



MEMBER ADVISORY

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING SUPPORT PROGRAM INFORMATION UPDATE

April 30, 2010 - AMM Members raised a number of questions about the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Program during our round of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings in March. The AMM has since received the following update on the program from Green Manitoba.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING SUPPORT PROGRAM INFORMATION UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Commencing July 1, 2009, Manitoba introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy of \$10 per tonne on waste disposed at Manitoba landfills. All WRARS Levy revenue is held in the WRARS Fund established under The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act as a separate fund. The WRARS Program is managed by Green Manitoba, a Special Operating Agency of the Province of Manitoba.

The WRARS Levy is intended to help discourage waste generation and encourage increased recycling and waste diversion activities province-wide.

Eighty percent (80%) of the revenue collected from the WRARS Levy is rebated to municipalities to further promote recycling in Manitoba. The remainder of the funding is to be used to support provincial electronic waste (e-waste) and household hazardous waste (HHW) management programs.

Additional details on the WRARS Program are set out in *The WRARS Program Guide* available at: www.greenmanitoba.ca.

WRARS Levy Implementation Dates

The WRARS Levy is being introduced in three (3) phases as follows:

- Phase 1: Beginning July 1, 2009, all Class 1 landfills receiving more than 30,000 tonnes of waste per year. Phase 1 of the levy was successfully implemented for the July – December 2009 with the four Class 1 landfills registered and 15 municipalities registering for recycling rebate payments. Municipal rebate payments totaling more than \$3 million were issued in March 2010.

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- Phase 2: Beginning January 1, 2010, all Class 1 landfill operators will be required to pay the WRARS Levy. A total of 15 Class 1 landfills were identified. Registration of all eligible landfills was completed in December 2009. Registration of fifty-three municipalities eligible for Phase 2 rebate payments in September 2010 is now under way.
- Phase 3: Beginning January 1, 2011, all Class 2 and Class 3 landfill operators will begin to pay the WRARS Levy. The registration process for all remaining landfills is now underway. All landfills should be registered with the WRARS Program by December 2010.

WRARS REBATE

The WRARS Rebate is available to municipalities that have registered with the WRARS Program and either operate a WRARS Registered Landfill and/or deliver waste to a WRARS Registered Landfill for disposal of municipal solid waste.

How is a municipality’s rebate calculated?

The WRARS recycling rebate is based on the total eligible recycling tonnage that is reported by registered municipalities. For the first year only residential recycling tonnages, as reported to the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) and currently Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) are included in the calculation.

The individual WRARS recycling rebate is calculated based on a municipality’s share of the total eligible recycling reported for each 6 month reporting period. This percentage is then applied to the total municipal fund that is calculated as 80% of total levy revenue less program administration fees.

The following table provides an example of how the WRARS Recycling Rebate is calculated based on a \$1 million municipal allocation for a six (6) month reporting period:

Example: Municipal Rebate Calculation (for a 6 month period)			
Municipality	MPSC Recycling Tonnes	% Share of Total Recycling Reported	\$ Rebate
Municipality A	2,000	57.14%	\$571,429
Municipality B	900	25.71%	\$257,143
Municipality C	475	13.57%	\$135,714
Municipality D	95	2.71%	\$27,143
Municipality E	5	0.14%	\$1,429
Municipality F	25	0.71%	\$7,143
Total Eligible Recycling	3,500	100.00%	\$1,000,000
Municipal Share (80%)	\$1,000,000		

ESTIMATING THE WRARS LEVY WITHOUT A SCALE

Estimating the quantity of waste is beneficial to municipal decision makers in the following areas:

- Projecting the life of existing landfills
- Developing an environmental liability assessment report
- Appropriately sizing new waste management facilities
- Calculating unit cost of waste management services
- Measuring and monitoring the cost effectiveness of waste management services
- Assessing the effectiveness and cost of waste diversion initiatives
- Accurately apportioning the cost of waste services to generators and sectors.

Who is required to have a scale?

All Class 1 landfills are required to measure waste by weight and therefore require a legal tender scale. Class 2 and 3 landfills without scales will be able to measure waste using a volume to weight conversion factor.

A guidance document is being developed for landfill operators to measure waste without scales. Landfill operators may measure the volume of waste (e.g. cubic metres) received and apply a conversion factor, to be set out in the guideline, to determine the weight of waste and the appropriate WRARS Levy charges. A conversion factor of 190 kilograms per cubic metre is currently accepted. Consultations with landfill operators will be conducted to ensure this guideline meets operator needs.

All quantities of waste received at a landfill should be recorded in both volume and weight, unless scales are available and used to weigh a specific load. Several waste measurement methodologies have been identified, including:

- Trench volume estimation
- Loader bucket and truck counting
- Random weighing and traffic counting
- Site survey and in-situ density test

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For additional program information and assistance with the program registration process, please contact:

Jim Ferguson, Manager, WRARS Program
Phone: (204) 945-7042
E-mail: Jim.Ferguson@gov.mb.ca