



City of Regina

### SUMMARY

The City of Regina piloted a new recycling program in various municipal buildings across the city, to align with the services mandated at residential properties. This new program included a revamp of the recycling program at twelve pilot facilities that included City Hall, the Public Works Yard, and Leisure Centre buildings. This program was introduced to the City with the tagline "Let's Green Our Routine," with a message of it not being about new bins and streams, but making better choices to reduce overall consumption. There were three variations of the program implemented at these different municipal buildings.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

**1. City Hall** represented the office building pilot program. A deskside program was implemented, where a blue bin was provided to each employee with an accompanying hanging waste basket. The goal of this setup was to encourage recycling with the larger container, and reduce the amount of waste generation with the small hanging waste basket. Employees are required to take their deskside system to a centralized sorting station. The centralized stations included paper, refundables, waste and compost. Materials that are accepted in the compost bin at the City include paper towel, Kleenex, coffee grounds, and food waste. This allows for maximum diversion through the compost program. There are multiple centralized stations conveniently located around each floor, in areas such as printer rooms and kitchenettes.

**2. The Public Works Yard** represented the operational building pilot program. These buildings were outfitted with four stream Waste Watcher stations, as they are durable and easy to clean. These facilities often see a lot of traffic and motorized vehicles, so having a system that could withstand these elements was critical. Their collection program included paper, refundables, waste and compost.

**3. The Leisure Centres** represented the public space pilot program. These centers within the city were outfitted with triple Waste Watcher stations that included refundables, paper and waste collection. Compost collection was not provided in public areas of the city. This was to keep the streams as clean as possible, and minimize confusion for the user. Leisure Centre facilities house pools, libraries, meeting rooms, public gyms and an ice rink.

The waste audit team collected data from the three building categories monthly, to determine diversion rates and waste reduction rates with the new recycling system. The audit results for each stream were calculated by weight, and organized by type of buildings. This allowed for some friendly competition to see how the buildings were performing compared to one another!

### QUICK FACTS

-  Municipal Buildings
-  Regina, Saskatchewan
-  Population: 228,928
-  Waste, Mixed Recyclables, Organics, Refundables

Diversion rates for the program overall increased from **10%** prior to the new program to an average of **49%** in only **3 months!**



Figure 1: Spectrum and Waste Watcher configuration for municipal buildings.



### KEY FINDINGS

From the data that was collected over the first quarter by the waste audit team, the office buildings had the highest diversion rates, compared to the operation buildings and public spaces. The office buildings were also the top performing for waste reduction efforts as well. Diversion rates for the program overall increased from 10% prior to the new program to an average of 49% in only 3 months!

In an effort to minimize odour in City Hall, centralized compost bins were only established in the kitchen areas. Because of this, some compost material wasn't being walked to the kitchen areas, and was instead being thrown in the waste bins in the centralized areas around the office area. Like many other businesses, this is a common challenge. In addition, lighter organic material like paper towel did not reach the bottom of the bin, and would accumulate on top and overflow into the waste streams. People were hesitant to push material down to the bottom of the bin using their hands.

Another observation from the new program was that modular systems like the lightweight Waste Watchers were being moved by leisure center staff to areas that they thought were more efficient. This posed a challenge because the three stream system was being separated, and it creates difficulty for users to locate the recycling container for proper sorting if it is not directly beside the waste container.

Building Category	Green Goal	July Results	August Results	Sept Results
Operation Buildings - PWY	47%	57%	50%	50%
Office Buildings	62%	71%	56%	55%
Public Spaces	42%	37%	32%	36%

Building Category	Waste Reduction Goal	July Waste Reduction	August Waste Reduction*	September Waste Reduction*
Operation Buildings - PWY	-10%	-17%	-18.55%	-6.35
Office Buildings	-10%	-28%	+1.4%	-27.59
Public Spaces	-10%	-9%	-0.74%	28.06

Figure 2: First quarter results from the new recycling program.

### STEPS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Remove bag from Spectrum to allow paper towel to go to the bottom of the bin, preventing overflow and reducing the amount of contamination into the adjacent streams. This would also result in cost savings from the reduction in the amount of bags used in these containers.
2. Implement small desktide compost bin to encourage proper sorting at desk.
3. Addition of castors to the Waste Watcher systems in the leisure centres to prevent moving any of the containers to different areas.
4. Add compost bins to all centralized systems to ensure easy disposal.
5. Add a sticker to the lid of the Spectrum container to communicate the stream and accepted items, to allow for easy visualization when standing overtop of the bin.
6. Outfit the paper towel bins with a small hanging waste basket to encourage composting paper towel opposed to landfilling this material.

For more information on this program visit [www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/page/interview-with-city-of-reginas-waste-minimization-specialist-jodie-frank](http://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/page/interview-with-city-of-reginas-waste-minimization-specialist-jodie-frank) or email [diversion@buschsystems.com](mailto:diversion@buschsystems.com)

