

Building a Better Solid Waste System, Together

Phase 2 Events

The following notes reflect the key topics, concerns and priorities transcribed by each table host during the Phase 2 events.

Dartmouth and vicinity, Session 2

Cole Harbour Place, October 16th 2013

Organics and Compost

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Focus on backyard composting
- No backyard compost- rodents
- Lower costs, but what about other costs- environmental? transport?
- Keep food and yard waste together- it is a process necessity
- We don't need weekly compost pick up
- We do want weekly compost pick up between April and October
- We could decrease recycling pick up- fiscal management
- Campus model needs at least 2 locations- process closer to home
- More depth of education, room for improvement, focus on schools
- Separate trucks will create more traffic, cost and GHG
- Want a valuable, marketable compost product
- Keep leaf and yard waste together
- Different bins could help cut down on plastic bags

What outcome do you care about most?

- Keep boxboard in the compost- carbon aids compost process, has no value for recycling
- Marketable product at a reasonable price with minimal nuisance
- Education about organics separation and contamination
- Fantastic enforcement
- Produce "Grade B" compost at the Otter Lake facility to use onsite
- No more bags of household garbage in the woods
- Education and understanding (interest in gardening leads to need for compost)
- Mindset shift- cyclical nature of things
- Taking a stand and going further (technology, recycling, beautiful salable organic material)

Recycling

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Need to make it easier for apartments and condos
- All recyclables in one bag- more likely to be contaminated (glass in recycling and whole load could be rejected)
- Blue carts- difficult for trucks to pick up between parked cars. Not enough space for city dwellers

- Single stream would require a reconfiguring of the murph to deal with increase in volume
- Possible option- Blue cart only for paper
- Contamination- wet paper cannot be used (market in Windsor)
- Want to know the cost of changes moving to blue bags. Easier at home but more expensive at the other end.

What outcome do you care about most?

- Encourage source separation as much as possible
- Make sorting recycling easy
- We want to get people that aren't currently recycling
- More education for people who are not participating
- Efficiencies with collection. 1 blue bag for recycling could create more work at the recycling facility
- Keep monitoring recycling through FEP
- Increase education (targeting those who do not currently recycle)
- Improve recycling at commercial and multi-dwelling units
- Keep it simple and make it easy

Landfill Site Changes

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Honor contract and community agreement
- Maintain landfill liner
- Site a new landfill
- No changes to cell height
- Close Otter Lake in 2023
- No Campus system
- Citizen led process necessary for siting landfill
- Require involvement from the community- all in together

What outcome do you care about most?

- Maintain as per agreement
- Close as per agreement
- Citizen led process of where to go next- reviews, future
- Zero Waste Solution
- Perfect source separation including the FEP (needed gatekeeper and police what is going in)
- Create "category B" to use as a permanent cover

Increasing Diversion

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Cost benefit data to drive decision making. What if you miss a pick up?
- Illegal dumping. System based on family size.
- 6-4 option for overflow (eg sticker, family).
- Clear bags- privacy 1bag. Clear bags are an educational opportunity.

- How much will these options increase diversion in reality. HHW- great idea but shouldn't be at the expense of Otter Lake.
- Inspections- harder to inspect with changes or closure of the FEP. More inspections, more education and more staff.

What outcome do you care about most?

- Education and enforcement (to get the last 10% to change their habits)
- Keep commitments (honor past commitments) to all communities
- Make system more financially sustainable (for new programs)
- Improve diversion
- Everyone has a say
- Educate rather than scare people (commercial focus)

Change at Your Curb

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Household affordability
- Are some of the efforts worth the cost?
- Behaviour challenge
- # of stakeholders
- Higher cost, More service
- Decisions not support by data or cost/benefit
- Reduce diversions

What outcome do you care about most?

