



Divert residential material from landfill at new recycling depot

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EMC News - There's no need to simply throw unwanted items in the trash anymore. In fact, in the greater Ottawa area, just about everything from yard compost to household materials can be recycled through city-sponsored depots.

A new, free, permanent West Carleton Residential Recycling Depot was opened by Waste Management of Canada Corporation Tuesday, Oct. 20 at its Ottawa landfill site, 2301 Carp Rd.

"This is the next phase of our plan to continue to reduce the amount of materials going into landfill," said Wayne French, Waste Management's Manager of Community and Municipal Affairs.

He said the move to recycle materials rather than merely dispose of them is still taking hold in Ottawa. At present, about 32 per cent of municipal waste is being diverted from landfill, a number French hopes will double in years ahead.

"As a society trying to manage its waste, we first had to crawl before we could walk and run," he said. "We anticipate that the public will make increasing use of diversion techniques as they become aware of them."

French said it's imperative to educate young people of the value of recycling to ensure the growing generation continues to move toward reducing landfill waste.

"We are attempting to grow a generation of educated people who will make recycling and waste diversion an everyday part of their lives."

Simple things, like rinsing containers before disposing them in recycling bins or not throwing out a pizza box with crusts and leftover food in it, can help to keep our environment greener, said French.

"It's going to take a while for people to get used to doing what is best when it comes to waste management. We believe that most people will actively reduce landfill waste if they know how to do it."

At this point, the new facility just accepts residential materials, though Waste Management hopes to expand its services to commercial and industrial users in the not-too-distant future.

"Waste Management has become a collector for the Ontario Electronic Stewardship and Ontario Tire Stewardship Programs, which will ultimately go a long way to reducing landfill locally," he said.

The new recycling depot is located beside the main entrance to the Carp Road landfill site. Hours of operation are: Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - noon.

The free public drop-off facility allows the disposal of various recyclable materials such as: electronic equipment, televisions (under 32 inches), computer monitors, desktop and notebook computers, computer printers and fax machines, computer peripherals such as keyboards and mice, tires, plastic #1 (PETE) and plastic #2 (HDPE), wood, scrap steel, aluminum and tin cans, glass, cardboard, newsprint and boxboard.

Industrial, commercial and institutional materials are not accepted at the site.

"At this point in time, it is still very expensive for industry to recycle materials," said French. "We hope that

the government creates incentives that will help business, especially retailers, to move toward recycling and better waste management practices. Some will take it upon themselves, but often it becomes an issue where the 'bottom line' is the deciding factor."

For more information the new recycling facility, go online to www.wastemanagementottawa.ca.

David Johnston is a freelance writer currently on assignment for the EMC.