

Tom Keep, Environmental Initiatives Manager, City of Brandon at the SpeakUp on Garbage Expo, November 13, 2010.

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Transcript:

>> Richard: Our next speaker is another Tom, Tom is a long time Brandon resident originally from Winnipeg, Tom Keep is the Environmental Initiatives manager for the City of Brandon and has been in that position for five years.

The City of Brandon is a partner in the Partners for Climate Protection program which has completed a greenhouse gas vent driven for both the communities and the City of Brandon as a corporation.

The City of Brandon has set a goal for 2013 to reduce GHGs by 20 per cent for the corporation and 6 per cent for the community.

One of the biggest programs under Tom's direction is the land fill gas recovery project at its East View landfill site.

Tom is also involved with the pilot project curb side organics recovery program for 500 households are participating in this 18 month project.

He is also involved in the recycling program and started back in October of 2008.

There are approximately 15,000 recycling carts in the community along with five depots in various parts of the city, Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Tom keep.

>> Tom: Thank you Richard and welcome everybody, it is a real nice feeling to be able to sit up at this panel and see the number of people that are out there that are interested in both the community overall, but more specifically for waste diversion and how we handle ours as the City of Winnipeg, City of Brandon as well as the Province of Manitoba.

So it is as I say it is a big privilege to be able to be up here to talk to you people this morning.

As many of you know Brandon is 2 hours west on the highway.

It is a community of 43,000 people.

We had a very big influx, demographic change over the last, I would say, three years.

Maple leaf pork processing plant moved in about five years ago and three years ago we had a huge influx of Chinese people, 600 people virtually showed up in Brandon overnight and changed our demographics, just substantially.

Along with the Chinese, there were people from Salvador, Mexico, Chili, Ukraine, so the demographics changed big time, that caused us a problem, we were the small prairie town out in the prairies, the majority of everybody spoke English and the education side was virtually English across the board.

And when you try to bring people up to speed on an education process, that communication is so very important to be able to communicate in their own language.

And so we learned our lesson, we took a step back once we implemented our program, it made a huge difference and we are still moving forward on that.

As Richard mentioned some of the programs that I have been involved with, as well as the land fill gas recovery program, and we are moving forward on that, the station is supposed to be the first of December, up and running in Brandon, that's phase 1.

We will be firing off the landfill gas and phase 2 will be an end user will be negotiated with to use that as a heat source of some kind and what will happen from that and the city will be in negotiations with that end user to, on the quality and quantity and volume of landfill gas used to pay back into the city, and it looks very promising at this time.

Another program that we do have going a biofuel plan, we have it is a pilot project.

The people in the community are well aware of the French fry bus, we go around and pick up used cooking oils from restaurants around town.

We have a process at the landfill site that we can process this biofuel and we have a bus, it is 100 per cent biofuel, it is not a blend and we are in negotiations right now to finalize and get that plant, it was outside of Rapid City Manitoba, for a while, it is moved into Brandon and we are just in the final stages of getting that certified and on the electrical side and just have it up and running where we can produce I think it is estimated 5,000 litres of biofuel a day and our biggest hold back is the amount of used cooking oil available to us.

Another one of the exciting programs in the community, it is a new version of municipal water so we can proudly say that we have that program in place.

And as well city hall has made the commitment that there will be no sale or use of bottled water at city hall.

So we have been able to take some of our funding money from different Provincial legislations and to be able to use that we can supplement new water fountains and so forth in the community.

So in 19-- the way -- I promise I won't sing a song, but up until 1989 the City of Brandon had a conventional back lane manual pick up using garbage cans, so from 1989 to 2008

the City of Brandon used a dual system in which residents from front street access only used 120 gal roll out carts and then residents with the back lane collection shared 300 or 600 gal containers known as the auto bins with others in the immediate area.

From that we used the back lane program, then we started a blue bag program where the residents could put their recyclables in a blue bag and put it in the auto bin and we separate it at the landfill site.

So as well, we had nine community depots around town.

We found that a number of people, being a rural community, a number of people from around Brandon coming into town used to throw their garbage into the auto bins, and once we took the auto bins away, we noticed that you know, stuff that was being left in back lanes and so forth and we expanded into these depots where people could leave their garbage from outside.

As well for consistency, we have a program where all of our garbage, refuse, recyclables is picked up on a weekly basis.

Everybody across the city is weekly collection for consistency on that.

So the present system that we do have in place, in 2008 all residents were provided a refuse and recycling cart of various sizes depending on their need.

There are three sizes of carts offered through a public consultation process.

The three sizes were 48, 58, or 90 gals, so the public had an opportunity to choose what size of cart they could get.