- More attention to apartment buildings
- Equity of service (green bins and HHW depot)
- Honoring commitment
- Maintain protection (FEP/WSF gatekeeper)
- Maintain system effectiveness
- Focus on the problem not the curb- education and enforcement
- More data for decisions

**Solid Waste Public Engagement,
Bedford and vicinity, Session 2
October 17th 2013**

Organics and Compost

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Are the savings worth it- small % for large cost
- Cost of new system, bags, carts
- Money could go to education and enforcement
- Paper bags are expensive and don't hold up in the rain
- Current facilities need leaf and yard waste
- Cost implications

- Safety/animals in the bins
- Increased participation and education
- Changes increase complexity and can lower participation
- Challenge to a multi-residence sector

What outcome do you care about most?

- Increase source separation
- Don't change current system until you fix the problem (FEP and WSF)
- Make decisions based on hard, accurate data
- Ensure good environmental practice
- Set composting goals
- Ensure benefit is worth cost
- Keep FEP and WSF open to catch what is not separated at source
- Ease of participation will increase participation
- Enhance education and enforcement
- New facilities for composting are not at Otter Lake- shared around HRM
- Any new facilities have environmental assessment
- End compost product in "Class A"

Recycling

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Support better education
- ROI: cost of operations vs benefits
- System impacts (resale collection)
- May cause cross contamination
- Marginal value for cost
- Options for addressing issue
- Not sufficient info
- Space

What outcome do you care about most?

- Need refined data
- More source separation at effective cost
- KISS- by improving existing system
- Reliable data to support system decisions

Landfill Site Changes

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Changes to the landfill site- negative environmental impact and high cost (clean up and remediation)
- Why are we here? Why was the report commissioned? Is it economic? WE have a system that works
- Why is there no 5th option- None of the above.
- Leave Otter Lake alone should be an option

- All options given violate the existing contract and are distressing
- Discuss any changes to agreements with your partners
- Agreement takes 2 sides
- There is no problem with the cost of running the FEP and WSF
- There should be fines for businesses- enforcement
- Businesses should train staff in source separation
- More education to ICI sector
- ICI needs to catch up on source separation
- Trust factor. HRM broke their word
- Fiscal responsibility- Is it really \$100million is saving to leave the landfill where it is?
- We could have a productive conversation about the other focus areas if Otter Lake was off the table

What outcome do you care about most?

- Find a new landfill site, engage public about what happens there with host community
- Reaffirm the agreement between HRM and host community. Be clear on what the commitment is now and in the future.
- Do not extend the life of the Otter Lake landfill
- Honor the contract- no campus model and no increased cell height
- Maintain the safeguards of the FEP and WSF
- Keep FEP and WSF (safety net) until source separation is 100%
- We will always need the FEP to make sure that hazardous materials never make it to the landfill
- HRM must acknowledge that all stantec options are a breach of the agreement and advise council of this
- Protect the environment
-

Increasing Diversion

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- 1) Bag limits- large families will be penalized.
- Illegal dumping/ sharing with neighbors
- Exemptions- families at Xmas
- More education, user pay option/stickers in tax bills
- Exemptions- veto card/ special pick ups
- 2) Privacy, unsightly, one black bag?
- Rejections, recyclables bags in clear bags?
- 3) Education isn't done yet, it needs to be...
- Higher cost? Who will do it? How? (inspections)
- 4) High rise/ commercial inspections won't work, needs to be education
- Building specs design of separation containers- need carrot and stick
- 5) Question shouldn't be here- FEP and WSF does this
- How? Inspections already happen- commercial focus
- 6) One on each side of the harbour

- Need more options, mobile, convenience

What outcome do you care about most?

- Education
- Citizen led
- FEP and WSF stays in place
- No clear bags
- Education and diversion at high rise
- Commercial properties with design continually in separation
- More spot inspections at the curb (while managing the cost)
- More inspection of commercial loads with FEP and rejection
- More HHW program- mobile and convenient

Change at Your Curb

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- More focus on apartments and businesses to separate- more enforcement and make sure each has infrastructure to make it easier
- Like the way our collection works today- increase weekly green cart collection Apr-Oct
- Increase education and enforcement, worth extra costs
- Make it easier to separate at home ie: cheaper options- clear bags are cheaper?
- Incentives?

What outcome do you care about most?

