



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Session date: 13 March 2020
Best Western Plus Liverpool 63 Queens PI Dr

REGION 6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

On Friday, March 13, 2020 members of Region 6 Solid Waste Management gathered to discuss what Region 6 means to them and brainstorm on ideas to move us forward efficiently. This is the first time such a workshop has been held for this team.

There were 24 participants representing the various interests within the region; ten elected representatives from seven member units and eleven staff covering eight member areas. There were also two Region 6 staff and a municipal engineer with the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs.

Following is a summary of the proceedings from the day. In the morning, there were a few presentations to give context to the afternoon break-out sessions. The feedback received throughout the day will inform the work of Region 6 Solid Waste Management as we move forward.



MORNING PRESENTATIONS

REGION 6 OVERVIEW

Presenter: Valda Walsh-Regional Coordinator

Region 6 serves 12 municipalities with ranging in population from 531 up to 24,863. The total population of Region 6 is 90,459 and 54,896 serviced units.

There are four transfer stations, four disposal sites (three Municipal solid waste and one strictly Construction & Demolition waste), one compost facility and one material recovery facility. Over the past 6 years diversion of waste is trending down while disposal is trending up.

Of the nearly 60,000 metric tonnes of material managed; 35% of this is collected curbside.

Staff at Region 6 provide administration and education support at a current cost of \$0.82/capita. Last year Region 6 units received \$9.69/capita through grants and program funding.

COMMITTEES/ROLES

Presenter: Christine McClare – Region 6 Technical Committee Chair

Within Region 6 there are a number of committees meeting various roles; political representing the people of the region, technical municipal staff overseeing the waste services provided by each municipal unit and the education/outreach staff that visit the businesses and residents to provide program support.

Overall governance in the region is supported under the Inter-Municipal Committee which as elected representation from each of the member units. The Chair of the region is selected by the membership and presides over the committee as well as represents the various interests provincially with other regional chairs.

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Presenter: Michael Ernst – Region 6 Inter Municipal Chair

In 2015, the Regional Chairs Committee requested funding from NS Environment to bridge the gap in Diversion Credits from the previous year (due to commodity prices and increased return rates – Diversion Credits were down more than 20% from forecast). Each region was granted \$100,000 to help with the forecasted shortfall with the proviso there would be no more money granted until municipalities review efficiencies in the solid waste system. The Department of Environment outlined a few parameters for reporting on those efficiencies and, through Divert NS, would pay for the report. For a technical overview on the report – contact the Regional Coordinator, Valda Walsh.

Michael Ernst, created a two-page summary through a political lens (Appendix).

The total cost to manage our waste management system in NS is over \$140 Million per year. In Region 6 it is over \$19 Million. The top costs are collection and line hauling and waste disposal/diversion; in that order. In NS collection and line hauling is 34% of the total cost but in Region 6 it is higher at 41%. Efficient management of waste (disposed and diverted) is a volume-based business. As the population density spreads (rural areas across the province) the cost to collect and haul that material to a receiving site is higher than the provincial average.

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Presenter: Kirk Symonds – Regional Educator (with ideas from the participants added)

As part of the presentation participants saw examples of best practices being used by our member units. Many of these are shared among several neighboring units.

There is opportunity to share services and outreach among Region 6 communities to affect efficiency. Much of this detail is suggested later in the report as outputs from the strategy workshop in the afternoon portion. The Inter-Municipal Committee commits to discussing these details in the coming months.

Operations/services:

Where possible, our communities should be working more closely on collection contracts and securing bulk pricing where the same service providers cover multiple areas. Region 6 can assist with creating common communication such as unifying language used for the various streams and items used in sort guides.

Council/elected members:

Each municipality has representation at the Region 6 table. There can be a standing agenda item on every council agenda for Region 6 to maintain continuity in items being discussed at the regional and provincial level. Regular orientation sessions would also benefit all members to better understand one of the most expensive line items on every municipal budget.

Nova Scotia has achieved the lowest per capita disposal rate. . .bearing the highest gross waste management operating costs in Canada.

Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Solid Waste-Resource Management System – Sept. 2019

AFTERNOON ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Understanding some of the information presented in the Solid Waste Efficiency and Effectiveness Report, collaboration around points raised in the report were a focus for the afternoon portion of the workshop.

Five questions were discussed in small group settings then brought to the full workshop for broader discussion. Each participant was given two votes to be used to pick their top two discussion points under each question.

