

BEST MUNICIPAL PRACTICES IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING

VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU RCM: CONSOLIDATION FOR RESIDUAL MATERIALS COLLECTION IN RURAL AREAS

Photo: Vallée-de-la-Gatineau RCM

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) publishes a series of information sheets on concrete cases in which municipalities, regional county municipalities (RCMs) and Régies (intermunicipal corporations) have implemented best curbside recycling practices leading to greater financial and operational efficiency.

The ÉEQ Team, with the assistance of Solinov, supported the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau RCM in its optimization process regarding the implementation of a consolidated call for tenders for curbside recycling.

THE VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU RCM IS:



17
MUNICIPALITIES*



16,600
DOORS

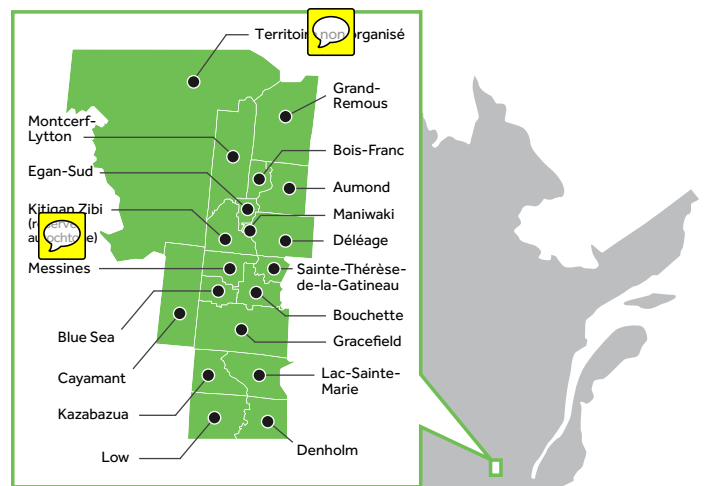


20,500
PERMANENT
RESIDENTS



20,000
VACATIONERS

The RCM also includes two indigenous reservations and five unorganized territories.



BACKGROUND

Regarding residual materials management, communications with citizens were one of the biggest challenges for Vallée-de-la-Gatineau RCM municipalities. Given that the municipalities were responsible for their own curbside recycling services, each with their own particularities, publishing uniform and clear messages to all citizens was difficult and the ensuing confusion created many issues in the field.

An important disparity in the cost of curbside recycling was noted from one municipality to another. It was necessary, therefore, to find a way to optimize the call for tenders for the collection, among other reasons, to get lower prices.

An initiative of



**BEST PRACTICES
INITIATIVE**
For effective
curbside recycling

**Éco
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THE VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU RCM'S APPROACH

First, the mayors of three municipalities whose collection service contract was coming to an end chose to join forces and prepare a joint call for tenders. Even if residual materials collection was not performed by the RCM, the mayors mandated it to pilot the project and, ideally, to convince other municipalities to join them. In the following year, the RCM worked on a new call for tenders and successfully convinced five other municipalities to join the effort. Those municipalities are: Aumond, Blue Sea, Bois-Franc, Déléage, Egan-Sud, Grand-Remous, Maniwaki and Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau.

Here are some of the implemented elements:

1. Standardization of collection frequency

The RCM reviewed the collection schedule to ensure improved balance. Some municipalities had to switch their collection day in order to maximize the use of trucks by contractors. However, this optimization effort was carried out in such a way as to limit changes for the municipalities as much as possible. It was also decided that the contractor could make their own recommendations regarding collection days in order to offer the best possible service.

2. Harmonization of services to be included in the call for tenders

In order to respond to the shared needs of the eight municipalities to be served, only the collection of domestic waste and recyclable materials in roll-out containers were considered. Collection of bulky and container waste was excluded from the call for tenders and continues to be managed independently in municipalities.

3. Inclusion of advantageous specifications

The new call for tenders included several useful additions, such as clauses to require GPS tracking of trucks, issuing courtesy tickets and implementing explicit rules pertaining to infractions and penalties. These additions have simplified contract management for municipalities and have demonstrated the commitment of municipalities to the improvement of the quality of recyclable materials.

4. Give enough time for the process to be carried out

Developing the content of the call for tenders, which took over four months, included several meetings with representatives of municipalities in order to verify information accuracy.

The four-week posting period gave tenderers sufficient time to fully understand the estimate and territory and to submit competitive offers.

A period of over five months was granted between the awarding of the contract and the start of operations, enabling the selected tenderer to acquire the necessary equipment and human resources required to adequately serve the territory, as applicable. These two practices helped to boost the number of tenderers.

RESULTS

- A higher number of tenderers, from an average 1.5 per municipality to 3.
- One single call for tenders (instead of eight).
- Savings of over \$130,000.
- More harmonized and efficient communications with citizens.
- Lightened administrative workload.
- Close beneficial collaboration for municipalities and the RCM.
- Process carried out at zero cost to municipalities.

The Best Practices Initiative aims to stimulate discussions and collaboration among municipal organizations across Québec on best practices for effective curbside recycling. To request more information or share your experience with us, contact us at chantier@eeq.ca.



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