



# BEST PRACTICES INITIATIVE FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING: YEAR 1 REPORT

## WHAT IS THE BEST PRACTICES INITIATIVE?

The Initiative is a forum for municipalities to identify and share best practices and discuss the regional realities and challenges they face with regard to managing curbside recycling programs.

It takes the form of regional workshops that bring together mainly municipal residual materials program managers, but also city managers and elected officials.

## ÉCO ENTREPRISES QUÉBEC – PROUD PARTNER OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES

Éco Entreprises Québec's (ÉEQ) primary role is to finance curbside recycling programs by collecting financial contributions from more than 3,000 companies who put containers, packaging and printed matter on Quebec's market. Thus, ÉEQ pays municipalities an amount of almost \$150 million every year to compensate the eligible net costs of

providing curbside recycling services. Beyond that role, ÉEQ endeavours to improve each step of the system, including facilitating packaging eodesign, optimizing curbside recycling collection at the municipal level and developing market outlets for the materials citizens place in their recycling bins.

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN QUEBEC

The recyclables curbside collection system benefiting Quebecers is simple to use and has a positive impact on the environment. In addition, it is reimbursed by ÉEQ and its contributing companies. To date, 99% of the population is served by this municipal service

that gives recovered materials a second life and helps to avoid 275,000 mt of greenhouse gases from being released into the atmosphere yearly.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

The success of the Initiative is based on fruitful exchanges between first-line curbside recycling stakeholders who get together to explore how they can improve each step of the system in order to perform better. Discussions are based on thorough analyses and a regional performance portrait developed by ÉEQ.

**The Initiative is designed to:**



Increase quantities recovered



Reduce costs per tonne



Improve the quality of collected materials



Improve services to citizens

## SUBJECTS COVERED DURING THE WORKSHOPS

**Avenues for optimization** • Quality of materials • inter-municipal agreements

Servicing apartment buildings • Services provided to citizens • Contract clauses

**Specifications included in requests for proposals**

The value chain • Automated collection • The performance and efficiency factor

The Curbside Recycling Ambassadors Program

Sorting and conditioning • Regional performance portraits • Modes of collection

Recyclables collection contracts • **The Away-From-Home Recovery**

**Program** • Sorting centres • Collection and transportation companies

Awareness campaign • Success stories

## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

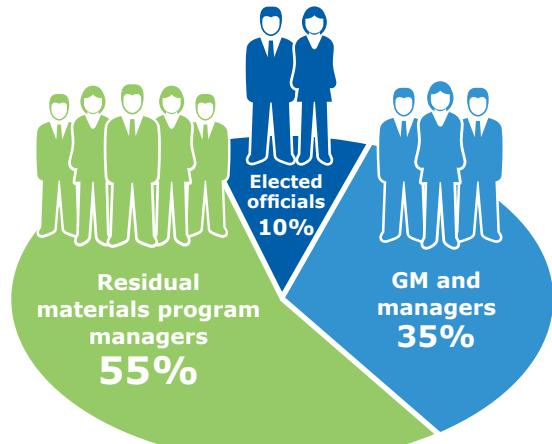
**9** host regions



**20** workshops



**Over 160** participants



## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Meetings organized as part of the Initiative also serve to promote the successes achieved by individual municipalities so that their counterparts may draw inspiration for their own optimization projects.

**Here are a few examples:**

- Original public awareness activities
- Innovative contract clauses
- Sorting centre open doors events for elected officials



## BENEFITS REAPED IN THE FIRST YEAR

- Municipalities gained a better understanding of the levers available to them to optimize the payments they receive via the municipal curbside recycling compensation plan financed by ÉEQ and amounts received from elimination fees.
- Discussions initiated among several regions on the advantages of getting together.
- Contract specification documents were improved following Initiative workshops.

- Two large municipal organizations from the same region who had not been in contact for 25 years renewed ties.
- An organization planning to build a transshipment installation joined forces with another that already had such a building.
- More municipalities participated in the Away-From-Home Recycling Program to get financial assistance for the purchase of recovery equipment to be installed in municipal public places.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE INITIATIVE

The Initiative team will continue to organize workshops throughout Quebec and develop technical sheets over the next few months detailing municipalities' curbside recycling successes.

In the medium and long-term, a working group will be created to develop standard clauses to include in requests for proposals, measure optimization gains achieved by municipalities and work on specific topics related to sorting and conditioning.

## A DEVOTED TEAM



Jean-Luc Plante



Mathieu Guillemette



Antony Zonato



Sophie Bergeron



Virginie Bussières



Mylène Fugère

## ANOTHER INITIATIVE BENEFIT: THE AWAY-FROM-HOME RECOVERY PROGRAM

Initiative workshops are also an opportunity for municipalities to learn more about the financial assistance program for the purchase of recovery equipment to be installed in indoor and outdoor municipal public places. The \$8 million program

is designed exclusively for municipalities and reimburses up to 70% of the cost of away-from-home materials recovery equipment. The program will run until December 31, 2016.

## SERVICES OFFERED TO QUEBEC MUNICIPALITIES



### Away-from-Home Recovery Program

A financial assistance program to encourage the purchase of materials recovery equipment for municipal public areas.



### Curbside Recycling Ambassadors Program

A financial assistance program designed to help teens who frequent a *Regroupement des maisons de jeunes du Québec* youth centre carry out a public awareness campaign relating to away-from-home materials recovery.



### Optimization and analysis tools

Regional performance portrait and analysis of curbside recycling, developed as part of the Best Practices Initiative.

## ASK FOR INFORMATION NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BEST PRACTICES INITIATIVE OR TO ORGANIZE A WORKSHOP, CONTACT OUR TEAM!

### ÉCO ENTREPRISES QUÉBEC

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) is a non-profit organization certified by the government to represent over 3,000 companies that are subject to the Environment Quality Act (EQA) and market containers and packaging and printed matter in Quebec. ÉEQ partners with all value chain stakeholders, companies that generate CP&PM as well as conditioners and recyclers, municipalities, collection companies and sorting centres to ensure that Quebec's curbside recycling system is one of the best performing in North America.

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BEST PRACTICES  
INITIATIVE  
*For effective  
curbside recycling*

An initiative of

Éco  
Entreprises  
Québec