

Waste Check Annual Report
2012-2013

*Another successful year at Waste Check has gone by, and we are proud of our waste reduction and diversion efforts within our Region. The final numbers for Nova Scotia Environment datacall have been released and our current **rate of disposal is 292 kg/person/year!** The Provincial rate is 394 kgs. We are extremely happy we have achieved the goal set out by our Waste Check Board to reach 300 kg by 2013. We are once again leading the province for the 4th year in a row with the lowest disposal rate. Thank you to everyone who participated in our programs and helped us meet our goal!*

Nova Scotia Recycles Contest

The 2012-2013 Nova Scotia Recycles Contest entries were judged. Over 1000 entries were received from 74 classes in our region. This is a record setting number of entries from our region! The winners were from the following schools. Names of winning students were not available at this time as not all winners had been notified by the RRFB.

Grade	Winner	Runner-up	Runner-up
P-1	École Pubnico Ouest	Islands Consolidated	École Stella-Maris
2-3	Arcadia	Plymouth	Weymouth
4-6	Port Maitland	Carleton	Yarmouth Central
7-9	École Secondaire de Par-en Bas	-	-
10-12	Digby Regional High	-	-

There were 6 scholarship essays received. They will be judged in March and the winners announced later in the month. Our Nova Scotia Recycles Contest Awards dinner will be held April 10th at the Clare Golf and Country Club.

Earth Day 2012- Earth Day Mural and Trash Fashion Show

In preparation for Earth Day 2012, staff were very busy in the month of March 2012 designing and painting an Earth Day mural with the Meadowfields Community School after-school program in partnership with local artist Dan Earle and the Art Gallery of NS. The students were asked to paint what they think about the environment, and what Earth Day means to them. The beautiful mural was completed in 5 sessions by nine enthusiastic students who willingly devoted their time to this great project even on beautiful sunny days.



Earth Day celebrations were held on Saturday April 21st, 2012. The Meadowfields after-school program mural was unveiled at the Art Gallery. Most of the artists were present for the celebration. This was followed by a free BBQ manned by YMCA staff. Any donations went to the YMCA. The Trash Fashion Show was a success with Mr. Green Bin and 17 participants walking the red carpet to display their recycled material fashion items. The mural remained on display in the lobby at the Art Gallery for several weeks until it moved to its permanent home in the Waste Check board room.



Also as part of the Earth Day celebrations, a presentation was made to the clients at Yarmouth Life Skills. The participants enjoyed singing Happy Earth Day and playing the “What goes where” sorting game.

A presentation was also made at the Université Sainte-Anne Tusket Campus for Earth Day. A lesson on sorting was given and then scarves were made from old t-shirts. There were many questions and the group of 14 thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Clean Across Nova Scotia/ Environment Week



**Clean Across
Nova Scotia**
June 8-9, 2012

Waste Check hosted three Clean Across Nova Scotia info sessions on March 27th, 2012 in our region. Neil Bailey, Project Coordinator from Clean NS, travelled to Region 7 to lead the info sessions. The meetings were held at the Digby and Meteghan libraries, and in the Waste Check boardroom in Yarmouth. All meetings were well received. Leading up to the clean-up, Waste Check promoted the Clean Across Nova Scotia initiative throughout the region. We sent a memo to all schools asking them to get involved by cleaning their school grounds. We also handed out info cards at any info sessions or meetings we attended.

The clean-ups took place during Environment Week on June 8th and 9th, 2012. Sixteen groups in our Region took part in cleaning up their designated areas. Waste Check staff participated by cleaning up the Tusket car pool area on June 8th, 2012.

Compost Awareness Week



As part of the promotion of compost awareness week, the compost display booth was set up at the Yarmouth Farmer’s Market. A bag of compost with instructional material was given away to market patrons who wanted to take one. Informational material on composting and pencils were also given away. The booth was well received by more than 80 people. A draw for a garden cart filled with gardening paraphernalia was made and the lucky winner was Linda Rose.