They were identified by blue for recyclables and black for refuse.

Guidelines were developed in order to provide service to apartment blocks as they were serviced in the past.

So there is approximately 30,000 carts in the community itself, 15,000 of those are for recyclables and 15,000 are for refuse, all of our city Parks and public buildings have both refuse and recyclable containers outside of them.

So why the change?

The original automated system was in need of replacement due to the difficulty in sourcing parts and mostly, most of that was the auto bins.

So both were trucks and the containers.

The bins themselves had rusted out in the bottom of them so it was estimated the cost of \$7.9 million to replace the existing system across the board that includes the trucks and the carts.

We anticipated some things through our investigation, we anticipated increase for recycling there was a line with increased standards that we wanted to check other communities, what they were doing, and it was felt that to bring us up to standards, what was in place was the solution.

There was a better solution out there.

Better efficiency related to operating costs times and volumes, much of the new equipment coming down to do a faster pick up and move on to the next one.

So there was, as I say better operating costs, for times and volumes, and that plays a big, big role in the operation of our sanitation department.

So the routes, the capacity were increases with better capacity rates and the routes were looked at and adjusted accordingly to make it more efficient.

Before we go to that page we have our own sanitation, all of our employees are the City of Brandon employees.

There are some for commercial pickup, there are operator haulers that are in the community, BFI, just to mention them, as well as a couple of others, over land waste and they do strictly commercial operations.

Under the acquisition, so we decided to go with the cart system, the wheels system, so there was six new trucks at approximately \$1.644 million, 30,000 carts as I mentioned earlier delivered, assembled and distributed at approximately \$1.926 million.

Education, was set aside was 25,000, which was not enough money.

Total cost was \$3.595 million that was implemented in October of 2008.

So it was a capital cost concern that was addressed through going with a different system.

So issues and the results.

Users liked the old system and were not willing to change, a lot of people were not happy with the system at the start.

Bylaws were not aligned with the new systems, therefore allowing carts to be left out with no enforcement available.

The plan was to have people roll their cart out, have it emptied and brought back in in the in the night time.

It was all one side of the lane collection, so the person across the back lane had to bring their cart and put it on the one side of the line.

In actual fact the city owned that portion of the back lane anyways, so it wasn't the home owner, and you know, it got people, neighbours talking to one another as well at the same time.

One of the other issues, the high density areas required a multi□number of bins to accommodate the volumes.

Apartment blocks.

Contamination of the recycle bins due to the new system.

We are looking at substantial increases of contamination.

We are running about 15 per cent and I know ENTERRA feels it is higher than that, and we know it is in specific areas of community, of the city, the core area, and we feel we have to do a better job on educating people from that.

All of our recyclables are trucked in to Winnipeg and recycled through the ENTERRA plant and we are happy with the job that they are doing.

So another one of the concerns was the elderly.

The elderly, people with mobility issues for placing of carts was a big concern, putting out your cart and bringing it back in, and one of the things that we found it really wasn't a big issue, there was a couple of people with elderly people that were, had a concern, and our sanitation department, we went out and put the bin in and out for them.

So that resolved that problem altogether.

So currently waste audits both internally and externally have been done. Performed at various households and businesses. We reflected an increase from the existing 17 per cent rate of recovery before the new system was implemented and it is now running at about 34, 35 per cent on recyclables.

And contamination residual is running at approximately 15 per cent.

This is being dealt with by education and proposed revision of the bylaw for enforcement. We have recycling inspectors going up and down the back lanes, looking in the bins, and we have a tag process where we encourage people to talk to sanitation department as well as a positive reinforcement as well. So the residents of Brandon have

recycled according to the Manitoba Product Stewardship Report Card, 89% point of 79.78 kilograms in 2009.

So we are happy with that.

So future opportunities.

Point with regards to what we have going right now, we have a pilot, 18 month program on curb side composting, showing early results of diverting over 51 metric tonnes of material and it works out to about 22KGs per week from each household in approximately the first two month of operation. This program is sported in part by the WRAPP fund of the Province of Manitoba and I thank them for being part of the program.

Other programs that we do have going, bulky item collection program for a five dollar fine somebody can have that mattress picked up. We still have people throwing stuff out in the back lane and we do go around in complaint driven basis and pick the garbage up and take it to the landfill site.

We are promoting the reuse and free 2U programs. Household hazardous waste day expansion. Oil collection program, electronic waste collection program and tire recycling and commercial recycling. One of the things that we have is a solid waste master plan in the City of Brandon didn't and that has paid big dividends to us, and so that's my presentation.

Thank you.