Following are the answers in order of preference (those that received the most 'stars' are listed 'above the line'). All answers will be discussed at our Region 6 Inter-Municipal gatherings over the coming months.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS *(IN ORDER OF PRIORITY)*

WHAT IDEAS WOULD IMPROVE REGION 6'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

14	Standardize the NS waste management system within our region
9	More education campaigns as a region ie. Coffee 'pods'
9	Uniform messaging for Region 6 and the province. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do we all convey the message the same way?
6	Region 6 to be the messenger for negotiating contracts and common services (using MJSB as a model – see Q#2)
1	Sharing best practices more often and promoting successes
0	Advocate to fix the 'map' (<i>note – 'map' on last page</i>)

WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND IS THE ROLE OF R6 CURRENTLY?

11	To provide education where municipal resources do not exist
9	Provide information packages at councillor briefings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are councillors receiving information from Region 6 (and beyond – ie Regional Chairs) such as the summary report on Efficiency and the R6 'map' (last page)?
7	Collaborate with other regions in the province
6	Identify efficiencies and opportunities for efficiencies
4	Provide information about new programs and funding opportunities
2	Rely on educator to provide education and liaise with public groups
1	Assists with understanding the role of Divert NS

WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF R6 GOING FORWARD?

13	To inform municipalities about practices, priorities and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for consistencies in the region
10	Increase public education and promote consumer responsibility
7	Look for service sharing opportunities to help clarify the difference related to waste collection and rationale; steps to fill in gaps – types of resources available.
4	Provide social media campaigns on a consistent basis
2	Encourage networking within and outside of region
1	Identify regional priorities ie enforcement and education
1	Increase consistency within the region
0	Take a leadership role

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES COULD EXIST TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT?

15	Part of council orientation package
12	Use of a communications coordinator
5	Discussion with NSFM on solid waste management issues
3	Coordinator presentations to council – link incentive programs back to council
1	Tours and orientation
0	Elected and technical report back to councils
0	Using social media to engage elected officials
0	R6 message vs. Social media/online forum/sharing site
0	Cooperation from technical to elected

HOW DO WE DEVELOP A SHARED REGIONAL VISION IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT?

12	Everyone coming together to discuss possible vision
12	Consistent region-wide programs
8	Online forum/vision
4	Develop consistent practices
3	Cost share for group funding
2	Build on success. Needs to be led by someone and/or facilitated by an external party
1	Sharing forum (ideas and information)
0	Annual R6 workshop (incl. councillors)
0	Work on education/analyze waste app data
0	Focus on finding and working on an agreement – consistency in waste streams

SHORT-TERM FOCUS

Based on the responses to the workshop below are a few items suggested for focus that can improve operations in the short-term:

1. Develop information packages about Region 6 and some best management practices/highlights. Engage a communications coordinator in developing this information.
 - a. Make these packages as part of councillor orientation packages
 - b. Create a presentation that accompanies the information and present it to all councils in Region 6.
2. Increase public education and promote consumer responsibility. This can be achieved through various campaigns – online through the Divert NS contract. More efficient use of metrics on the waste app to target messaging.
3. Seek and make recommendation for cost sharing opportunities in service delivery.

