Environmental Audit 2014

Mount Allison University

PART TWO: Waste

May 2014

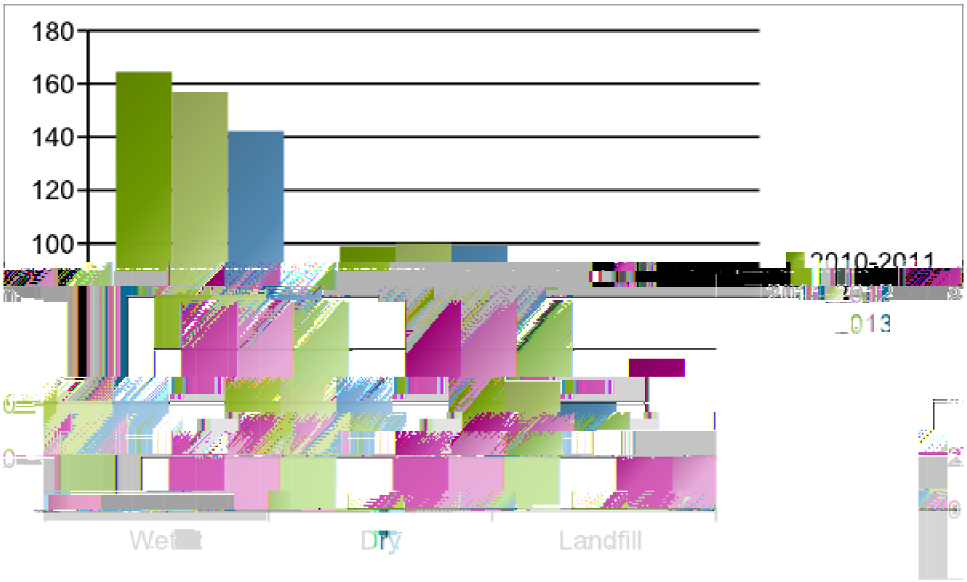
Preamble & Policy 2102

The audit was carried out according to Mount Allison University’s Environmental Policy (2102) Section 5 “Audit and Accountability”. The policy dictates that an audit of at least two policy subsections will be carried

Waste: Environmental Policy 2102.c

“It is the University’s policy to concentrate efforts in waste reduction at source and in best management of waste streams”

The Policy is divided between source reduction and waste stream management.



The above graph illustrates waste output over the past three academic calendars.
Values along the *Y Axis* are expressed in Metric Tonnes.

Data provided by Facilities Management

Reduction of waste at the source (2102.c 2.1)

Results:

After speaking with those in Facilities Management, it is clear that efforts have been made to reduce waste output, and based on the above graph, amounts appear to have decreased slightly with every year,

Wet/Dry separation will follow guidelines set out by the Westmorland Albert facility (2102.c 2.2)

Results:

Although efforts are made by staff and students to properly separate waste, it has proved to be a difficult system to properly convey to the Mount Allison Community, and a lack of education ultimately leads to poor sorting across campus. Efforts to properly separate were further impeded when Westmorland Albert overhauled their system this past year and failed to adequately communicate these changes with Facilities Management and work with those at MTA to develop best practices to ensure waste is properly sorted and results in optimal landfill diversion. Issues also arise in the very waste receptacles we use on campus. Very often, in individual offices or classrooms, there is not one blue and one green bag available, resulting in one, if not both bags being contaminated. When bags are "contaminated" to ensure students understand how to properly sort waste and answer any questions which may arise (consider partnering with the MASU)

- Ensure custodial staff know the importance of providing both Green and Blue bags in receptacles, and make efforts to ensure both bags are available for those students and staff who refill their own cans
- Continue education of residence students during September and October, repeating a similar program to that which was carried out during Orientation to clarify use of the system (consider partnering with the residence EcoReps)
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Construction waste resulting from demolition or remodeling will be reused or recycled (2102.c 2.2)

Results:

Construction waste which is not separated and shipped to Westmorland separately will ultimately end up in landfill, resulting in many reusable items going to waste. Mount Allison makes every effort to keep construction materials separate, renting huge bins for construction material dumping, however, any non-construction waste (plastic bags, etc) result in the entire load being rejected to landfill. It is ultimately up to Westmorland to recycle construction materials once they reach the facility, similar to the trust placed in the facility towards properly dealing with everyday recyclables. Mount Allison also makes efforts to separate reusable items at the construction/ demolition site itself. Up until very recently the University had its own stone yard to collect and store sandstone bricks, like those which would have been collected during the demolition of the Memorial Student Centre & Windsor Theatre. Currently, the only stone kept is that which can be used for replacements, and all other stone is disposed of in construction waste bins or sold off.

