

Member’s inquiry – accepting materials for reuse

On September 27, 2012 we asked:

“Our good friends in Halton have a question for municipalities with facilities at their landfill or public drop-off centres to allow residents to drop-off materials to be reused such as clothing and furniture in good condition?

Does your facility allow residents to purchase or take reusable items at your facility or are they transferred off site for resale?

Can you provide information on the type of infrastructure, the capital and operating costs, tonnage of material managed, staffing requirements, any third party arrangements or agreements, and details on how the facility is operated?”

Replies:

Dylinna Brock, Township of Wollaston- dylinna@bellnet.ca

We operate a seasonal reuse area within our recycling building one third of the building is used from April to October

One small area is used the rest of the year. We are currently discussing ways to keep a larger area year round.

The reuse area is managed and ran by the waste site staff as part of their daily duties. We only accept at this time small items. We estimate 6 tonnes of material is diverted yearly. The reuse it ran similar to a yard sale (cash only). Once our season is over all salvageable items are donated to charity. There are no third party agreements. We also had to put the reuse area on our Certificate of Approval.

Frank Velle, City of Sarnia- frank.velle@sarnia.ca

There is no program of this nature in Sarnia. This type of program is handle by the Charities.

Brad Whitelaw, Region of Niagara- brad.whitelaw@niagararegion.ca

Niagara Region used to operate its own Reuse Centre at its Elm Street landfill site, until this site closed at the end of 2007. Currently, we do not operate any

type of reuse centre, however we do have textile drop-off bins, which are provided by Salvation Army, at no charge to the Region, at all of our other sites. These bins are emptied by SA and the materials are taken to their facilities for reuse. The Region does not have anything to do with them.

Linda Caston, County of Wellington- lindac@wellington.ca

The County of Wellington operates Reuse Centres at 3 of our 6 waste facilities. Residents pay a fee to drop off items (in case the item is not reused and goes to landfill), but may take items at no charge. Bulky items (those which take more than one person to lift) must be listed on a posting board for resident to resident exchange. Any items in the Reuse Centres not removed by residents in reasonable time or when the building becomes overcrowded, are landfilled. The 2011 diversion through our Reuse Centres was approximately 36.5 tonnes.

Clothing/textiles are not accepted in the Reuse Centres, but are accepted at no charge in textile bins at all 6 of our facilities. These bins are operated at no charge by the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) who partner with Value Village in the resale of reusable clothing or small household items. If textiles are not reusable, they are recycled. We were approached by CDA and our agreement was verbal. Bins were installed at all sites by March of 2011, so this represents our best “annual” information – 18.41 tonnes for 2011.

We also offer the Wellington Reuses website to County residents for “no charge” items only. This was set up at no cost through CIF, and is hosted for approximately \$2,000 per year thereafter.

The capital cost of our Reuse Centres was approximately \$30,000 each, which are secure but unheated buildings on a concrete pad. The Centres are run by site staff as part of daily operations – no additional staff is required. The only extra task involved is in logging each incoming item with its approximate weight for annual tracking.

Additional detail is available on our website at www.wellington.ca

Hope this helps.
