BEST MUNICIPAL PRACTICES IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING

PAYS-D'EN-HAUT RCM: CONSOLIDATION AS THE BACKDROP FOR SUCCESS

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

The information sheets are part of the Best Practices Initiative for effective curbside recycling. Pays-d'en-Haut RCM has implemented several of the best practices discussed in the Initiative's workshops.
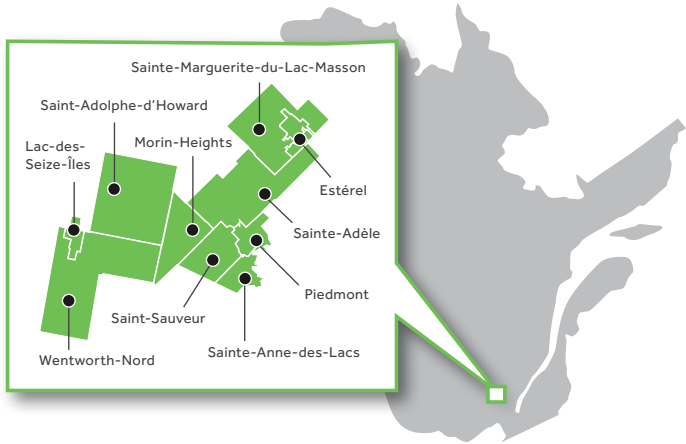
PAYS-D'EN-HAUT RCM, IS:

10 MUNICIPALITIES

33,000 DOORS

48,700 PERMANENT RESIDENTS

42% COTTAGERS (AVERAGE)

Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson
Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard
Lac-des-Seize-Îles
Morin-Heights
Estérel
Sainte-Adèle
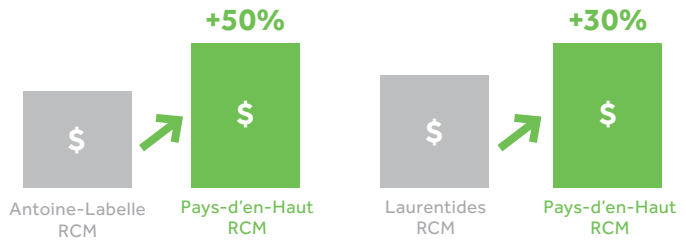Piedmont
Saint-Sauveur
Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs
Wentworth-Nord

BACKGROUND

Until 2015, each municipality in the RCM managed its own waste management contracts. The total costs incurred by the 10 municipalities substantially exceeded those of neighbouring RCMs.

→ **50%** higher than Antoine-Labelle RCM

→ **30%** higher than Laurentides RCM

+50%
Antoine-Labelle RCM → Pays-d'en-Haut RCM

+30%
Laurentides RCM → Pays-d'en-Haut RCM

An initiative of

BEST PRACTICES INITIATIVE
For effective curbside recycling

Éco Entreprises Québec

PAYS-D'EN-HAUT RCM'S APPROACH

In October 2015, following a consultation with its municipalities, the RCM declared its jurisdiction with regard to waste management and created a dedicated department. It then issued a call for tenders for seven of its ten municipalities.

The RCM applied several best practices for the call for tenders to obtain a higher number of competitive bids.

1. Optimize the collection routes

The RCM reconsidered the sequence of collection locations to reduce the number of trucks required and distances driven. It also created voluntary drop-off sites and bin grouping areas along collector streets and installed semi-underground containers.

2. Post the call for tenders for an appropriate period

Pays-d'en-Haut RCM posted its call for tenders for two months, rather than the standard two to four weeks. By giving bidders more time to prepare their proposals, the RCM increased its chances of receiving a higher number of bids.

3. Provide for a period of over six months between the awarding of the contract and the start of the operations

The RCM planned for the operations to begin seven months after the contract was awarded. In doing so, it provided the successful bidder with enough time to purchase the trucks it required, if need be. Bidders that did not have the number of trucks required when the call for tenders was issued could still submit a bid.

4. Offer more flexibility, particularly with respect to collection days

In Pays-d'en-Haut RCM, the choice of collection days and method (rear or side load, mechanical or manual feed) was left up to the bidder. This flexibility increased the RCM's chances of receiving more bids and enabled the successful bidder to cut costs and lower its price accordingly. In addition, the RCM divided the territory into three separate collection sectors. Bids could cover one, two or three sectors (with a rebate if the winning bid covered all three) so that a greater number of small local contractors could bid.

5. Include all relevant information in the tender documents

By providing all relevant information in the tender documents (e.g. map of voluntary drop-off sites, list of industrial, commercial and institutional organizations, etc.), the RCM reduced the uncertainties for bidders, which all clearly understood the level of service that was required and the constraints of the area. It also increased its chances of obtaining a fair price for the services.

RESULTS

→ Overall savings of **24%** for the RCM: over **$1.1 million** in two years!

→ For one of the municipalities in the RCM, the savings totaled **52%**.

→ Through these savings, the RCM could add the collection of organic material at no extra cost in most of its municipalities.

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.

BEST PRACTICES INITIATIVE
For effective curbside recycling

An initiative of

Éco Entreprises Québec