



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Title: Municipal Solid Waste Management and Public Education

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**MSW Management and Public Education
GD-PPD-57**

1.0 **SUBJECT**

Environmental education and solid waste management.

2.0 **OBJECTIVE**

To outline the requirement for and components of a public education plan for Municipal Solid Waste Management Facilities.

3.0 **DEFINITIONS**

Department: Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Garbage, refuse, rubbish, litter and other discarded materials resulting from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial activities which are commonly accepted at a municipal solid waste management facility, mixed or unmixed.

Owner and/or Operator: A person that owns or is responsible for or has the charge, management or control of the operation of a waste management system.

Regional Waste Management System: A waste management system designed, financed and operated by a Regional Service Board.

Regional Service Board: An incorporated entity under the *Regional Service Boards Act*, operated by a board of directors with representation from the Municipalities, Local Service Districts and unincorporated communities in the waste management regions.

Waste Management System: A system for the collection, transportation, handling, storage, treatment, utilization, diversion, recycling, reuse, recovery, reduction, and/or disposal of waste.

4.0 **LEGISLATION AND APPROVALS**

The legislative authority for establishment, development and operation of Municipal Waste Management systems is provided through (but is not limited to) the *Environmental Protection Act*, Parts IV, V, X and XI; and the *Municipalities Act*, Part XIII.1.

Upon completion of the Environmental Assessment Process (if required) and prior to construction and/or operation of a Waste Management Facility an application for approval shall be provided to the Department pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act, Parts IV, V, X and XI. Applications for a Certificate of Approval to construct and operate a waste management facility must be accompanied by a plan for public education as detailed in this document.

5.0 BACKGROUND

Regional Waste Management Systems typically contain one centrally located municipal solid waste containment landfill. Stakeholders within the region, work together to provide solid waste management services including the collection and disposal of waste. The regional system is composed of various components including transfer stations, composting facilities, material recovery facilities, construction and demolition waste disposal facilities, recycling initiatives, and household hazardous waste collection. In accordance with the Provincial Waste Management Strategy, waste management regions will reduce waste going to disposal sites and deliver public education information to residents, businesses, and institutions in the region.

Education of the public is a key component in the successful operation of a regional waste management system and waste diversion/recycling programs.

6.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION PLAN

The Department requires each of the Solid Waste Management Regions to develop a public education plan which explains the various aspects of the regional waste management system. The plan shall outline how the Regional Service Board/Facility Operator will provide information to the public.

The plan may include:

- An education centre which features interactive displays focusing on different aspects of waste management including household hazardous waste, recycling box items, backyard composting and waste management facilities.
- A teaching garden which may include drought-tolerant plants, a bird garden, a vegetable garden, rain barrels and back yard composters.
- Tours of various management facilities, i.e. compost, transfer station, material recovery facilities (where recyclable materials are sorted). Facility tours would typically include areas for viewing the operations (e.g. observation decks).
- School Group Visits (Tour)
- Large Meeting/Education Room
- Printed & Electronic educational materials and Website.

7.0 REFERENCES

<http://www.peelregion.ca/pw/waste/>

<http://www.mmsb.nf.ca/wastemanpage.htm>

<http://www.westmorlandalbert.com>