Mobius Awards 2012

Waste Check staff attended the RRFB Mobius Awards on June 5th, 2012 to accept our award for “Region of the Year”. Waste Check was awarded “Region of the Year” for our efforts in waste reduction and diversion. NSCC Burrigge Campus in Yarmouth also won a Mobius Award for “Institution of the Year”.



Waste Check Video Series

Waste Check staff were very busy this year working on an innovative and informational video series for schools, businesses, and organizations all about waste reduction and diversion, and their benefits. Waste Check worked with the nine selected businesses/schools/organizations and the filming crew to get footage for our “Leaders by Example” video series during May and June.

On May 26th, 27th and 28th we filmed at:

- Sissiboo Farm Supplies,
- Caisse Populaire de Clare,
- Ecole Belleville
- Yarmouth Life Skills,
- NSCC Burrigge Campus.

On June 2nd, 3rd and 4th we filmed at:

- Yarmouth Hospital Cafeteria,
- Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs Ltd,
- Barton Consolidated School,
- Dr. Westby's Office (Medical clinic in Weymouth).



Filming for the video series finished on June 4th, 2012. Our video producer, Martin Helmich and his film crew, along with Waste Check staff, spent anywhere from 3-6 hours at each location filming interviews with key staff members or team leaders, capturing shots around the businesses/schools, and location tours highlighting each establishment's waste reduction initiatives. All filming went well and everyone was very cooperative. The video series was completed in September 2012, and was officially launched during Waste Reduction Week at a special viewing.

The videos are available online on our website, on YouTube, on Vimeo, and DVD copies can be picked up at our office at any time. The videos will be used by educators to encourage other institutions to get on board with waste diversion. The videos highlight all the benefits of separating and reducing waste, including cost and time savings. This video series was funded through MAP Innovation by RRFB, with Waste Check providing in kind contributions.

Waste Reduction Week 2012

Various events were held throughout the region during Waste Reduction Week. Waste Check kicked off waste reduction week with our exciting “Leaders by Example” video launch. The launch was held at the Salle Père-Maurice-LeBlanc Theatre in Tusket on Monday October 15th, 2012 at 6:30 pm. A great time was had by all who attended. A special thanks to Chair Leland Anthony, Vice Chair Jimmy MacAlpine and Arthur Earle for attending this special evening. All video participants received a special copy of the videos on DVD as well as a keepsake program of the event. All regions received copies of the videos so that they can be used across the Province to support education efforts. We are very happy with the final videos and look forward to showing them far and wide.

The annual Community Swap was held at the Digby Legion on October 20th, 2012. Those in attendance were able to find many treasures to take home. All materials that were left over were sorted for recycling, donation or garbage. Four bags of stuffed animals were given to a Yarmouth resident who makes new toys out of the old toys that would have been otherwise destined for landfill. The Salvation Army garnered a lot of material to use for their store.



The RRFB provided promotional items (pens and bags) to give away at several “Get caught – Put Waste in its Place” events that were held during the week. Customers who made a conscious effort to properly sort their waste at the three Tim Horton’s locations in Yarmouth were selected to receive a reward. Customers who brought in a reusable mug were rewarded.

Three schools in the region (YCMHS, Drumlin Heights, and Saint Mary’s Bay Academy) and NSCC Burrige Campus were the sites of more Get Caught events. Rewards were given to students or faculty who managed their waste properly or who used refillable coffee mugs or reusable containers.



Small Office Week was also held during the same week as Waste Reduction Week in October. This year, RRFB Nova Scotia wanted to recognize an office in each region and pay to have them promoted in local papers. They also provided office kits for the winning office in each region. In our region the office recognized for its waste reduction efforts was Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR), Yarmouth Base Office. The Yarmouth Base Office is diverting their office waste from landfill and realizing cost savings by self-hauling and having efficient

waste management on site. Their six offices produce three bags of recyclables and only one bag of garbage every two weeks!

Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade

Waste Check is a member of the following Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trades:

- Clare Chamber of Commerce
- Digby & Area Board of Trade
- Weymouth Board of Trade
- Bear River Board of Trade
- Argyle Chamber of Commerce
- Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce

We have found this to be a valuable networking opportunity with the members and look forward to continuing these memberships in the future.

The Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce had its 2012 Business Awards dinner on November 16th, 2012. This year, Waste Check once again sponsored the Environmental Service Award which was awarded to Simone Titus of Hidden Treasures in Port Maitland (former Business of the Month for Waste Check). Vice Chairman Jimmy MacAlpine presented the award.

Club 300

This year we inducted 13 members into our Waste Check Club 300! These members have gone above and beyond to help us reach our waste disposal goal of 300 kg/person/year. Each member was given a certificate for Club 300, their names were in the paper and on the radio, and write-ups about their initiatives were posted on our website on a new page dedicated solely to Club 300 Members. The members are:

- Barton Consolidated School
- Karen Thimot (Clare Community Litter Clean-Up)
- Yarmouth Life Skills
- TREPA (Tusket River Environmental Protection Association)
- Dave Arenburg
- Gert Sweeney
- Cheryl Burchell
- Jean Melanson
- Emilia Williams
- Helen Paddock
- Digby Wesleyan Church
- Carol LeBlanc
- Stephen Sollows

We are always seeking nominations for Club 300 Members. The nomination form is available on our website.

Business of the Month Program

Waste Check is continuing our popular "Business of the Month" program. All business of the month recipients receive a framed certificate from Waste Check. The business is also advertised on all local radio stations (CJLS, CIFA, and AVR), and listed in local newspapers (The Vanguard, Clare Shopper, Lobster Bay Shopper, The Digby Courier). As a result of the advertisements and positive recognition, Waste Check has been receiving phone calls from businesses in the region to find out how they can become Business of the Month.

"Business of the Month" award recipients include:

- W. Boliver Service Centre in Digby
- Forever Healthy in Yarmouth
- "The Source" Seashore Electronics in Saulnierville
- The Little Footprints Home Daycare in Weymouth

- Ouest-Ville Perennials in West Pubnico
- All 3 Tim Hortons restaurants in the Town of Yarmouth
- Le Courrier de la Nouvelle Ecosse in Clare
- Comfort Inn in Yarmouth
- D'Eon's Rappie Pie in West Pubnico

Juniper House Day Camp

Staff presented at the Juniper House Day camp in one hour weekly sessions in July and August 2012. The participants were given a lesson in "Sorting as easy as 1-2-3", played the magnetic board game "Where Does it Go?", shown our collection of items made from recycled materials, and ended with a craft or activity such as Popsicle stick picture frames, puzzle/trivia games and coloring pages. The participants also enjoyed a game pollution trivia.

Seasonal Parades

Waste Check participated in four parades this year. For the Yarmouth Seafest Parade, Digby Scallop Days Parade, and the Festival Acadien de Clare, our float theme was "Garbage- Bring it Back!", with a focus on marine waste. We decorated the trailer with marine waste collected from the Pembroke Beach during a clean-up. We won an award at the Seafest Parade for Best Decorated Pulling Vehicle. The Town of Yarmouth Christmas Parade theme was "Toyland". We focused our float on reusing or donating toys before throwing them away to landfill.



NSCC

The Burridge Campus continues to excel at waste reduction. Our Education Coordinator continues to work with NSCC to achieve their waste reduction goals.

Earth Day celebrations were planned for the entire week of April 16 – 20. Activities included:

- a celebration in the student commons with "mud cake" as a kick off to Earth Week
- the Campus registered for the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up and students helped keep the campus beautiful by cleaning up litter/garbage around the campus.
- Students were invited to see first-hand the process involved in sorting, weighing and tracking the amount of garbage collected on campus.
- Pavilion Landscape Project – landscaping around the newly constructed pavilion began.
- Construction of Greenhouse (Polytunnel) right on Campus!

Event Greening

Waste Check received a total of 37 bookings for waste separation stations for 2012. The majority of the event bookings are repeat users of the stations. There was valid interest from event organizers in proper separation and how important it is to educate the public to practice proper sorting. The events are located throughout the entire Region. Letters were sent to event organizers who had not utilized the separation containers at their event. This generated some new interest in using the bins.



