

# Successful Municipal Practices: Responding to New Challenges



## *Tools for Change*

### **SERVICE SHARING:**

## **Regional Waste Management Facility**

### **The RM of Louise, Town of Pilot Mound, Village of Crystal City**

Every community, whether large or small, produces solid waste, and the collection and disposal of this waste is a vital municipal service. The three neighbouring municipalities of the Rural Municipality (RM) of Louise, the Town of Pilot Mound, and the Village of Crystal City have successfully worked together to plan and build an environmentally friendly solid waste management facility for their municipalities.

In the early 1990s, the RM of Louise, the Town of Pilot Mound, and the Village of Crystal City operated three separate unmanned waste disposal sites that were nearing the end of their respective lifespans and recycling services were unavailable to residents in these communities. Replacement of all three waste disposal sites would mean a continuation of services at this low level, as no single municipality could afford a more advanced facility or manage a recycling program on its own. The Councils and the citizens of the three municipalities decided that a regional approach to waste management would allow them to have a better waste disposal facility than any one municipality could build on its own, as well as enable them to provide recycling services to their citizens. A regional approach would also result in cost savings over the cost of three separate sites due to reductions in potential land acquisition and operations costs.

In 1993, the municipalities created a Waste Management Committee with the goal of building an efficient and environmentally sound solid waste management facility to serve the three municipalities. The Committee researched solid waste management process options and recommended one that would best serve the current and future needs of the municipalities, as well as recommended a suitable location for the new facility that would be accessible and convenient for citizens. The Committee process included public consultations, including regular public meetings designed to inform citizens as well as encourage feedback.

In October 2006, after years of planning and hard work, the Committee unveiled its new state-of-the-art waste disposal facility. The new facility is located on an 80 acre parcel of land in the RM of Louise, and was designed to emphasize user-convenience, cleanliness, and safety.

*The three municipal councils have worked together to provide their citizens environmentally friendly waste management services.*

*Public consultations were an important part of the research and planning process and citizens were encouraged to provide feedback on plans for the new facility.*



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The facility provides visibly labeled containers to help residents place their items in the proper place, and has designated areas for items such as metal, tires, concrete, and composting, as well as two pits for burning wood waste. To promote safety, empty chemical containers are placed in a fenced-in area, and plans are now in the works for the construction of a shed that will store recycled oil.

This facility uses a new and environmentally-friendly system of sorting, grinding, and composting to dispose of waste. The household waste collected by town pick-up or dropped off by residents is weighed before it enters the waste facility site. The waste is then unloaded by truck into a bay, and then pushed into a pit to be processed. In the pit, waste passes through a bag ripper, and then is carried by a conveyor belt over to a sorting table, where all recyclables are removed. Finally, the waste is shredded, and transferred by a vehicle into the active cell, where it is organized and composted.

The waste management facility has also helped the municipalities to increase the size and efficiency of their recycling programs. The municipalities have found that the bag ripper and the sorting table have increased the number of recyclables collected out of household waste, and this results in a decrease in the amount that will eventually end up in a landfill. To further increase the volume of recycling collected by the municipalities, the waste management committee also provides door to door pickup for recycling.

Initially, the Waste Management Committee was expecting a 50% reduction in the volume of household waste from the new shredding process. These expectations have been exceeded, as actual reductions in volume have been over 60%. Also, the removal of recyclables, metals, and wood material from household waste has reduced the total volume of waste going into landfills by 20%.

The councils and citizens of the RM of Louise, the Town of Pilot Mound, and the Village of Crystal City are proud of their state-of-the-art waste management facility and agree that this joint project has been a huge success. By working together, the three municipalities have established a waste management facility that is not only environmentally sustainable, but also provides superior services to citizens, and is a solid long-term investment with an expected lifespan of approximately seventy years.

For more information contact:

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***Through waste shredding and increased recycling, these municipalities have decreased the volume of solid household waste that will end up in landfills by 60%.***

***For more information on municipal restructuring, Successful Municipal Practices, and the Tools for Change program, see the Association of Manitoba Municipalities' website, at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).***