

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Saskatoon Public Schools and WM explore opportunities to recycle

Saskatoon, SK – (June 9, 2009) - Results of a pilot project to expand recycling programs at public schools in Saskatoon were released today at an event held at Aden Bowman Collegiate, one of six schools involved in the two-month study. The concept was initiated by Waste Management of Canada (WM), in collaboration with Saskatoon Public Schools, in an effort to divert recyclable materials from the waste stream in a cost-effective way.

Between April 1 and May 31, students, faculty and support staff at participating schools separated paper and cardboard into bins provided by WM. Plastic, tin and glass were placed in bins provided by Saskatoon Curbside Recycling, a partner in the program. As a result of these efforts, there has been a substantial increase in the recovery of recyclable materials and a corresponding reduction in the volume of waste disposal at each of the participating schools.

Currently, recycling at most public schools is limited to paper and costs the Division \$12,000 a year. Under the expanded program proposed by WM, cardboard, glass, tin and plastics will also be recycled. Broken down, WM's cost to recycle paper and cardboard is only \$0.03 per student per month, which is 20-25% less expensive than what the Division pays now for paper alone. Curbside's cost to recycle glass, tin and plastic is \$0.09 per student per month, for a combined annual cost of approximately \$23,000.

Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to operating its schools in an environmentally responsible way.

"Environmental stewardship is a key consideration in the day-to-day operations of our schools," says Randy Holfeld, Manager of Maintenance and Operations at Saskatoon Public Schools. "Instead of just *talking* about environmental responsibility, this project shows how our actions affect the environment in which we live, work and play. We saw first-hand the difference administration, students and industry partners can make by working together."

WM has been providing services to the public school division for almost 20 years and is interested in exploring the potential to expand and enhance recycling activities.

"The results of this collaborative effort demonstrate that the public school division, WM and Curbside Recycling will be able to divert a significant volume of waste from the landfill and give it a renewed purpose," says Leon Bourner, WM Territory Manager, Northern Saskatchewan. "Through our collective efforts, we have the potential to help thousands of students across Saskatoon become better protectors of their environment."

Students are learning that the majority of waste generated by households and industry is a commodity, not garbage. Recycling more will enable students to further reduce their own ecological footprint.

"An impressive 10,000 pounds of paper were collected for recycling at Aden Bowman this year alone," says Patrick Brannen, Earthkeepers student at Aden Bowman Collegiate. "That creates enough energy to power an Ipad for 100,000 hours. Think of how much more we can do if we expand our efforts to other recyclables and take this program across the public school

division.”

Student support and advocacy for the formal implementation of comprehensive recycling programs will be fundamental to long-term success. Representatives from Aden Bowman’s Earthkeepers’ program will continue to play an active role, including presenting findings and recommendations to the Board of Education this fall. Saskatoon Public Schools, along with WM and Curbside Recycling, are committed to providing tools and resources to schools that are interested in adopting recycling programs.

Schools chosen to participate in the pilot represent a broad cross-section of the student population at Saskatoon Public Schools. In addition to Aden Bowman Collegiate, the following schools took part in the study: Walter Murray Collegiate, Pleasant Hill School, Dr. John G. Egnatoff School, Brownell School and College Park School.

About Saskatoon Public Schools

Saskatoon Public Schools is one of the two largest school divisions in the province, operating 43 elementary schools, 10 secondary schools and two associate schools. We are open to all children and youth so they may discover, develop and act upon their potential, thereby enriching their lives and our community. We envision a learning community that is caring, committed to celebrating diversity and respected for its focus on learning. We believe that learning has the power to build confidence and inspire hope.

About Waste Management of Canada

Waste Management of Canada (WM) is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services, offering advanced residential, commercial and industrial collection, recycling and disposal services throughout Canada. WM and Discovery Education have developed a suite of tools for educators seeking new materials to enliven environmental lessons at www.ThinkGreen.com/classroom.

For more information on recycling, visit www.thinkgreen.com.

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