

The Newsletter



The Sustainable Development Committee

Spring Cleaning

What progress have we made in managing our garbage in terms of the first generation of the residual materials management plan, as the third *Quebec residual waste management policy* is on the horizon?

At the beginning of the 21st century the MRCs were obliged to come up with a first residual waste management plan, after the adoption by the Quebec government of the *Politique québécoise de gestion des matières résiduelles 1998-2008*. The major objective of that policy was that 65 % of garbage of all kinds would be diverted to recycling and reuse, rather than being sent to landfill. The adherence to the plan by all socio-economic sectors was implicit and in some way constituted the foundation of this effort. To provide guidance in reaching the goals, the objectives for recovering and re-using these materials were also listed to orient each of the target sectors, as you will see in the accompanying summary.

To date, all regional county municipalities or MRCs in Quebec, of which there are 90, have adopted their own residual waste management plan or PGMR, in which they have identified a whole array of ways of reducing the volume of garbage being sent to landfill in their respective areas.

The municipalities have been strongly solicited since the process began, to put in place concrete and achievable actions. The word for all that “stuff” we need to get rid of is no longer “garbage”; now we talk about “residual materials”, to illustrate the diversity and the unimagined wealth of uses for them. The population, already onboard with recycling, has been given a more pressing responsibility related to domestic “residual materials” management issues. And for institutions, businesses and industries it would be easy to give examples of actions and innovative projects that illustrate the many changes that have taken place here.

Nevertheless, the statistics show that Quebecers are generating an ever increasing quantity of waste materials to fill brown bins, blue bins and green bins, yet more and more residual materials are finding their way to landfill sites, in proportional terms. The most recent news is that the government objectives



Photo: Pierre Côté

still have not been reached. In other words, as a society, we recover, recycle, reuse, compost, and enhance. But we have not yet reduced our consumption.

It seems that the products of consumption that are available to us as consumers are ever more heavily packaged. On a recent drive, I could hardly believe my eyes - there were even yachts “wrapped” for winter, in the same kind of plastic, perhaps, as we see covering bales of hay in the fields. Yachts are no part of the food chain! Did we really have all this packaging, bottling, bagging, boxing (!) a few years ago?

It seems that a crucial step has been overlooked - reduction at source. Perhaps enforcing the appropriate regulations in tracking measures in place has been passed over. Now, even for the big corporations, the alarm has sounded – it's time to provide leadership. What use is a management tool such as a residual waste management plan if it cannot have an impact on the production of all this over-packaging?

The regions of Quebec echo with assessments of the current situation and therefore the time has come to justify the results of ten years of efforts. A number of questions merge, related to the availability of

services (infrastructures), and the ineffectiveness of individual and community efforts to date. There is certainly ample reason to change the focus in the second generation of the PGMR and to undertake a global reflection.

Without claiming to answer these questions, the newsletter team wants to provide several pieces of information, with the hope that they will be useful. We propose a short but thorough portrait of the management of residual materials in the MRC, after five years of citizen and municipal actions. To demystify these products that are part of our life and to learn more about their ecological footprint, a lifecycle analysis of various consumer goods is also presented.

Finally, essential information about activities in your region is provided. It includes points of service to dispose of various kinds of residual materials; a calendar of activities offered by your municipality and by the environment and sustainable development committees of the MRC. There are no admission charges for these activities. Among the subjects to be dealt with this summer: landscaping and renaturalizing of riparian areas, composting and reducing the use of pesticides.

The best of spring cleaning to all!

Christine Labelle
Project director



Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets solides de la région de Coaticook

(The residual waste management board in Coaticook)

Garbage from the following municipalities is taken to the technical landfill site (LET) at Coaticook: Ayer's Cliff, Township of Hatley, Canton de Stanstead, Hatley, North Hatley, Ogden, Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley (Katevale) and Ville de Stanstead.

Other services available onsite at the LET:

- A composting platform.
- A transfer and disposal platform for construction, renovation and demolition wastes materials (CRDs).
- An ecocentre for green residual materials, CRDs and metals, household appliances and certain hazardous household waste materials.

Régie intermunicipale d'élimination de déchets solides de Brome-Missisquoi

(The Brome-Missisquoi residual waste management board)

The following municipalities in the MRC de Memphrémagog send their garbage to this "Régie" or board: Austin, East Bolton, Township of Potton, Eastman, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and Stukely-Sud. The Régie offers services to all residents, industries, businesses and institutions in the MRC de Brome-Missisquoi and surrounding area.

Other services available onsite at the landfill site (LET):

- A drop-off point for RDDs (hazardous household wastes).
- Leaves in biodegradable bags or bulk may be received at the composting station.
- An area of containers for citizens (ecocentre) is provided for recovery and use of green wastes, CRDs or metals, and computer materials.