- Inspections and rejections at the curb
- Education- business and apartments
- Improve and take it to the next level- keep going, keep getting better at the curb
- More education
- Increase the compliance percentage

Solid Waste Public Engagement, Eastern Shore and vicinity, Session 2 October 24th 2013

Organics and Compost

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Keep leaf and yard waste together with food waste for a good compost product
- We need a weekly pick up all year long or at least for 6 months of the year
- Education and funding to increase backyard composting and mulching. Keep organics at home and we wont need a new facility.
- No paper bags for yard waste- the rain would make a mess of them. Yes we do want them they are very durable.
- No smaller green bins- there is no value for the extra cost
- What is the value of the compost product? Do we have space to store it? Yes we want to purchase a good compost product.

What outcome do you care about most?

- Apartments and condos need to do their part
- Increasing separation at every stage- curbside, facilities and landfill
- No need to increase organics pick up
- Honor the contract
- Start in schools with education
- Emphasis on backyard composting
- Create category B compost product from WSF to add to the permanent cover for the landfill and grow grass
- It's not environmentally friendly to haul compost across the city- we need smaller sites around HRM
- Include pet waste in green bin

Recycling

***This table was combined with change at your curb**

Landfill Site Changes

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Honor the contracts with community by keeping FEP and WSF
- World class- let's not go backwards-make it better
- Tough to site anything from here due to loss of credibility
- Potential for a campus at the next site subject to community acceptance
- Wider than 3km radius for next site
- Cell height an issue, seeing it reduces property values

What outcome do you care about most?

- Where is the next site?
- Reaffirm that staff know what is in the agreement
- What are the costs for the items on the ballots? We would like more education on these options.
- Maintain credibility by honoring the contract and protecting the community
- Source separation and education reduce the need for those facilities
- Hire more educators
- Improve performance of existing technologies ex: Compostable material that is usable

Increasing Diversion

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Frustration of residents-low compliance
- Mistrust of HRM staff
- Increase in illegal dumping
- Feasibility of implementation and effectiveness of change
- Options presume closure of the FEP

- HHW- campus model for all services (recycling) toxic taxi, more regional locations- convenience
- Bag limits- missing pick ups, Xmas etc...
- Multi unit dwellings?
- Clear- supportive, nothing to hide, privacy bags, only with black carts! Ha!
- Inspections- cost? who would do them? challenges to be considered but yes in principle
- Urban/rural considerations
- Commercial- incentivize- free organics and recyclables- \$\$ garbage
- Landfill? Hard to improve on what we have
- HHW- cost and convenience

What outcome do you care about most?

- Increased compliance with increased education
- a greener community
- Cost efficiency for tax payers
- Make sure FEP stays open until we have 100% resident and commercial compliance
- Keep FEP open-incentive to have commercial sector do the right thing
- Clear understanding of cost implications of all the options
- Education- consistent and engaging

Change at Your Curb

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Cost of proposed changes is a major concern-particularly around expense to roll out black carts
- In terms of including all recyclables in one bag, contamination is an issue. There is a market for paper- if it gets wet it cannot be used
- While including everything in one bag might be easier and encourage further recycling at home, it could cause more issues at the landfill when it has to be sorted
- Apartments and condos are a concern. It would be helpful to have a by-law for new developers ensuring appropriate waste separation at source

What outcome do you care about most?

- Education is a priority. A personal touch could be helpful, have students and fellow citizens participate
- We must encourage as much source separation as possible - make it easy for people to participate
- We must change from a consumer society to a zero waste society with a step by step plan to achieve it
- Perfect current system before making changes
- Honor the contract with the host community by keeping the FEP and WSF

**Solid Waste Public Engagement,
Halifax and vicinity, Session 2
Halifax Forum, October 23rd 2013**

Organics and Compost

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Honor the contract
- Rewards should be given for composting
- Not enough people are composting
- Citizens need to be more educated about waste diversion
- Encourage backyard composting
- Composting currently does not reap financial benefit
- Diversion is important
- Options presented are not backed up with facts- can't make educated decisions
- Honor the contracts- all elements
- Compost needs to be high quality
- There is no trust in the process around this issue
- The report presented to council must not pass through HRM staff
- There is mistrust, outrage, arrogance in process
- We are not being heard- just distracted from the real issue
- Concern about FEP
- We need a study

What outcome do you care about most?

