

# Accomplishments 2021

## Employee Development and Safety

- The entire staff from the Landfill and Eco Centre worked on ideas to mitigate the risk of the COVID 19 virus. Direct contact with the public was drastically reduced or eliminated in most areas of the business. Extra PPE, hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes were purchased and are used on a regular basis by staff. Everyone understands and follows self isolation protocols both at work and at home. We worked with other landfills through Alberta Care to ensure that we were doing everything we can and to make sure that all landfills were managing congruently.
- We had 6 people tested and self isolate in 2021, with 4 positive cases.
- Due to an abundance of caution, we reduced the amount of on-site safety meetings from monthly to quarterly. This is enough to maintain our Core Certification, but we hope to go back to monthly meetings soon.
- We continued to hold regular monthly safety/staff meetings at the Eco Centre.
- Video conference was used for many meetings this year. These meetings included Northern Landfill Managers Spring and Fall meetings, Monthly PRWMC Board Meetings and the many meetings with vendors, engineers, and associations, etc.
- All our staff have updated their Whimis/TDG raining.
- 2 Summer Students were hired and worked from May through to September. They did an exemplary job. They helped with the spring cleanup and had the landfill looking great all summer.
- The General manager participated in several virtual meetings and webinars regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR is an environmental / economic policy approach in which producers of products and packaging bear responsibility for ensuring those products and packages are properly managed at the end of their life cycle.
- The General Manager and several Directors participated in SWANA Northern Lights Chapter's Virtual Conference on February 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.
- We supported one operator to get his Class 3 driver's licence.

## Site and Operation Improvements

- Worked on implementing action items to change to a single stream recycling system as outlined in our Strategic Plan.

- We have installed fencing and gates at the front of the Eco Centre property to properly manage the recyclables that are dropped off.
- New signs have been strategically placed announcing the changes to our recycling collection at the Eco Centre, depots, and transfer stations.
- Grass/Leaves & Brush/Branches bins have been picked up and service completed at the Eco Centre.
- Discontinuation of glass collection at Eco Centre, the depots and transfer stations has been completed.
- Single stream collection at the Eco Centre, Landfill and Transfer Stations has started. These replace the old bin bags multi-stream collection.
- Igloos at depots have been picked up and the collection of recyclable materials at those locations has been discontinued.
- The TOPR Spring and Fall Cleanups took place at the Eco Centre again this year, with 92 tonnes accepted in the spring and 55 tonnes accepted in the fall. The Spring Cleanup took place later than usual with extra precautions to ensure staff and customer safety during the pandemic.
- The Northern Sunrise County Spring and Fall cleanups were very successful again this year. We received 85 tonnes at the Spring Clean Up and 22 tonnes for the Fall Cleanup. We only ran the Fall Cleanup at the Landfill. Appliances are accepted at the transfer stations for free all year now, so cleanups are unnecessary.
- Our metal recycler baled and hauled away 175 tonnes for recycling.
- We rented a wood shredder this year and shredded our clean wood pile. We shredded and repurposed about 350 tonnes in 2021.
- We did not haul any leachate out of our landfill for treatment and disposal. We had a successful year with our evaporator. The weather cooperated and levels are down significantly.
- All ground water and environmental monitoring has been done. There are no issues to report. The Annual Waste Management Report and the Annual Groundwater Monitoring Summary Report were completed and submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks.
- We had the annual calibrations done on both scales.
- We replaced the old wood stove and pellet boiler at the Eco centre with a Biomass Energy Boiler system that will use wood waste for fuel.
- Improvements were made to the gates at Harmon Valley, Nampa and Cadotte Lake Transfer stations.
-

## **New Waste Diversion Strategies**

- After much research and discussion, the PRWMC Board made the decision to move forward with a Waste to Energy Pilot Project in 2020.
- Construction began in September 2020 with completion early in 2021.
- We have been able to process blends of MSW waste, wood waste, plastic, and other hard to recycle materials.
- This equipment supplies heat to the W2E Building, the Equipment Maintenance Shop, and the Equipment Storage Building.
- The Eco Centre had a smaller boiler from the same company. We have been running it on a blend of shredded wood, cardboard, and sawdust. It provides heat to the Eco Centre.
- ARMA has gained approval from the Government of Alberta to expand the Electronics Recycling Program by over 500 items. PRWMC has participated by expanding our facilities to handle the extra volume. We have used social media and our website to increase public awareness of the program. Extra signage is also used at the Eco Centre and Landfill where the electronics are collected.

## **Design and Approval Process of a New Greenzone Class II Landfill**

- The site is ready for Landfill Approval Application to be submitted.

## **Public Education**

- The PRWMC Strategic Plan was reviewed and revised for 2021. This is available for viewing on our website.
- We engaged a Communications Professional and developed a Communication Plan for PRWMC.
- Social media posts were made announcing our changes to our recycling services.
- Northern Sunrise County Residents were notified of waste management changes on their utility bills.
- Our website, [www.prwmc.ca](http://www.prwmc.ca), has been consistently reviewed and updated.
- The Eco Centre manages our Facebook Page.

- The General Manager will participate on a weekly 2-minute radio segment called “The Art of Recycling”. It will be featured on-line as a podcast while also airing a minimum of once per week during their noon hour information package on both River Country and KIX FM. There will also be sponsorship opportunities for more airtime. One sponsor has already come forward. The program will also be promoted on their Tip Sheet and through some custom imaging. It will be posted on their social media.
- A great deal of time was invested in investigating alternative waste management strategies. Most of the effort was to investigate Waste to Energy companies. A decision was made to proceed with a partnership with Biomass Energy Techniques on a pilot project that will prove the technology works for our waste and facility.
- Media interviews to discuss the Pilot Project include the Smokey River Peace River Express, River Country Radio and a feature article in MoveUp Magazine.
- Our website is updated to include a section called Pilot Project.
- We have glossy brochures to hand out at the Eco Centre and the Landfill.

## **Administration and Contracts**

- Contracts with both Transfer Station Operators have been renewed for 5 years.
- Tervita, our solid waste partner, was purchased by Secure Energy in June. The 5-year contract remains valid.
- The Annual PRWMC Strategic Planning Meeting was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Many operational changes were decided at this meeting.
- We have made the decision to transition from multi-stream recycling to single stream recycling. This will align us the Town of Peace River Blue bag Program and the anticipated Alberta Government EPR Program.
- The Strategic Plan can be viewed on our website.
- We implemented a rate increase for the Landfill for July 1<sup>st</sup> with another increase to take place January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- The 2022 Operational and Capital Budgets have been completed and accepted by the Board.