Centre de tri Sani-Éco de Granby

In 2008, the following municipalities sent their recyclable materials to the private sorting centre in Granby: East Bolton, Eastman, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and Stukely-Sud. More than 529 tonnes were sent by these municipalities.

Régie de tri et de récupération de la région sherbrookoise (Sherbrooke residual waste management board)

Six MRCs in the Estrie region are members. Nearly 5600 tonnes of material from the following municipalities in the MRC de Memphrémagog were accepted in 2008: Austin, Ayer's Cliff, Township of Hatley, Hatley, Ville de Magog, North Hatley, Canton d'Orford, Ogden, Saint-Benoît-du-Lac, Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley, Township of Potton, Canton de Stanstead and the Ville de Stanstead.

Lifecycle analysis of a product

By Alexandra Roy
Environment project manager

Life cycle analysis, made popular in the 1970s, makes it possible to assess the environmental impacts of a product by considering the environmental costs through all the stages of its useful life, from the extraction of the raw materials to the final disposal of the remaining waste materials. All the components of the life cycle that can potentially have an impact on the environment will be considered in the analysis, such as greenhouse gas emissions related to the transportation of the raw material, manufacturing, handling and the degradation or disintegration of the product. International data banks make it possible to quantify the environmental costs considered in this type of investigation.

Life cycle analysis is useful when one wishes to weigh the pros and cons of a product to make an environmentally informed choice between two options. For example, it has been estimated that a

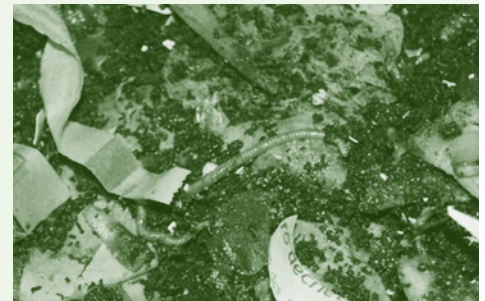
re-usable coffee cup must be used at least ten times before it is a more ecological solution than a disposable cup. The impact due to washing, and the manufacturing process and management of the end of life of the product are all considered in such an analysis.

Internet

Since Google uses servers around the world and the energy for these comes mainly from oil or coal burning energy plants, a Harvard researcher recently calculated that two searches on the net account for as much CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions as boiling a kettle with electricity produced from coal. It appears that carrying out 1000 searches on the internet pollutes as much as an automobile driving one kilometre.

Batteries

Studies have shown that the use of rechargeable batteries is preferable to the use of alkaline batteries, even when the results for the use of the charger are included. Rechargeable "nickel metal



End of life of a product –Vermicomposting
Photo: David Curry

hydrid" (NiMH) are up to 20 % less harmful, from the environmental perspective, than nickel-cadmium batteries (NiCd), because of the high level of toxicity of cadmium.

Disposable or washable diapers?

Studies do not show clearly that one is better than the other, considering that the first ends up in landfill and the second must be washed using water and detergents. The socio-economic context in which the product is used, becomes, therefore, a key element in the decision; in which case, there is reason to evaluate the way in which the residual wastes are managed, in comparison with the effectiveness of waste water treatment.

The environmental value of a product and its social value should also be taken into account in this type of study. Life cycle analysis is one of several tools that allow us to make informed choices and to consume goods more responsibly.

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The Residual waste management plan, five years later

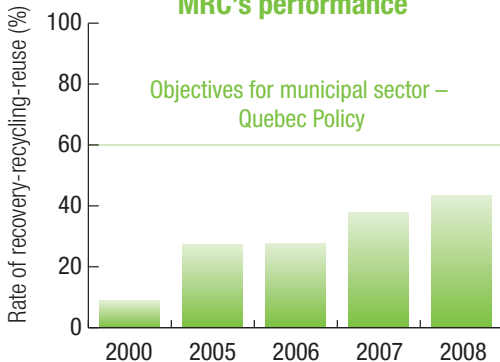
By Mélanie Desautels
Project manager

In September 2000, the Quebec government adopted the *Politique québécoise de gestion des matières résiduelles 1998-2008* (the Quebec policy on residual materials management), the global objective of which was to recover – reuse – recycle (sometimes referred to as refuse conversion or waste reclamation) 60 % of household residual wastes (garbage).

The MRC de Memphrémagog: an evolving story

The most recent data for Quebec is from 2006. That year, the rate of refuse conversion for the municipal sector was 32 %. For the same year, the rate of refuse conversion for the territory of the MRC was 28 %. Two years later, it reached nearly 45 %. Despite the fact that we did not meet the objectives of the policy for 2008, several actions have been taken since the adoption of the *Residual waste management plan* (the PGMR) for the MRC and the situation has greatly improved.

