

Saskatchewan Municipal Best Practice

Recycling and Public Awareness

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THE PRACTICE

The Town of Coronach is faced with the challenges of increasing costs and environmental concerns of a community dump site. The community is fortunate to have a local Sarcan depot, but did not address the issue about over use of the dump for garbage, including recyclables and paper.

THE PROCESS

In 2003, town council implemented a garbage tag program where each household would have limited use of the garbage dump. Curb side and bin pick ups would only occur if each bag of garbage was tagged appropriately.

Council became aware that many residents from surrounding communities were utilizing the dump site. In response, the town purchased a more accessible and permanent location for Sarcan and investigated green strategies. The town investigated options and held public meetings to determine the most effective measure to limit the usage of the garbage dump. The town approached Sarcan regarding the collection of other household recyclable materials such as milk cartons, plastics, jars and cans.

THE RESULTS

The amount of products recycled at Sarcan has increased and the town realizes the savings at the landfill. A measured decrease in garbage of 50% was recorded in the first year. This creates a more sustainable and environmentally friendly landfill site while prolonging the sites life. The costs associated with the decrease in landfill usage are estimated at \$10,000 per year.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Town of Coronach learned that there are multiple solutions for decreasing the amount of household garbage in a community. While it may have been easiest to approach neighbouring communities to provide funds for the service of our landfill, the town researched alternative measures to address the problem. Surrounding communities are now coming to us to provide help in other areas because of our willingness to allow them to use our facilities at no charge.