Quebec’s Organics Disposal Ban Strategy

Webinar – NZWC Food Working Group

Sophie Langlois-Blouin
Director
RECYC-QUÉBEC’s mission and role

• Crown corporation agency founded in 1990, which falls under the supervision of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight against Climate Change

• Aims to promote and develop the reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling of containers, packaging, products and residual materials

• Responsible for all new action plans or programs regarding waste management in Quebec

• Working closely with the Ministry, who is in charge of regulations and conformity
Context

• Organic matter represent more than 40% of the 5 millions tons of residual materials landfilled or incinerated each year in Quebec
• Principal source of GHG emissions linked to waste management
• Disposal ban strategy identified as the best way to achieve recycling goals
• All sectors of generation are included (residential, industrial, commercial, construction and demolition)
• Materials targeted by the disposal ban strategy:
  ➢ Paper/cardboard
  ➢ Wood
  ➢ Organic matter (yard and food waste, sludge)
Paper/cardboard

• 1,1 M tons recovered in 2015 from municipal and private sector
• 542 000 tons estimated to be landfilled (based on a 2011 characterization study)
• Quebec paper mills have recycled more than 660 000 tons in 2015
• Nearly 450 000 tons send to brokers or overseas markets
• Recovery and recycling issues include:
  ➢ Residential recovery is lagging
  ➢ Quality and contamination of baled mixed papers
  ➢ Few local markets (QC or North America)
  ➢ Restrictions to overseas markets such as China
Wood

• 444 000 tons recovered in 2015 by private sorting centers of C&D materials
  ➢ 37 % goes to recycling facilities
  ➢ 62 % goes to waste-to-energy facilities

• 415 000 tons estimated to be landfilled (based on a 2011 characterization study)

• Recovery and recycling issues include:
  ➢ 50 private C&D sorting centers and 250 municipal depot centers
  ➢ Different level of contamination
  ➢ Few recycling markets
  ➢ Treated wood
Organic matter – municipal sector

• 256 000 tons of yard and food waste recycled in 2015
• More than 1,2 M tons still landfilled or incinerated (excluding biosolids)
• Municipal recycling rate of 17 % (target for 2015 was 60 %)
• Recovery and recycling issues include:
  ➢ Only 1/3 of municipalities have organics collection in place
  ➢ Some recycling infrastructures are planned in the next years
  ➢ Quality and contamination of recovered organics
  ➢ Markets for compost
Organic matter - municipal sector (2)

RECYC-QUÉBEC (2017) - Municipal organics collection and recycling infrastructures map.
Organic matter – municipal sector (3)

- 431,000 tons of biosolids (sewage and septic tank sludge) recycled in 2015
- 420,000 tons still landfilled or incinerated
- Recycling rate of 51% (target for 2015 was 60%)

- Global recycling rate for organics in the municipal sector was 29% in 2015
Organic matter – industrial and commercial sector

- 367,000 tons of paper mills sludge and putrescible waste recycled in 2015
- Nearly 700,000 tons still landfilled or incinerated
- Recycling rate of 34% (target for 2015 was 60%)
- Recovery and recycling issues include:
  - Low recycling of food waste from industrial and commercial sectors (3% in 2015)
  - Few collection services
  - Low landfill cost for paper mills
- Global recycling rate for industrial and commercial sector (food industry excluded) was 19% in 2015 (target was 60%)
Initial plan and timeline

• 2011: Adoption of the Quebec Waste Management Policy and its action plan for 2011-2015
  ➢ Targeted recycling rate for organics of 60% by 2015
  ➢ Disposal bans for paper and wood planned for 2013 and 2014
  ➢ Global organics disposal ban strategy to be implemented for 2020

• 2012: [Disposal ban in Québec: Present status and prospects](#) document released, including overview of other experiences
  • Organics ban was to be enforced at disposal sites
  • Programs and tools put in place to increase recovery and recycling as a basis for disposal ban implementation
Funding programs

• **Composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructures implementation program**
  - Global budget of 650 M$, more than 1,3 G $ investment
  - Facilities are to be operational before Dec 31st 2022
  - 12 projects approved
  - Program managed by the Ministry

• **Residential and communal composting program**
  - Initial budget of 2 M$
  - For smaller or isolated municipalities or communities
  - Only one project approved yet
  - Program will be managed by RECYC-QUÉBEC
Incentives

- Incentives regarding organics management included in the Charges payable for disposal redistribution program
  - Redistribution program for municipalities based on their territorial waste management performance
  - For 2017: incentive regarding collection and recycling of residential yard and food waste
  - For 2018: incentive regarding the absence of municipal regulation prohibiting the land application of biosolids on farmland
Information and support

• Waste management plans revised by municipalities in 2016-2017 including their proposed actions regarding organics collection and recycling
• Support from RECYC-QUÉBEC regarding collection and recycling options (studies and information online)
• 2 awareness and education campaigns in preparation:
  - Encourage food waste reduction
  - Encourage citizens to participate in municipal organics collection
• Training program and other tools for municipalities coming up in 2018
Studies

• Portrait of waste management in Quebec for 2015
  ➢ Updates to be conducted for 2018 and 2020
• Residential waste composition study for 2015-2017
  ➢ To be released in 2018
  ➢ Information on composition and amount of waste in each municipal collection services (waste, recyclables and organics)
• Composition study on waste sent to landfills or incinerators to be conducted in 2018 (municipal, industrial and commercial, C&D sectors included)
Next steps

• Revised disposal ban strategy underway
• Pending cabinet approval, stakeholders consultation at the beginning of 2018
• Adoption and implementation of the final strategy in 2018
• New action plan for Quebec for the 2017-2021 period is in final steps of preparation
QUESTIONS?

Sophie Langlois-Blouin
Director - RECYC-QUÉBEC
s.langlois@recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca
418 643-0394 ext. 3239