- Honor the contract
- Reducing waste
- Keeping the landfill open
- Cost effective solution for city to keep it open
- Source separation to continue
- Keeping a state of the art landfill
- Perfect the existing system
- Keep safe guards in place for the community
- Honesty and integrity
- Honor OL contract- no change to current/ status quo
- Community consultation is key- listen to what people are actually saying
- Source separation
- Fair process/ wrong direction of consultation
- Need more information on options
- Honest report
- ICI sector under contract

Recycling

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Cost- no clear data on costs

- Contrary to waste message, source separation behaviour
- Takes away from inspection
- Honor the contract
- This distracts from the discussion on Otter Lake
- Reverting backwards with this

What outcome do you care about most?

- More education
- Link rejection to education
- Minimize liability of APT property owner
- More inspections
- Focus on enforcement and education
- Wait for improvements to happen
- Keep Otter Lake status quo and respect community
- People value this part of taxes

Landfill Site Changes

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Honor the contract and then move forward
- There are no pros and cons here
- Site a new landfill
- Stantec report is flawed and has no confidence from the community- need another review
- These issues affect us personally
- No one is listening- no integrity to the process
- CMC looks out for the community by community- HRM does not
- We have been asked to accept something w/o proper information
- Focus on ICI sector-Diversion
- There has been no attempt to improve technology at present landfill site
- No process of engaging the community in conversation- Start over!
- C & D landfill cover is a pro because it reuses material but a con because it is porous and gets wet and is insufficient
- All decisions will be flawed because the report is flawed- our concerns remain unanswered
- No transparency

What outcome do you care about most?

- Be clear about the operating agreement
- Do not close FEP and the WSF- that would break the agreement
- Keep the cell height
- Do not reduce landfill liner
- No waste campus
- Too much risk for one community
- Huge environmental impact

- No change at Otter Lake
- Leave Otter Lake Alone
- HRM is selling “cost savings” without offering proper information on what they are
- Honor the detail of the agreement (FEP,WSF, no campus, finite time of landfill...)

Increasing Diversion

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- Education most important
- Not enough educators
- High rise and commercial buildings limitations need to be addressed
- Inspections at landfill already with facilities in place
- Won't have a significant impact to lower waste and increase separation
- Large families/ missed pick ups, need mechanisms for exceptions
- Illegal dumping
- Long term plan to address illegal dumping
- Start with waste reduction first, then source separation
- HHW- education, incentivize, more convenient, locations in Dartmouth

What outcome do you care about most?

- Honor the contract
- All diversion must be focused on maintaining status quo at Otter Lake
- Could stay 100 years if nothing changes and it is run properly
- Education-but not at the cost of closing facilities at Otter Lake
- Honor the contract, keep safe guards in place
- Facility site could be a one stop shop if safe guards kept- waste campus
- Increase education

Change at Your Curb

What are the Tensions and Tradeoffs around this topic?

- We shouldn't reduce bag limits
- Never catch up with bag limits- find out why garbage bags are at limits
- Educate on how to reduce bags
- Spend money on education- better diversion at home instead of closing the landfill
- Clear bags- NO- rejected at the curb- privacy
- Bags are now checked at the FEP and only those people see it
- Residential garbage diversion is good
- Rules/ education- businesses and apartments
- If they close the FEP people and businesses won't care and won't separate anymore
- Black carts and blue carts- smuggling of wrong garbage- sounds too expensive, already need to replace green bins
- All recycling in one bag- regression- not easier

What outcome do you care about most?

- We want to start the process over and be active in the solution with integrity
- Don't implement anything at the expense of the landfill

- Keep protections in place
- Keep FEP
- Honor the contract/ Trust and protection
- If you lose trust- how will people and community buy into programs in the future?