Evolution in the MRC's performance



Public information activities have been organized over the years by the MRC, jointly with the municipalities. A green team was created to make citizens aware of the challenges we face. Speakers are regularly invited to talk to the population about various aspects of managing residual wastes. Four rounds of visits to schools have also helped to create student awareness of these issues. Columns in local newspapers and a directory of recovery and recycling services has been published and is available online at the MRC's website.



Visits to schools, spring 2009
Photo: Mélanie Desautels

These initiatives, the achievements by municipalities and the increase in services have made it possible to grow the quantity of materials converted or reclaimed. This rose from 1,380 tonnes in 2000 to 10,770 tonnes in 2008. Another encouraging fact is that the quantity of waste materials sent to landfill has declined annually since 2006, despite an increase in the population.

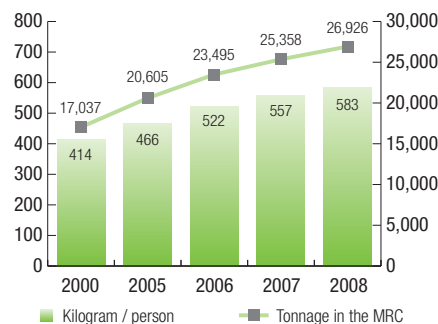
The MRC has reached and even surpassed the objectives of the recyclable materials policy. This is due to the major efforts put forth by the municipalities and the participation of the citizens. Still greater efforts on the part of the population will be necessary, however, to ensure a better quality of recycled materials.

Reclamation of organic materials is also rising. The implementation of a three-stream pick-up service in some municipalities (garbage for landfill + recycling + composting) has encouraged greater participation by citizens.

Dangerous domestic wastes (RDDs) are a serious problem for the environment. In 2000, no services were offered to help citizens dispose safely of these products. In 2009, this is no longer the case. The majority of municipalities have developed drop-off points for recovery of old paint; special collections are organized; businesses in the region take compact fluorescent light bulbs and used oil. In short, a multitude of services are now offered.

However, our achievements on the recovery side are counterbalanced by the fact that we are producing more and more residual materials. In 2008, each citizen in the MRC generated, on average, 583 kg of residual materials, that is, 170 kg more than in 2000. In 14 municipalities, the average of waste material produced per person is higher than the Quebec average.

Evolution in the quantity of residual materials generated in the MRC



Coming in 2009

The government has been holding consultations with a view to developing a new management policy for residual waste materials in Quebec. In 2009, the MRC will also begin a revision of its *Residual waste management plan* when the next provincial policy becomes available.

In the meantime, actions are planned to continue to reduce the tonnage to be sent to landfill. The implementation in other municipalities of three-stream waste collection services and access to ecocentres are examples of some of the efforts underway.

The MRC and the municipalities must continue to encourage the population to reduce the quantity of waste materials generated at source. In the coming years, it will also be necessary to develop infrastructures to allow a greater number of people to reclaim organic wastes.

Specific objectives for conversion of domestic wastes - Municipal sector

- 60 % of glass, plastic, metal, fibres (paper and cardboard), bulky garbage and putrescible materials (that decompose) (green wastes and food wastes);
- 80 % of single-use beer and soft drink containers;
- 50 % of textiles;
- 20 % of non-returnable metal;
- 75 % of oils, paints and pesticides (dangerous domestic wastes or RDDs);
- 60 % of all other dangerous domestic wastes.

Are you moving? Here are some tips ...



Source: Recyc Québec, 2009

Dangerous domestic products: Buy only as much as you need and look for ecological solutions for alternative products, fertilizers and pesticides. For information, visit the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Batteries: Choose rechargeable batteries and return them to the store when they reach the end of their lifespan.

Pick-ups and services: contact your municipality.

Regional Noticeboard

- Dépanneur Chez Ben
- IGA Gazaille
- Loblaws
- Marché Végétarien
- Métro Plouffe

Bags are also sold at the Public Works and Technical Services centre, at the Magog ecocentre and at the town hall.



By-law on soils management

In 2007, the municipality adopted a by-law dealing with soils management that covers all work requiring rearranging soil. The objective: to limit the impact of real estate development on the premature aging of lakes and to prevent pollution incidents (blue-green algae).

For more information, contact: Hugues Thivierge
thivierge@canton.orford.qc.ca

Municipality of Ayer's Cliff Environment Advisory Committee

Calendar of activities 2009

Earth Day **April 22**: collection of computer equipment

Tree Day **May 23**: donation of trees

Shrub Day **May 30**: shrubs for the riparian zone

Scrap metal collection day: **June 6**

Eco responsible participation in events for the **Centenary** (July 4-5, August 8-9) and **Townshippers Day** (September 19)

Garbage Reduction Week: **October 18-25**

For more information: **819 838-5006**.

