated by the Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation, which is owned jointly by the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, the Village of Debden, and the Village of Canwood, a recycling program was developed. The landfill offers single stream or co-mingled recycling service. There is no more sorting of recyclables, making the process more convenient for the consumer to make a commitment to recycling and protecting our environment. Brochures were distributed to communicate the program to all ratepayers and at local businesses throughout the municipality.

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation provides the service of collecting the recyclables at the rural locations. The material is stored at the landfill facility, compacted into bales, which are then shipped to Loraas Recycle in Saskatoon who pays the Corporation for the recyclables. That facility then separates all the recycle materials into different components which are then shipped to other companies to be made back into useful products.

The Operations Manager of the landfill facility estimates that approximately 3 to 5 tonnes per month are being removed from this rural municipality. By recycling, we are able to keep as much as 60% of material out of our landfill, extending its life and keeping landfill costs down.

THE RESULTS

Although there were already recycle bins located in the Village of Canwood and the Village of Debden, these were not convenient for the rural customers to access because of distance to haul. Residents in the rural areas now have easier access to recycling. Positive feedback from the rural ratepayers and the fact that the recycle bins continue to be filled is proving that the program is successful. It has brought awareness to our residents that this rural municipality is making an effort to save the environment by keeping garbage out of the ditches and landfills. As they get more accustomed to using the recycling program, a greater impact can be made.

The rural municipality is very large in area, approximately 26 townships. Therefore, scheduling efficient pickup to remove the recyclables from the area and how many bins to purchase and their locations in relation to population were the challenges faced. Purchase of more bins in the future may be needed. The bins were placed in the rural areas along main roads and old school yards. They were also placed in the hamlet and lake development areas where population is more condensed. The lake cottage residents coming from their principal residences in the cities/towns were already accustomed to recycling and were happy that they would be able to continue their recycling efforts when they were at the lake.

Visual awareness and continuing education of the recycling program in our rural municipality to all ratepayers and new residents will be a challenge that will be faced each year as the program evolves.

LESSONS LEARNED

There needs to be better identification of what can and cannot be placed in the recycle bins. Some residents have been putting glass containers into the bins, causing a problem when the co-mingled materials are baled. Signage on or near the bins may be beneficial in educating the consumer. The R.M. of Canwood No. 494 will need to be prepared for expansion of the program as residents become more aware of recycling in the area.