The biggest event greening initiative we have ever undertaken was the 33rd Jeux de l'Acadie that brought together 1,200 Acadian and Francophone athletes from across Atlantic Canada from June 29 to July 3, 2012 to compete in eight sports. The athletes ranged in age from 11 to 16 on nine teams from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Venues around Yarmouth County hosted the various events and 800 volunteers supported the athletes during the five days of competition. The Committee contacted Waste Check in February to get the ball rolling on making sure their event was green. Waste Check received great cooperation from the committee and we were very pleased with the sorting during the games. A key factor to their success was the selection of a coordinator who was responsible for waste management. The dedication of Emilia Amirault, the waste management coordinator, was amazing and helped Waste Check tremendously.

We were delighted to see the mascot "Acajoux" during the opening ceremonies conduct a sorting exercise for all who attended. Information kits were also supplied to the athletes as they registered which included a special welcome info card created in house by Waste Check.

Hauler Information Session

Waste Check hosted a Municipal Hauler Information session on August 24th, 2012 which was well attended. Waste Check provided an update on programs and discussed upcoming plans for the fall. We also reviewed our strategic plan and outlined our action plan and priorities for 2012-13. It was a great open discussion with key players in our waste management system.

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up September 15th - 23rd, 2012

A shoreline cleanup of a 2 kilometer shoreline at Pubnico Point was completed through the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup coordinated through the Vancouver Aquarium. Clean-ups took place across Canada during the National Cleanup week of September 15th to 23rd. Ten bags of waste weighing 90 kg were collected by staff. Three bags of recycling were brought to the recycling facility. The most notable item picked up was the tremendous amount of shotgun shells – over 3000 in total! 98% of the waste collected was fishing related. There were several other cleanups in our area completed by various other community groups including Cook's Beach in Pinkney's Point, Specht Beach in Plympton, Cape Forchu, and Kelley's Cove.

Library "Imagine" Programs

Library programs were held in July at the Western Counties Regional Library branches in Digby and Yarmouth. The theme was "Imagine". There were two presentations held in Digby. Participants were shown the "Imagine a world with no recycling" slide show, played the "Sort it out" magnet game, made t-shirt scarves and Popsicle stick picture frames. The second session consisted of the "Imagine a world with no composting" slideshow, compost trivia, a vermicomposting demonstration and salt dough art sculptures. These two programs were repeated in the Yarmouth Branch along with three other sessions: "Imagine the world if pollution continues..." slide show, pollution trivia, as well as the downstream effect activity and a "Stop Pollution!" poster was made; "Imagine a zero-waste world!" slide show, with activities such as drawing pictures and painting rocks into rock animals for the garden. The last session was "Imagine what you can do to help!" where participants created an "Environmental Superhero", developed a story/comic strip/poster about the superhero and cleaned up litter around the library.

Community Litter Clean-up Program Participants

Waste Check once again offered an incentive to non-profit groups wishing to help clean litter from the side of the road and ditches in Yarmouth and Digby Counties and in return receives financial assistance for their organization. An application and waiver form must be signed before the clean-up is approved and conducted. Non-profit groups were paid \$175 per km for cleaning both sides of the road. Maximum funding per group was \$350. This program was very popular in the Region with many community groups taking part. Applications are considered on a first come first serve basis.

In total, 28 groups participated in the Litter Clean-up Program who picked up **1042** bags of garbage, and **52.5** blue bags of recyclables from roadsides throughout our Region. Most common litter items reported by the groups were: Tim Horton's/take-out cups, cigarette butts, take-out food containers, plastic bags, and pop bottles. This proves that littering is still a predominate issue in Nova Scotia. The Litter Clean-up Program not only helps remove litter from roadsides, but also helps bring awareness to this growing problem.