CONCLUSION

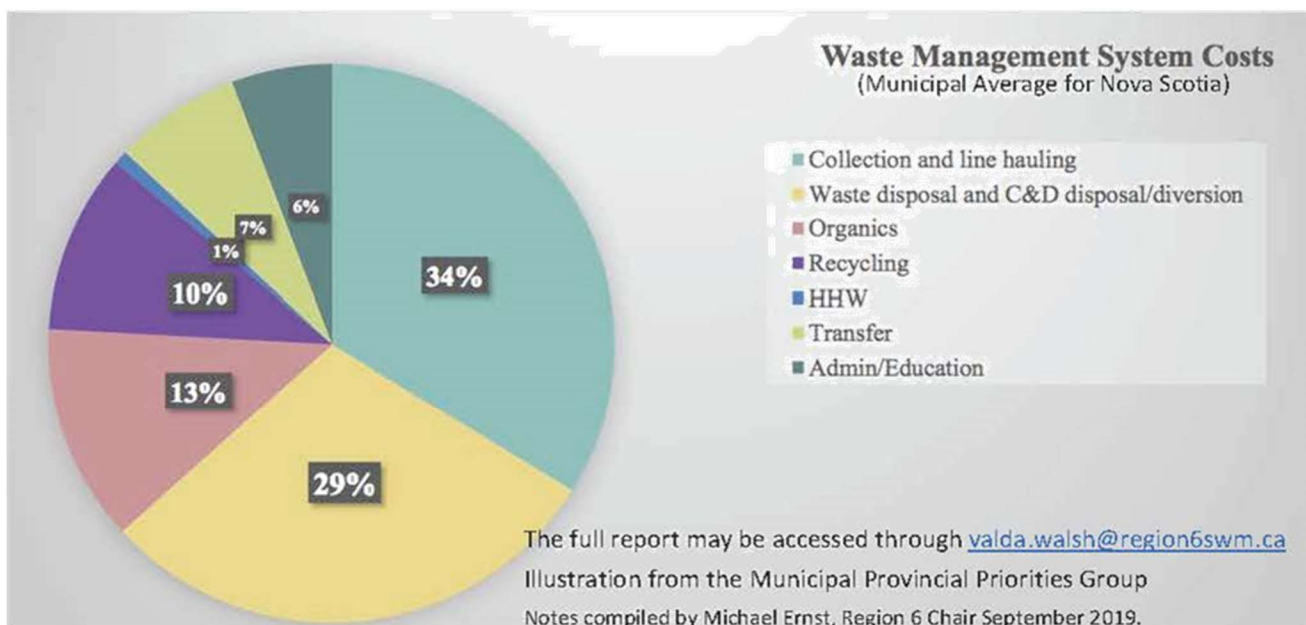
There are a number of opportunities to work better (and more efficiently) together. Longer range discussions on developing a regional vision and bringing our tools to promote better intra-regional and provincial sharing will benefit everyone.

Ideally, with the implementation of an EPR program, sorting language and unifying collection contracts will evolve and help each of our residents with better service delivery overall.

