

E.F.M.A. –Zone 4 Nov. 16th/2012 Regional Meeting Minutes

- Attending districts were asked to bring custodial manuals to the meeting for distribution purposes. A number of manuals were passed out thus allowing for shared information pertaining to custodial Policy/Procedures, standards, frequency of tasks...
- Garbage/Recycling/Organics were then discussed in detail with all represented districts (8) speaking on what is currently happening within their district. While most all districts have a paper and recycling program, with varying degrees of participation, very few districts have really yet begun to deal with the difficult issue of organics. The following highlights many of the challenges, successes, and recommendations that came forth out of the discussion.

Challenges

- Differential participation from one School to the next.
- Getting top-down full support
- Initiating Local Governments to be on board in facilitating educational and Hauling/dumping support.
- Eliminating garbage cans from within class-rooms. (garbage to be limited to hallway areas).
- Contamination of recyclables.
- Rodents.
- organic tote bags costly (\$.80 per bag quoted).
- Costs and location of infrastructure if totes are to remain outside and be cleaned.
- Educating and getting full participation from administration, teachers, students, and support staff.
- Electronics, outside organics,

Success Stories

- Pilot projects at individual schools have demonstrated that with strong mentoring, teacher and student participation, that a Waste Management Program, complete with organics is attainable.
- Specific School District gained support from City Hall in assisting with an educational assistance program at the individual site level. A couple of other districts have also attained some limited pick-up of organics and /or free dumping fees.
- soils exempt from landfill fees.
- Student Leadership Program (Credited after-hours High School course) whereby students oversee/run Waste Management program.
- Sawdust management/removal.
- It was noted that one of our E.F.M.A. members (Glen Millar- Victoria) apparently has a very successful Waste Management program already in place. It may be helpful to have future dialogue with Glen.

Recommendations

- Education and commitment is required, without exception, at all levels of the chain.
 - Every site must buy into the program and have a champion(s) at the site level.
 - Remove most garbage cans and/or only keep very tiny containers for garbage within the classroom.
 - recyclable containers need to be located near sink areas as plastics and other recyclables need to be rinsed/decontaminated by students. Students and/or custodial staff involved in weekly delivery to outside dumpster which includes paper. Companies who are picking up the recycling dumpsters prefer that plastic bags are not placed into the containers. Plastic bags should be opened up and recyclables thereafter dumped into dumpsters. These plastic bags should then be placed into garbage.
 - The chain the events primarily recommended in the case of organics includes small bins located within classrooms which are transported to hallway totes. The small bins would be transported and rinsed daily, likely by student monitors. The hallway totes would then be taken outside on dumping day, likely by support staff once a week. If liners are used, this alleviates much of the tote / bin clean-up but adds an additional organic liner cost.
 - Custodial workload should typically be unchanged as garbage removal should be significantly less, with recycling/organics outside delivery/cleanup being more of a weekly task
 - Composting not recommended due to rodent concerns.
- Custodial Roundtable
 - discussed attendance management
 - section sizes (square footage)
 - working alone
 - Maintenance Round table
 - Driver training / pre-trip inspections /trailer training
 - AGF funding and spending plans
 - Pacific Carbon Trust-Carbon Neutral Update
 - Staff Induction / orientation