Community Sponsorship Program Participants

This program is offered by RRFB Nova Scotia to provide funding for events or initiatives with a focus on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Waste Check is very active throughout the year encouraging groups to take advantage of the program. We were able to assist the following groups in getting funding from RRFB in 12/13:

- 1) Digby Community Education Centre
- 2) West Pubnico Fire Department
- 3) Meadowfields Community School
- 4) Lake Vaughn Volunteer Fire Department
- 5) St. Ambrose Cathedral
- 6) Stella Maris Church
- 7) Digby Elementary School
- 8) La Garderie Familiale de Clare

2013 Waste Management Calendar

Waste Check designed our first waste management calendar. We have received positive feedback. We only had 6000 printed this year and they were distributed to various public places in the Region such as Municipal

Offices, libraries, Enviro depots, transfer stations, senior homes, etc. . . . It is also available on our website under the What's New tab.

Regional Chairs

Waste Check hosted a Regional Chairs meeting on May 25th, 2012 at Ye Olde Argyle. Regional Chairs is a committee of all the waste management authority Chairs from across the province. There was a social and supper on Thursday that also took place at the Ye Olde Argyle Lodge (past recipient of Waste Check's Business of the Month Program). Everyone enjoyed the event and were pleased with their trip to our Region.

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) 6th Annual Waste Symposium

The 6th SWANA Canadian Waste Symposium was held in Niagara Falls April 22nd – 25th, 2012. Special thanks to Waste Check Board members Jean Brittain, Pearl Theriault and Leland Anthony for attending. The event was a great success with many informative and educational presentations. Waste Check's General Manager and Waste Reduction Coordinator presented their "Power of Communication" presentation that highlighted our strategic planning process and successes as a Region at the International SWANA conference. They also presented it at the AGM for WRANS (Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia) in Halifax on June 20th. It was very well received by many colleagues who were unable to attend the conference in Ontario. The 7th Symposium will be held in British Columbia in 2014 before returning to Nova Scotia in 2016.

RRFB Landfill Audit Project

During 2011, RRFB committed to completing waste audits at landfills across the province as part of its strategic plan. The purpose of the audits was to identify and quantify materials still being sent to landfill which could potentially be diverted. A procedures manual was also developed to assist in future audits. The audits showed that the top three items still being sent to landfill are organics, plastic, and paper.

Communities in Bloom

Waste Check is a member of the Communities in Bloom committee with the Town of Yarmouth. Waste Check assisted during the National Judging visit in July by transporting the Earth Day Mural to the Art Gallery to be on display when the judges visited showing some great community involvement. Waste Check's Waste Reduction Coordinator attends the Communities in Bloom meetings and actively supports and coordinates initiatives for the environmental portion of the program. She was also selected to attend the national symposium held in Edmonton in October on behalf of the committee.

Website Translated

Waste Check is proud to report that we have completed the translation of our website and now have a fully functioning website in both English and French. Funding for 75% of the translation costs were provided by assistance from Traduction NB Translation, Inc.

Hauler Appreciation Day

Waste Check held three Hauler Appreciation Days for the three transfer stations in Region 7 during the month of November. On November 13th we were in Digby, November 15th in Yarmouth and November 21st in Clare. Hauler Appreciation Days involved Waste Check staff being on site during lunch hour handing out food and

drinks, and a winter toque as a giveaway. These days show the haulers that we appreciate their key role in helping our waste management programs succeed.

Information Sessions/ Presentations/ Education

A group of 22 students in grades 1 and 2 from the Wedgeport School were treated to a tour of the Solid Waste Park and Scotia Recycling in May 2012. The kids were excited to learn about what happens to their waste after it is picked up from the curb.

A sorting presentation was made to the Newcomers Group organized by the Yarmouth Newcomer Navigator, Delores Atwood. The group of 11 were talkative and asked several sorting questions. We learned what sort of recycling programs are taking place in other parts of the world.

The Junior Achievement program "The Economics for Success" program was presented to grade 9 students at Drumlin Heights School and Yarmouth Junior High. The program is designed to teach the students the importance of staying in school through lessons in budgeting, games, and interview tips and techniques. The waste management message was also incorporated into the program. The students particularly enjoyed the "interview" with the By-Law Enforcement Officer which focused on waste management and how he deals with people who contravene the by-laws.

