

BEST MUNICIPAL PRACTICES IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING

VALLÉE-DU-RICHELIEU RCM: SAVINGS THROUGH CONSOLIDATION

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 supported Vallée-du-Richelieu RCM in the development of its call for tenders, as well as its reflection on the optimization of collection days, generating savings for the RCM through its new contract.

VALLÉE-DU-RICHELIEU RCM IS:



13*
MUNICIPALITIES

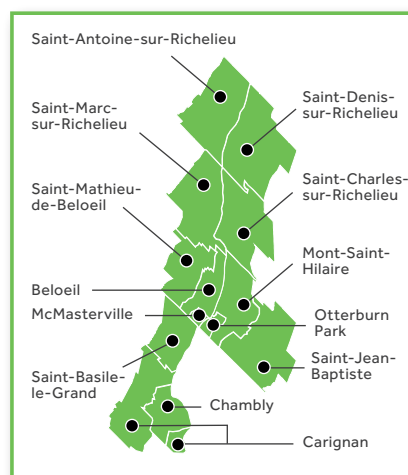


31,273*
DOORS



79,525*
PERMANENT
RESIDENTS

* Excluding Saint-Basile-le-Grand and Chambly, which are not in the RCM's jurisdiction.



BACKGROUND

Prior to 2010, municipalities in Vallée-du-Richelieu RCM issued individual calls for tenders to award waste management contracts. Lacking a critical mass to attract several bidders, they did not benefit from economies of scale for cost savings.



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*For effective
curbside recycling*

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VALLÉE-DU-RICHELIEU RCM'S APPROACH

In 2013, following a consultation on contract renewals, the RCM exercised its jurisdiction with regard to recyclables management and entered into a five-year collection and sorting contract covering 11 of its 13 municipalities. In 2017, as the contract was coming to an end, the RCM issued a new call for tenders.

In doing so, it applied a number of best practices.

1. Increase the number of doors served and optimize collection sectors

The larger contract, with the addition of the occupied units in Mont-Saint-Hilaire (over 6,000) to the call for tenders, certainly helped attract a higher number of bidders.

2. Reconsider the collection sectors and collection days

The consolidation was also the opportunity to rethink the collection sectors and collection days on the territory. The RCM assessed the workload for companies on each of the ten days in the collection cycle (spread over two weeks). Minor changes were made to the collection days in certain municipalities so that the contractor could cover the territory using as few trucks as possible.

3. Offer bidders flexibility with regard to the collection days

Even though the collection days were carefully selected to optimize truck use, the RCM still gave bidders the option to select the collection days. A bidder could offer to carry out the collection activities across the territory on the day on which most of its fleet was available. By providing this option, the RCM was able to consider the possible savings with the change of day and pursue the choice.

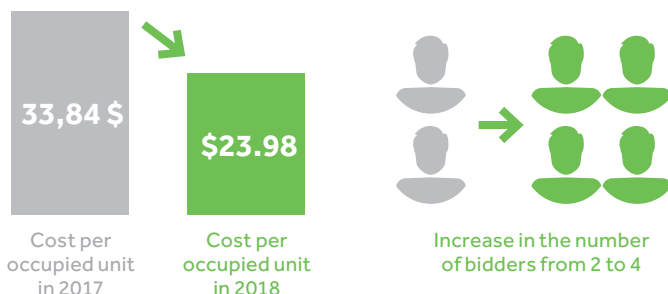
4. Provide a more detailed call for tenders

The RCM added practical information, including figures and tables of the tonnage generated on the territory, in the new call for tenders.

RESULTS

→ In 2017, four organizations submitted a bid (versus two in 2013). With this excellent participation rate, the RCM benefitted from a more competitive price.

→ The cost per occupied unit dropped from **\$33.84** in 2017 to **\$23.98** in 2018: savings of over **\$190,000**, or **over 22%**.



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



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