

# Accomplishments 2022

## Employee Development and Safety

- We continued to hold regular monthly safety/staff meetings at the Eco Centre and the Landfill.
- 2 Summer Students were hired and worked from May through to September. They did an exemplary job. They had the Landfill and Eco Centre looking great all summer.
- Five employees took First Aid on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We had 3 employees go to Valleyview for a Household Hazardous Waste course from Alberta Care on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 was re-elected to the position of Corporate Director for SWANA Northern Lights Chapter for a 2-year term.
- The General Manager was re-elected to the position of Director, Region 1, for Alberta Care.
- The Eco Centre Manager was elected to the position of Director for Recycling Council of Alberta for a 2-year term.
- The General Manager has been selected to be part of a working group for the transition to EPR in Alberta.
- The General manager was selected to be part of the working group for Methane Reduction in Landfills in Canada.
- The General Manager, Eco Centre Manager and some Directors attended the following conferences and workshops:
  1. AB Care Spring Seminar – Lethbridge, AB February 23-25, 2022
  2. SWANA Conference – Banff, AB April 4-7, 2022
  3. AB Care Fall Conference – Leduc, AB September 7-9, 2022
  4. Recycle Council of Alberta Conference – Jasper, AB October 19-21, 2022
  5. RCA's Circular Economy Summit in Strathcona on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  6. Many virtual workshops and meetings regarding recycling and waste management.

## Site and Operation Improvements

- Worked on implementing action items to change to a single stream recycling system as outlined in our Strategic Plan.
  1. We installed fencing and gates at the front of the Eco Centre property to properly manage the recyclables that are dropped off.
  2. New signs have been strategically placed announcing the changes to our recycling collection at the Eco Centre, depots, and transfer stations.
  3. The Eco centre recycling collection shed out front was retrofitted to handle larger bins for the blue bags. We repurposed the old bins used to service recycling in the area.
- The Northern Sunrise County Spring and Fall cleanups were very successful again this year. We received 40 tonnes at the Spring Clean Up and 16 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 at the transfer stations.
- We contracted Omni Geoscience to complete a Landfill Airspace Report.
- Due to last years success in evaporating Landfill Leachate, we rented a larger evaporator to work along side of our current equipment. The rental equipment was returned at the end of September. We shipped out 460m<sup>3</sup> for deep well disposal this year.
- 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.
- The baler at the Eco Centre had a major overhaul this year.
- The annual fire extinguisher and security PM's have been completed.

## 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. The equipment was commissioned in May and shut down for the summer months until December when the heat was more necessary.
- A belt magnet was purchased and installed on the shredder to reduce the amount of metal going through the system.
- We have been able to process blends of MSW waste, wood waste, plastic, and other hard to recycle materials throughout 2022.
- We have processed 512 tonnes of waste in 2022. This includes 104 tonnes of Blue Bag Recycling, 27 tonnes of plastic, 41 tonnes of cardboard, 156 tonnes of MSW, and 184 tonnes of wood chips.
- 512 tonnes of landfill waste at 964kg/m<sup>3</sup> density is 494m<sup>3</sup> of airspace. Airspace approximate value is \$100.00 per m<sup>3</sup>. 494m<sup>3</sup> x \$100.00 = \$49,400.00 of airspace savings.
- 512 tonnes of MSW diverted from the landfill means that 512 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas Emissions were reduced.
- We hired Golder Associates to complete an air quality assessment that includes air dispersion modelling. They will also provide us with a gas management and monitoring plan that will satisfy Alberta Environment regulations.
- 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.
- We rented an attachment for the excavator to crush concrete for a month.
- We rented a shredder for a week in October that shredded our wood pile that was 495 tonnes, mattress pile that had about 200 mattress, brush and branch pile that had 184 tonnes, and our shingles that had 241 tonnes.
- The metal recycler was here in September to pick up our scrap metal pile of 294 tonnes.

## **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.
- Social media posts were made announcing our changes to our recycling services.
- Our website, [www.prwmc.ca](http://www.prwmc.ca), has been consistently reviewed and updated. A new feature “Where does it go” is in the process of being developed.
- PRWMC held a presentation to explain and discuss the direction of recycling in our community, at the St. Isidore Cultural Centre, on June 9th.
- The General Manager participated on a weekly 2-minute radio segment called “The Art of Recycling”. It was 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. The program was also promoted on their Tip Sheet and through some custom imaging. It was posted on their social media.
- Many tours of the Waste to Energy Facility and the Landfill took place in 2022. People and groups that toured were School Bus Tours, several neighboring community representatives, potential buyers for Biomass Energy Techniques, Media, residents, local councillors, and our local MLA.
- Our website is updated to include a section called Pilot Project.
- We developed glossy brochures to hand out at the Eco Centre and the Landfill.
- We placed a booth in the Peace River Chamber of Commerce Trade Show on April 9-10, 2022.
- Held several school tours here at the Eco Centre at the start of the fall 2022, school year.

## **Administration and Contracts**

- The Strategic Plan can be viewed on our website.
- We had a rate increase at the landfill on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Our Landfill Operations Plan was updated.
- The 2023 Operational and Capital Budgets have been completed and accepted by the Board.