The Junior Achievement Program "Our Business World" was presented to grade 6 students at three area schools – Carleton, Barton and Port Maitland. The program focuses on educating students about business organization, production, management and advertising. The presenter applies their knowledge of business and intertwines it with the waste management message. The program was well received by all of the participants.

A sorting presentation was made to the grade 1 and 2 students at École Stella-Maris in Meteghan. The students learned how sorting can be as easy as 1-2-3. They also played a "What Goes Where" sorting game and were shown the various items that can be made from recycled materials. The students asked lots of questions and were very knowledgeable about sorting

Moby visits were completed during the first week of May 2012. Several schools enjoyed the sorting presentation "Easy as 1-2-3" and the "Stop, Look and Sort" message. They include: École Jean-Marie Gay, South Centennial, Drumlin Heights, Arcadia, Carleton, Meadowfields and Weymouth School. Over 600 students and adults enjoyed the visits. As usual, Moby was the star of the show and was loved by all.

A Moby visit was held at Yarmouth Life Skills where 14 adults enjoyed the one on one attention that Moby gave to the clients. 5 boys and 4 adults from the 7th Yarmouth Cubs also enjoyed an inside look at Moby and a presentation on sorting and the importance to the environment.

Moby visited Digby Elementary in April and helped spread the message of the 3 R's to the grades primary through to grade 2 students and teachers. A "sorting as easy as 1-2-3" presentation was included in the visit. There were 136 students and 8 adults entertained by Moby.

A presentation was made to a local quilters group – the Patch Work Pals. The 22 ladies enjoyed a sorting lesson and asked plenty of questions. They were pleased to receive an information kit to bring home. Some admitted to not being very good at recycling but pledged to change their ways.

A presentation was made to 47 kids at the Boys and Girls Club day camp at Beacon Church. They all enjoyed hearing about proper waste separation techniques, playing the magnetic board game "What Goes Where?", playing recycling trivia and meeting the vermicomposting worms.

A presentation was made to the clients and staff at the Kay Nickerson Service Centre. They learned about proper sorting and enthusiastically played a game of "What Goes Where?"

The CSAP schools changed their paper towel, toilet paper and soap dispensers in all of their schools. These dispensers are accepted for recycling. Over 320 kg of plastic and metal waste was diverted from the landfill from École Belleville, École secondaire de Par-en-Bas and École Wedgeport and sent for recycling. The other CSAP schools in our region have been notified that the dispensers can be sent for recycling.

A presentation on compost was made to the grade 2-3 class of Mrs. Natalie Barnes at Central School. A slide show to imagine a world with no composting was given. The students were introduced to our vermicomposting worm friends. A trivia game was played with the questions reflecting on the presentation. A visit from Mr. Green Bin was a highlight of the presentation. All of the students seemed to greatly enjoy the afternoon.

Presentations were made to the elementary students about composting at Drumlin Heights School as part of an exploratory day. Students in grades primary through three and grades four through six enjoyed a power point presentation, met the composting worms and played a game about how a compost pile is made and interacts. They especially enjoyed a visit from Mr. Green Bin.

Waste from École Secondaire de Par-en-Bas was inspected at the transfer station and was found to have some unacceptable material in the bags. A visit was made to the school to determine what improvements could be made with their container system and signage. A meeting with the school principal and the three custodians took place to discuss what was found in the transfer station inspection and to answer the questions they had. A complete walk through of the school was made with one of the custodians. Areas examined were - corridors, staff room, classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, outdoor storage area and the adjoining theater and office complex. The container set up needed minor tweaking but signage needs improvement. Signs were provided.

A workshop was facilitated by Waste Check staff at the Family Home Day Care Conference held at NSCC Burrige Campus. Participants learned how recycling can be as easy as 1-2-3 and how to use the three R's to help our future generations become super recyclers. They also saw crafts that can be made from recycled materials and they learned first-hand how to be a crafty recycler. The presentation was well received with great feedback given.