Recommendations:

- Every effort should be made by Facilities Management to ensure that Construction Waste bins aren't compromised, educating employees on the importance of only putting those accepted materials in the Construction Waste bin
- Continue to reuse and sell reusable materials, utilizing the Surplus Assets program when appropriate
- Communicate with Westmorland Albert, confirming which materials are accepted in Construction Waste bins, in an attempt to avoid construction waste reaching landfill.

Hazardous waste will be kept to a minimum by taking steps to reduce use of hazardous materials when it is reasonable to do so. (2102.c 2.2)

Results:

It is reported by those who collect Hazardous Waste on campus that disposal levels have remained relatively steady over the past three years, with these levels expected to remain constant for the foreseeable future, until the sciences complete their faculty-wide purge of old chemicals some three years from now, at which point, Hazardous Waste levels will be considerably lessened, as will disposal amounts.

The collection and disposal of hazardous waste is twofold, with Phil Cormier in Biochemistry handling and disposing of waste generated by Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, the Owens, Fine Arts, Physics, and occasionally Facilities Management. While Facilities Management collects and disposes of hazardous waste generated through University Operations, and the small amount collected in residences.

It should be noted that what Westmorland

Recommendations:

- Replace fluorescent bulbs with LED lights as they burn out.
- Teach students what hazardous wastes are considered to be, and encourage their proper disposal in bins provided in residential garbage rooms.
- Support the sciences in their purchase of a solvent recovery system to reduce output of dangerous chemicals

Reusable items (furniture, clothing, etc.) will be made available to the university and Sackville communities or charitable organizations. (2102.c 2.2)

Results:

The “Dump n’ Donate” and “Surplus Assets” programs have been especially helpful in ensuring reusable items are diverted from landfill. The “Dump n’ Donate” program works within residence buildings, taking those reusable items left behind by students and donating them to charitable organizations. The “Surplus Assets” program on the other hand, is operated by Procurement, taking reusable equipment from the University (for instance, filing cabinets, furniture, speakers) and selling those items, first within the University community and fially to thenr h i2 ()-9 (v)62 (v)om4 (i)-2 (kBe/1(t))-11-

some of the wood pellets needed to bind the food waste in the composter, and will considerably reduce cardboard shipped to Westmorland for recycling.

Recommendations:

- Consider rephrasing clause or eliminating it altogether, as recycling of cardboard is carried out by Westmorland Albert, along with processing of general waste
- Any cardboard which goes un-shredded should be properly sorted into blue bags for proper recycling, to prevent recyclable materials going to landfill after being deemed contaminated.

Performance Indicators, Accountability, and Targets (2102.c 3)

"Facilities Management will collect information and report metrics and progress on waste reduction annually."

- Tonnes of waste delivered to Westmorland Albert
- Number of truck trips to Westmorland Albert
- Number or volume of repurposed items
- Amount of disposed Hazardous Waste

This policy is structured into eight areas: Emission Reduction, Transportation, Water, Waste, Food, Paper, Grounds and Buildings.

The performance indicators and metrics associated with each area will serve as standards, and progress in meeting these standards will be measured through an independent audit process.

2.1 Emission Reduction

The University will endeavour to minimize energy consumption and emissions emanating from heating, electrical consumption and University approved travel and vehicle use as set out in its Emission Reduction Policy.

- number of truck trips to Westmorland Albert;
- number or volume of re-purposed items; and
- amount of disposed hazardous waste.

Maintained by the Office of the Vice-President (Administration) November 30, 2012

Appendix C. Performance Indicators, Accountability, and Targets

Values were all provided by Facilites Management and are from April 2013-2014.

- Tonnes of waste delivered to Westmorland Albert
    - Jenning’s waste: 15.37 kg
    - Waste excluding Jenning’s: 524.56 T
- Number of truck tripbe2LBody <</MCID 30 >>BDC /TT1 1 Tf 0 -1.66 TD (o)Tj /TT0 1 Tf 1.5 0 Td
    - Wastea.6(a)4341 (eshee Jenning’s: 524.56 T)-11 (e)4 (nni)-2 (ng)10 (’)3 (s)-1 (:)-2 (524.56 T)]TJ E3 E7