Reminder

The municipality has a drop-off point at the municipal office for batteries, paint, clothing, ink cartridges and cellular telephones.

Looking for volunteers!

If you are concerned about the environment and would like to get involved in your municipality, call us : 819 838-5006.

Ville de Magog

A good deed is even better when it's green!

Every year, the Ville de Magog offers its residents various pick-ups of green waste, two in spring for brush, two in the fall for leaves and one in January for Christmas trees.

Green wastes must be placed at the edge of the road in paper bags on the day of garbage or recycling pick-up, for pick-up those days or the following days.

In case of rain, the bags must be protected by a waterproof sheet. Branches must be cut in lengths of no more than one metre and bundled.

The right bag is a brown paper bag!

The use of paper bags is now required. Cost: 25¢ each at the following retailers:

Municipality of the Canton d'Orford

Three-stream, curbside pick-up service

On June 1st 2009, all residences in the municipality of the Canton d'Orford will receive a third mobile bin for door-to-door pick-up of putrescible (decomposable) materials (for compost), in addition to those for recyclable materials and regular garbage pick-up. The municipality's objective is to keep 30 % of what is presently found in garbage pails out of landfill by directing it to composting. The municipality is encouraging people, as a complementary strategy, to compost household wastes at home by offering grants to property owners.

Two special collection days at the ecocentre (for citizens of Orford)

With the example of the successful initiative in 2008 as a guide, the municipality is repeating its special collection days. Two Saturdays are set aside for special collections: June 6 and October 3 at the municipal garage (1120, chemin de la Montagne, Orford). This service is free for residents of Orford upon presentation of proof of residence or ownership (driver's permit, copy of the tax account, etc.). Only residential household products are accepted.

Grant for washable diapers

The municipality is making it easier to buy washable diapers by providing a grant. For more information: info@canton.orford.qc.ca.

Purchase of shrubs

The municipality is pursuing its program to encourage people to replant the shoreline and riverbank by distributing shrubs, on Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, August 29, 2009. Watch out for the deadlines to order yours on the municipality's website at: <http://www.canton.orford.qc.ca/fr/>

Municipality of Stukely-Sud

Projects 2009

Two specific projects are planned this year, a multi-generational park and a pedestrian pathway.

The park will be finished in June, thanks to financial assistance from the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. Citizens will be able to bring their children to play on special areas. There will be playgrounds for soccer, basketball, bowls and volleyball. Work on the pedestrian trail will be carried out during the summer by the group Sentiers de l'Estrie, with funding from the MRC.



Breakfast meeting "ICI on recycle" (on recycling), Auberge Estrimont Suites and SPA, February 17, 2009.

Speakers: Mr. Roger Riendeau, director general of the CREE, the Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Estrie and Mr. Gérard Marinovich, vice-president of the Spa Eastman and mayor of the municipality of Eastman.

Photo: Mélanie Desautels

Calendar of activities 2009 – MRC de Memphrémagog

May

Shoreline vegetalization workshop (In French)

by Mélanie Desautels, MRC de Memphrémagog

Date: Saturday, May 9

Time: 10 am

Place: Canton d'Orford town hall
2530, ch. du Parc

Date: Saturday, May 9

Time: 1 pm

Place: North Hatley community hall
3127, ch. Capelton

Restore the shoreline to improve water quality (In French)

by Joana M' Seffar, RAPPEL

Date: Wednesday, May 13

Time: 7 pm

Place: Hôtel de ville du Canton de Potton
2, rue Vale Perkins, Mansonville

Organic gardening and composting (In French with questions in English)

by Édith Smeesters, speaker

Date: Tuesday, May 26

Time: 7 pm

Place: Magog town hall
7, rue Principale Est

June

Is your shoreline crumbling and eroding?

(In French)

by Daniel Bergeron, Aqua-Berge inc.

Date: Saturday, June 13

Time: 10 am

Place: Township of Stanstead town hall
778, ch. Sheldon

Some tips to eliminate the use of pesticides

(In French with questions in English)

by Édith Smeesters, speaker

Date: Tuesday, June 16

Time: 7 pm

Place: École St-Barthélémy
206, rue Rosedale, Ayer's Cliff

July

Household composting, simple and effective

(In French with questions in English)

by Monique Clément, speaker

Date: Thursday, July 9

Time: 7 pm

Place: East Bolton town hall
858, route Missisquoi

August

Pick-up of compostable materials; what, how, why?

(In French with questions in English)

by Monique Clément, speaker

Date: Wednesday, August 19

Time: 7 pm

Place: North Hatley community hall
3127, ch Capelton

To register, please call Ms. Émilie Gagnon at 819 843-9292, ext. 24.

For a description of the activities, visit our website: www.mrcmemphremagog.com.

NOTE: All these activities are free for citizens of the MRC de Memphrémagog.