Waste Check Educators set up a booth at the Seniors 50 + Expo in Digby. We were well received and had great attendance at the booth with very positive feedback. A prize draw was held and Patricia Potts of Digby was the lucky winner chosen from all of the entries received. She was very happy to have won the prize basket full of recycling goodies.

A booth was also set up at the Yarmouth Seniors Expo held at the new Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School. Many people stopped by our booth to ask questions and to collect pencils, bags and literature. An announcement was made by event organizers to all participants to sort their waste properly.

Waste Check was asked by the Town of Yarmouth to present to town Council during a special day for the council to get better oriented to the various departments that service the Town. A PowerPoint presentation was

presented and it seemed to be a great opportunity to get to know the council. There was also a time for questions.

Enforcement and Compliance Program

A summary of main activities of the By-Law Enforcement Officer include:

- Ongoing load inspections at the Transfer Stations
- Attend Area Chamber of Commerce Meetings
- Respond to complaints relating to open burning, illegal dumping and repetitive non-compliance in the ICI and residential sector
- Contact has been made with several landlords about issues with their rental properties.
- Working closely with Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officers and local Inspectors with Nova Scotia Environment.

The program continues to be successful in reaching non-compliance violators and responding to illegal dumping complaints.

There have also been several compliance visits to neighbourhoods in our region. Visits are based on the rejection lists sent in by the haulers, or are done at curbside on collection days. People who are sorting properly received green “Thank You for Sorting” cards that can be returned to the office for a prize draw. People whose waste was rejected, or whose waste was noticeably unsorted, received information kits which include a separation guide, sample bags, green cart tips, and simple separation guidelines.

Waste Check has been working on amending our by-laws so they are inclusive of all the complaints we get regarding waste, and so that there can be consistency across our region in terms of enforcement. This will help improve the overall efficiency of the Enforcement program at Waste Check.

There have been 454 curbside inspections/ visits this year.

The By-Law Enforcement Officer responded to 259 complaints from April 1st, 2012 to Feb 14th, 2013.

Marine Waste Management - Ship to Shore

This was a very active year for the Ship to Shore program administered by Ashley David at Clean Nova Scotia. The Waste Check representative on the program committee accompanied Ashley while doing visits in the region. Harbour Assessments were completed at six local harbours – Abbott’s Harbour, Camp Cove (Argyle), Lower East Pubnico, Ledge Harbour, Little River Harbour and Pinkney’s Point. A written report was provided to the harbour managers which includes an overview of the current waste management practices and recommendations for improvement.

Blue bins for plastic recyclable containers were provided to three local harbours – Lower East Pubnico, Little River Harbour and Pinkney’s Point.



Ashley delivered a presentation to the participants of the Yarmouth Shark Scramble. They were shown the Ship to Shore video and were informed about the importance of bringing their waste back to shore. All participants received an information kit provided by Waste Check. Included in the kit was a sort guide, clear garbage bags, blue bags and the sort it out for tourists brochure.

A joint presentation with Ashley David was made to the participants at the South Western NS Region Harbour Authority conference. The importance of bringing waste back to shore was highlighted along with the harmful effects to marine life of waste disposal at sea. The Ship to Shore video evoked a lot of response and inspired some great discussion. There seemed to be some willingness to change old disposal habits especially if this involved a cost savings.

Dalhousie University student, Robin McCullough, completed her honours thesis titled "The Economic Impact of Marine Debris from the Fishing Industry and Its Determinants in Atlantic Canada." The thesis included a cost-benefit analysis of alternative bait box packaging.

Three local fishermen agreed to pilot waste separation containers on their vessels. They were specifically designed in consultation with Ashley, Sissiboo Investments and a fisherman to meet the vessel needs.



The Ship to Shore film premiered at the Oceans Film Festival in June as part of the Oceans Film Festival at the Museum of Natural History, Halifax. It has been shown several times at various events to rave reviews.

Yarmouth Bar Harbour Manager Larry Deveau will be participating in the upcoming large harbour project. The goals of this project are to provide the harbour with a detailed recommendation report which includes:

- A proposed site plan for waste infrastructure
- Projected costs associated with maintaining the plan
- A management guide for harbour authority
- A management guide for fishers