

**Plenary One- We All Produce Waste – How Is It Managed?
Moderator: Lisa Fairweather, Environment Canada**

Introduction

**Jennifer Peterson, Environment Yukon and Paul Moore, Community Services
Recycling (Jennifer Peterson, Environment Yukon)**

- Recycling Fund is the tool used to fund recycling activities and was created at same time as Beverage Container Regulations in 1992
- Money from fee (\$0.10) at store on containers goes to recycling fund
- \$250,000 extra was announced by Environment Yukon in 2008
- Environment offers support through grants, equipment, and programs (Recycling Club)
- Recycling Club was responsible for 25 – 30% increase in the return rate of beverage containers since 1996
- Also responsible for tires - 439 tonnes sent for recycling last year
- Also deals with hazardous waste

Solid Waste Strategy (Paul Moore A/ADM Community Services)

- Community Services retained EBA Engineering to conduct a comprehensive study of waste management practices in the territory
- Yukon government – waste disposal , Environment – waste diversion, Municipal – waste disposal & diversion
- Included all Yukon communities
- To be released in August 2009
- EBA Consulting has considered current and potential alternative solid waste disposal options
- The waste model (presently under development) will help aid in the decision making process for waste management alternatives.

The Business of Recycling

Danny Lewis, Raven Recycling

- Collection begins with Public Drop Off , Commercial Drop Off, Community Deliveries, Local Pickups
- Large list of what is collected can change depending on commodity market
- ABCS – Aluminum, Brass, Copper, Stainless Steel
- Issues are: storage, weather, shipping (not enough trucks), quality of merchandise
- Currently scoping a new facility
- Yukon's recycling ends up in Vancouver, Edmonton, Tacoma, Washington, China

Eco-Action Community Funding

Graham Van Der Slagt, Environment Canada

- Information for funding available on website www.ec.gc/ecoeducation

Eco-Action in Dawson City

Cholena Smart, Conservation Klondike Society

- Sustainable Landfill Initiative, a partnership between Conservation Klondike Society & City of Dawson
- Work done at includes: summer students, waste audits at landfill, recyclables at 2 depots
- Problems at landfill include: no space, funding, no power, (can't recycle paper/cardboard)
- May do a trial with a 'Recycle Bicycle' - Trial pick up service for Dawson businesses
- Reducing and recycling plastic bags
- Composting (City of Dawson) took lead. Program under Solid Waste Management, also small scale worm workshops.
- Hazardous waste is 1% of total waste in Dawson. A Survey showed that residents were concerned about waste leaking into groundwater.
- Community Dishes project – for events/functions, ie.) Moosehide gathering, Yukon Quest
- New website – includes waste audit report and various other project

Solid Waste Management in Yukon

Sabine Schweiger, City of Whitehorse

- City only collects from 5000 single family households
- When accounting for waste, we can't separate household waste out from commercial, making it difficult to do a data analysis
- Curbside compost collection – City wide in 2002, expanded to provide carts in Porter Creek
- Has been increasing waste diversion (30% - 40 %)
- 07/08 Pilot in Porter Creek: composting increased, 20% w/o carts, jumps to 80% with carts.
- 08/09- every household in Whitehorse with carts for compost collection
- New initiatives include: curbside collection for carts, new tractor, improving composting, improving equipment
- Looking in to commercial composting, but are facing some barriers (City doesn't currently collect any waste, capacity at composting site)
- Support includes: Diversion Credits (\$100,00 budget, annual application), Environment Fund \$25,000 (daycares, signs), Re-usable shopping bags

Questions:

- (1) What do you think about the contamination risk associated with using recyclable bags? Any plans to address this? – Sabine explained that clothe bags are washable, so to protect against this be sure to launder them. She agreed it is a good public education opportunity.
- (2) How do you think you are going to integrate diversion into the waste management strategy? – Paul answered that this would be considered as diversion programs become fully developed. Jen added that everyone would like to see the integration of resources available as they move forward.
- (3) Do you monitor the air quality of commercial outlets? – Jen answered that they don't measure point source emission in Yukon, but Yukon government does have a station to monitor ambient air quality in downtown Whitehorse.
- (4) In planning for waste management in the communities, what is YG thinking of doing to reduce GHG produced by using transfer stations? –Paul answered that it will be a balancing act between minimizing our carbon footprint and minimizing the effect on the environment by having stations all over the Yukon