

Waste Hauling and Recycling Services

Waste Hauling and Recycling services are services offered by waste management companies to pick up and recycle waste materials produced in government buildings, warehouses, schools, hospitals and related facilities. Typically, waste hauling and recycling service companies provide steel collection containers outside of buildings for either garbage (landfill) and cardboard, or large rolling carts for recyclable materials that are stationed inside buildings and assembled in a loading area at designated pick-up times.



What are the key green issues?

» GHG Emissions and Air Quality:

Although Newfoundland and Labrador has the lowest per capita waste disposal rate in Canada, the waste sector accounts for about 7 percent of the GHG emissions in Newfoundland. The transportation emissions associated with waste hauling services, primarily from heavy-duty trucks, is also a source of CO₂ emissions, particulate matter and other air contaminants that can affect both human and environmental health.

» **Fuel-Efficiency:** Heavy waste hauling vehicles consume more diesel fuel due to their frequent stop-load-start cycles. Their pick-up and disposal patterns within town or urban centres are also affected by other traffic and congestion. This causes frequent, short-term idling with stop and go acceleration that in turn increases fuel consumption and associated GHG emissions and pollutants.

» **Land Use:** Landfills located near towns and urban centres are frequently located on potentially valuable land. Habitat destruction when opening a new landfill can affect wildlife and flora. Reducing the volume of waste going to landfills can help reduce these impacts and their use of land.

» **Resource and Material Use:** In Canada, 47 percent of office waste is typically paper. Paper as well as other recyclable products such as metal, plastics and organics make up the majority of office waste streams. Yet, these materials are readily recyclable and if done so, can reduce resource and material use to create a cyclical flow of materials in the market.

How do waste and recycling services advance Government's strategic priorities?

✓ Reducing Emissions and Improving Air Quality

Efforts to increase the fuel efficiency of the vehicle fleet will reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses, air pollutants that impact both human health and are a leading cause of climate change.

✓ Reducing Resource Use

Recycling reduces our harvest of natural resources. Making products out of recyclable materials often requires much less energy and water than if the products were made from raw, virgin materials. This is in line with the [Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy](#) that aims at reducing the amount of waste going into landfills in the province by 50 percent by 2020.

✓ Reducing Unnecessary Waste

Besides reducing our use of resources, recycling as much of the waste material we generate as possible is the second best way to reduce environmental impacts. Waste and recycling services can assist in diverting organics to a commercial composting facility for processing, thereby avoiding the production of methane gas and leachate.

Myth Buster

It all goes to landfill. Waste and recycling service providers under green contracts and contract management provide an auditable chain of custody to assure buyers that diversion rates and materials are recycled properly.

| Recommended | Why is it important? | How do I know I am getting it? |
|--|---|--|
| <p>✓ Specify a minimum fuel efficiency level for the hauler's fleet that is in the top 20–30 percent of the vehicle class</p> | <p>Fuel-economy varies significantly between the best in class and worst in class models, by vehicle class and engine type. Choosing the top fuel efficiency levels within the class can ensure a significant reduction in fuel consumption and emissions.</p> | <p> EnerGuide helps identify the most fuel efficient vehicles in a vehicle class.</p> |
| <p>✓ Request collection bins that are right-sized to the mass and volume of wastes</p> | <p>Right sizing bins will ensure hauling vehicles are optimally scheduled to collect the maximum amount of volumes before going to waste handling facilities or the landfill, reducing the amount of fuel used and associated GHG emissions.</p> | <p>Site inspection at contract initiation and spot inspections thereafter to ensure volumes meet the size of bins.</p> |
| <p>✓ Collection bins are made from recycled materials</p> | <p>Collection bins from recycled materials can reduce resource use and enhance the department's image with the public.</p> | <p>Site inspections to ensure bins are made from recycled materials.</p> |
| <p>✓ Request a written guarantee from the vendor that ensures all materials picked up by the vendor (wastes, recyclables, compost) are sent to the correct facilities</p> | <p>There have been some very high-profile cases of recycling fraud, e.g. where a recycling firm was found to lack the capability to actually recycle the materials they claimed to recycle.</p> <p>Regular reporting by the vendor, usually submitted with the invoice, is key to understand the rate of successful recovery at each serviced location.</p> | <p>A written guarantee by the vendor and monthly chain of custody records that show amounts hauled, recycled by mass that was accepted at the handling or landfill facilities.</p> |
| <p>✓ Organic materials collected must be delivered to a composting facility and used to create compost in accordance with all requirements set out by provincial legislation</p> | <p>Ensures compliance with provincial regulations.</p> | <p>Ask your supplier to declare compliance with provincial regulations.</p> |
| <p>✓ Request vendors identify any other recycling opportunities you may not have listed in your bid documents</p> | <p>Vendors may be able to provide other services or know of opportunities developing in the near future (e.g. light bulb recycling, primary battery recycling). Consolidating services might save costs.</p> | |

What else could I look for?

In addition to the minimum recommended criteria outlined above, there are stronger green attributes you can look for when making your purchasing decision.

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| Consolidating Service Contracts | Having many different waste haulers often results in different service levels, expectations and levels of reporting on diversion rates. | Reduction in the number of contracts hauling similar wastes or recyclables. |
| Waste Audits | Periodic waste audits can help a department prioritize its efforts to reduce waste at the source and encourage higher levels of diversion or recycling. | Audits structure and process follows established guidelines such as those from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) . |
| Worker Training | There are costs associated with training workers to separate recyclables and compostables. While a few composters provide this service, many do not. | Make sure to figure in training time in your cost estimates. Ask your vendor for this service. |
| Ensure the vendor informs you in a timely manner of any changes to the recycling market, changes of the original delivery location or whether a commodity can no longer be directed to a facility for recycling | This may affect the recycling of commodities your company is collecting. | Include this requirement in the contract. Have changes be reported in general reporting documents. |