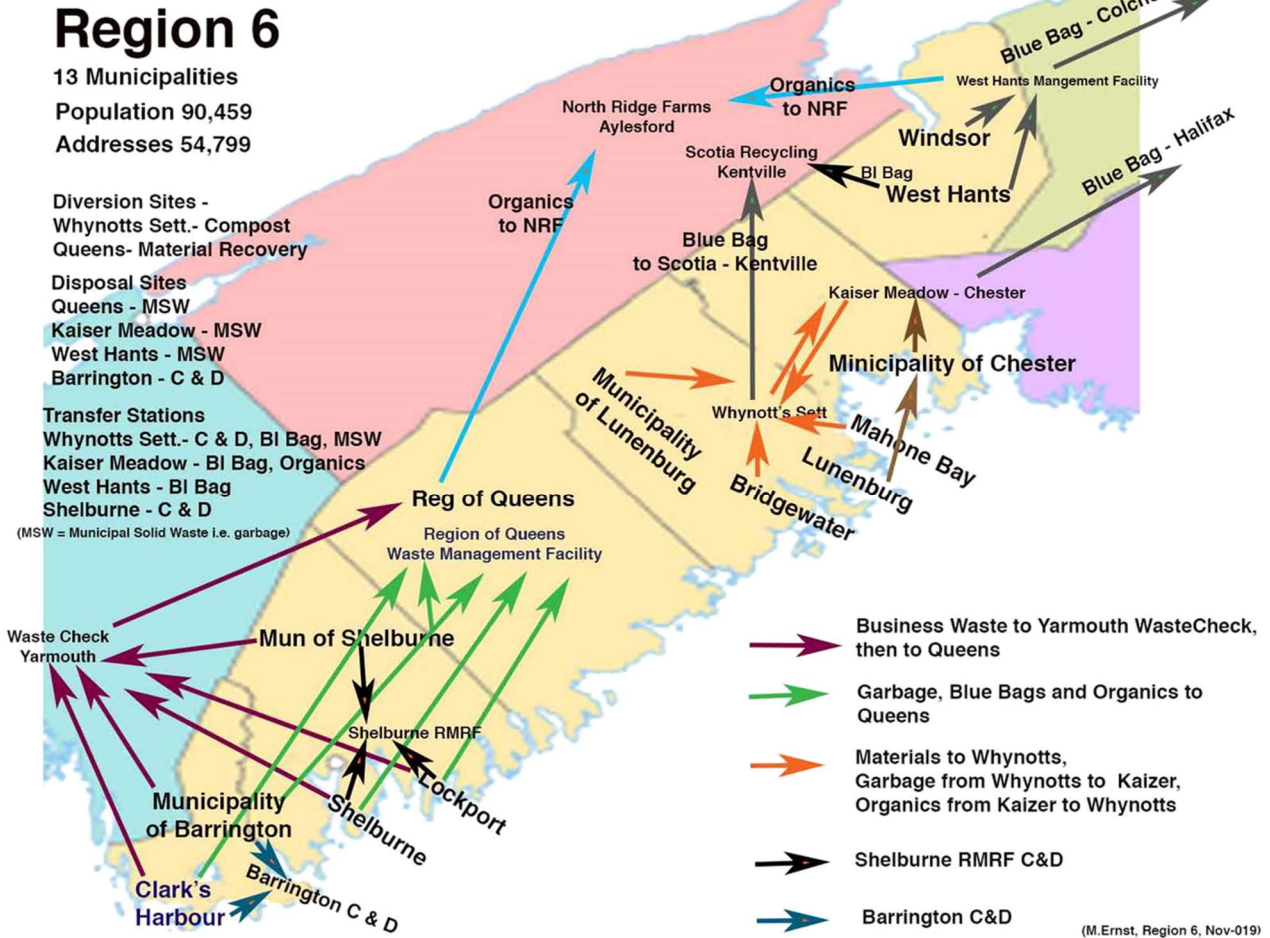
Efficiency and Effectiveness Report

Full Title: Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Solid Waste and Resource Management System

- This is a Province wide independent study of municipal waste services. It was Provincially funded, but led by Municipal staff and representatives. One aim of the study is to aid the Province in setting future legislation regarding waste management.
- The 384 page report was presented to the Regional Chairs Committee in September 2019 and contains 'high level' recommendations for collection, marketing and disposing of all waste streams.
- This is a partial summary of the Report's Highlights
 - 'The lack of a clear, shared provincial vision on the future of Nova Scotia's waste-resource management has contributed to the current over capacity and high-cost system.' (Sec 1.5- Conclusions)
 - Current strategy for waste management is over 20 years old and it needs revision.
 - There are too many waste management facilities in Nova Scotia.
 - Municipalities are not encouraged to plan regionally, or supra-regionally, and there is little incentive to do so.' (Sec 1.5-Conclusions)
 - 'Decision makers' need to be better informed on waste collection matters.
 - Role of the Regional Chairs Committee needs to be assessed.
 - There is a duplication in Provincial, Regional and Municipal education programmes.
 - Some inter municipal agreements could be more effective.
 - '... it might be more cost effective ... to collectively agree on a common list of materials of materials to be collected and recycled across the Province.' (Sec 1.5-Conclusions)
 - Standardised waste services procurement contracts could lead to lower costs.
 - Current data call system needs revision.
- The cost of Municipal Waste Management to Nova Scotians annually is \$140, 277, 218

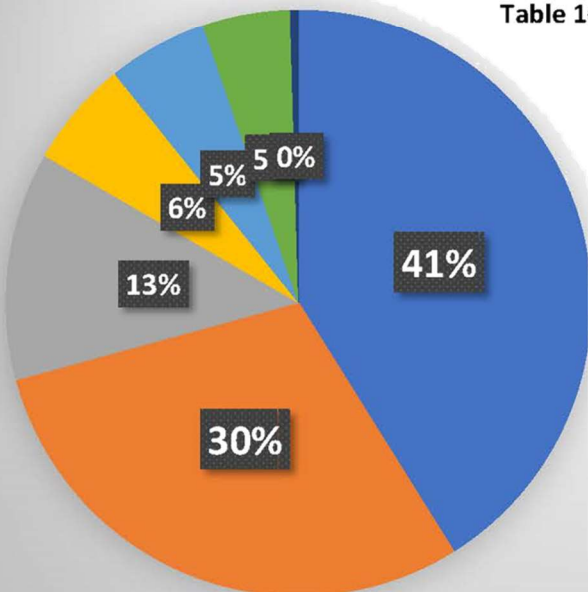


Movement of Domestic Waste in Region 6
The MAP



Region 6 - Waste Management System Costs

Table 16, page 91 – system cost \$19,217,221



- Collection and Line Haul
- Waste disposal and C&D Disposal/diversion
- Transfer
- Composting
- Recycling
- Admin/Education
- HHW