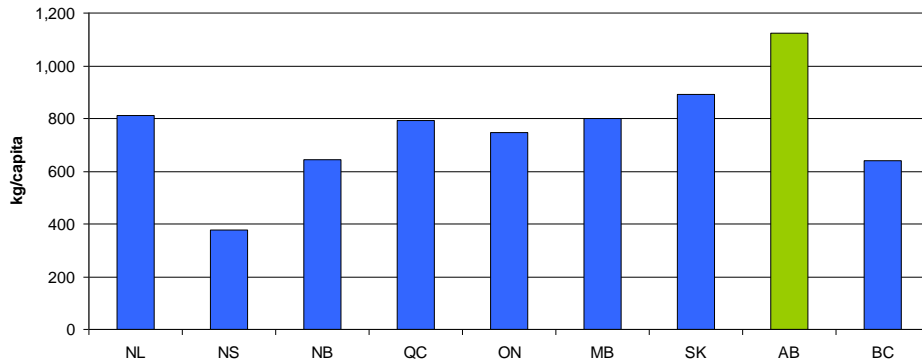


Waste Strategy: Updates, Opportunities to Work Together

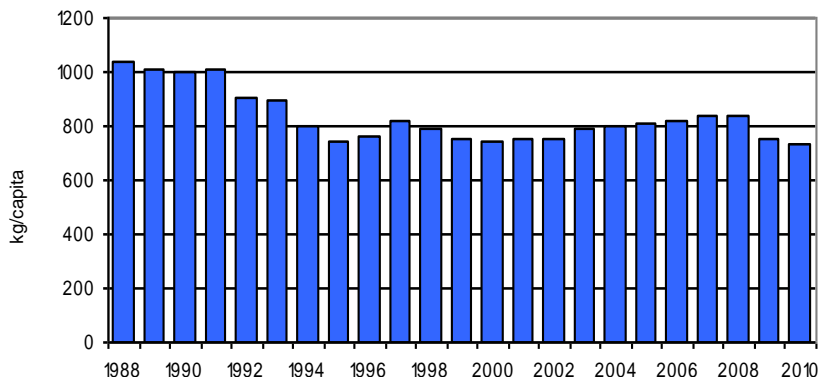
Christine Della Costa
Alberta Environment

Disposal Waste in Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, 2008

Municipal Solid Waste to Landfill Performance Measure



Source: Alberta Environment, 2010



Alberta's Too Good to Waste Strategy

Sets overall direction for Alberta with respect to waste management

Objective: move from 80% landfill, 20% recycle to 80% recycle, 20% landfill

Identifies three main outcomes for waste

- Improved Resource Conservation and Waste Minimization
- Integrated Resource Recovery and Waste Management Systems
- Protection of Air, Land, Water and Human Health

Considers a variety of management approaches

- Voluntary stewardship, cooperative management agreements, market-based instruments, regulations



Updates on Key Priorities

- Government Leadership: Greening Government Strategy
- Construction and Demolition Waste
- Organics
- Packaging and Printed Materials
- Special Wastes

And some thoughts on municipal opportunities, and areas where we can work together and learn from each other



Greening Government Strategy

April 2010 – Strategy approved by Cabinet

April 2011 – Strategy launched

Purpose

“to continuously reduce, in concrete and measureable ways, any detrimental environmental impacts that result from the Government of Alberta’s operations and overall procurement practices.”



Greening Government Policy

- The Government of Alberta is committed to greening government operations by using services, processes, practices and products that:
 - Minimize resource use
 - Reduce or even prevent the generation and release of waste, greenhouse gases and other pollutants to air, water and land
 - Manage waste (that cannot be avoided) in an environmentally responsible manner, and
 - Meet or exceed Government of Alberta's business needs



Greening Government: Some Examples of What We're Doing

Surplus Sales

- Cash and carry sales
- Participate in Computers for Schools program
- Encourage redeployment of surplus items
- Materials recycling (e.g., e-waste)

Expand Opportunities to Better Manage Waste

- Expand recycling options in government buildings
- Battery recycling program
- Mercury device, lamp and ballast recycling



Greening Government: Some Examples of What We're Doing

Greening Our Buildings

- LEED Silver standard (projects over \$2.5 million)
- BOMA BEST program
- Turn off HVAC systems and lighting in owned buildings during non-business hours,
- 100% green electricity

Opportunities:

- Learn about the process to get to this point – we've learned a lot in terms of what it takes to get every departments and several agencies, board and commissions all on side
- Share activities that are happening at the local level
- Opportunities for regional municipal greening strategies?



Construction & Demolition Materials

Amendments to *Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act* to enable a regulated C&D program were not advanced

- Concerns from stakeholders and elected officials about financial implications, administrative burden, and the lack of recycling infrastructure in some parts of the province

All parties still want to reduce the amount of C&D waste being disposed in landfill – considering alternative approaches

Opportunities: LEED, BuiltGreen, Greening Government, deconstruction specs, regional approaches, differential tipping fees, continued participation re: possible provincial approaches



Organics/Composting

Organics make up a large portion of municipal solid waste stream. Processing and returning organics back to the land is the optimum management method.

- Leaf and yard waste strategy
- Compost marketing workshop

Opportunities

- Continued participation in committees, workshops
- Create value –compost from municipal facilities can be sold or given to citizens & businesses
- Application on municipal lands (e.g., sports fields, parks)
- Healthy landscapes reduce need for watering, fertilizer, weed control: reduces overall costs to municipality.



Packaging & Printed Materials

- Reducing packaging waste is a priority for the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)
 - Through the CCME, Alberta Environment is working with other provinces and territories to develop a Canada-wide approach to packaging reduction. An industry/government working group is being established to develop the approach, with Ministers to review progress in early 2012.
- Developing a provincial packaging stewardship program is identified in the Canada Action Plan on Extended Producer Responsibility and in Too Good to Waste



Household Hazardous Waste Program

- Has been operating in Alberta since 1988, managed by Alberta Environment since 1995
 - Municipalities pay for collection and Alberta Environment pays for transportation, treatment and disposal
 - In 2010, 136 communities participated in the program with about 700,000 kg of material collected
- Alberta Environment examining long-term program options



Voluntary Agreements

Plastic Bags

- Highly visible component of the litter stream
- MOU on plastic bag reduction signed with retail associations May 2010. Industry operated and funded program
- Reduce plastic bag distribution in Alberta by 50% from 2008 numbers

Cell Phones

- Cell phone industry operating a voluntary cell phone recycling program, "Recycle My Cell" (www.recyclemycell.ca)
- Program recognized in several other provinces & operating in AB
- MOU on cell phone recycling signed with industry association June 2011

Opportunities: collection boxes, awareness and education



Individual Actions Matter ...



Questions?

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